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Press release

End of two-child limit on benefits – Why this important Budget announcement should be just the beginning

With the country beset by divisions and the government struggling to find a narrative that brings people along with it, today's budget shows that ending child poverty has the potential to bring people and communities together, says Resolve Poverty.

Resolve Poverty today welcomed the government's Budget announcement to scrap the two-child limit on family benefits, a move that will lift 350,000 children out of poverty once implemented in April 2026, and reduce the depth of poverty for nearly 700,000 more. This is a long-overdue decision that will transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of families; it must be followed by other measures that make child poverty the defining mission of this government.

Today's Budget required difficult trade-offs, with the Chancellor under pressure to balance tax rises and public spending choices. Against this backdrop, the decision to scrap the two-child limit signals a recognition that investing in children and families is both socially and economically essential.

This decision marks a crucial turning point in the fight against child poverty, with publication of the government's national Child Poverty Strategy imminent.

Resolve Poverty works locally to end poverty nationally by working with local and regional stakeholders across the country to strengthen responses to poverty in their communities. We believe tackling poverty should be the priority of public sector agencies working at all levels across the UK.

Building on scrapping the two-child limit, the government must now empower localities, including local councils, with the powers and resources they require to work effectively on this agenda. This should include working with Resolve Poverty to equip organisations working locally and regionally with the knowledge and skills they need to drive down poverty.

Graham Whitham, Chief Executive at Resolve Poverty said:

“Today’s announcement is a huge win for families who have struggled for too long under policies that caused suffering to children for the size of their family. But if the government is serious about eradicating child poverty, this must be just the start.”

“The government is often criticized for lacking a unifying narrative that brings the country together. Today’s positive announcement demonstrates how ending child poverty could be the defining mission of this government. An agenda with the promise to bring communities across the country together through a focus on creating a better future for all children.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Resolve Poverty is urging the government to build on today’s announcement by introducing further measures that provide immediate support to families in need and ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind as economic pressures increase.

- Commencing the socio-economic duty, requiring public bodies to actively address inequality.
- Urgently publishing the national Child Poverty Strategy, with clear targets for all levels of government and transparent monitoring.
- Investing in local authorities, whose budgets have been eroded by years of cuts and who need sustained funding to rebuild local support services, early help, and crisis assistance.

Resolve Poverty is a member of the End Child Poverty Coalition, a group of national charities and organisations working together to end child poverty in the UK. And the estimate that scrapping the two-child limit will lift 350,000 children out of poverty and reduce the depth of poverty for nearly 700,000 more is sourced from the End Child Poverty Coalition’s analysis.