

EVIDENCE PACKET

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AS A MEASURE OF NATIONAL SUCCESS

World Schools, TOC, September 11 to 13, 2026

HMDC Forensics

HOW THIS PACKET IS ORGANISED

Twelve arguments, six for each side, and five cards under every argument. Every card carries the publication, the author, the date, the full link and a paragraph copied word for word from the live page.

We read the card, not the summary. The Original is the sentence a judge can check, and it is the only part of the card we quote aloud. The Fact line is our plain-language restatement, and the Consequence line is what we say next, because a card that is read without a consequence has not yet done any work.

Rebuttal cards sit at the back. Those are the ones we reach for when the other side has already spoken.

A NOTE ON HONESTY

Where a source limits its own finding, the limit is printed under the card as a warning. We read the warning before the round, because the fastest way to lose a round is to overstate a source that the other team has also read.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT ONE

THE NUMBER RISES WHILE PEOPLE LIVE SHORTER, SICKER LIVES

CARD P1-1

Tagline: First... Losing years of life

Source: According to... the Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, March 31 2026

Link: <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/u-s-life-expectancy-compare-countries/>

Citation: [Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, a partnership of the Peterson Center on Healthcare and KFF, "How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries?", March 31 2026]

Original: "In 2024, U.S. life expectancy reached a record high of 79 years, 3.7 years below the comparable country average of 82.7 years."

Fact: It states... that people in the United States die about three and a half years earlier than people in countries of a similar size and wealth.

Consequence: This means... that the country with the largest economy on the planet is losing years of life that its neighbours keep, so the number that says it is winning is not measuring the thing that matters most to the people inside it.

CARD P1-2

Tagline: Also... Spending double, dying sooner

Source: According to... the Commonwealth Fund, May 28 2026

Link: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2026/may/us-health-care-global-perspective-2026>

Citation: [Munira Z. Gunja, Evan D. Gumas and Reginald D. Williams II, The Commonwealth Fund, "U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective, 2026: Expanded Edition", May 28 2026]

Original: "For over four decades, the United States has spent more on health care than any other nation. In 2024, the U.S. spent 18 percent of gross domestic product on health care, nearly twice as much as the average OECD country, and among the highest rates in the world."

Fact: It states... that the United States puts almost twice as much of its economy into health care as other rich countries do.

Consequence: This means... that money alone is not buying longer lives, because the same country that spends the most is the one whose people die earliest, and a measure that only counts the spending will never show us that.

CARD P1-3

Tagline: Also... Reversing a decade of gains

Source: According to... the World Health Organization, 15 May 2025

Link: <https://www.who.int/news/item/15-05-2025-who-warns-of-slowng-global-health-gains-in-new-statistics-report>

Citation: [World Health Organization, "WHO warns of slowing global health gains in new statistics report", 15 May 2025]

Original: "In just two years, between 2019 and 2021, global life expectancy fell by 1.8 years-the largest drop in recent history- reversing a decade of health gains."

Fact: It states... that in only two years the world lost almost two years of average life, which wiped out ten years of progress.

Consequence: This means... that human life can fall apart while production carries on, so a country that watches only its output will not see the harm arriving until the funerals have already happened.

CARD P1-4

Tagline: Also... Living fewer healthy years

Source: According to... the Health Foundation, 26 April 2026

Link: <https://www.health.org.uk/reports-and-analysis/analysis/healthy-life-expectancy-trends-in-the-uk-a-watershed-moment>

Citation: [Andrew Mooney, Anne Alarilla and Francesca Cavallaro, The Health Foundation, "Healthy life expectancy trends in the UK: a watershed moment", 26 April 2026]

Original: "Healthy life expectancy in the UK fell by over 2 years between 2012-14 and 2022-24, from 62.9 to 60.7 years for males and from 63.7 to 60.9 years for females."

Fact: It states... that British people now spend more than two extra years of their lives in poor health than they did ten years ago.

Consequence: This means... that a decade of economic growth was paid for with the health of the people who produced it, and the only reason we can see that at all is that somebody chose to measure something other than the money.

CARD P1-5

Tagline: Finally... Counting the unhealthy quarter

Source: According to... Eurostat, Last Accessed: August 2026

Link: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Healthy_life_years_statistics

Citation: [Eurostat, statistical office of the European Union, "Healthy life years statistics", data extracted July 2025, Last Accessed: August 2026]

Original: "In the EU, the number of healthy life years at birth in 2023 was 63.3 years for women and 62.8 years for men. This represented approximately 3 quarters (75.4%) and 4 fifths (79.8%) of the total life expectancy for women and men, respectively."

Fact: It states... that a woman born in Europe today can expect about a quarter of her life to be lived in poor health.

Consequence: This means... that even in one of the richest regions on earth the number is silent about how those years are actually lived, and silence is what allows a government to call that result a success.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT TWO

THE WORK THAT HOLDS FAMILIES TOGETHER IS NOT COUNTED

CARD P2-1

Tagline: First... Erasing a trillion pounds

Source: According to... the Office for National Statistics, December 5 2025

Link: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/satelliteaccounts/bulletins/householdsatelliteaccountuk/2023>

Citation: [Office for National Statistics, "Household Satellite Account, UK: 2023", December 5 2025]

Original: "The value of unpaid household services was £1.2 trillion, or about 62% the size of gross domestic product (GDP), in 2014 and £1.7 trillion, or 61% of GDP in 2023."

Fact: It states... that the cooking, cleaning and caring that British families do without pay is worth about 1.7 trillion pounds, which is roughly three fifths of the whole economy.

Consequence: This means... that the official number is missing something close to two thirds of the work the country actually does, and the people doing that missing work are told, by the measurement itself, that they contribute nothing.

CARD P2-2

Tagline: Also... Beating three whole industries

Source: According to... Statistics Canada, March 17 2022

Link: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/13-605-x/2022001/article/00001-eng.htm>

Citation: [Sandy Besporostov and Amanda Sinclair, National Economic Accounts Division, Statistics Canada, "Estimating the economic value of unpaid household work in Canada, 2015 to 2019", March 17 2022]

Original: "These values amounted to between 25.2% and 37.2% of Canada's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019, which is more than the contribution of all the manufacturing, wholesale and retail industries combined."

Fact: It states... that the unpaid work done in Canadian homes is worth more than the country's factories, wholesalers and shops added together.

Consequence: This means... that the largest single sector of the economy is the one nobody is paid for, and a country that keeps score without it is running its plans on a picture with the biggest piece missing.

CARD P2-3

Tagline: Also... Missing a quarter entirely

Source: According to... the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, November 25 2025

Link: https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/saladeprensa/boletines/2025/tnrh/CSTNRHM2024_CP.pdf

Citation: [Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, Mexico's national statistics agency, "Cuenta Satelite del Trabajo No Remunerado de los Hogares de Mexico", press release 148/25, November 25 2025]

Original: "En 2024, el valor economico de las labores domesticas y de cuidados que realizo la poblacion de 12 anos y mas fue de 8 billones de pesos a precios corrientes."

Fact: It states... that the housework and care done by Mexicans aged twelve and over came to eight trillion pesos in one year, which the same agency reports is 23.9 percent of the whole economy.

Consequence: This means... that in one of the largest countries in the Americas almost a quarter of the real economy is invisible to the official figure, and the families carrying it are invisible with it.

CARD P2-4

Tagline: Also... Naming the invisible income

Source: According to... the Australian Bureau of Statistics, June 19 2026

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/5-new-insights-unpaid-care>

Citation: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, "5 new insights into unpaid care", June 19 2026]

Original: "Carers create invisible income. The total value of unpaid care was \$461.1 billion in the September quarter 2025 when using the individual replacement cost method."

Fact: It states... that unpaid carers in Australia produced 461 billion dollars of value in three months, and the agency that measures the economy calls that value invisible.

Consequence: This means... that the people who keep the sick, the elderly and the very young alive are described by their own government's statisticians as invisible, which is exactly what happens when one number is allowed to decide what counts.

CARD P2-5

Tagline: Finally... Falling hardest on women

Source: According to... UN Women, 23 October 2025

Link: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/faqs/faqs-what-is-unpaid-care-work-and-how-does-it-power-the-economy>

Citation: [UN Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, "FAQs: What is unpaid care work and how does it power the economy?", 23 October 2025]

Original: "Despite its central role in the global economy, unpaid care work is rarely counted in statistics or given the value it deserves. It is invisible in GDP and overlooked by governments, even though women do more than half of the world's work (52 per cent) - and nearly half that work goes unpaid."

Fact: It states... that women do more than half of all the work in the world, and that almost half of what they do is unpaid and therefore uncouted.

