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

Sent by email only to: public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk

17 June 2020

Dear Chancellor,

I'm writing to you in light of the devastating impact that coronavirus is having on families across the UK.

As you may know, the Catholic Union is a membership organisation, which represents the views and interests of the Catholic laity in Britain.

Catholic charities, parishes and volunteers are seeing first-hand how the loss of loved ones is compounded by huge economic uncertainty, leaving many families unable to meet basic living costs.

The measures taken so far to protect jobs and support household incomes are extremely welcome. However, it's clear that many families are struggling, and we are at risk of a significant increase in child poverty, with long-term consequences for both those directly affected and the Common Good of our wider society.

As you consider changes to tax and spending policy, in addressing the economic shock of this pandemic, we urge you to consider all options for supporting children and families, including removal of the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit.

I wrote to you ahead of the Budget earlier this year, along with Bishop Richard Moth, setting out the reasons why this change is so important. In the months since then, the need to reverse this unjust restriction on help available to families has become even greater.

The pandemic has clearly reinforced the way in which completely unforeseen circumstances can have sudden and catastrophic consequences for any family's income. In these situations, support is needed for each and every child.

There has never been a more crucial moment to change this policy, or a more pressing need to give families the assistance they deserve. Abolishing the two-child cap will be both a tangible means of reducing child poverty in the UK and a clear sign of support for family life.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Parker
Director
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cc. Rt Hon, Therese Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

The Catholic Union of Great Britain: The Voice of Catholics in Public Life

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