

Would you like to take part in Engender's Equality Counting Project?

Why?

Engender believes that tackling women's poverty is key to the success of the eradication of child poverty. Women are the main managers of family poverty and the stress can undermine their maternal role. This is only amplified by the:

- Disadvantage women face in the labour market
- Inaccessible and often unclear access to services and
- Inadequate financial support for those not in paid work. For example working as carers for children, elderly parents or other loved ones.

Reductions in poverty have stalled because of a consistent failure to gender child poverty issues – 'families' and 'parents' are inherently gendered notions incorporating gendered cultural and social norms. Failure to acknowledge the relationship between child poverty and gender inequality brought about by the lack of value given to women's social and reproductive role undermines strategies for change.

How

As part of our Equality Counting Project Engender are looking for women who are interested in looking into the gendered nature of child poverty and its impact on women and children.

Engender will hold workshops on equalities legislation and work with women to engage in participatory action research to evidence the impact of gender blind or neutral policy and practice on their lives. We will support groups to develop and articulate their gendered analysis of their issue and facilitate roundtables to enable groups to engage with academics and practitioners to learn from each other's understanding in preparation for a national gender conference in March 2012 funded by the Scottish Government. Ultimately we will support groups to engage with public service providers and/or policy makers and use equalities legislation to lever change.

If you would like to take part in Equality Counting and Child Poverty or would like further information please email Rosaria@engender.org.uk or call 0131 558 9596.