



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

24 February 2020

Dear Chancellor,

Congratulations on your recent appointment.

As Catholics we were encouraged by your Government's manifesto promise to tackle child poverty through the tax and benefits system. Pope Francis reminded us last year that "*poverty is not inevitable.*" Policies rooted in social justice can help the poorest children in our society to flourish and reach their true potential.

The forthcoming Budget presents an opportunity to help more than half a million of these children by abolishing the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit.

As you know, the impacts of this policy are currently being felt by families from all walks of life. Most are in work and many fell upon hard times after having their children. It also affects refugee families given sanctuary in our country and has a disproportionate impact upon religious minorities.

What unites all these families is the hardship they have suffered as a result of not receiving basic support for each child. Catholic charities across England and Wales have first-hand experience of how the limit can put essentials such as food, rent and utility bills beyond reach, with devastating consequences for children's wellbeing and life-chances.

We believe that every child is of equal value and their human dignity deserves to be upheld. Abolishing the two-child limit will be both a

tangible means of reducing child poverty in the UK and a clear sign of support for family life.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter and we look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, please be assured of our prayers and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Moth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

**Rt Rev Richard Moth,
Bishop of Arundel and Brighton,
Chair, Catholic Bishops' Conference Department for Social Justice**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

**Nigel Parker,
Director, Catholic Union**

cc. Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions