

## Tackling inequality

SIR - Theresa May has set out a positive agenda to tackle social injustice and make ours "a country that works not for a privileged few but for every one of us". However, she has overlooked a powerful tool at her disposal: the socioeconomic duty that forms the very first section of the Equality Act 2010.

The duty, passed by Parliament but not brought into force, requires all public bodies to take account of socioeconomic disadvantage when making policy decisions. This would help to shield the most vulnerable, level the playing field between people from different backgrounds and build a fairer, more cohesive society.

Nicola Sturgeon has announced that her government will legislate to bring the duty into force in Scotland. We call on the Prime Minister to do the same. It is time for the Act to work as intended in Britain as a whole.

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and 17 others; see telegraph.co.uk*