



Ambitious policy making can end child poverty in the UK

We live in a **just and compassionate society** that believes all children should have an equal chance to live a secure, healthy life, with the prospect of a successful future.

But growing up in the **grip of poverty** restricts children's everyday lives and their futures. Poverty means a child is less likely to do well in school and more likely to experience poor physical and mental health than their better off peers.

End Child Poverty, a coalition of 70 UK charities, Unions, faith groups and professional bodies who see the impact of child poverty every day, **believes that child poverty does not need to exist**. And that with ambitious policy making, government can take a lead in ending child poverty.

We are calling on all political parties to set out ambitious manifesto commitments - informed by the experiences of people living in poverty – to end child poverty in the UK:

1. Income
 - Restore link between benefits and inflation
 - Make up for the loss in the real value in children's benefits as a result of the 4 year freeze and sub-inflation increases in benefit rates
 - Lift both the benefit cap and the two-child limit in child tax credit and Universal Credit
 - Reform Universal Credit starting by ending the five-week wait.
2. Housing
 - Ensure housing support closes the gap with and keeps pace with local rents
3. Services
 - Reverse the cuts and re-invest in children's services such as social care, mental health, education and childcare

"In all the accommodation we've stayed in I've had to share a room with my mum and sister. It's very overcrowded with little space to move... If I have a sleepover with a friend they will be saying 'when can we go to yours?' I have to keep it a secret – it feels like a little lump in you." Serena, 11¹

Children don't need to experience this isolation and shame. We know that as household income increases, child poverty falls. This is why we're calling on all parties in this election, to pledge **investment in our benefits system** as a key part of our public services. Two-thirds of the 4.1 million children living in poverty in the UK today come from a working household². **The benefits system is as vital a source of publicly funded support as the NHS and education.**

Visit www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019 for the levels of child poverty in your constituency.

¹ Words of a young member of Child Poverty Action Group's *A Different Take* panel Full report available at [Pushing Back. Our take on life in poverty in London](#)

² Households Below Average Income, Statistics on the number and percentage of people living in low income households for financial years 1994/95 to 2017/18, Tables 4a and 4b. Department for Work and Pensions, 2019.

End Child Poverty is a coalition of almost 70 UK charities, faith groups, Unions and professional bodies united in their belief that strong policy making can end child poverty in the UK. For more information about the coalition and our policy demands contact judith@endchildpoverty.org.uk.