



March Newsletter

UK-wide measurement of household food insecurity

From April 2019, the Department for Work and Pensions will be including the ten adult questions from the US Government's survey on household food insecurity within the UK Family Resources Survey. This annual survey, covering the whole of the UK, has a large sample of 20,000 households. Data collection will begin in April 2019 and results will be available in April 2021. The Independent Food Aid Network has been campaigning hard for the introduction of this key measure within the End Hunger UK coalition supporting Labour MP Emma Lewell-Buck, who introduced the Food Insecurity Bill in November 2017, and working with Feeding Britain and the Women's Institute. The announcement was made at an informal roundtable meeting gathering teams from the ONS, the DWP, Defra, Public Health England, the Scottish and Welsh Governments and representatives of the Food Foundation, Sustain, IFAN, the Trussell Trust, and Feeding Britain, as well as Dr Rachel Loopstra of Kings College London.

You can read more about this critical step here:

UK Hunger Survey to Measure Food Insecurity - [The Guardian](#)
Gov. announces new national survey of household food insecurity - [Inews](#)
Government to start measuring household food insecurity - [Rights Info](#)

Charitable food provision as an emergency response: sharing evidence from Canada, the USA and the UK -

How do we overcome the growing levels of household food insecurity in the UK and remove the need for food banks and other forms of charitable food aid? What can we learn from the experience of people in North America where food charity has become embedded into the social system?

These are the kind of questions that lay behind a meeting held in London in November 2018, held under the Chatham House rule, between leading academics, activists and representatives of key organisations working on food and poverty issues in the UK, USA and Canada.

This was a meeting hosted by the UK Food Poverty Alliance and jointly organised by the Independent Food Aid Network. You can find the summary of this crucial discussion at the bottom of Why Hunger's Alison's Cohen's blog for End Hunger UK [here](#).

You can also read Alison Cohen's longer blog for Why Hunger on [At a Crossroads in the UK: Can charity and social justice co-exist in the response to food poverty](#) [here](#).

You may also be interested to read the [Q and A session with Professor Graham Riches](#), author of the published title [Food Bank Nations: Poverty, Corporate Charity and the Right to Food](#).

Independent food parcel distribution data in Scotland

In partnership with [A Menu for Change](#), IFAN's Sabine Goodwin has been working to collate food parcel distribution data from independent food banks and food parcel distributors across Scotland. We'll soon be publishing data on the extent of emergency food parcel distribution within the Scottish independent sector - you can find more details [here](#).

So far 79 of 91 independent organisations distributing emergency food parcels and operating in Scotland are involved with this project.

Scotland's Good Nation Bill

And for our readers in Scotland - the Scottish government is seeking everyone's views on the Good Food Nation Bill through a consultation open until March the 29th.

If you would be interested in responding, or if you know of anyone who is accessing food aid services who might be keen to respond, your contribution would certainly be invaluable.

The Scottish Food Coalition has put together this very useful guide to filling in the consultation which is available [here](#).

Redistribution of surplus food is not the solution to food poverty

Dr Martin Caraher and Dr Sinead Furey explore the effects of viewing surplus food as a long-term solution to food poverty, referencing it as 'a band-aid' to deeper problems.

Read our blog post [here](#).
