



16 October 2023

Dear candidate for London Mayor,

Soaring food prices, eye-watering rent hikes, rising mortgage rates and crippling childcare bills mean that poverty is becoming a more widely shared experience in communities across London. Low-income households in the city are more likely to be in debt and going without essentials than any other region in the UK. More and more people are experiencing the lived reality of poverty that others have known for far too long already.

The financial support on offer to help people is not keeping up with prices and being in work is no guarantee that you will be able to pay your bills. The current system is not working; and is instead baking poverty into our society.

This week (16 – 22 October) is **London Challenge Poverty Week** in which organisations and individuals are coming together to demand change so that poverty and inequality which are becoming ever more entrenched in our city can be rooted out. We believe that systemic change requires strong leadership, and so we are **calling on you as a would-be leader of our city to commit to putting tackling poverty at the heart of your manifesto.**

We would also like to invite you to meet with a delegation of those taking part in the week to discuss their priorities for action.

Yours,

Katherine Hill, 4in10 London's Child Poverty Network
Abigail Wood, Age UK London
Diana Skelton, ATD Fourth World UK
Robert Taylor, Camden Federation of Private Tenants

Antonia Jennings, Centre for London
Kathy Evans, Children England
Nicky Routledge, Christians Against Poverty Enfield
Mark Choonara, Daughters of Charity Services
Mohamed Ahmed, ESDEG
Mustafa Field OBE, Faiths Forum for London
Eira Gibson, Holloway Neighbourhood Group
Jessica Greenhalf, HomeStart London
Tamsin Davies, Junior League of London
Jess McQuail, Just Fair
Deborah Holden, KEEN London
Sophie Livingstone, Little Village
June O'Sullivan OBE, London Early Years Foundation
Maria McCaul, London Unemployed Strategies
Clare McNamara, London Youth
Rosa Schling, On the Record
Chris Price, Pecan
Abbas Ali, Resistance Kitchen
Muna Yassin, Rooted Finance
William Roberts, Royal Society for Public Health
Becca Lyon, Save the Children
Nahar Choudhury, Solace
Kamaljeet Sembhi, Southall Community Alliance.
Rajesh Makwana BEM, Sufra NW London
Beatrice Muia, Support for New Life
Kath Dalmeny, Sustain
Elvina Dalmasso, The Autism Project
Laurence Guinness, The Childhood Trust
Mark Russell, The Children's Society
Rebecca Sycamore, Toynbee Hall
Manny Hothi, Trust for London
Hannah Hoyseni, United Impact