

Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

International Women's Day

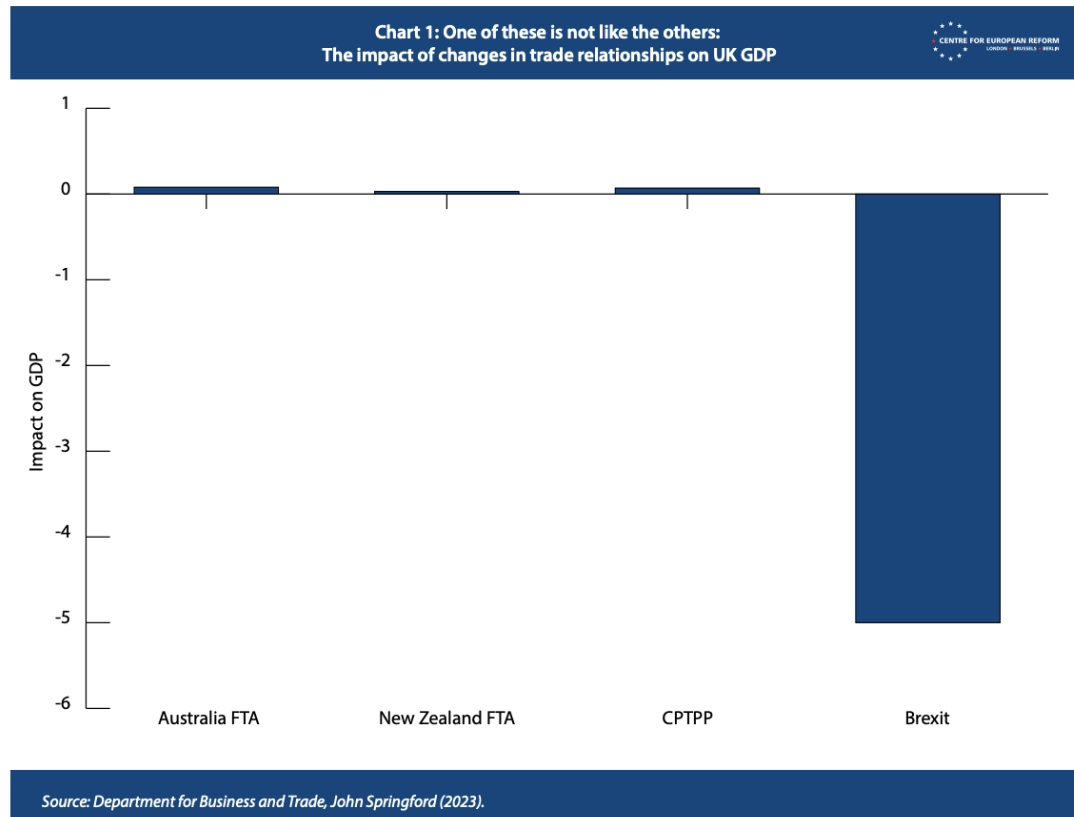
Here is a selection of uncomfortable, global reading released to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8th:

- **Australia:** [Status of Women Report Card 2024](#). The most recent available data on the social and economic equality issues facing women and girls in Australia has prompted the Government of Australia to launch [Working for Women](#), a ten-year strategy for gender equality.
- **USA's** Institute for Women's Policy Research released the latest annual data on [Gender Wage Gap by Race, Ethnicity, and Occupation](#).
- **The European Commission** published its [2024 Report on Gender Equality in the EU](#).
- **Asia:** These intertwined narratives from Tamil Nadu, India, to the villages of the Philippines [paint a vivid picture of the land and rights struggles](#) women face in marginalized rural communities in Asia.
- **Caribbean:** [Not Without Her: A roadmap for gender equality and Caribbean prosperity](#) from the Atlantic Council and UN Women.

Some very uncomfortable reading aimed at the UK government

The Institute of Government reckons the UK's center of power (No. 10, the Cabinet Office, and HM Treasury) is dysfunctional, so they invited former prime ministers, scientists, senior civil servants, and leaders in local government, the private sector, and charities [to propose improvements](#).

Meanwhile, the Centre for European Reform ran its slide rule over the UK's post-Brexit trade policy and produced this chart. [Very uncomfortable reading](#) for the current government and Brexiteers.



Climate

The European Environment Agency says Europe is not prepared for the coming changes to the climate, in their [first-ever climate risk assessment](#).

Fighting for power in Libya

Armed groups from Zawiya, a coastal city to the west of Tripoli, have come to play an increasingly important role in Libya's power struggles. [The Small Arms Survey has analyzed the political economy of Zawiya's armed groups](#). The report disaggregates the groups' diverging business models and relationships with their social bases, and it provides answers to the question of why clashes between the rival factions have been short-lived, stopping before all-out war.

Illegal songbird trapping

The latest report on illegal bird trapping activity in Cyprus is a good case study of what can happen when police resources are cut. Illegal activity rebounds; [an estimated 500,000 birds died last fall](#).

Humanitarian research and innovation

The group elrha, a global organization that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation, [published their first-ever landscape report](#) on the global state of humanitarian research and innovation.

British Library cyberattack—a review

The British Library has [published a review](#) of the cyberattack that encrypted or destroyed much of their server estate in October 2023. The report examines the attack's implications for the Library's operations and future infrastructure. The BL hopes the report will help peer institutions and other organizations improve their own cyber defenses.

Struggling to come up with a meaningful research impact program?

The Bartlett, a research institute at University College London, [has published a very useful manual](#) that might help.

What's going to be in our new *Public Health & Social Care* module?

In the weeks leading up to its launch in May, we'll be giving examples of the kinds of resources the new database will contain. This week, [Investigation into healthcare provision for Aboriginal people in Victorian prisons](#) from Australia's Victorian Ombudsman. [Learn more about *Public Health & Social Care*](#), the new module on the *Policy Commons* platform.

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