

EQUALITY-LED RECOVERY

UNISON Cymru Wales has three key areas we believe should be prioritised during the next Senedd term. Equality-led recovery is one of these areas.

We are calling for Member of Senedd (MS) candidates to commit to an equality-led recovery.

Build back equal

The COVID pandemic has compounded the inequalities that already existed across our society.

Women, black people, young workers, people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities children living in poverty, people living in deprived areas, have all been disproportionately affected by the COVID19 pandemic.

But we are clear, this is not the society we want for the future and so we must commit to an equality-led recovery that ensures nobody is left behind.

What do we mean by ‘equality-led recovery’?

We need a society that puts people first; that pays workers their worth; properly funded public services; good quality and readily available social housing; a fair work nation.

Workers across Wales deserve to be paid fairly for the work they do, and we believe every single worker delivering a public service should be paid at least the real living wage of £9.50 per hour. In-work poverty must be a thing of the past. Workers must have access to fair terms and conditions and good quality employment.

No child should be left behind. Almost one in three children in Wales live in relative income poverty – a figure likely to worsen as a result of welfare reform and the pandemic. Every child in Wales must have access to a decent education delivered through properly funded schools with provisions in place to support children who face barriers to participating in education.

Community services must be restored. Austerity has stripped Wales of libraries; seen funding for youth services slashed; public conveniences have disappeared. These are just a few examples of what we’ve lost to the austerity and the costs to the health and wellbeing of our communities will be felt for years to come. Our community services need investment, and this must be prioritised.

Wales needs an ambitious social housing programme. Councils must be enabled to build enough social housing to meet need and to ensure that current social housing is of good standard. World class social housing is a strong basis for everything else – education, transport, employment and the economy.

These are just a few examples of how we ensure an equality-led recovery that leaves nobody behind and ensures equality for all.

