



Life on the Breadline - Anti-Poverty Charter

What is the Anti-Poverty Charter?

A reflective resource intended to help churches to tackle poverty and inequality in your neighbourhood and across the UK in a way that makes sense where you are.

How was the Charter made?

Developed through Life on the Breadline's 3 years of research with national and regional Church leaders, local Christians and people experiencing life on a low-income.

Why have an Anti-Poverty Charter?

To help local churches and individual Christians to understand the unequal impact of austerity, the causes of poverty, support people in immediate need and challenge structural injustice.

Values underpinning the Charter:

- Because we are created in the **image of God** all people are equally precious.
- Because all people are unique, Christians are called to **reject the stereotypes & binaries** that objectify people.
- God has a "**preferential option for the poor**" because poverty contradicts the will of a loving God.
- Christian responses to poverty need to focus on the **dignity and worth** of each person and on the assets already present in local communities.
- The Church is called to consciously **prioritise people living in poverty** in order to build the Common Good.

How you can use the Charter:

1. **Sign-up to the Charter** as an individual, local church or group by visiting the Life on the Breadline website (QR code below, or Google 'breadline research') - become an Anti-Poverty Charter congregation and appear on the Life on the Breadline website.
2. Use the Charter to help you to develop your church's **anti-poverty social action plan**.
3. Use **#BreadlineResearch** on social media to share actions you plan to take in response to the charter.
4. **Invite a Life on the Breadline researcher** to speak at a Sunday service or to a church meeting.

- Christian social action should be characterised by **solidarity** because in the Incarnation, God has become one of us.
- The Church is called to **long-term anti-poverty action** as well as meeting immediate need.
- Christian **social action needs to be multifaceted** in order to address the complex nature of poverty.
- Christians need to **speak truth to power and challenge unjust structures** in order to "love their neighbour".
- Challenging poverty must be a **central feature** of all areas of church life, not just its social action.

Visit the charter glossary on the Breadline website

We'd love to hear how you're engaging with the Charter through the QR code and #BreadlineResearch





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Suggested actions to take:

Visit the Life on the Breadline website for more ideas (QR code below/Google 'breadline research')

Sign up to the Anti-Poverty Charter on the Life on the Breadline website.

Use the Anti-Poverty Charter values as the basis for a **series of Services or Bible Studies**.

Use the **Life on the Breadline Lent course** on the project website (via the QR code).

Challenge the myths that are told about contemporary poverty.

Use the **Life on the Breadline austerity timeline** to find out more about the 'age of austerity'.

Develop a Community Profile that summarises the key features of your neighbourhood - strengths, challenges, problems and possibilities.

Hold a church away day to discuss how to apply the values of the charter in your neighbourhood. Use Resources from the Life on the Breadline website to help you.

Identify and commit to specific **anti-poverty actions** you will take personally.

At your Annual Church Meeting, **monitor the anti-poverty actions** your congregation has taken over the previous 12 months.

Ensure that **tackling poverty is on the agenda** of every church meeting.

Find out about **anti-poverty campaigns** in your city, town, or village and get involved.

Encourage all employers in your neighbourhood to pay the **real living wage**.

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