

# A Year of Encounter

## USING OUR CATHOLIC VOICE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION



**Join the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and CAFOD to promote the common good and to ask our politicians to tackle poverty.**

Register here to keep up to date and turn your concern into action: [www.act.svp.org.uk/yearofencounter](http://www.act.svp.org.uk/yearofencounter)

“The question which is agitating the world today is a social one. It is a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much...” – Frédéric Ozanam

To find out more, visit [www.svp.org.uk/encounter](http://www.svp.org.uk/encounter) - or email [yearofencounter@svp.org.uk](mailto:yearofencounter@svp.org.uk)



St Vincent  
de Paul Society  
England and Wales  
Turning Concern into Action

**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

# The issues we are campaigning about ...

## **Cost of living crisis**

The cost of living crisis is pushing increasing numbers of people into poverty. Almost two million people used a food bank last year, the highest number yet. Meanwhile, six in ten low-income households are not able to afford an unexpected expense, and over seven in ten families are going without essentials.

**We would like to see** better support for the growing numbers of people living in poverty in the UK, including a welfare system that supports people in need, whether they are in work or not.

## **Migration and asylum**

Every year thousands of people tragically die crossing borders as they try to find safety for themselves and their families. In recent years it has become even harder for people who need safety to reach the UK. For many that are able to reach the UK, recent changes in the law make it almost impossible for them to apply for asylum and find sanctuary here. Instead, they face the possibility of being indefinitely detained and deported to a third country, such as Rwanda.

**We would like to see** an asylum system based on principles of compassion, humanity and dignity.

## **Tackling regional inequalities**

The UK has some of the highest regional inequalities in Europe, and this is leaving many people behind. Research shows that the UK is the most regionally unbalanced large, advanced economy, with growing rates of poverty in particular regions. This leaves millions of people below the poverty line and without the support they need to thrive. Tackling this issue requires ongoing investment in community assets and leadership as well as the creation of good quality employment.

**We would like to see** a solid plan to tackle regional inequalities and help improve social and economic outcomes for left-behind areas.