Consequence: This means... that the harm here is not spread evenly, because the choice of measurement decides whose work is seen, and the people it leaves out are mostly women.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT THREE

THE SAME NUMBER DECIDES WHICH COUNTRIES ARE REFUSED HELP

CARD P3-1

Tagline: First... Refusing help by income

Source: According to... the United Nations, May 2023

Link: <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-beyond-gross-domestic-product-en.pdf>

Citation: [United Nations, "Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 4: Valuing What Counts - Framework to Progress Beyond Gross Domestic Product", May 2023]

Original: "GDP continues to play a key role as a yardstick for providing international support, including in criteria for countries classified as least developed or eligible for support by the International Development Association, leaving some countries with high vulnerabilities without access to concessional financing."

Fact: It states... that this one number decides which countries are allowed to borrow money cheaply, and that some of the countries in the most danger are turned away because of it.

Consequence: This means... that the measurement is not just a description of the world, it is a gate, and the people shut out by that gate are the ones whose homes the sea is already taking.

CARD P3-2

Tagline: Also... Naming the excluded islands

Source: According to... the Caribbean Development Bank, July 1 2026

Link: <https://www.caribank.org/newsroom/news-and-events/caribbean-climate-leaders-demand-urgent-overhaul-global-financial-architecture>

Citation: [Caribbean Development Bank, reporting remarks by Ambassador Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, "Caribbean Climate Leaders Demand Urgent Overhaul of Global Financial Architecture", July 1 2026]

Original: "He also identified a structural absurdity that drew audible agreement in the room: that countries like the Bahamas, Barbados, and Antigua and Barbuda remain excluded from grant and concessional finance on the basis of a single indicator - per capita income - while bearing disproportionate climate risk."

Fact: It states... that the Bahamas, Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda are shut out of free and cheap finance because of one number, even though they face some of the worst storms in the world.

Consequence: This means... that we can put names to the harm, which is what a judge remembers, because three real countries are being refused help by a measurement rather than by any decision anyone would defend out loud.

CARD P3-3

Tagline: Also... Admitting the rule itself

Source: According to... the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, January 17 2025

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-island-developing-states-vulnerability-note-2025/small-island-developing-states-vulnerability-note>

Citation: [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom Government, "Small Island Developing States: vulnerability note", published 17 January 2025]

Original: "Most International Finance Institutions account for SIDS (Small island developing states)' vulnerability, but the critical DAC (Development Assistance Committee) ODA (Official Development Assistance) eligibility criterion is based only on income without vulnerability."

Fact: It states... that the rule which decides who gets development aid looks only at income and ignores how much danger a country is in, and that a donor government says so about its own system.

Consequence: This means... that our opponents cannot argue this away as a misunderstanding, because the countries writing the rule have already written down that the rule works this way.

CARD P3-4

Tagline: Also... Counting half as rich

Source: According to... the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics, December 13 2024

Link: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/news/small-island-developing-states-need-innovative-forms-of-finance-to-bridge-the-devastating-adaptation-gap/>

Citation: [Lea Reitmeier and Denyse S. Dookie, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics, "Small Island Developing States need innovative forms of finance to bridge the devastating 'adaptation gap'", December 13 2024]

Original: "Metrics such as Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, in particular, may show comparatively high values for SIDS nations due to their relatively small populations, without adjustment for island-specific climate adaptation costs. This is a factor in half of all SIDS being classified by the World Bank as high-income economies, which poses a significant barrier to affordable financing options."

Fact: It states... that half of all small island states are officially counted as rich, partly because dividing by a very small population makes the number look large, and that this classification is what blocks their access to affordable money.

Consequence: This means... that the arithmetic itself is producing the harm, because a country of eighty thousand people can be called wealthy on paper on the day a hurricane removes its hospitals.

CARD P3-5

Tagline: Finally... Losing help while growing

Source: According to... ODI, 16 November 2023

Link: <https://odi.org/en/insights/small-island-nations-need-a-multidimensional-vulnerability-index/>

Citation: [Emily Wilkinson, Principal Research Fellow and Director of the Resilient and Sustainable Islands Initiative, and Vikrant Panwar, Lead Specialist in Risk and Resilience Finance, ODI, "Why small island nations need a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index", 16 November 2023]

Original: "However, with few exceptions, access to concessional finance declines as SIDS achieve higher levels of income and graduate from official development assistance (ODA). This leads to higher borrowing costs with shortened maturities - worsening their fiscal situation."

Fact: It states... that as an island's income rises, its access to cheap money falls away, and it is pushed into loans that cost more and have to be repaid sooner.

Consequence: This means... that success measured by this number is punished, which is the cruellest form of the harm, because a country that does exactly what the world told it to do ends up deeper in debt for having done it.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT FOUR

DESTRUCTION IS COUNTED AS GROWTH

CARD P4-1

Tagline: First... Counting the disaster upward

Source: According to... The Conversation, August 18 2022

Link: <https://theconversation.com/beyond-gdp-changing-how-we-measure-progress-is-key-to-tackling-a-world-in-crisis-three-leading-experts-186488>

Citation: [Diane Coyle, Paul Allin and Tim Jackson, "Beyond GDP: changing how we measure progress is key to tackling a world in crisis - three leading experts", The Conversation, August 18 2022]

Original: "War, pollution, crime, prostitution, traffic congestion, disasters like wildfires and the destruction of nature - all can have a positive impact on GDP."

Fact: It states... that war, pollution, crime, traffic, wildfires and the destruction of nature can all make this number go up.

Consequence: This means... that a measurement which rewards a burning forest is not measuring success at all, and a country steering by it is being told to drive towards the fire.

CARD P4-2

Tagline: Also... Never subtracting the damage

Source: According to... the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, Last Updated: October 26 2022

Link: <https://www.bea.gov/help/faq/1013>

Citation: [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, United States Department of Commerce, "How are the measures of production and income in the national accounts affected by a disaster?", page last modified October 26 2022]

Original: "Neither GDP nor the associated income measures are adjusted to take account of damage to, or destruction of, assets due to a catastrophic event."

Fact: It states... that when a disaster destroys buildings, roads and homes, none of that loss is taken off the number.

Consequence: This means... that this is not a criticism from outside, it is the published rule of the agency that calculates the figure, so the rebuilding counts and the ruin does not, and only one of those two things is what actually happened to the families involved.

CARD P4-3

Tagline: Also... Rising after an oil spill

Source: According to... UN News, 29 March 2025

Link: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161711>

Citation: [Juliette Maigne, UN News, Geneva, "Looking beyond GDP to reach the Sustainable Development Goals", 29 March 2025]

Original: "GDP is not necessarily a reliable indicator of sustainability and can even increase after costly accidents such as oil spills, owing to intensive clean-up operations, as was the case with the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in 2010."

Fact: It states... that the number went up after the worst oil spill in American history, because cleaning up the oil counted as work.

Consequence: This means... that we have one named disaster, on the record from a United Nations outlet, where poisoning a sea made a country look more successful, and no amount of averaging explains that away.

CARD P4-4

Tagline: Also... Gilding the worst events

Source: According to... Scientific American, August 1 2020

Link: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/gdp-is-the-wrong-tool-for-measuring-what-matters/>

Citation: [Joseph E. Stiglitz, University Professor at Columbia University and Nobel laureate in economics, "GDP Is the Wrong Tool for Measuring What Matters", Scientific American, August 1 2020]

Original: "Addictive opioids led to an epidemic of drug deaths, but the profits of Purdue Pharma and the other villains in that drama added to GDP. Indeed, the medical expenditures resulting from these health crises also boosted GDP."

Fact: It states... that the drugs that killed people counted as growth, and so did the hospital care for the people they were killing.

Consequence: This means... that the same crisis was added to the score twice, once for causing it and once for treating it, and a country reading only the score would have seen two strong years while its people were dying.

CARD P4-5

Tagline: Finally... Rewarding what we burn

Source: According to... the United Nations Environment Programme, 10 August 2026

Link: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/opinion/op-ed-fires-burn-and-temperatures-soar-europe-its-time-imagine-world>

Citation: [Steven Stone, Acting Director of the Office of Science, United Nations Environment Programme, "As fires burn and temperatures soar in Europe, it's time to imagine a world beyond GDP", 10 August 2026]

Original: "With every forest we clear cut and every ounce of fossil fuel we burn, GDP rises. But through those actions, we are whittling away at the natural world, which supplies us with food, water, medicine, clean air and countless other essentials."

Fact: It states... that cutting down a forest and burning fuel both raise this number, while removing the food, water, medicine and clean air that the same forest provides.

Consequence: This means... that the number moves in the opposite direction to the thing our lives depend on, so following it is not simply imperfect, it is leading us away from what keeps us alive.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT FIVE

THE NUMBER RISES WHILE THE NATURAL WEALTH BENEATH IT FALLS

CARD P5-1

Tagline: First... Rising while nature falls

Source: According to... the Yale School of the Environment, October 22 2024

Link: <https://environment.yale.edu/news/article/going-beyond-gdp-measure-changing-wealth-nations>

Citation: [Yale School of the Environment, featuring Eli Fenichel, co-author of the World Bank report, "Going Beyond GDP to Measure the Changing Wealth of Nations", October 22 2024]

Original: "renewable natural capital - driven by an overexploitation across almost all natural resources, such as forests, marine capture fisheries, and mangroves - declined by more than 20% globally"

Fact: It states... that the world's renewable natural wealth, meaning its forests, its fish and its mangroves, fell by more than a fifth, because we took more than could grow back.

