



For the attention of Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee.

I am writing with regard to the Equality and Social Justice Committee consultation on childcare and parental employment. Oxfam Cymru's strategy makes a strong commitment to sharing our platform, amplifying the voices of partners, and ensuring a diverse range of perspectives are duly acknowledged and heard. As part of this commitment, we are keen to extend our platform to grassroots organisations, (and the working parents they support), with whom we work closely. Our mission is to support and mentor them to become confident to contribute substantively to the consultation process.

We are encouraged by the positive feedback we received thus far regarding our collaborative approach. Notably, during the recent launch of our research, [Little Steps, Big Struggles: Childcare in Wales](#) you may have had the pleasure of meeting representatives from Mother's Matter CIC. They informed us that it was the first time they had visited the Senedd or participated in a campaign of this nature. The feedback we received underscores the importance of our support in nurturing their understanding of political processes and advocacy efforts.

With due respect, we kindly request your consideration in allowing us to present oral evidence to the committee, alongside our grassroots partners. Given the dynamic nature of the subject matter and the rapid developments therein, we believe that our insights could offer valuable nuances and recent updates to inform your inquiry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and considering the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to your vital work.

Kind regards

Sarah Rees

Head of Oxfam Cymru