

Title

Developing a capability list for the Equalities Review: The problem of domain selection and a proposed solution combining human rights and deliberative consultation

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The paper deals with a key challenge that arises in developing and applying the capability approach as a basis for multidimensional inequality analysis in Britain - namely, the question of how to specify set of central and valuable capabilities in terms of which inequality between individuals and groups can be conceptualised and appraised. The paper explores the theoretical and methodological issues arising from the problem of domain selection and sets out a two-stage methodology for identifying domains involving the initial derivation of a core capability list from the international human rights framework (stage 1); supplementation and refinement of the core list through a process of deliberative consultation with the general public and individuals and groups at high risk of discrimination (stage 2). The capability list generated by the implementation of this procedure provides the foundation for the measurement system set out in a companion paper also by Burchardt and Vizard*. In particular, the 10 domains of the proposed capability list provide a foundation for specifying the domains of a 'human freedom matrix' in terms of which inequalities in Britain can be evaluated and appraised. This combined system was recommended in *Fairness and Freedom: The Final Report of the Equalities Review* as a foundation for measuring and monitoring inequality in Britain in 21st century Britain. It will provide a basis for the work of the new British Commission for Equality and Human Rights, which assumes its formal responsibilities in September 2007.

*The companion paper has been submitted by Tania Burchardt for consideration for presentation at the panel on wellbeing measurement.