



# **Poverty in England: Understanding the Problem and Looking for Solutions**

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# Introduction:

Let's explore a significant topic: poverty in England and what we discovered in our field research. During our journey, we will not only discuss what poverty is, but also how we measure it using different methods such as indices and indicators. Here's an overview of what we'll cover:

- **Concepts and Approaches to Poverty**
- **Measurement of Poverty: Indexes and Indicators**
- **Poverty Situation in England**
- **Programs to Tackle Poverty in England**
- **Investigation**
- **Conclusion**

# Methodology

## Online Investigation:

Main Concepts

Indicators and statistics

## On-site investigation:

Interviews at main NGOs

FoodBanks Main Interviews

Interviews Ordinary People on the Street

Interviews with people queuing to get food





# Goal:

We want to look at how difficult poverty is and the different ways we can measure it, from basic ideas to broader forms. If we understand these things better, we can suggest better ways to help poor people.







# What is poverty?

Poverty is not limited to a lack of resources and income for sustenance. It manifests itself in hunger, lack of access to education and other basic services, discrimination and social exclusion, and lack of participation in decision-making.

# Concepts and Approaches to Poverty

A young girl with dark skin and hair is shown in profile, drinking water from a public tap. She is holding her hands under the running water. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and greenery. The image is partially obscured by a blue diagonal overlay on the left side of the slide.

## Absolute Poverty:

This concept focuses on basic needs for physical survival, such as food and shelter. It does not take into account the social context, focusing only on the individual's ability to access the vital minimum.

## Relative Poverty:

Here, we consider the degree of deprivation in relation to the society in which the individual lives. It is a contextual approach, assessing whether people live according to the prevailing standard in their society.

## Poverty Lines:

Establishing a poverty line involves defining a monetary value below which a person is considered poor. This value can be based on different criteria, such as the cost of a basic food basket or per capita income.





# Measurement of Poverty: Indexes and Indicators

Poverty measurement involves various indexes and indicators to assess the economic status of individuals or households. The methodologies employed vary but commonly include:



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The methodologies employed vary but commonly include:

## Relative Low Income:

Individuals are living on a low income if their net household income is below

**60%**

of the median income of UK.

The median income in **2023 was £34,963.**

## Absolute Low Income:

Absolute poverty measurement entails households with income below

**20%**

of the median income in a base year in UK.

## Impact of Rising Cost of Living:

High inflation can lead to a decrease in real median household incomes, affecting poverty rates.

Around

**1.6 million**

households are decisively affected by this increase.

## Household Disposable Income:

Considers income after adding benefits and deducting direct taxes.

