

Winter 2025



Season's Greetings &amp; Happy New Year



Issue 190

NPC

# Campaign!

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## WANT TO JOIN NPC?

**D**o you care about issues affecting older people? Then join us as an individual, or as an affiliate group. We are the biggest UK campaign group run for and by older people. Contact us and get involved. Details above.

*Fighting for the rights of older people*

## Together we are stronger!



## We were proud to fight & win for you in 2025

*Help NPC keep fighting – we've so much more to do!*

**T**he NPC was set up almost half a century ago by trade union legend Jack Jones to give older people a voice at the highest level. In 2025 we had to shout louder than ever as our generation faced some serious challenges. But thanks to your support for our campaigns we won some of the toughest battles.

On the **Winter Fuel Payment (WFP)**, the government reversed its near blanket axe to ensure those with an income below £35,000 can still receive the life saving payment. On the **Triple Lock**, the government kept its promise to maintain the vital measure to ensure annual state pension increases – despite many calling for it to be scrapped. On our **Commissioner for Older People** campaign, the cross-party

Women and Equalities Committee, recommended the government create the role in England. Campaigning alongside Age UK, Ageing Better and Independent Age, our most recent Westminster roundtable was this Autumn. As the UK's largest campaigning organisation run for and by older people, we know what the challenges are for the UK's 13 million pensioners. But the NPC has faced its own challenges this year. Like many not for profits and charities, working in the current financial climate is tough. We keep going thanks to our dedicated members, regions and affiliates, including trade unions. As we enter a new year there is still much more to do. But with your help the NPC will keep fighting for older people's rights.



Westminster Roundtable



MPs at WFP Parliamentary lobby



Petition for OP Commissioner to Downing St



## Inside this special festive season issue of Campaign!



### Page 2 - Latest News...

- \*WASPI win key round in their fight for compensation!
- \*Warm Homes Plan delay despite rife damp conditions
- \*Budget anger as tax threshold freeze extended

### Pages 3 & 4

A big thank you to all our amazing Nations & Regions, all our Working Parties, and to all our NPC members!

Visit [www.npcuk.org](http://www.npcuk.org) to read our great WP newsletters, including Health & Care, Women's & Digital

## **WASPI women win last minute Government rethink on their pension age compensation claim**

**T**he Department for Work and Pensions has announced at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to revisit its position on compensation for the WASPI women.

The day before the WASPI campaigners were due to challenge the DWP in the High Court they learned the government had agreed to reconsider their compensation claim within 12 weeks. The court hearing was put on hold after Ministers pledged to re-examine their compensation decision by February 2026 - and to cover more

than half of WASPI's legal costs. The campaign group—the Women Against State Pension Inequality—retains the option to restart legal proceedings if necessary. Founded in 2015, WASPI campaigns against the way the pension ages for men and women were equalised, without adequate notice.\*

Jan Shortt, NPC General Secretary said: “The government's promise to revisit the WASPI compensa-

tion decision is welcome, but coming just a day before a scheduled High Court hearing raises serious concerns that this may be another delaying tactic. Justice for 1950s-born women requires far more

than warm words.” Pensions secretary Pat McFadden previously told MPs the government would withdraw and revisit its rejection of the Parliamentary & Health Service Ombudsman's findings of maladministration. This followed a revelation that a key document had not been



shown to then pensions minister Liz Kendall. However, the government emphasised this should not be taken as a commitment to award compensation.

**\*Women used to get their state pension five years earlier than men. WASPI say the change to equalise the retirement age was badly communicated, and are calling for compensation for the 3.8 million women who were affected.**

### **Frozen threshold a Budget stealth tax**

**C**hancellor Rachel Reeves' tax changes and fiscal measures in her recent Budget are set to impact older people for years to come.

The extended freeze on tax thresholds until 2031 is a particular blow. NPC has been actively campaigning for the tax thresholds — the level of income where we start paying tax — to be increased in line with the rise in the state pension. While we welcome confirmation the triple-locked state pension will increase by 4.8% from April 2026, the freeze now brings the new state pension to within £20 of the basic tax threshold. For those supplementing retire-

ment income with savings or a small occupational pension, this 'fiscal drag' is likely to result in higher, or first time tax bills, and reduced disposable income. It will effectively wipe out the benefit of the state pension rise. Jan Shortt, NPC General Secretary, said: “This 'stealth tax' means millions of older people will have to start paying tax for the first time. While the Chancellor kept her pledge on the triple lock, she'll take back any benefit by extending the freeze. But the real Budget disappointment is the broad shoulders she promised would have to deliver for the economy are barely mentioned.”

**Fiscal drag**

### **Millions still live in cold damp homes**

**P**eople with health conditions and renters remain far more likely to be stuck in cold and damp housing.

New polling for the End Fuel Poverty Coalition shows that these groups - which include a large number of older people — are frequently living in unsafe conditions that can exacerbate their health problems. The Coalition, which includes NPC, says five years into the energy bills crisis, millions of people are still living in homes that are making them ill and putting avoidable pressure on the NHS. **Plan delayed** Against this backdrop, the media is reporting that the long-awaited Warm Homes Plan will now be delayed until the New Year.