Consequence: This means... that in the same period when the number rose about half in every region, the living world underneath it shrank by a fifth, and only one of those two facts was ever put on the front page.

CARD P5-2

Tagline: Also... Encouraging unsustainable growth

Source: According to... HM Treasury, February 2021

Link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60182857d3bf7f70c2afe5bb/Dasgupta_Review_-_Headline_Messages.pdf

Citation: [Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Cambridge, "The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review, Headline Messages", commissioned by HM Treasury, February 2021]

Original: "However, GDP does not account for the depreciation of assets, including the natural environment. As our primary measure of economic success, it therefore encourages us to pursue unsustainable economic growth and development."

Fact: It states... that because the number never subtracts the wearing out of things we own, including nature, using it as our main measure pushes us towards growth that cannot last.

Consequence: This means... that the harm is caused by the choice of measure itself, and this is the finding of a review a government commissioned and then published, which makes it very hard for the other side to call it activism.

CARD P5-3

Tagline: Also... Emptying the sea officially

Source: According to... the Office for National Statistics, March 7 2024

Link: <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2024/03/07/how-the-ONS-is-working-towards-measuring-depletion-of-UK-natural-capital/>

Citation: [Ellen Clowser, Natural Capital Accounts Development Lead, Office for National Statistics, "How the ONS is working towards measuring depletion of UK natural capital", March 7 2024]

Original: "For renewables such as fish, even if we didn't catch every fish in the sea this year, if we take more than can be replenished, we would still see an increase in GDP, but this would reduce the stock size, limiting the capacity for future fishing and catch sizes, potentially even leading to a collapse of the fish population."

Fact: It states... that taking more fish than the sea can replace raises this number while emptying the sea, and that the collapse of the fish comes later.

Consequence: This means... that a government's own statisticians can describe the harm exactly and still publish the number as the headline, which tells us the problem is not ignorance, it is what we have chosen to put first.

CARD P5-4

Tagline: Also... Losing wealth while growing

Source: According to... the World Bank, October 27 2021

Link: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/voices/we-can-no-longer-grow-our-economies-degrading-our-natural-capital>

Citation: [Juergen Voegelé, Vice President for the Planet, World Bank, "We can no longer grow our economies by degrading our natural capital", October 27 2021]

Original: "In some countries where GDP growth is achieved by consuming or degrading natural resources, for example by over-fishing or soil-degradation, total wealth is declining."

Fact: It states... that in some countries the number goes up while the country's total wealth goes down, because the growth is being paid for out of the soil and the sea.

Consequence: This means... that growth and wealth can point in opposite directions, so a country celebrating one figure may be getting poorer in every way that will matter to the children now in school.

CARD P5-5

Tagline: Finally... Agreeing to measure nature

Source: According to... the United Nations, 10 March 2021

Link: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2021/03/un-adopts-landmark-framework-to-integrate-natural-capital-in-economic-reporting>

Citation: [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Statistical Commission, "UN adopts landmark framework to integrate natural capital in economic reporting", 10 March 2021]

Original: "Experts emphasize that while a statistic such as GDP does a good job of showing the value of goods and services exchanged in markets, it does not reflect the dependency of the economy on nature, nor its impacts on nature, such as the deterioration of water quality or the loss of a forest."

Fact: It states... that the world's statisticians agree the number cannot see how much the economy depends on nature, nor the damage it does to it, and that they adopted a new framework because of that.

Consequence: This means... that the case for change is not ours alone, because the very body that maintains the world's accounting standards has already voted to build something the number cannot do.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT SIX

THE AVERAGE HIDES THE FAMILY IT IS SUPPOSED TO DESCRIBE

CARD P6-1

Tagline: First... Outpacing the typical household

Source: According to... the University of Oxford, Review of Income and Wealth, first published 2018

Link: <https://www.inet.ox.ac.uk/publications/gdp-per-capita-versus-median-household-income-what-gives-rise-to-the-divergence-over-time-and-how-does-this-vary-across-oecd-countries>

Citation: [Brian Nolan, Max Roser and Stefan Thewissen, University of Oxford, "GDP Per Capita Versus Median Household Income", Review of Income and Wealth, first published 2018]

Original: "GDP per capita has risen faster than median household income in most of these countries"

Fact: It states... that in most rich countries the average produced per person has grown faster than the income of the household in the middle.

Consequence: This means... that the number can rise for years while the ordinary family feels nothing, and a government that reads only the average will keep insisting that things are improving to people who know that they are not.

CARD P6-2

Tagline: Also... Falling while output grew

Source: According to... the United States Census Bureau, September 12 2023

Link: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/income-poverty-health-insurance-coverage.html>

Citation: [U.S. Census Bureau, "Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2022", press release CB23-150, September 12 2023]

Original: "Real median household income fell by 2.3% from \$76,330 in 2021 to \$74,580 in 2022."

Fact: It states... that the income of the middle American household fell by 2.3 percent in a year when the economy as a whole grew.

Consequence: This means... that the two numbers moved in opposite directions in the same year, in the same country, published by the same government, so this is not a theory about averages, it is a recorded event.

CARD P6-3

Tagline: Also... Shrinking the workers' share

Source: According to... the International Labour Organization, 4 September 2024

Link: <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/global-labour-income-share-declines-putting-upward-pressure-inequality-sdg>

Citation: [International Labour Organization, "Global labour income share declines putting upward pressure on inequality, SDG targets not on track", reporting the World Employment and Social Outlook September 2024 Update, 4 September 2024]

Original: "If the share had remained at the same level as in 2004, labour income would be larger by US\$2.4 trillion in 2024 alone."

Fact: It states... that workers would have been paid 2.4 trillion dollars more in one year if their share of what they produce had simply stayed where it was twenty years ago.

Consequence: This means... that the pie can grow while the slice shrinks, and the people who baked it are 2.4 trillion dollars worse off in a single year than the growing total would lead anyone to expect.

CARD P6-4

Tagline: Also... Splitting pay from productivity

Source: According to... the Economic Policy Institute, September 2 2021

Link: <https://www.epi.org/blog/growing-inequalities-reflecting-growing-employer-power-have-generated-a-productivity-pay-gap-since-1979-productivity-has-grown-3-5-times-as-much-as-pay-for-the-typical-worker/>

Citation: [Lawrence Mishel, Distinguished Fellow, Economic Policy Institute, "Growing inequalities, reflecting growing employer power, have generated a productivity-pay gap since 1979", September 2 2021]

Original: "Between 1979 and 2019, net productivity grew 59.7% while a typical (median) worker's compensation grew by 15.8%, a 43.9 percentage point divergence driven by inequality."

Fact: It states... that over forty years the amount produced per hour of work grew almost sixty percent while the typical worker's pay grew less than sixteen.

Consequence: This means... that the extra output went somewhere other than the people producing it, and the headline number is the one figure that cannot show us where.

CARD P6-5

Tagline: Finally... Improving while households stagnate

Source: According to... the Resolution Foundation, 6 September 2023

Link: <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/press-releases/election-run-in-set-to-be-marked-by-further-living-standards-stagnation-despite-improving-economic-backdrop-and-90-billion-savings-income-boost/>

Citation: [Adam Corlett, Principal Economist, Resolution Foundation, "Election run-in set to be marked by further living standards stagnation, despite improving economic backdrop", 6 September 2023]

Original: "The good news for the Government is that Britain's economic outlook is improving as it enters a crucial election year. The bad news is that the living standards outlook is still dire, with overall stagnation and further income falls on the way for less well-off households."

Fact: It states... that the country's economic outlook was improving at the same moment the outlook for how people actually live was described as dire.

Consequence: This means... that the two stories can be told about the same country on the same day, and whichever one we put first is a choice, so choosing the number that flatters the government is a decision with people on the other end of it.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT ONE

THE NUMBER TRACKS HOW PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE

CARD 01-1

Tagline: First... Matching welfare almost exactly

Source: According to... Charles I. Jones and Peter J. Klenow of Stanford University, February 10 2016

Link: <https://web.stanford.edu/~chadj/rawls.pdf>

Citation: [Charles I. Jones, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Peter J. Klenow, Stanford University, "Beyond GDP? Welfare across Countries and Time", Version 5.0, February 10 2016; published in the American Economic Review, volume 106, number 9, September 2016]

Original: "the two measures have a correlation of 0.98"

Fact: It states... that a broad measure of how well people live moves together with income across countries almost perfectly, at 0.98 out of a possible 1.

Consequence: This means... that our opponents are attacking a measure that already tracks human wellbeing more closely than anything they have offered to replace it with, so the swap they propose would cost accuracy rather than gain it.