The real HDI fell by

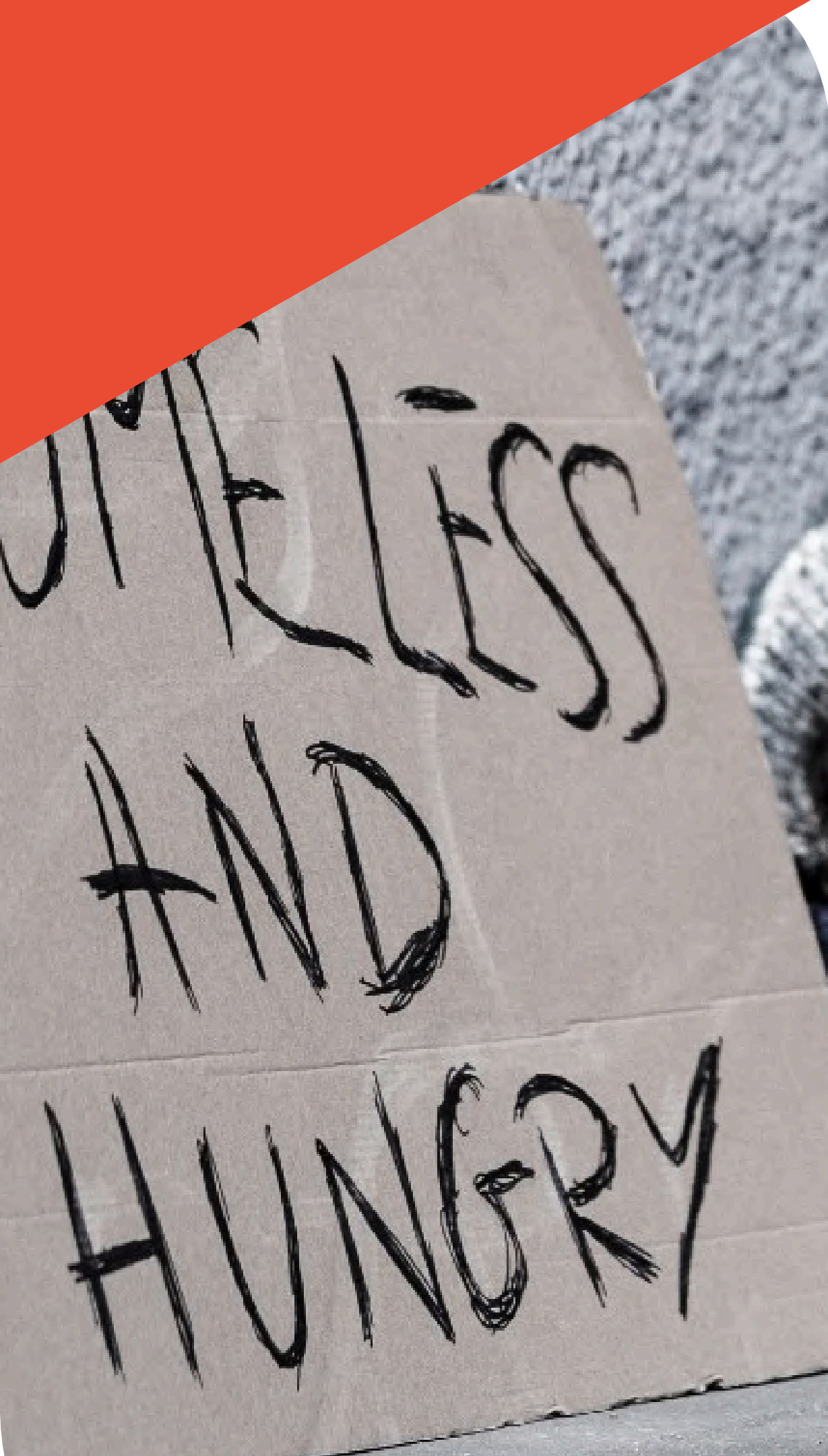
**2.2%**

in the 2022/23 fiscal year, the biggest fall in living standards since **1956.**



# Poverty Situation in England

The background of the slide is divided into three geometric sections by diagonal lines. A red triangle is in the top right corner. A grey triangle is in the bottom right corner. The remaining area is white.



# Poverty Situation in England

## ● Poverty Rates:

More than 1/5 people in the UK (**22%**) were in poverty in 2022/23 – **13.4 million people**.. This included:

- **8.1 million** (or around 2 in 10) working-age adults
- 4.2 million (or nearly 3 in 10) children
- 2.1 million (or around 1 in 6) pensioners.

## ● Child Poverty:

Nearly 1/3 of the Kids in the UK are living in poor families.

## ● Illiteracy in the United Kingdom

## ● Vulnerable Groups:

Some groups are more likely to be poor. For example:

- Immigrants
- Single parent families
- Manual workers
- Pensioners
- Unemployed

## ● Food Insecurity:

**27%** of the UK population admits difficulties in purchasing daily food in 2023.



# On-site investigation:

We first selected the main NGOs that work with people in poverty and also focused on finding foodbank services offered in the city of Hull.

We prepared a questionnaire with all the points we would like to understand and sent emails in an attempt to schedule interviews.

We also sought to understand the opinions of people on the city's street, as well as people who were in line at a FoodBank during food donation hours.



# Hull Vineyard Church

- We spoke to Ed
- Hull is classified as one of the poorest cities in England
- That the majority of people the organization helps are local,
- They do not receive many immigrants and that there are no prerequisites required, no type of registration and formal follow-up on each person helped.
- The main causes of poverty is illiteracy, many people cannot read or write and because of this, it limits their ability to obtain jobs with better salaries.
- All resources they offer refer to donations from people who are members of the church
- They have no connection with any social program referred to by the government nor any financial resources offered by the government.
- UK government offers free education for people aged between 5 and 18, but not just any school, there are specific schools for those who cannot afford to pay.
- Regarding the NHS healthcare system, he informed us that the entire population also has access to free healthcare.

