# Labour MP Liam Byrne Calls for Action on Two-Child Benefit Cap and Gaza Crisis



**Labour MP Liam Byrne Urges Starmer to Address Two-Child Benefit Cap and Gaza Crisis**

Labour MP Liam Byrne has called on party leader Keir Starmer to address two significant issues: the two-child benefit cap and the crisis in Gaza. Byrne, who is campaigning for re-election in the newly defined Birmingham Hodge Hill and North Solihull constituency, criticized the party’s stance, urging changes to combat child poverty and adopt a clearer position on Gaza.

Byrne, recalling his first visit to Palestine in 1989, expressed dissatisfaction with the Labour leadership's response to the Gaza crisis, advocating for a more assertive condemnation of Israeli leadership and support for Palestinian justice. He famously broke the party whip in December to support a ceasefire in Gaza, a move that mirrored actions by other Labour MPs like Jess Phillips.

On domestic policy, Byrne criticized the two-child benefit cap, introduced during the Conservatives' austerity measures under George Osborne. He argued that the policy exacerbates poverty, especially in constituencies with significant deprivation. Byrne highlighted that lifting the cap could alleviate poverty for 270,000 households at an estimated cost of £1.4 billion.

Meanwhile, Australian Labor Senator Fatima Payman resigned from two parliamentary committees after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese criticized her remarks accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza. Payman, who also used a contentious phrase perceived as calling for the elimination of Israel, has not commented further. The government's spokesperson reiterated support for a two-state solution.

Byrne's candidacy in the July 4 General Election faces competition from Workers' Party and Green Party candidates, with a full candidate list to be released on June 7.