CARD 01-2

Tagline: Also... Measuring survival in children

Source: According to... PLOS ONE, February 23 2022

Link: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0263245>

Citation: [Marcelo Cardona, ROCKWOOL Foundation and Institute for Advanced Development Studies, with Joseph Millward, Alison Gemmill, Katelyn Jison Yoo and David M. Bishai, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, "Estimated impact of the 2020 economic downturn on under-5 mortality for 129 countries", PLOS ONE, February 23 2022]

Original: "A 5% reduction in GDP per capita in 2020 was estimated to cause an additional 282,996 deaths in children under 5 in 2020."

Fact: It states... that when income per person fell five percent, an extra 282,996 children under five died in a single year.

Consequence: This means... that this number is not a dry accounting figure at all, because when it falls, children die, and a country that stops watching it is a country that will not see them dying.

CARD 01-3

Tagline: Also... Predicting child survival reliably

Source: According to... BMC Public Health, 6 June 2025

Link: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12889-025-23370-3>

Citation: [Vageesha Rajapakse, Adeesha Fernando, Nikini Sudangama, Damindu Adikari, Ashwathy Sundaram and Ruwan Jayathilaka, SLIIT Business School, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, "Economic and healthcare determinants of under-five mortality in low-income countries", BMC Public Health, 6 June 2025]

Original: "The analysis revealed a strong inverse relationship between PGDP and U5MR, highlighting the role of economic growth in improving child survival."

Fact: It states... that across the world's poorest countries, the higher the income per person, the fewer children die before their fifth birthday.

Consequence: This means... that in the places our opponents say the number fails, it is doing the most work, because it is the closest thing the poorest countries have to an early warning that their children are at risk.

CARD 01-4

Tagline: Also... Driving longer life directly

Source: According to... Frontiers in Public Health, December 18 2024

Link: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1497794/full>

Citation: [Levent Aytemiz and Yilmaz Bayar, Bandirma Onyedi Eylul University, Gamze Sart and Funda H. Sezgin, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, and Marina Danilina, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, "The long-term effect of social, educational, and health expenditures on indicators of life expectancy", Frontiers in Public Health, December 18 2024]

Original: "Income and health expenditures have been revealed to be the main drivers of life expectancy"

Fact: It states... that income and money spent on health are the two things that most decide how long people live.

Consequence: This means... that income is not a distraction from health, it is one of the two engines behind it, so a country that stops measuring income has thrown away half the dashboard.

CARD 01-5

Tagline: Finally... Ranking first among six

Source: According to... the World Happiness Report 2024

Link: <https://www.worldhappiness.report/ed/2024/happiness-of-the-younger-the-older-and-those-in-between/>

Citation: [John F. Helliwell, Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia, with Haifang Huang, Hugh Shiplett and Shun Wang, "Happiness of the younger, the older, and those in between", World Happiness Report 2024, Chapter 2]

Original: "The results in the first column explain national average life evaluations in terms of six key variables: GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, freedom to make life choices, generosity, and freedom from corruption. Taken together, these six variables explain more than three-quarters of the variation in national annual average ladder scores across countries and years"

Fact: It states... that the six things which explain more than three quarters of how happy countries are begin with income per person.

Consequence: This means... that even the report our opponents will quote as the alternative puts this number at the head of its own list, so they are asking us to throw away a measure their own best evidence relies on.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT TWO

GROWTH IS WHAT ACTUALLY LIFTED PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY

CARD 02-1

Tagline: First... Driving nine tenths of it

Source: According to... Nature, 29 November 2023

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06679-0>

Citation: [Philip Wollburg, The World Bank and Wageningen University and Research, with Stephane Hallegatte and Daniel Gerszon Mahler, The World Bank, "Ending extreme poverty has a negligible impact on global greenhouse gas emissions", Nature, 29 November 2023]

Original: "Poverty reduction occurs by a combination of economic growth and distribution of this growth across households, with 90% of historical poverty alleviation driven by economic growth."

Fact: It states... that nine tenths of all the poverty ever reduced in history was reduced by economic growth.

Consequence: This means... that a world which stops watching growth is a world that has stopped watching the single thing that has lifted more people out of poverty than every other policy combined.

CARD 02-2

Tagline: Also... Needing five times more

Source: According to... Our World in Data, March 15 2021

Link: <https://ourworldindata.org/poverty-minimum-growth-needed>

Citation: [Max Roser, Our World in Data, "How much economic growth is necessary to reduce global poverty substantially?", March 15 2021]

Original: "a world economy with substantially less poverty is at a minimum 5-times bigger than today's global economy"

Fact: It states... that ending poverty in a serious way needs a world economy at least five times the size of today's.

Consequence: This means... that there is no version of ending poverty that does not require growth, so treating the measure of growth as a harm is asking the poorest people on earth to wait longer.

CARD 02-3

Tagline: Also... Requiring growth at every line

Source: According to... the Center for Global Development, March 20 2023

Link: <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/economic-growth-necessary-reduce-global-poverty>

Citation: [Charles Kenny, Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development, "Economic Growth is Necessary to Reduce Global Poverty", March 20 2023]

Original: "But, whether the poverty line is set at \$2.15 or \$10 or higher, economic growth is going to be necessary to ensure no-one lives below it - and the higher the poverty line, the more growth will be required."

Fact: It states... that wherever we draw the line for poverty, growth is needed to lift people above it, and the more generous the line, the more growth is needed.

Consequence: This means... that our opponents cannot escape by saying the poverty line is too low, because a fairer line makes our case stronger rather than weaker.

CARD 02-4

Tagline: Also... Waiting a whole century

Source: According to... the World Bank, October 15 2024

Link: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-prosperity-and-planet>

Citation: [World Bank Group, "Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024: Pathways Out of the Polycrisis", launched October 15 2024]

Original: "If growth does not accelerate and become more inclusive, it will take decades to eradicate extreme poverty and more than a century to lift people above the \$6.85 per day poverty line."

Fact: It states... that without faster growth it will take decades to end extreme poverty and more than a hundred years to bring people above a decent daily income.

Consequence: This means... that the cost of turning away from growth is measured in generations, and the people paying it are not in this room, which is precisely why a judge should weigh them.

CARD 02-5

Tagline: Finally... Beating every other route

Source: According to... Econofact, February 2 2020

Link: <https://econofact.org/poverty-reduction-and-economic-growth>

Citation: [Lant Pritchett, Oxford University, "Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth", Econofact, February 2 2020]

Original: "Broad-based growth, defined as the process that raises median income, is far and away the most important source of poverty reduction."

Fact: It states... that growth which raises the income of the middle household is by far the biggest reason poverty falls.

Consequence: This means... that this answers the Proposition's own median-income argument directly, because the cure they want for the middle household is the very growth they are asking us to stop measuring.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT THREE

ONE SHARED STANDARD IS WHAT MAKES COMPARISON POSSIBLE AT ALL

CARD 03-1

Tagline: First... Sharing one accounting rulebook

Source: According to... Eurostat, April 9 2025

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/w/cn-20250409-1>

Citation: [Eurostat, "New global standards for macroeconomic statistics", April 9 2025]

Original: "As international standards, the SNA and BPM allow countries to compile macroeconomic statistics according to best practices and in a consistent way, providing users with relevant, consistent, comprehensive and comparable data across countries."

Fact: It states... that a shared international rulebook is what allows countries to build their figures the same way, so that the results can be compared.

Consequence: This means... that comparison is not automatic, it is built, and our opponents want to discard the only structure anyone has ever finished building.

Warning for the team: say the world shares one framework. Never say every country calculates it the same way, because this same page says the standard is still being revised.

CARD 03-2

Tagline: Also... Endorsing across five institutions

Source: According to... the Australian Bureau of Statistics, June 3 2026

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/australian-national-accounts-national-income-expenditure-and-product-methodology/mar-2026>

Citation: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product methodology, March 2026", released June 3 2026]

Original: "The standards governing national accounts are agreed internationally, and detailed in the System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008SNA). The 2008SNA is endorsed by the five major international economic organisations: the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the OECD, the World Bank and the European Commission."

Fact: It states... that the rules behind these figures are agreed between countries and endorsed by the five largest economic institutions in the world.

Consequence: This means... that replacing this measure is not a matter of choosing a nicer chart, it means rebuilding an agreement between every government on earth, and nobody proposing the replacement has explained who would do that.

CARD 03-3

Tagline: Also... Covering one hundred seventy-six

Source: According to... the World Bank, May 30 2024

Link: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/05/30/global-purchasing-power-parities-data-released-for-2021>

Citation: [World Bank Group, "Global Purchasing Power Parities Data Released for 2021", International Comparison Program, May 30 2024]

Original: "The ICP is one of the world's largest statistical initiatives, coordinated by the World Bank under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission. ICP 2021 marks the tenth comparison completed since the initiative was launched in 1968. It covers 176 participating economies for the reference year 2021."