THE  **FOODBANK**

**HULL VINEYARD**  
  
COMMUNITY MONEY ADVICE

growbaby



# Hull Sisters

- We speak to Sonia Jalal
- She is Pakistani and founded the Organization in 2012 dedicated service or support for women in Hull,
- They support over 1000 women and children throughout Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire,
- Practically all the women and children they help are immigrants and /or refugees,
- The main cause of poverty is the strong structural prejudice that exists in the UK against immigrants who do not speak English well and this prejudice is greatly accentuated by racism relating to another ethnicities,
- The housing conditions are very precarious and the income is not enough to maintain the minimum necessary conditions of food, payment of basic bills such as energy and most,
- They do not have access to the free educational system.
- Serious structural problem in the healthcare system offered, related to racism and prejudice against immigrants
- Neglect regarding the severity of the person's health situation



# Hull Sisters



- many cases of elderly people, a tendency to intentionally attempt to accelerate the severity of the disease and accelerate the death of patients is clearly perceived.
- She does not see any initiative from the government to reverse this structural prejudice and on the contrary, she only sees that the measures in force and the proposals only worsen this situation, such as the agenda that discusses the privatization of the NHS healthcare system.
- An example was cited of a woman who was pregnant and lost her fetus, who was treated at an NHS clinic and who was told during the consultation that everything was fine and that she could return home, without having had any tests done, she returned home and the infection spread to her body and even though she returned to the emergency room clearly in a deplorable situation and in intense pain, they maintained that nothing could be done for her.