A Coalition spokesperson said: “Every week of delay to the Warm Homes Plan means households are stuck in cold, damp homes for longer. And every week of delay also means more pressure on the NHS as it deals with the health consequences. The government must urgently set out when the Warm Homes Plan will be published.”

Meantime, @OctopusEnergy, @BritishGas & @eon have now confirmed they will pass on the full Budget-promised energy cuts to all customers, including those on fixed rates, next year.



## A big thank you & well done to our brilliant campaigning NPC NATIONS & REGIONS

**T**he NPC's greatest strength is our hard-working and dedicated Nations and Regions. We want to sincerely thank you all for your outstanding campaigning at local and national level on a wide range of issues impacting older people.

Each branch meets to decide what they want to support, and how, whether it is lobbying local politicians or policymakers, staging public protests, or by researching key issues and circulating the results to local people. They are faultless in speaking truth to power, whether it's on

transport, housing, health and care services, or climate change and fuel poverty. They turn out in all weathers to get their message over. The pandemic posed a real challenge for many branches, and some are still in the process of re-grouping. But at the heart of each one, is a desire to ensure older people's issues are championed and heard loudly, by local MPs, Mayors, councillors and service providers. The pictures here are just a tiny fraction of the wonderful work undertaken by our Nations and Regions. You are all much appreciated!



Wales

Northern Ireland

Anglia

Devon &amp; Cornwall

East Midlands

West Midlands

Eastern

Gloucester &amp; Avon

London

Northern

North West

South East

Suffolk &amp; Anglia

Thames Valley

Yorkshire &amp; Humber

Wessex

Want to find out more  
about your local  
Nation or Region?

If you would like to contact a branch of NPC in your area please send an email to [info@npcuk](mailto:info@npcuk) by 22nd January 2026 and we can forward it to the local contacts. To find out more about our Nations and Regions, and read about just some of their work in past issues of Campaign! visit [www.info@npcuk.org](http://www.info@npcuk.org)



## Let's hear it for our hard-working Working Parties

The Women's Working Party welcome the Women's Budget Group to a meeting (left) and out campaigning.



**T**he NPC working parties are integral to the research and development of our campaigns and policies across a huge range of issues that concern older people.

The NPC National Executive Council (NEC) has over the years set up a number of working parties (WP) to look at specific aspects of our work, organisation or policy. They are elected every two years, following each Biennial Delegates Conference (BDC) and consist of up to 10 members. They meet regularly, either in person, online or more often than not these days, through hybrid meetings—a bit of both. They research and produce reports for the NEC, and draft submissions for government consultations on everything from transport and health

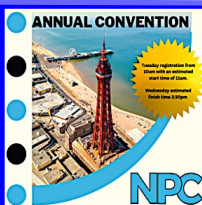
and care, to the increasing digitalisation of our services and utilities. They consult with experts, and invite speakers to their meetings. They produce excellent newsletters about their work, which you can read or sign up to receive via [www.npcuk.org](http://www.npcuk.org). The working parties are key to the NPC and we thank them all for all they do.

### Just a few of our working party newsletter titles



### NPC WORKING PARTIES

- \*Climate Change WP
- \*Digital WP
- \*Finance WP
- \*Health & Social Care WP
- \*Housing WP
- \*LGBT WP
- \*Ethnic Minorities WP
- \*Pensions & Incomes WP
- \*Structure WP
- \*Trade Unions WP
- \*Transport WP
- \*Women's WP



**T**he NPC Annual Convention in Blackpool allows members to meet, discuss issues impacting older people, and hear from experts. We hope this key event can be staged again soon.



**D**id you know that whenever you buy anything online, from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, you could be raising cash for NPC with EasyFundraising? And it won't cost you a penny extra to help our work! There are over 8,000 retailers on board, including eBay, Argos, ASDA & Tesco,

Support us  
through



\*It's easy to join up for free at: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nationalnpc/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nationalnpc/) \*Every time you shop online, go to the easyfundraising site first to find the retailer you want and start shopping. \*After you checkout, the retailer will make a donation to NPC at no extra cost to you! *Thank you!*

**NPC  
250  
Club**

### Sign up today and support our work

**J**oin the NPC 250 Club and you could win cash and help the NPC. For just £2 a month or £24 per annum, you will be entered into the NPC 250 Club prize draw. Half of the income goes into the monthly prize draw, and the remaining 50% will go to the NPC to support our work for older people. **You can sign up at: [www.npcuk.org/post/npc-250-club](http://www.npcuk.org/post/npc-250-club) \*OR: Write to the NPC address on Page 1.**



### Holiday Closing

**T**he NPC head office will be closed for the festive period from the end of business Friday, 19th December 2025 until Monday 5th January 2026 to allow for staff leave. We'll reply to inquiries upon our return.