

VARELA Patricia

From: Denise Harrison <deniseharrison@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 12 September 2018 11:42
To: Special Rapporteur On Extreme Poverty And Human Rights OHCHR
Subject: Should be pensioner being robbed by uk political parties

Hi,

I would like you to use my story as you consider our human rights.

I am almost 60. I started work full time when I was 15 and remember signing a form to pay full NI contributions so I was earning my own pension.

I had been at a girls school and unfortunately fell pregnant at 15-I was thrown out of my home and sleeping rough! After a couple of months I had found 3 jobs and was working 20 hour days paying tax and NI. I got no monetary help with my baby my grandmother looked after her while I worked menial jobs.

I married at 23 and we had 3 children. I still worked cleaning and bar jobs to help to fund our lifestyle but couldn't attain decent work because my children, and my husbands job had to take priority.

We divorced 25 years later and I got nothing because I left him (he had beaten me up numerous times), I had to fund 2 children at school on my own. He kept his pensions because they weren't taken into consideration at the time! I've never been offered pensions till the civil service job which was short term.

Soon after I was run over by a speeding car and had 2 head injuries, broken back, pelvis, ankle, ribs-my stomach was in my lung!

I was in hospital for 6 months and back at work 13 months after the accident!

I was a civil servant at the time but due to agonising headaches I left when I got what I believe was a small settlement. I had enough money to live on till I got my pension at 60-so I thought! Then the banks collapsed so I got pitiful interest!

I wrote to the dwp to check I had enough contributions to retire at 60 in 1995 and they said I did.

I found out about my age rise to 67 two years ago from Facebook! The dwp has not mentioned it in their letter!!

I had to find work so last year I had 12 zero hours contracts from care assistant to cleaner. I am packing at the moment! This is a very heavy job and I know I can't keep it up till I'm 67 I am in a lot of pain now!

And I have another almost 8 years to work and pay tax and NI!! My prospects are horrendous-I can't afford to leave work-I am single and have been for ten years and just going from one agency to another-I start many days at 0600 and get home at 2300 as a care assistant for a lot less than minimum wage because I have to pay for my travel between clients!

I really don't know how long I can go on.

Denise Harrison
Sent from my iPhone