

## Rising inequality has been made worse by the pandemic

[The Deaton review of Inequality in Britain](#) demonstrates:

- The COVID crisis has exacerbated inequalities between the high- and low-paid and between graduates and non-graduates. The crisis has hit the self-employed and others in insecure and non-traditional forms of employment especially hard. Educational inequalities will almost certainly have been exacerbated by the crisis. The crisis has had very different impacts on different BAME groups
- Through 2020, pensioners have on average reported becoming financially better off, whilst the young have borne the brunt of job and income loss.
- Covid mortality rates have been highest among some black groups and in the most deprived areas.

It is important to think about policies that will be needed to repair the damage and that focus on those who have suffered the most. "We need to build a country in which everyone feels that they belong."

An LSE survey from November 2020, found that overall [the rate of not working is 12.7%. That is one in eight of the workforce, or over four million people effectively not working](#). Those most affected are younger people, the self-employed, and those from poorer backgrounds. For example, the rate of worklessness is twice as high for 16-25-year-olds as compared to 26-65-year-olds.

They argue that job guarantees are needed to avert the catastrophe of long-term unemployment.

Others are arguing that the government should institute a universal basic income (UBI) scheme. [Experts told a recent London Assembly committee](#) that "modelling showed child poverty could be reduced by 40 per cent if everyone received between £60 and £75 per week regardless of income."