



EMBARGOED TILL 10.30am 8.8.17

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LAUNCH FUNERAL COSTS PLAN
RESPONSE FROM SCOTTISH WORKING GROUP ON FUNERAL POVERTY**

The [Scottish Working Group on Funeral Poverty](#), with representation from almost 20 organisations, has campaigned for the past five years for better assistance for those who struggle to pay for a dignified funeral for a family member or friend.

Today we welcome the publication by the Scottish Government of their "Funeral Costs Plan" which includes ten key actions towards addressing the issue. We see this as evidence of the commitment of SG to ensure that relatives and friends are more easily able to meet the cost of an appropriate and dignified funeral.

We also welcome the publication by Scottish Government of "Planning your own Funeral", a toolkit developed by our organisation to encourage people to plan ahead for their own funeral in conversation with their families and friends.

We note that, while Scottish Government develops plans in Scotland to alleviate Funeral Poverty, they also commit themselves to work with the Westminster Government to address both the lack of official governance exercised over the UK funeral plan market and the failure of the current Department of Work and Pensions Funeral Payment scheme including the complexity of the application process, the time taken to make decisions and the cap on the expenses part of the payment, unchanged for 14 years.

We look forward to debating all the proposals in detail at our next meeting and to supporting the implementation of better and fairer support for those who, in the midst of their grief, are facing or already experiencing unsustainable debt.

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