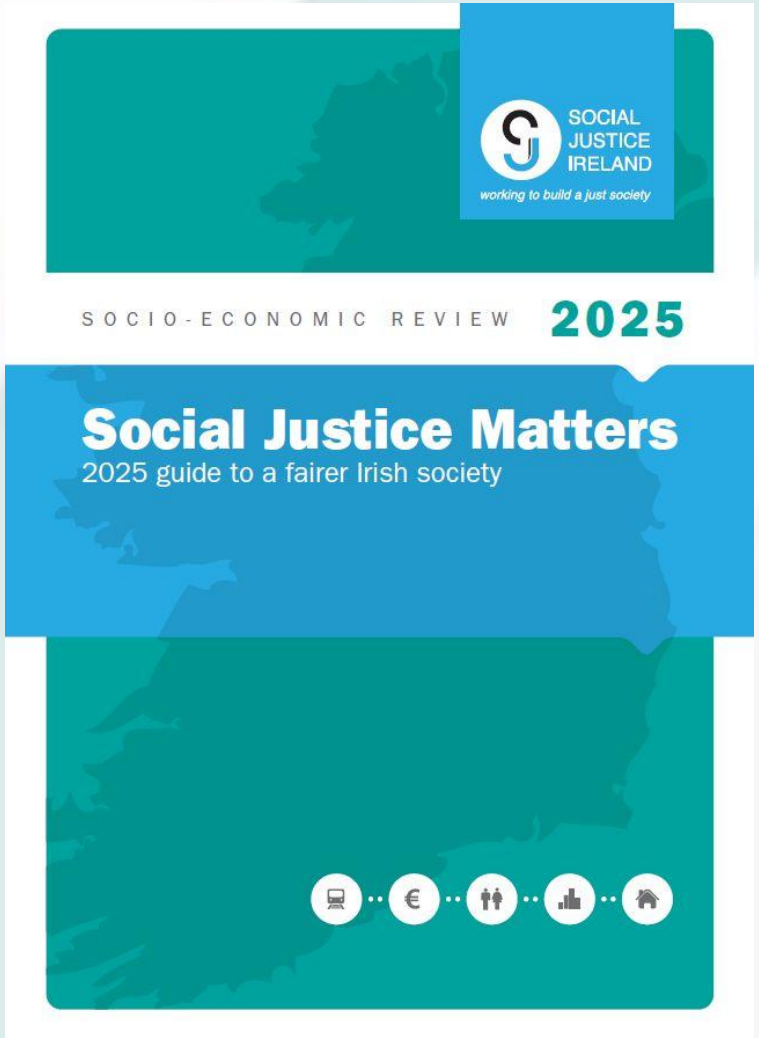
Social Justice Matters: 2025 guide to a Fairer Irish Society



- Annual Socio-Economic Review
- How can we manage change, achieve fair outcomes and address long term challenges?
- Ten key policy areas
- Independent analysis
- Detailed policy proposals
- Key annual reference point on social justice and social policy issues

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Ten key policy areas

- Income distribution
- Taxation
- Work
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Education
- Participation
- Sustainability
- Rural Development
- The Global South

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Common Good in Public Policy

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To deliver fair outcomes in a time of transitions

- Demographic change
- Climate and environment
- Digitalisation
- Economic and social transformations
- Sustainability

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Infrastructure

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Key housing challenges

- Population expansion and demographic change
- Pent up housing demand
- Social Housing need

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Delivering affordable and appropriate accommodation – how?

- The right type of supply
- Life-cycle approach to housing development and town planning.
- Address affordability through supply-side cost reductions
- 20 per cent of all housing stock to be social housing

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Community

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Engaging communities

- Increase in population
- Increase in diversity
- Supporting cohesive communities
- Deliberative Democracy
- PPNs and participation at local level

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Income

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Addressing poverty and income adequacy

- 11.7% of population in poverty
- 190,000+ Children
- 106,000+ Older people
- 140,000+ Working poor
- Short-term transfers
- Long-term impact

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Addressing employment challenges

- Precarious employment
- Under-employment
- Working poor
- Work and disability
- Work and employment are not the same thing

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What could a minimum social floor look like?

- Benchmark Social Welfare Rates
- 27.5% of Average Weekly Earnings
- Living Wage
- Refundable tax credits

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Services
Health / Education

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Meeting the health needs of an ageing and growing population?

- Primary care and social care services
- Community care
- Home care
- Long-term planning
- Resourcing

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Skills for all: across the lifecycle and future generations

- Green and digital transition
- Multi generational skills strategy
- Place-based
- Lifelong learning
- Reskilling
- Reaching those who need it most

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Sustainability

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Promote the sustainability agenda and meet our climate targets in a fair way

- Align national goals: economic, environmental and social
- Integrate climate adaptation into Budget process
- Fully resource a comprehensive mitigation and transition programme
- A Just Transition

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Resourcing

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What levels of resourcing do we need?

- What do we need to resource?
- New population based target to increase overall tax take.
- How?

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How do we fund the services and infrastructure we require?

- Future proof – plan now for investment
- Reform our taxation system and broaden our tax base
  - Tax Expenditures / Tax Reliefs
  - Corporation Taxes
  - PRSI
  - Site Value Tax
  - Empty Houses and Underdeveloped Land
  - Taxing Windfall Gains
  - Financial Transactions Tax
  - Carbon Taxes

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Social Contract

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A new Social Contract that prioritises the Common Good

- A vibrant economy
- Decent services and infrastructure
- Just taxation
- Good governance
- Sustainability

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What would it look like?

Vibrant Economy	Decent Services & Infrastructure	Just Taxation	Good Governance	Sustainability & Just Transition
Financial stability and sustainable economic growth	Ensure seven social, economic and cultural rights are achieved	Increased overall Tax-Take	Open, transparent, accountable structures	Increased environmental protection
Decent jobs	Quality services	Broader tax base	Social dialogue	Climate justice
Increased public investment	Minimum social floor	Reduced income inequality	Real participation and deliberative democracy	Balanced regional development
Service the national debt	Population based planning and investment	Good taxation governance	Reformed policy and budget evaluation	Sustainable progress index

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How to get there

Social dialogue, involving ALL stakeholders, allows us to:

- Manage change effectively and appropriately.
- Identify problems at the earliest stage
- Facilitate communities and sectors to come to terms with change
- Build consensus on best way to manage change.

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