

UNICEF UK BRIEFING FOR THE NEW PARLIAMENT

The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) advocates for lasting change for children worldwide and is one of 33 National Committees working to support the work of UNICEF. All over the world, including here in the UK, UNICEF promotes and protects the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We are calling on the new UK Government and Parliament to put child rights at the heart of policy making, so that every child, no matter where they are born, has the chance to thrive.

SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES AROUND THE WORLD WITH A GLOBAL GROWING UP PROMISE

To protect children's lives now and in the future through foreign, humanitarian and development policy:

- Prioritise funding for **health, nutrition, and education** services and return to spending 0.7% of GNI on official development assistance.
- Protect children, their rights and the services they need from the **climate crisis**.
- Protect children from the impacts of **humanitarian emergencies**.
- **Champion children's rights** in all international engagement.

WITHOUT URGENT ACTION, 59 MILLION UNDER-FIVES COULD DIE OF PREVENTABLE DISEASES BEFORE 2030

JUST 1/3 OF 10-YEAR-OLDS GLOBALLY ARE ABLE TO READ AND UNDERSTAND A SIMPLE WRITTEN STORY

45 MILLION UNDER-FIVES ARE AFFECTED BY WASTING, THE MOST LIFE-THREATENING FORM OF MALNUTRITION

20.5 MILLION CHILDREN MISSED OUT ON BASIC VACCINATIONS IN 2022

INVEST IN CHILDREN'S FUTURES IN THE UK THROUGH A BABY AND TODDLER GUARANTEE

To ensure that all under 5s in the UK get the support they need to thrive:

- **Ensure every baby and toddler can access their right** to affordable, quality early education and childcare in their local area.
- **Tackle child poverty** and provide financial support that works for all parents of babies and toddlers when they need it.
- Ensure all parents of babies and toddlers can access **quality mental health support**.

36% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A CHILD UNDER 5 LIVE IN POVERTY

OVER HALF OF PARENTS OF UNDER 5S HAVE STRUGGLED WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH

OVER A THIRD OF CHILDREN ARE NOT MEETING THEIR EXPECTED LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AT AGE 2

A THIRD OF PARENTS OF UNDER 5S ARE STRUGGLING TO ACCESS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED

UNITED KINGDOM

unicef 
for every child

PUT CHILD RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF GOVERNMENT

To ensure all children are considered in decision making:

- **Champion the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and ensure the voices of children are heard and considered in all government decisions.
- **Protect the rights of the most marginalised children** including migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children.
- Deliver a **rights-based approach** in schools, hospitals and communities across the UK.

This Parliament has the opportunity to transform the lives of children both at home and around the world. We are asking MPs to pledge to Stand for Children, to protect their rights and consider their wellbeing in all decision making. Use the QR code below to sign our pledge today.



If you are interested in learning more about how you can stand up for children's rights in Parliament, or would like any further information on the issues covered above, please get in touch with Lauren Pizzey at Laurenp@unicef.org.uk

UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK)

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Registered Office
1 Westfield Avenue
London E20 1HZ

President **Olivia Colman**
Chief Executive **Philip Goodwin**

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REGULATOR