Fact: It states... that the programme which makes these figures comparable has been running since 1968 and now covers 176 economies.

Consequence: This means... that fifty-eight years of work sit behind the ability to say one country is poorer than another, and no wellbeing index comes close to that reach, so throwing it away leaves the poorest countries harder to see rather than easier.

CARD 03-4

Tagline: Also... Holding governments to account

Source: According to... the International Monetary Fund, April 19 2023

Link: <https://www.imf.org/en/about/factsheets/sheets/2023/standards-for-data-dissemination>

Citation: [International Monetary Fund, "IMF Standards for Data Dissemination", factsheet, April 19 2023]

Original: "Keeping and publishing clear, reliable, and timely data on a country's economy helps governments make sound economic policy decisions, for which citizens can hold them accountable."

Fact: It states... that publishing clear economic data is what lets citizens hold their own government to account.

Consequence: This means... that a shared, boring, hard-to-fake number is a protection for ordinary people, because a government that can choose its own measure of success will choose the one that makes it look best.

CARD 03-5

Tagline: Finally... Explaining why replacements failed

Source: According to... UNSW BusinessThink, 16 November 2025

Link: <https://www.businessthink.unsw.edu.au/articles/gdp-still-dominates-alternative-progress-measures>

Citation: [Shayne Gary, Professor, and Giovanni Cunico, UNSW Business School, University of New South Wales, reporting research with Juan Pablo Rios-Ocampo, University of Strathclyde, "A flawed metric: Why better alternatives failed to replace GDP", 16 November 2025]

Original: "The authors identify the "conforming with GDP standard" loop - as more countries adopted GDP, it became increasingly attractive to others who needed comparable metrics for trade, investment and international relations."

Fact: It states... that countries kept using this measure because they genuinely needed a shared one for trade, investment and dealing with each other.

Consequence: This means... that better measures have existed for decades and still did not take over, and the reason is not stupidity, it is that a shared measure is worth more than a private one that is slightly more accurate.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT FOUR

THE ECONOMY THIS NUMBER MEASURES IS WHAT PAYS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

CARD 04-1

Tagline: First... Funding hospitals through growth

Source: According to... the World Bank, November 2024

Link: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/d8a3d06a-efcc-43f4-a695-a807eac90457>

Citation: [Christoph Kurowski, Martin Schmidt, David B. Evans, Ajay Tandon, Patrick Hoang-Vu Eozenou, Jewelwayne Salcedo Cain and Eko Setyo Pambudi, World Bank, "Government Health Spending Outlook: Projections Through 2029", November 2024]

Original: Held on the team drive as the archived report file, because the Original paragraph must be lifted from the copy we can prove we read rather than from the web page.

Fact: It states... that governments plan their future health spending from the expected size of their economy.

Consequence: This means... that the size of the economy is not separate from the hospital, it is the hospital's budget, so a country that stops caring about growth has quietly decided to spend less on being ill.

Note for the team: read the Original from the archived PDF before using this card in a round.

CARD 04-2

Tagline: Also... Easing pressure through growth

Source: According to... the International Monetary Fund, October 2025

Link: <https://www.imf.org/-/media/files/publications/fiscal-monitor/2025/october/english/ch1.pdf>

Citation: [Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund, "Fiscal Monitor: Spending Smarter", Chapter 1, October 2025]

Original: "Revitalizing growth not only improves living standards but also eases fiscal pressures by increasing public revenues and making public debt more sustainable, thereby creating additional space for other priority spending."

Fact: It states... that growth raises the money a government collects, makes its debts easier to carry, and leaves room to spend on other things that matter.

Consequence: This means... that every school, every clinic and every pension our opponents want to protect is paid for out of the thing they are asking us to stop treating as important.

CARD 04-3

Tagline: Also... Costing billions per percent

Source: According to... the Institute for Fiscal Studies, October 2025

Link: https://ifs.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-10/Green%20Budget%20Ch3%20Risks%20and%20challenges%20for%20the%20public%20finances_final%20_2.pdf

Citation: [Carl Emmerson, Nick Ridpath and Isabel Stockton, Institute for Fiscal Studies, "Risks and challenges for the public finances", Institute for Fiscal Studies Green Budget, Chapter 3, October 2025]

Original: "By 2029-30, tax revenues are expected to be lower by £8.1 billion, mostly as a result of this lower growth."

Fact: It states... that an economy only one percent smaller than expected costs the government about 8.1 billion pounds a year in taxes it will never collect.

Consequence: This means... that we can put a price on the harm of ignoring growth, and 8.1 billion pounds is roughly what a country spends running its ambulances, its courts and its prisons.

CARD 04-4

Tagline: Also... Raising every tax together

Source: According to... the Economics Observatory, 25 November 2025

Link: <https://www.economicsobservatory.com/growth-matters>

Citation: [James Collis, Economics Observatory, "Growth matters", 25 November 2025]

Original: "The biggest revenue raising taxes - income tax, national insurance, VAT and corporation tax - all go up if the economy grows, as people earn more, spend more and companies make greater profits. At the same time, large areas of spend like social security payments also fall as more people find work."

Fact: It states... that when the economy grows, every major tax brings in more at once, while the money spent on unemployment goes down because more people have jobs.

Consequence: This means... that growth helps twice over, and the people it helps most are the ones who depend on public money, which is the same group the Proposition claims to be defending.

CARD 04-5

Tagline: Finally... Cutting health when shrinking

Source: According to... the Center for Global Development, January 17 2023

Link: <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/future-global-health-spending-amidst-multiple-crises>

Citation: [Amanda Glassman, Janeen Madan Keller and Eleni Smitham, Center for Global Development, "The Future of Global Health Spending Amidst Multiple Crises", January 17 2023]

Original: "Despite the unprecedented increase in health spending seen during the COVID crisis, low-income and lower-middle-income countries are unlikely to sustain higher levels of spending in the coming years. This is due to several interlinked factors: shrinking government revenues due to protracted economic impacts of the pandemic"

Fact: It states... that the poorest countries will not be able to keep up their health spending because their governments are collecting less money after the pandemic.

Consequence: This means... that when the economy shrinks the clinics close, and they close first in the countries the Proposition has spent the whole round talking about.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT FIVE

THE REPLACEMENTS ARE NOT READY TO CARRY THE WEIGHT

CARD 05-1

Tagline: First... Comparing across only few

Source: According to... Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, November 23 2023

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-023-02299-1>

Citation: [Petra Raudenska, "Single-item measures of happiness and life satisfaction: the issue of cross-country invariance of popular general well-being measures", Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, volume 10, November 23 2023]

Original: "the item parameters of the survey items varied among several countries in each round of the program, indicating that the observed score means could only be compared between a few participating countries"

Fact: It states... that the happiness questions behave differently in different countries, so the scores can only be compared between a handful of them.

Consequence: This means... that a world league table built on those answers is not measuring the same thing in each place, and a measure that cannot be compared is exactly what our opponents said they were fixing.

CARD 05-2

Tagline: Also... Reshuffling the whole ranking

Source: According to... Christopher P. Barrington-Leigh of McGill University, September 8 2025

Link: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.06867>

Citation: [Christopher P. Barrington-Leigh, McGill University, "Are international happiness rankings reliable?", submitted September 8 2025]

Original: "Using the Gallup World Poll, Global Flourishing Study, and World Values Survey, I show that the two question formats yield divergent distributions, rankings, and response patterns that vary across countries and surveys, defying simple explanations."

Fact: It states... that changing which happiness question you ask changes the order of the countries, across three of the largest surveys in the world.

Consequence: This means... that a country's place in the table can move because of the wording of a question, and no government should be asked to plan a hospital around a figure that unstable.

Warning for the team: this is a preprint, not yet peer reviewed. Attack the rankings only, not wellbeing research as a whole.

CARD 05-3

Tagline: Also... Choosing the weights arbitrarily

Source: According to... the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, September 2025

Link: <https://w3.unecce.org/Stories/2025/09/wellbeing/webpage6.html>

Citation: [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, "Guidelines on measurement of well-being, Chapter 4: Composite Indicators", September 2025]

Original: "However, while equal weighting avoids over- or underestimating the importance of components based on a subjective choice, the allocation of equal weights is in itself a choice that may omit information about the relative importance of the components."

Fact: It states... that deciding how much each part of a wellbeing score counts is always a judgement, and that even treating every part equally is itself a judgement.

Consequence: This means... that whoever builds the index chooses the answer, and handing that power to whichever committee designs the replacement is a worse outcome than a boring number nobody can bend.

CARD 05-4

Tagline: Also... Ranking on arbitrary parameters

Source: According to... Social Indicators Research, February 21 2024

Link: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11205-024-03318-7>

Citation: [Riccardo Natoli, Victoria University, Simon Feeny, RMIT University, Junde Li, Victoria University, and Segu Zuhair, Melbourne Polytechnic, "Aggregating the Human Development Index: A Non-compensatory Approach", Social Indicators Research, volume 172, February 21 2024]

Original: "This paper posits that the aggregation issue continues to be a weakness of the HDI."

Fact: It states... that the best established alternative to this number still has a weakness in how its parts are added together, and the authors add that its equal weighting and its chosen parameters change where countries finish.

Consequence: This means... that the replacement most often named in this debate has not solved the problem after thirty-five years, so asking a country to trust it today is asking for faith rather than evidence.

Warning for the team: these authors want to improve the Human Development Index, not abolish it. We quote the weakness only.

CARD O5-5

Tagline: Finally... Labelling the accounts experimental

Source: According to... the Office for National Statistics, November 8 2024

Link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/methodologies/uknaturalcapitalaccountsmethodologyguide2024>

Citation: [Office for National Statistics, "UK natural capital accounts methodology guide: 2024", released November 8 2024]

Original: "The methodology we use to develop these estimates remains under development. The estimates reported are labelled as official statistics in development and should be interpreted in this context."

Fact: It states... that the nature accounts offered as the replacement are still being developed, and that the agency publishing them says so on the front of the guide.

Consequence: This means... that we are not asking anyone to abandon these accounts, only to finish them first, because a country cannot run its hospitals on a statistic its own statisticians have marked as unfinished.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT SIX

THE ONE COUNTRY THAT LEGISLATED THE ALTERNATIVE IS STILL WAITING

CARD O6-1

Tagline: First... Finding change still elusive

Source: According to... the Equality and Social Justice Committee of the Welsh Parliament, March 2026

Link: <https://laiddocuments.senedd.wales/cr-ld17973-en.pdf>

Citation: [Equality and Social Justice Committee, Senedd Cymru, Welsh Parliament, "Fit for the Future? The Well-being of Future Generations Act ten years on", March 2026]

Original: "Overall progress is mixed. There is good practice in some areas but system-wide change is proving to be elusive."

Fact: It states... that ten years after the world's first wellbeing law, the parliament that passed it finds progress mixed and the change across the whole system still out of reach.

Consequence: This means... that the strongest example the Proposition has is a country that tried exactly what they propose and is still waiting for the result, which is not an argument for making every country do the same.

Warning for the team: the same committee records strong practice in places. Say the change has not arrived. Never say the Act failed.

CARD O6-2

Tagline: Also... Auditing the intended change

Source: According to... Audit Wales, April 29 2025

Link: <https://www.audit.wales/news/ten-years-well-being-future-generations-act-has-increased-prominence-not-driving-system-wide>

Citation: [Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales, "Ten years on, the Well-being of Future Generations Act has increased prominence but is not driving the system-wide change that was intended", April 29 2025]

Original: "The Act is not driving the system-wide change that was intended."

Fact: It states... that the country's own independent auditor found the law is not producing the change it was written to produce.

Consequence: This means... that two separate bodies, the auditor and the parliament, reached the same conclusion a year apart, so this is a finding rather than an opinion.

CARD O6-3

Tagline: Also... Missing the culture change

Source: According to... the Public Accounts Committee of the Welsh Parliament, March 2021

Link: <https://senedd.wales/media/sjrp5vm0/cr-ld14223-e.pdf>

Citation: [Public Accounts Committee, Senedd Cymru, Welsh Parliament, "Delivering for Future Generations: The story so far", March 2021]

Original: "Public bodies have not done enough to change the culture of their own organisations to align with the principles of the Act. Consequently, the culture change that is essential to the successful implementation of this Act has not taken place."

Fact: It states... that six years after the law, the organisations meant to follow it had not changed how they work, and the change the law depended on had not happened.

Consequence: This means... that the problem is not the passage of time, because the same finding appears at six years and again at ten, and a plan that takes longer than a decade to start working is not a plan a poor country can afford to adopt.

Warning for the team: this was written during the pandemic, which the committee treated as a disruption.

CARD O6-4

Tagline: Also... Reporting unrealised potential still

Source: According to... the Auditor-General of New Zealand, 29 August 2023

Link: <https://ao.parliament.nz/2023/te-tai-waiora-commentary/part3.htm>

Citation: [Controller and Auditor-General, New Zealand, "Commentary on Te Tai Waiora: Wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand, Part 3", report to Parliament, 29 August 2023]

Original: "Using well-being reports to help inform economic decision-making and government budgeting is important. However, in our view, this is not enough to achieve the overall objective of building a broader understanding of well-being and using this understanding across the government."

Fact: It states... that New Zealand's auditor found the wellbeing report behind its budgets was not enough on its own to change how the government thinks.

Consequence: This means... that the second country to try this found the same wall as the first, and two attempts in two countries is the whole record our opponents have.

Warning for the team: this auditor is supportive of the idea. Say the potential is unrealised. Never say rejected.

CARD O6-5

Tagline: Finally... Conceding the experiment ended

Source: According to... Carnegie UK, September 29 2025

Link: <https://carnegieuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Budgeting-for-Wellbeing.-International-approaches-FINAL.pdf>

Citation: [Dr Cressida Gaukroger, for Carnegie UK, "Budgeting for Wellbeing: International approaches", September 29 2025]

Original: "While the approach taken in the first wellbeing budget and supporting reforms showed promise, it is difficult to fully assess its success as many of the components were relatively short-lived."

Fact: It states... that New Zealand's wellbeing budget showed promise but did not last long enough for anyone to judge whether it worked.

Consequence: This means... that this concession comes from an organisation that campaigns for wellbeing budgets, so when the strongest supporters say the experiment ended before it could be measured, the Proposition is asking the world to adopt something nobody has finished testing.

REBUTTAL CARDS

These are the cards we reach for after the other side has spoken. Every one of them is built from a source the other side is likely to be using, which is why they land harder than a fresh argument.

CARD R1, answering the Opposition claim that the number tracks welfare almost perfectly

Tagline: First... Hiding a huge gap

Source: According to... Charles I. Jones and Peter J. Klenow of Stanford University, February 10 2016

Link: <https://web.stanford.edu/~chadj/rawls.pdf>

Citation: [Charles I. Jones, Stanford Graduate School of Business and NBER, and Peter J. Klenow, Stanford University and NBER, "Beyond GDP? Welfare across Countries and Time", Version 5.0, February 10 2016]

Original: "While welfare is highly correlated with GDP per capita, deviations are often large. Western Europe looks considerably closer to the U.S., emerging Asia has not caught up as much, and many developing countries are further behind."

Fact: It states... in our opponents' own paper, that the gaps between the two measures are often large, and that many developing countries are much further behind than their income suggests.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim the number is close enough for every country is incorrect, because a very high average across the whole world is perfectly compatible with a very large error for the one country a judge actually cares about.

CARD R2, answering the Opposition claim that growth is what buys health

Tagline: Also... Spending most, living least

Source: According to... the Commonwealth Fund, May 28 2026

Link: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2026/may/us-health-care-global-perspective-2026>

Citation: [Munira Z. Gunja, Evan D. Gumas and Reginald D. Williams II, The Commonwealth Fund, "U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective, 2026: Expanded Edition", May 28 2026]

Original: "In 2024, the U.S. spent 18 percent of gross domestic product on health care, nearly twice as much as the average OECD country, and among the highest rates in the world."

Fact: It states... that the United States puts nearly twice the share of its economy into health care as other rich countries, and it is the same country whose people die three and a half years earlier.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim growth automatically buys health is incorrect, because the country doing the most spending is getting the worst result, and the number cannot tell us why.

CARD R3, answering the Opposition claim that every country calculates it the same way

Tagline: Also... Revising the standard still

Source: According to... Eurostat, April 9 2025

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/w/cn-20250409-1>

Citation: [Eurostat, "New global standards for macroeconomic statistics", April 9 2025]

Original: "As international standards, the SNA and BPM allow countries to compile macroeconomic statistics according to best practices and in a consistent way"

Fact: It states... that the standards allow countries to compile their figures in a consistent way, which is not the same thing as saying every country does it identically, and the same page announces that the standard is being revised again.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim of one settled, identical world measurement is incorrect, because the rulebook our opponents are defending is being rewritten while they defend it.

CARD R4, answering the Opposition claim that the replacements are not ready

Tagline: Also... Adopting the new framework

Source: According to... the United Nations, 10 March 2021

Link: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2021/03/un-adopts-landmark-framework-to-integrate-natural-capital-in-economic-reporting>

Citation: [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Statistical Commission, "UN adopts landmark framework to integrate natural capital in economic reporting", 10 March 2021]

Original: "Experts emphasize that while a statistic such as GDP does a good job of showing the value of goods and services exchanged in markets, it does not reflect the dependency of the economy on nature, nor its impacts on nature, such as the deterioration of water quality or the loss of a forest."

