

## Issues to raise with politicians and candidates

## Act on Poverty

With a General Election just around the corner, this is the time to speak out as a church and to make sure our voice is heard. Poverty is not inevitable, or a choice made by people experiencing it - it's the result of decisions made by people with power and privilege, and perpetuated through unjust attitudes, structures, policies and systems.

**Together we can make poverty a priority in the General Election and for the next Government.** We need to speak up with a concerted voice to call on all candidates and parties to commit to this goal. **The time is now.**

### What should we be asking politicians and candidates?

Ask them to Act on Poverty globally by using their power. Specifically, ask them, if elected to: **Commit to meeting with you or your church in the first hundred days of the new Parliament, to outline their plans to tackle the structural causes of global poverty.**

Actions that Christian Aid are calling for include:

- Legislation to facilitate debt relief for lower income countries.
- Significantly increasing funding (in the form of grants, not loans) to support climate vulnerable countries, in addition to existing UK aid.
- Taxing the profits of fossil fuel companies to help pay for climate finance.
- Halting all new oil and gas developments in the UK, and investing in pathways to good quality, secure green jobs.

You can find detailed information on topics you can ask about here: [caid.org.uk/whattoask](https://caid.org.uk/whattoask)

The Let's End Poverty movement are calling on all political leaders in the UK to make ending UK poverty a core priority by:

- **Committing to urgent action to stop rising poverty in the UK;**
- **Developing a coordinated, long-term plan to end UK poverty in collaboration with people with direct experience of poverty.**

Ask your candidate or MP how they will take action to ensure these two things happen if they are elected at the next election. Find out more here: [letsendpoverty.co.uk](https://letsendpoverty.co.uk)

There are specific actions that political leaders can take that will support these urgent and long term changes.

The Trussell Trust are calling for UK political party leaders to make sure Universal Credit protects people from going without the essentials. [trusselltrust.org/church-petition](https://trusselltrust.org/church-petition)

The St Vincent de Paul Society are calling for political commitments to protect the right to claim asylum in the UK: [act.svp.org.uk/petition](https://act.svp.org.uk/petition)