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HEADLINE: Reply: Letters and emails: Mending the gender gap in pensions

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BODY:

Jackie Ashley is to be congratulated for highlighting the extent of the gender gap in pensions (The women's pension crisis is deeply unsexy, but serious, November 7), raised officially last week by the government report Women and Pensions. The key paragraph of this report states that in 20 years' time men and women will be retiring with similar levels of entitlement to the basic state pension. This shows the issue is not about scrapping the basic state pension and replacing it with the citizen's pension - based on a flat rate for pensions, regardless of contributions - but of how best to fill the gap in entitlement for women between now and 2025.

However, the big question on pension reform remains how we can guarantee everybody an adequate pension to take them free of means-testing.

The Pensions Reform Group advocates building up a funded provision to run alongside the basic state pension so that in future everyone, including women, part-time workers and carers, will be drawing a minimum pension of between 25-30% of average earnings.

Frank Field, MP

Chair, Pensions Reform Group

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