Fact: It states... that the world's statistical commission has already adopted a framework for measuring nature alongside the economy, because the existing figure cannot see it.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim there is nothing to move towards is incorrect, because the move has already been agreed by the same institutions our opponents cite as the guardians of the current standard.

CARD R5, answering the Proposition claim that the number tells us nothing about human life

Tagline: First... Dying when it falls

Source: According to... PLOS ONE, February 23 2022

Link: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0263245>

Citation: [Marcelo Cardona and colleagues, ROCKWOOL Foundation and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, "Estimated impact of the 2020 economic downturn on under-5 mortality for 129 countries", PLOS ONE, February 23 2022]

Original: "A 5% reduction in GDP per capita in 2020 was estimated to cause an additional 282,996 deaths in children under 5 in 2020."

Fact: It states... that a five percent fall in income per person was followed by nearly 283,000 extra deaths of children under five in one year.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim this figure is disconnected from human life is incorrect, because when it moves down, the graves are counted in hundreds of thousands, and they are children.

CARD R6, answering the Proposition claim that unpaid work is ignored

Tagline: Also... Measuring it already, published

Source: According to... the Office for National Statistics, December 5 2025

Link: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/satelliteaccounts/bulletins/householdsatelliteaccountuk/2023>

Citation: [Office for National Statistics, "Household Satellite Account, UK: 2023", December 5 2025]

Original: "The value of unpaid household services was £1.2 trillion, or about 62% the size of gross domestic product (GDP), in 2014 and £1.7 trillion, or 61% of GDP in 2023."

Fact: It states... that the government has measured unpaid household work, priced it, published it, and compared it directly against the headline figure.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim unpaid work is invisible is incorrect, because it is published beside the number in a national account, so the fix our opponents want is a fix that has already been built and does not require demoting anything.

CARD R7, answering the Proposition claim that the average tells us nothing about ordinary families

Tagline: Also... Raising the median first

Source: According to... Econofact, February 2 2020

Link: <https://econofact.org/poverty-reduction-and-economic-growth>

Citation: [Lant Pritchett, Oxford University, "Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth", Econofact, February 2 2020]

Original: "Broad-based growth, defined as the process that raises median income, is far and away the most important source of poverty reduction."

Fact: It states... that the growth which matters most is defined by whether it raises the income of the household in the middle, and that this is the biggest single cause of poverty falling.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim growth and the typical family are unrelated is incorrect, because the very definition of the growth that reduces poverty is growth that lifts the middle household.

CARD R8, answering the Proposition claim that vulnerable countries are simply abandoned

Tagline: Finally... Accounting for vulnerability already

Source: According to... the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, January 17 2025

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-island-developing-states-vulnerability-note-2025/small-island-developing-states-vulnerability-note>

Citation: [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom Government, "Small Island Developing States: vulnerability note", published 17 January 2025]

Original: "Most International Finance Institutions account for SIDS (Small island developing states)' vulnerability, but the critical DAC (Development Assistance Committee) ODA (Official Development Assistance) eligibility criterion is based only on income without vulnerability."

Fact: It states... that most of the world's finance institutions already take a country's vulnerability into account, and that the problem is one specific aid rule rather than the measurement itself.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim the number as such is what abandons these countries is incorrect, because the institutions using it have mostly already adjusted, and what remains is one eligibility rule that could be rewritten without discarding anything.

HOW WE READ THESE ALOUD

We say the Tagline, then "According to," then the publication and the date, then the quotation. We read the quotation exactly as printed, including the awkward parts. Then we say "It states" and put it in our own plain words, and then "This means" for a constructive speech or "This proves" for a rebuttal.

We never read the link out loud. The link is there so a judge can check us afterwards, and knowing that they can is most of the reason they will not need to.

WHERE THESE SOURCES CAME FROM

Every source in this packet was opened on a live web page and the quotation was copied from it rather than remembered. Where a source places a limit on its own finding, that limit is printed under the card as a warning, and we read those warnings before the round, because the fastest way to lose is to overstate a source the other team has also read.

HMDC Presents is our branding and it is never a source. No card in this packet cites us, and no card cites a summary, a guide or a source pack that we wrote ourselves.

APPENDIX

THE FIRST THIRTEEN CARDS

These are the cards built in August to check the videos, the graphic novels and the infographics. They are kept here because their sources are different from the sixty in the main packet, which makes them a second line of evidence rather than a repeat of the first. The card numbers carry an A so that nobody confuses them with a main-packet card while calling for one across a table.

APPENDIX, PROPOSITION CARDS

CARD A-P1

Tagline: First... Losing years of life

Source: According to... the Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, March 31 2026

Link: <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/u-s-life-expectancy-compare-countries/>

Citation: [Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, a partnership of the Peterson Center on Healthcare and KFF, "How does U.S. life expectancy compare to other countries?", March 31 2026]

Original: "In 2024, U.S. life expectancy reached a record high of 79 years, 3.7 years below the comparable country average of 82.7 years."

Fact: It states... that people in the United States live 79 years on average, and that this is 3.7 years less than the average of 82.7 years in countries that are similar in wealth.

Consequence: This means... that a country can sit at the top of the world table for the number we are debating and still bury its people almost four years early, which is a harm measured in millions of years of life that the number never records.

CARD A-P2

Tagline: Also... Counting only paid work

Source: According to... the Office for National Statistics, December 5 2025

Link: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/satelliteaccounts/bulletins/householdsatelliteaccountuk/2023>

Citation: [Office for National Statistics, "Household Satellite Account, UK: 2023", December 5 2025]

Original: "The value of unpaid household services was £1.2 trillion, or about 62% the size of gross domestic product (GDP), in 2014 and £1.7 trillion, or 61% of GDP in 2023."

Fact: It states... that the cooking, cleaning, childcare and care of older relatives that people do without pay was worth 1.7 trillion pounds in 2023, which is about six tenths of everything the whole country produced.

Consequence: This means... that the number we are debating leaves out work worth almost as much as everything it counts, and because most of that work is done by women, the number quietly tells us that what they do has no value at all.

CARD A-P3

Tagline: Also... Refusing help to islands

Source: According to... the United Nations, May 2023

Link: <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-beyond-gross-domestic-product-en.pdf>

Citation: [United Nations, "Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 4: Valuing What Counts - Framework to Progress Beyond Gross Domestic Product", May 2023]

Original: "GDP continues to play a key role as a yardstick for providing international support, including in criteria for countries classified as least developed or eligible for support by the International Development Association, leaving some countries with high vulnerabilities without access to concessional financing. It oversimplifies and obscures the

complex needs of countries in special circumstances, including middle-income countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries."

Fact: It states... that using this one number to decide who may borrow money cheaply hides what small island countries and landlocked countries actually need.

Consequence: This means... that an island can be struck by a storm that destroys a third of everything it owns and still be told it is too rich to borrow cheaply, because the number looked at the year before the storm and not at the wreckage after it.

CARD A-P4

Tagline: Finally... Rewarding the damage done

Source: According to... The Conversation, August 18 2022

Link: <https://theconversation.com/beyond-gdp-changing-how-we-measure-progress-is-key-to-tackling-a-world-in-crisis-three-leading-experts-186488>

Citation: [Diane Coyle, Paul Allin and Tim Jackson, "Beyond GDP: changing how we measure progress is key to tackling a world in crisis - three leading experts", The Conversation, August 18 2022]

Original: "War, pollution, crime, prostitution, traffic congestion, disasters like wildfires and the destruction of nature - all can have a positive impact on GDP."

Fact: It states... that war, pollution, crime and wildfires can all push this number up rather than down, because the money spent cleaning up the damage is counted as new activity.

Consequence: This means... that the worse a disaster is, the better the country appears to be doing, and a measurement that rewards destruction cannot be the measurement we use to decide whether a nation is succeeding.

APPENDIX, OPPOSITION CARDS

CARD A-O1

Tagline: First... Tracking wellbeing almost exactly

Source: According to... Stanford University, February 10 2016

Link: <https://web.stanford.edu/~chadj/rawls.pdf>

Citation: [Charles I. Jones, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Peter J. Klenow, Stanford University, "Beyond GDP? Welfare across Countries and Time", Version 5.0, February 10 2016; published in American Economic Review, volume 106, number 9, September 2016, pages 2426 to 2457]

Original: "GDP per person is an excellent indicator of welfare across the broad range of countries: the two measures have a correlation of 0.98."

Fact: It states... that when two economists built a broad measure of wellbeing out of consumption, leisure, life expectancy and inequality, and then compared it with plain income, the two moved together almost perfectly.

Consequence: This means... that the replacements our opponents want are measuring nearly the same thing the old number already measures, so tearing down a working measurement to build one that agrees with it would cost every statistics office in the world a great deal and change almost nothing.

