



*“Poverty is not due to a weakness of individual character, but is a problem of social structure and economic management”*

# THE MEASUREMENT OF POVERTY

These words by Beatrice Webb, co-founder of the New Statesman, were as relevant in 1909 as they are today. What does poverty mean to people? What factors should be taken into account in defining poverty? And, crucially, how can we engage more people in solving it?

**NewStatesman** **Webb**  
MEMORIAL TRUST

## ESSAY COMPETITION

The Beatrice Webb Memorial Trust and the New Statesman are working together to run a competition to develop a ‘Measurement of Poverty Index.’

### Essay title

*If Beatrice Webb were alive today and wanted to compile an index of poverty in the UK, what factors would be included, how would they be measured, and how would each factor be weighted?” Also how would you use such an index to promote the issue of poverty in the public and political consciousness?*

- CASH PRIZE – £1k winner, £500 runner-up
- Competition opens 1st week August
- Deadline 30th September
- Entrants must be 18-25 years old
- Essays of no more than 2500 words. Winner and runner-up announced 30th November
- Awards Reception, December in London
- Publication of winning essay in New Statesman
- Please submit your entries to [webb@cranehouse.eu](mailto:webb@cranehouse.eu)

Judges: Richard Rawes (Chair, Webb Trust), Jason Cowley (Editor, NS), Baroness Ruth Lister, Kate Green MP (former CE of CPAG, Child Poverty Action Group), Chris White MP, Paul Hackett Director Smith Institute