

Letters to the Editor



Lift this limit

Sir, New government statistics show that 243,000 households have been hit by the two-child limit, which restricts universal credit and tax credits for children in low-income families, pushing many into poverty. The pandemic has highlighted how problematic the policy is. Families could not have foreseen such economic turmoil and should be able to rely on the social security system to support all of their children. We all want children to have the best start in life. Every child needs access to free healthcare, a good education and a childhood free from poverty. We wouldn't turn away a sick child from hospital, yet the two-child limit denies families the support they need from our social security system in tough times. The policy particularly affects some faith groups and ethnic minority communities, as well as single-parent families. Last week the chancellor said that no one would be left without hope. But poverty diminishes hope. As we start to recover from one of the most difficult periods in modern history, we must ensure that children in poverty are not left behind. The government should lift the two-child limit to help all children thrive.

Alison Garnham, chief executive, Child Poverty Action Group; **The Rt Rev Paul Butler**, Bishop of Durham; **Paul Farmer**, chief executive, Mind; **Emma Revie**, chief executive, Trussell Trust *Plus a further 29 signatories online at [thetimes.co.uk/letters](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/letters)*