Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

I am a member of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and I am supporting their anti-poverty campaign which asks the Government to take action to alleviate poverty in the UK.

The Spring Budget is scheduled for 15th March, and BASW is urging the UK Government to take this opportunity to introduce policies to support people to escape financial hardship. We believe that ensuring nobody has to live in poverty is a fundamental responsibilities of government.

BASW’s anti-poverty campaign makes three asks:

1. **Extend the debt breathing space scheme to 180 days.**

As poverty worsens, debt increases. The breathing space scheme is a ‘pause’ on action and contact from creditors that also prevents interest, fees, penalties, or charges being added for a 60-day period. There is also a mental health breathing space that can last as long as the crisis treatment lasts plus 30 days. [There were 6,342 Breathing Space registrations in October 2022](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monthly-insolvency-statistics-october-2022), which is 31% higher than the number registered in October 2021. 6,230 were Standard breathing space registrations, which is 31% higher than in October 2021, and 112 were Mental Health breathing space registrations, which is 38% higher than the number in October 2021.

1. **Freeze evictions during the cost-of-living crisis to prevent further homelessness.**

Reducing income and increasing demands from landlords will translate into more evictions and more families becoming homeless. This cannot be allowed to happen and would cause untold damage to adults and children, placing many at safeguarding risk and lead to even more demand on social care and other services.

1. **Scrap the two-child cap on benefits.**

At present, relevant benefits are only paid for the first two children. This impacts on many families but disproportionally impacts on those ethnic groups who have larger families. It also results in inhumane means testing, for example, the rape clause.

We hope that you take meaningful and positive action on 15th March to support struggling families and individuals.

You can learn more about BASW’s anti-poverty campaign by [clicking here](https://www.basw.co.uk/what-we-do/campaigns/social-work-stands-against-poverty).

Kind regards,

XX NAME XX

XX ADDRESS XX