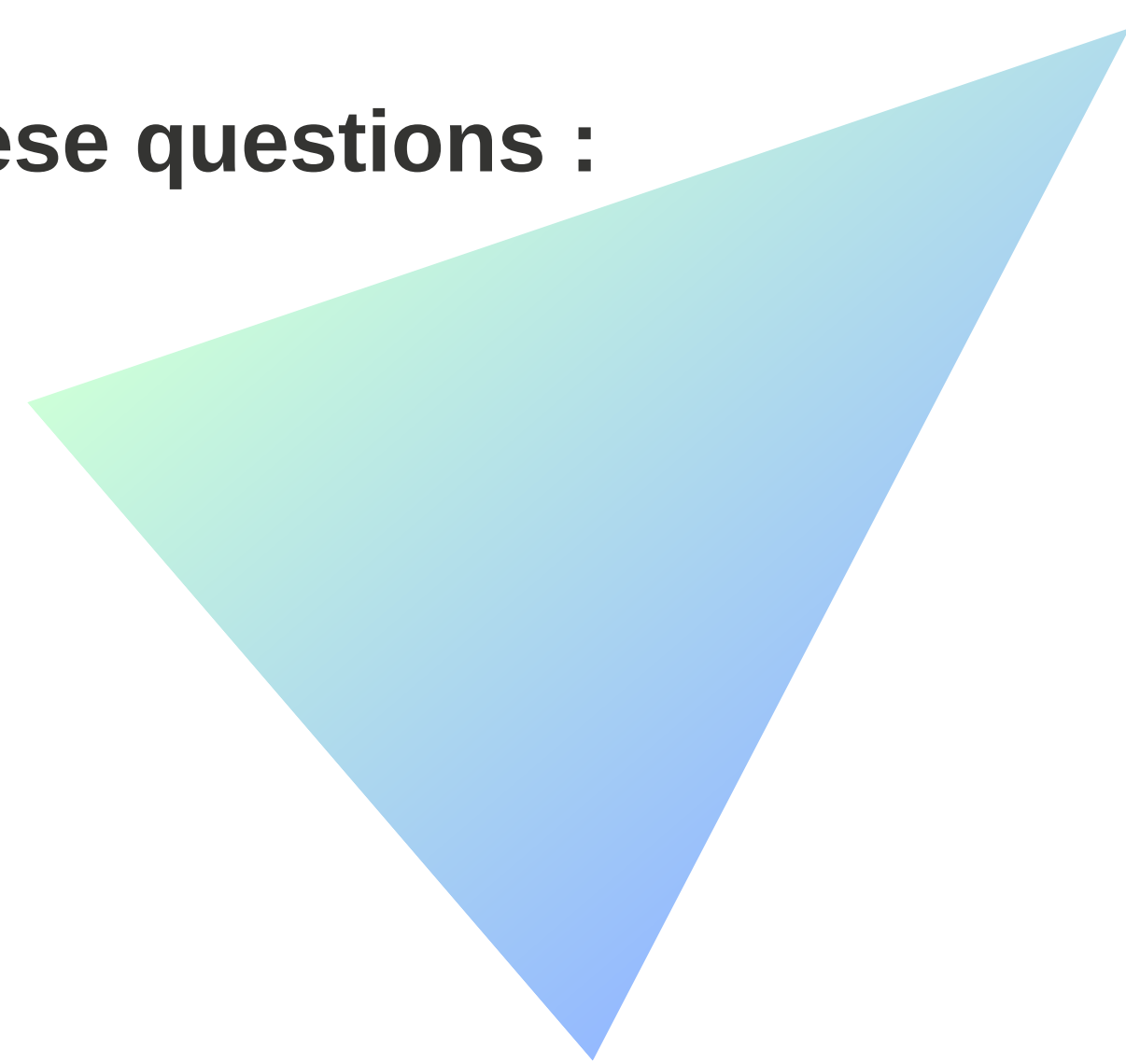
# Hull Sisters

- This prejudice also extends to organizations that have no access to government financial resources, as many other NGOs receive help and support from the government,
- The government offers financial assistance to families with up to 3 children, but that the situation is worse in the case of families with more than 3 children who do not receive sufficient support from the government,
- Immigrants and another's ethnicities women, when they have access to jobs, are poorly paid jobs, even for people with proven training and education,
- Sonia believes that around 70% of the country's immigrants are in poverty,
- In relation to the population of Hull, around 60% of the total population is in poverty,
- She made it clear to us that she does not have exact knowledge of this number and suggested that we research the Briefing -Reporting Hull-English-Indices-of-Deprivation.



## During our investigation we tried to get answers to these questions :

1. Do you agree that there is poverty in UK? / or Hull?
2. What do you think the main source of poverty?
3. Do you think the government supports the poor enough?
  - Do you know of any?
4. Do you think the public school gives good education for a well paid job in the future?
5. Have you seen any changes in recent years (+/ -) and how do you think the government is trying to improve this situation?
6. Are there any specific steps that you are aware?
7. What measures do you think the state should take to reduce poverty?
  - (programs, social support, etc.)
8. What kind of social or community involvement, do you think is important in the fight against poverty?
9. Which age group do you think is most effected by poverty?





# Interviewees on the street and in Food Banks

1. **George** and **Claire** - The pub where we distributed food to people in need at Christmas
2. **Wendy** - Orchard Center, volunteer in Foodbank
3. **Phil/ John** - street
4. **Lu** - from Patrington - street
5. **Lee** and **Sam** - on bus stop
6. **Tanaka**- from **Botswana, Mofe, Muhammad**, - on bus stop
7. Amazing Grace Chapter- Cristian Church and Foodbank:  
**Isaac** and the **People** living in poverty on the street- **David**





# Georg, Claire and Wendy volunteer to distribute food.

## Problems:

- **NHS problems:** The (NHS) is underfunded, with long waiting lists and delays in care. Many changes in pricing and service.
- **Housing:** Housing problems are severe, especially for young people and immigrants.
- **Homelessness:** A big problem in the UK.
- **Reduction of social services:** Started 10-15 years ago and has a significant impact on the poor people.
- **Discrimination: LGBTQ+** people face discrimination and stereotypes.
- **Education:** The education system does not adequately support different learning needs, such as a neurodivergent child.  
The lack of education and the gap between generations is a problem in terms of poverty.  
There are few opportunities for immigrants to learn English.

## Solution suggestions: (in their opinion)

- **Education support :** More professionals should be involved to support education and employment.
- **Government support:** More support is needed in the areas of education and housing.
- **Community Support:** Support LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities to combat discrimination.
- **NHS funding:** Increase funding for the NHS, particularly to care for the most vulnerable.  
Prevent privatization.
- **Transportation:** Nationalize the transportation system for better job opportunities.





