

## **WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE**

### **WOMEN AND WELFARE INQUIRY**

#### **ANONYMOUS WRITTEN SUBMISSION**

I was born in 1954 and have been hit hard by the change to state pension entitlement. I have an employment history until I had my family and then had to care for elderly parents - one disabled severely through a stroke and the other through Alzheimer's disease. Both parents died by the time I was 58 and I thought at least I would get the basic state pension at age 60. Not so. Gordon brown changed the goalposts and pushed my entitlement age to 64, followed by Osborne's move to age 66. I note that civil servants have a 10 year grace period and will be able to claim their state pension at the age expected. What is so different about me? I looked after my children and then elderly parents. I saved the state probably tens of thousands in providing care for my family. MY safety net was the thought that I would at least get a pension. I have NEVER received any kind of welfare or benefit (apart from child benefit). Not bad for a 60 year old in today's climate. I now depend on my husband's works pension.

There are 500,000 of us in the UK who are treated as of no account. There will be a petition going to parliament signed by approx. 50,000 requesting a reversal of the state pension law. Apparently this has been done in France and Germany successfully.

When you are considering women and welfare in Holyrood, do not forget us - the lost few who lost out big time with UK government's mismanagement of the pension system. What has happened here reeks of discrimination. Why are civil servants exempt from these laws? Was my life of looking after others not a civil service? I deserve better, as do these other women born in 1954.