# Archbishop of Canterbury Publicly Denounces UK's Two-Child Benefit Cap



**Archbishop of Canterbury Condemns Two-Child Benefit Cap**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has publicly condemned the UK's two-child benefit cap, calling it "cruel" and urging both Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer to commit to abolishing it. The policy, implemented in 2017, restricts child tax credit and universal credit to the first two children in most households.

Welby remarked, “The two-child limit falls short of our values as a society. It denies the truth that all children are of equal and immeasurable worth, and will have an impact on their long-term health, wellbeing and educational outcomes.” His statements add pressure on Starmer, who has yet to commit to scrapping the policy despite emphasizing child poverty as a central issue for a potential Labour government.

Sir Keir acknowledged the difficulty of making such promises, stating, “What I can’t do is make promises that I can’t deliver on.” The Prime Minister has firmly committed to maintaining the policy if the Conservatives remain in power.

The Archbishop's comments align with criticisms from senior Labour figures who argue that the policy disproportionately affects children from ethnic minorities and families with disabled members, forcing many to rely on food banks. Despite this, Starmer has previously indicated he would not change the policy if Labour wins power, focusing instead on broader economic stability measures.

UN officials and former UK Labour leaders, including Gordon Brown, have also criticized the policy, suggesting it exacerbates poverty. The UK government defended its stance, citing measures taken to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis.