

Template Letter to send to MP's - Please note personalised letters are the most effective.

Dear [Insert name of MP],

Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales, 11 - 17 October 2021.

This week organisations from across England and Wales are taking part in Challenge Poverty Week, with faith groups, local authorities, community groups and charities all raising their collective voice against poverty.

We have seen that clearly as public compassion has come to the fore in the pandemic. Communities have pulled together over the past 18 months, and there has been strong action against injustices such as child hunger, inequality, and economic isolation. We have been reminded of the importance of community, the value of neighbours, and the extent to which we all rely on one another. For example, polling data shows that over six in ten people in the country think the Government should act to reduce differences in income levels.

We all want to live in a just and compassionate society, but to achieve this action must be taken to loosen the grip of poverty on people's lives. However, the pandemic also brought into stark relief the inequalities in our society and intensified them. People on low incomes and in disadvantaged areas, and people in ethnic groups already suffering from social and economic injustice, were disproportionately affected.

Too many people are struggling to pay the bills, put food on the table and take part in society. It's clear that poverty is damaging the lives and restricting the opportunities of too many people across England and Wales, including in [INSERT NAME OF CONSTITUENCY].

We can't allow a recovery where some speed off down the fast lane while others are left behind, stalled at the side of the road. We have a real chance to do things differently. We can harness the compassion, community and connectedness that we have cherished, and get going again together. As we plan our economic recovery, we must redesign our economy and our society to reflect the values of justice and compassion. By boosting people's incomes and reducing the cost of living we can end poverty.

As my elected representative, I urge you to use your platform to take whatever action you can to help make this a reality.

You can do this in a number of ways, including:

- Speaking out in the media about the action we can take to tackle poverty long-term in [INSERT NAME OF CONSTITUENCY] and across England and Wales.
- Outlining what you will do to address the causes of poverty in [INSERT NAME OF CONSTITUENCY], to highlight the work being done locally and to raise solutions in the UK Parliament.
- Showing your support for solutions to ending poverty on social media using [these](#) resources and using the hashtag #ChallengePoverty
- Advocating in the UK Parliament for the policies and actions which will boost incomes and reduce the cost of living for people on low incomes.
- Committing to changing the conversation around poverty in ways that focus on enhancing the dignity and agency of people in poverty themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I look forward to your reply and to your involvement in this hugely important cause.

Kind regards,