CARD A-O2

Tagline: Also... Needing growth for poverty

Source: According to... Our World in Data, March 15 2021

Link: <https://ourworldindata.org/poverty-minimum-growth-needed>

Citation: [Max Roser, Our World in Data, "How much economic growth is necessary to reduce global poverty substantially?", March 15 2021]

Original: "a world economy with substantially less poverty is at a minimum 5-times bigger than today's global economy"

Fact: It states... that even if income were shared out far more evenly than it is now, ending deep poverty would still need a world economy at least five times the size of today's.

Consequence: This means... that growth is not a distraction from helping the poorest people, it is the only route anyone has found to it, and a country that stops watching the number that tracks growth loses sight of the thing that lifts billions of people out of poverty.

CARD A-O3

Tagline: Also... Comparing every country fairly

Source: According to... Eurostat, April 9 2025

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/w/cn-20250409-1>

Citation: [Eurostat, "New global standards for macroeconomic statistics", April 9 2025]

Original: "As international standards, the SNA and BPM allow countries to compile macroeconomic statistics according to best practices and in a consistent way, providing users with relevant, consistent, comprehensive and comparable data across countries."

Fact: It states... that countries follow one shared international rulebook when they build these figures, which is what makes it possible to compare one country with another.

Consequence: This means... that the value of this number is not only what it measures but that everybody measures it the same way, and every replacement our opponents offer would have to be agreed by every country on earth before it could be compared at all.

CARD A-O4

Tagline: Finally... Paying for the hospitals

Source: According to... the World Bank, November 2024

Link: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/d8a3d06a-efcc-43f4-a695-a807eac90457>

Citation: [Christoph Kurowski, Martin Schmidt, David B. Evans, Ajay Tandon, Patrick Hoang-Vu Eozenou, Jewelwayne Salcedo Cain and Eko Setyo Pambudi, World Bank, "Government Health Spending Outlook - Projections Through 2029", November 2024]

Fact: It states... that what a government is able to spend on health is tied to the size of its economy, so when the economy stops growing, health budgets are squeezed.

Consequence: This means... that the number our opponents want to abandon is the number that tells a health minister whether there will be money for hospitals next year, and abandoning it would not make the hospitals cheaper.

Note for the team: the Original paragraph for this card must be lifted from the archived PDF on the team drive, which is filed as WSD-GDP-WorldBank-2024-Government-Health-Spending-Outlook-2029.pdf, because that file is the copy we can prove we read.

APPENDIX, REBUTTAL CARDS

These answer a claim the other side has already made, so they end with This proves rather than This means.

CARD A-R1, answering the Opposition claim that the broad measure agrees with income

Tagline: First... Hiding enormous individual gaps

Source: According to... Stanford University, February 10 2016

Link: <https://web.stanford.edu/~chadj/rawls.pdf>

Citation: [Charles I. Jones, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Peter J. Klenow, Stanford University, "Beyond GDP? Welfare across Countries and Time", Version 5.0, February 10 2016]

Original: "While welfare is highly correlated with GDP per capita, deviations are often large. Western Europe looks considerably closer to the U.S., emerging Asia has not caught up as much, and many developing countries are further behind."

Fact: It states... that although the two measures move together across the whole world, the gap for any one country is often very large, and developing countries in particular sit far below where their income suggests.

Consequence: This proves... that our opponents' own source says their headline figure is incorrect for exactly the countries this debate is about, because a measurement that is accurate on average and badly incorrect for the poorest countries is not a measurement those countries can be governed by.

CARD A-R2, answering the Opposition claim that every country calculates it identically

Tagline: Also... Revising the standard still

Source: According to... Eurostat, April 9 2025

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/w/cn-20250409-1>

Citation: [Eurostat, "New global standards for macroeconomic statistics", April 9 2025]

Original: "Eurostat is working to revise the ESA 2010 and balance of payments standards in the EU in line with the new global standards."

Fact: It states... that Europe's own statistics office is still rewriting its accounting rules to match the new world standard agreed in March 2025.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim that every country already calculates this number the same way is incorrect, because the rulebook is being rewritten right now, and a standard that is still being changed cannot be the settled foundation our opponents say it is.

APPENDIX, CARDS TAKEN FROM THE VIDEOS AND THE GRAPHIC NOVELS

These five sources appear inside the finished assets but on none of the infographics. Each was verified on August 29 2026 and each is strong enough to lead with.

CARD A-P5

Tagline: First... Rising while nature falls

Source: According to... the Yale School of the Environment, October 22 2024

Link: <https://environment.yale.edu/news/article/going-beyond-gdp-measure-changing-wealth-nations>

Citation: [Yale School of the Environment, featuring Eli Fenichel, co-author of the World Bank report, "Going Beyond GDP to Measure the Changing Wealth of Nations", October 22 2024]

Original: "renewable natural capital - driven by an overexploitation across almost all natural resources, such as forests, marine capture fisheries, and mangroves - declined by more than 20% globally"

Original, second passage: "marine fish stocks per capita have dropped by more than 45% in real terms since 1995"

Fact: It states... that between 1995 and 2020 the number we are debating rose by about half in every region of the world, while the forests, fisheries and mangroves that people actually live on fell by more than a fifth, and the fish in the sea fell by almost half for each person alive.

Consequence: This means... that the score went up in the same twenty-five years that the natural world paying for it went down, and a measurement that rises while the thing it is measuring is being consumed is not measuring success, it is measuring the speed at which we are spending what we have.

CARD A-P6

Tagline: Also... Measuring both in Hawaii

Source: According to... the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hawaii Pacific University, February 23 2022

Citation: [Kirsten L.L. Oleson, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and Regina Ostergaard-Klem, Hawai'i Pacific University, "Updating the Genuine Progress Indicator for the State of Hawai'i", funded by the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, February 23 2022]

Original: "The state's GPI was consistently lower than the state GDP (55% on average)."

Fact: It states... that when one American state measured both the ordinary number and a broader measure that subtracts the cost of pollution, crime and lost free time, the broader measure came to only about 55 percent of the ordinary one, year after year.

Consequence: This means... that almost half of what the number counts as progress did not make anyone in Hawaii better off, and we know this because a state government paid to measure it rather than because anyone argued it.

CARD A-P7

Tagline: Also... Leaving typical families behind

Source: According to... the University of Oxford, in the Review of Income and Wealth, 2018

Link: <https://www.inet.ox.ac.uk/publications/gdp-per-capita-versus-median-household-income-what-gives-rise-to-the-divergence-over-time-and-how-does-this-vary-across-oecd-countries>

Citation: [Brian Nolan, Max Roser and Stefan Thewissen, University of Oxford, "GDP Per Capita Versus Median Household Income: What Gives Rise to the Divergence Over Time and how does this Vary Across OECD Countries?", Review of Income and Wealth, 2018]

Original: "GDP per capita has risen faster than median household income in most of these countries"

Original, second passage: "the size of that divergence varied very substantially, with the USA a clear outlier"

Fact: It states... that across 27 wealthy countries the average income per person grew faster than the income of the household in the middle, and that the gap was widest of all in the United States.

Consequence: This means... that the number can rise for years while the family in the middle of the country feels nothing at all, and a government reading only that number will believe it is helping people who know that it is not.

CARD A-05

Tagline: First... Comparing happiness is unreliable

Source: According to... Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, November 23 2023

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-023-02299-1>

Citation: [Petra Raudenská, "Single-item measures of happiness and life satisfaction: the issue of cross-country invariance of popular general well-being measures", Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, volume 10, November 23 2023]

Original: "the item parameters of the survey items varied among several countries in each round of the program, indicating that the observed score means could only be compared between a few participating countries"

Fact: It states... that when researchers tested whether happiness and life satisfaction questions mean the same thing in different countries, they found the scores could only be compared between a small number of countries at a time.

Consequence: This means... that a replacement built on asking people how happy they are cannot rank the world, because the ranking would be comparing answers that do not mean the same thing, and swapping a number that is comparable everywhere for one that is comparable almost nowhere would leave every government worse informed than before.

CARD A-06

Tagline: Also... Legislating wellbeing changed nothing

Source: According to... Audit Wales, April 29 2025

Link: <https://www.audit.wales/news/ten-years-well-being-future-generations-act-has-increased-prominence-not-driving-system-wide>

Citation: [Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales, "Ten years on, the Well-being of Future Generations Act has increased prominence but is not driving the system-wide change that was intended", April 29 2025]

Original: "The Act is not driving the system-wide change that was intended."

Fact: It states... that Wales passed a law in 2015 requiring its government to measure and pursue wellbeing instead of growth alone, and that ten years later the country's own auditor general reported the law had raised the profile of wellbeing but had not changed the system in the way it was meant to.

Consequence: This means... that we are not arguing about theory, because one country actually did what the Proposition asks for and its own independent auditor examined the result, and if ten years of law did not move the system then replacing the measurement is not the reform our opponents believe it is.

Note for the team: we say the Act is not driving the system-wide change that was intended, and we never say the Act failed. The auditor's own sentence is both accurate and harder to answer, because a Proposition team can rebut the word failed by naming one thing the Act achieved, and cannot rebut the auditor that way.