The long-term impact that not being in employment, education or training has on a young woman’s life is huge. Once in their early thirties, these women can expect to earn an average salary of just £8,647. Without urgent action they face a lifetime of low pay, poverty and poor mental health.

There are currently around half a million young women aged 18-24 in England who are out of work, unable to study or train – a number that has hardly changed in over a decade.

Our public Inquiry ‘Scarred for Life?’ is currently examining how we can reduce the numbers of young women in this situation and will provide invaluable insights into the hurdles that so many of them face. We want to know what is causing them to become ‘stuck’ in poverty and what needs to change so that all young women can become financially independent and emotionally resilient.

Our inquiry Panel of experts, led by broadcaster Sian Williams, are calling for evidence from practitioners, policy makers and the public as well as from the young women themselves. Sian says: ‘I am delighted to lead this Inquiry as I was shocked to hear how many young women are excluded from earning or learning. We urgently need to find the right solutions so all young women can access opportunities to secure their futures.’

We intend to publish our initial findings in September 2014. A final report with full recommendations will be published early 2015. We look forward to sharing it with you.

You can find out more about our Inquiry by visiting our website www.youngwomenstrust.org.

“I REALLY DON’T KNOW WHERE I’LL BE IN 10 YEARS’ TIME BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE IF YOU ARE NOT REALLY STARTING IT NOW”

Sonja, 22, has been unemployed and vulnerably housed for 3 years.
We have recently launched our new coaching service Work It Out, offering support to the most vulnerable young women in our communities who are at risk of becoming trapped in long term poverty.

The project will run in the London Borough of Greenwich, an area of high deprivation and with a large number of young women who are not currently in education, employment or training.

We will use the latest developments in technology including texting, WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, to offer accessible and flexible solution-focused coaching to young women who are considered hard to reach.

We hope to expand this project in the future so that more vulnerable young women can receive coaching to help them find work.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We can’t change the story of young women alone. Please consider helping us by:

- Completing our survey for the ‘Scarred for Life?’ Inquiry – we want to hear from young women, from professionals and practitioners working with young women, from academics and from members of the public. Visit our website to find out more.
- Supporting Young Women’s Trust practically and financially, to help us offer young women a route out of poverty. Have a look at our fundraising webpages to find out more.

Contact us at info@youngwomenstrust.org or visit www.youngwomenstrust.org

“THE MOMENT YOU GO INTO THE JOB CENTRE IT MAKES YOU FEEL SO SMALL. I AM NOT PROUD OF HAVING TO GO IN THERE. I FEEL ASHAMED. I FEEL LOW. I HAVE LOST MY SELF-ESTEEM”

Kelly, 23, has been unemployed for 2 years.

OVER A THIRD OF YOUNG WOMEN IN OUR POLL SAID THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL EVER BE EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN – YWT Report: ‘Young Women – The Real Story’

OVER A THIRD OF YOUNG WOMEN BELIEVE THAT WELL PAID APPRENTICESHIPS IN ENGINEERING AND BUILDING TRADES ARE ONLY FOR BOYS – YWT Report: ‘Young Women – The Real Story’

Download our report ‘Young Women – The Real Story’ on our website or call 0207 250 8361 and we can send you a copy.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

We have big plans for the future. We hope to reach out to and help more young women than ever.

Every gift, of every size, means a great deal and leaving a gift in your will helps us to give more young women a future so they themselves can become financially independent and emotionally resilient.

Email Rebecca rebecca.richards@youngwomenstrust.org or phone 0207 250 8361 for more information.