**Gender Differences in Access to Coronavirus Government Support**

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted women’s employment and self-employment, exacerbating inequalities in the labour market.

The Government have put schemes in place to protect workers’ earnings and jobs, but there have been clear differences between women and men in access, eligibility and the level of support received.

**Women and Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (‘furlough’)**

Across [region], women make up [x%] of those on furlough, despite women being only 47.3% of the overall UK workforce. Data from HMRC show that [#] women were furloughed at the end of February 2021, compared to [#] men. The total number of people on furlough in the region at the end of February 2021 was [#].

In the [parliamentary constituency/local authority] of [x] the difference was even higher, with women making up [x%] of those on furlough. This is due to the composition of the local labour market. More women than men work in sectors that were shut-down like retail and hospitality or accommodation and food services. The city’s reliance on [the service sector/retail/tourism] means that women have been disproportionately impacted.

Local economic recovery plans must take a gendered approach to ensure they target those hardest hit by the pandemic.

**Self-employed women and SEISS**

By March 2020, there were 1.5 million self-employed women in the UK, who made up 34.8% of all self-employed workers (those whose main source of income came from being self-employed).

In the [region], by the end of January 2021 only [x%] of all SEISS claims had been made by women (compared to the UK average of 28.8%). [#], self-employed women had made claims totalling just over [£x million]. This compares with [x] claims made by men (totalling £x million).

This figure is lower than the proportion of self-employed women, hinting at issues many women faced in accessing the self-employment income support scheme.

Of those eligible, fewer women than men made a SEISS claim in the [region]: only [x%] of eligible women claimed, compared to [x%] of eligible men. [The figures in the parliamentary constituency/local authority of x are even more stark, with only x% of eligible women making claims, compared to x% of eligible men.]

Women also claimed smaller amounts, at an average of [£2,100] for [the region] compared with [£2,800] for men. These smaller claim amounts correspond to the fact that self-employed women’s earnings are lower than men’s.

**[Contact details of your organisation]**



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