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# Child benefit cap 'will increase abortions'

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The two-child limit on benefits is likely to have caused women to have abortions because they could not afford another baby, a coalition of Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders has said.

Sixty Church of England bishops joined the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Muslim Council of Britain

to call for the policy to be scrapped. Parents can claim child tax credits or universal credit for only their first two children unless there are special circumstances. Anyone who had a third child after April last year was affected.

In a letter to *The Times*, the religious leaders warn: "The policy is expected to tip an estimated extra 200,000 children into poverty. ... There are likely to be mothers who will face an invidious

choice between poverty and terminating an unplanned pregnancy."

The Department of Work and Pensions said: "[The policy] will be delivered in the most effective, compassionate way, with the right exceptions and safeguards. But it's right that people on benefits have to make the same financial choices as those supporting themselves solely through work."

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