## PHIL

- **Impact of economic crisis:** Since the economic collapse of 2008, poverty has increased.
- **Education:** Higher education is expensive, and the quality of education is declining.
- **NHS:** The situation in the NHS is worrying and access to care is difficult.
- **Social Mobility:** Limited for the poor.
- **British class system:** Social inequalities are increasing, which affects the situation of the poor in a negative way.

## LU

- **Government errors:** Poverty increases due to government resources allocations.
- **Disadvantaged communities:**
  - Limited access to safe spaces and services.
  - **Quality of education:** Poorer quality of education in underfunded areas (schools).

## LEE and SAM

- **Cost of living:** Cost of living is increasing, but support is decreasing.
- **Government :** Social mobility is limited, wealth flows to the top 1% .
- **Housing:** Housing programs do not solve problems in the long term.

## TANAKA,MOFE,MUHAMMAD

- **Unemployment:** Few job opportunities.
- **Dropout from education:** The dropout rate in the education system is high because it is declining.
- **Government support:** Limited support for the homeless and food insecure.



# Solution suggestions:

(in their opinion)

- **Food support:** Providing more food services.
- **Social supports:** Social supports should be increased, especially for marginalized communities. Promoting social mobility.
- **Government reform:** The government needs to do more to alleviate poverty. For example; by providing more support in education, health and housing.
- **Community resources:** More effective use and increase of community cohesion and local resources.
- **Education:** The quality and access to education must be improved.
- **NHS:** Increase NHS funding and access.
- **Supporting the homeless:** Providing more shelters and services.





# DAVID lives on the street

- “He does receive state aid, but it is not enough for him.
- He doesn't want training, he needs a job and an apartment instead.
- According to him, the healthcare system works, but more emphasis should be placed on the prevention of depression. Many people living on the streets are emotionally depressed and need a lot of help.
- After spending 15 years in prison, nobody gives me a chance.
- Patience and greater cooperation would be needed.”

*Do you receive help from the government?*

*Do you receive training?*

*What is the main problem?*



# Summary

## *The subjective opinion of the people walking in the street and poors staying in the queue at foodbank*

### General perception:

- almost everybody (**3** exception) agreed, that the poverty in UK and in Hull increased at the last 15 years

### The main problems by them:

- the bad quality of education (**12**) /drop outs, illiteracy **7.1 million**, behaviour problems, education for migrants, retraining/
- the problems with the NHS system (**7**) /long waiting lists, lack of care the people with mental problems/
- the housing fees rose (**7**)
- the government/city council welfare services cut back (**6**)
- less job opportunities (**4**) /jobs turn to online
- discrimination of LMBTQ & woman (**2**)
- difficult process of any administration (**2**) /NHS, voucher for food bank, etc./
- social inequality (**2**)
- soup kitchens shut down (**2**) /less money for charity, inflation
- COVID (**1**)
- teen pregnancy (**1**)

# Sources

Library briefing paper on income inequality in the UK  
DWP Households Below Average Income report  
The Library's child poverty constituency dashboard  
Supporting documents

In-work poverty by region In-work poverty by region  
Trends by UK country and region Trends by UK country and region  
Child poverty by constituency Child poverty by constituency

New constituency boundaries: Estimates of child poverty by constituency New constituency  
boundaries: Estimates of child poverty by constituency

NGOs:

Hull Sisters  
Vineyard Church  
East Yorkshaire FoodBank  
FoodBank Hull  
Orchard Community Centre  
52 website

Sent messages: **21** pcs / answer: **2** pcs

Phone call: **6** pcs / answer: **1** pcs

Places we visited: **11** places / answe: **4** places

Number of interviewees: **40/ 21** peoples



# Conclusion

The population living in poverty in the United Kingdom is growing!

Hull is one of the poorest cities in the United Kingdom.

We found several structural problems that cause poverty and concluded that we did not find a solution, but rather several questions:

Why does one of the richest countries in the world, with a constantly growing GDP, have a growing population in poverty?

Are ethnic selectivity and inequality directly related to enrichment?

Why are equity, the well-being of the majority and inclusion still a challenge?

Would offering quality education, quality and accessible healthcare, and affordable housing slow down the development and economic growth of a country?

**Thank you!**