**Keep the Lifeline Campaign**

Thank you for joining us to call on the government to #KeepTheLifeline by ending the cut to Universal Credit.

By writing to your MP today you can show that you are concerned about the levels of need in your community and that you want the Government to take action immediately to prevent half a million more people falling into poverty.

**Please write to your MP today by following these steps:**

1. Use our template below to draft a letter to your MP - personalise it by adding your experience, or the experience of those you support, to give more impact.
2. Find your MP by [typing in your postcode here](https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons) - click on them to find their email address
3. Email your letter to your MP – make sure to include your address at the end so they know you are one of their constituents.
4. Please copy in caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk to your email or let us know you have taken action so we can keep track of which MPs have been contacted, and understand the issues. Please be assured we will not share your letter without your permission.
5. Share this template and encourage others to get involved too before the cut in early October 2021.

If you’d like any more information about the policy you can find it [here](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/keep-lifeline-why-government-should-keep-20-uplift-universal-credit).

**Template Letter:**

Dear XXX MP,

My name is [insert name] and I am [enter your job role, position or organisation here] and one of your constituents. I am writing to raise my deep concern about the £20 cut to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit that is scheduled for October.

This cut will affect 6 million low income families, taking away £1,040 a year from them, and pushing half a million adults and children into serious poverty. In our constituency the cut will have a huge impact… [Please add your concerns here. What impact will it have on your network and community? What should your MP be aware of? E.g. impact on children, impact on tenants being able to make rent payments]

Social security should be strong enough for all of us to rely on when we need a lifeline – because, as the pandemic has shown us, life is full of things we can’t plan for.

A lifeline that’s left to wear thin and threadbare isn't strong enough to pull families safely through hard times. In recent years, cuts and freezes to our levels of support have left many families living with constant insecurity, unable to meet their everyday needs. Instead of protecting families from poverty, many have been pulled deeper into it. This is particularly true for those receiving legacy benefits, many of whom are disabled or carers, and never received the £20 uplift at all.

Instead of now taking this support away, the £20 should be made permanent and extended to all those receiving benefits, so none are excluded from this lifeline.

As our local MP, I would appreciate it if you could please raise my concerns about this critical issue in parliament, as well as with the Prime Minister and Chancellor. If there is any more information that would be useful, do let me know. I look forward to hearing back from you soon about what action you have taken to prevent the cut and support those on low incomes.

Many thanks,

[Name]

[Address – so they know you are their constituent]