

Guidance on engaging candidates through hustings or other debates

This General Election, we're asking candidates on all sides to pledge to protect people from hunger by ensuring we all have enough money for the basics.

We think our next government could start working towards a future where no one needs a food bank by:

- 1. Ending the five week wait for Universal Credit**
- 2. Making sure benefit payments cover the cost of living**
- 3. Investing in local emergency support for people in crisis**

If we're going to convince every candidate to pledge to protect people from hunger by ensuring we all have enough money for the basics we're going to have to work together.

You can help by going along to a hustings, calling into a radio discussion, or going along to a local debate, and raising the issue of hunger and poverty you see on the ground.

What is a hustings?

As part of an election, candidates will usually participate in a head-to-head debate locally on the important issues of the day. Keep your eye out in the local paper for where and when the hustings will be.

We know that **nine in 10 people in the UK think hunger is a problem in the UK**, and we think candidates should be thinking hard about how to end the need for food banks.

Here's some questions you could ask:

Preface your questions with: *'I'm from XX Foodbank, and we've given out XXX three-day emergency food parcels to people in crisis in the last six months'*

- More people than ever need food banks – we need our next MP to help turn the tide. Do you pledge that, if elected, you'll protect people from hunger by ensuring that we all have enough money for the basics?*
- We know that Universal Credit, particularly the five week wait for the first payment, is pushing people to food banks. If you become an MP, what will you do to fix this?*
- The incomes of some of the most vulnerable people in society have been dwindling due to the benefits freeze – how will you ensure benefits cover at least the basics for people?*
- Locally, there's very little statutory support available for people who hit crisis, meaning the food bank is the only place to turn [add a local example if necessary]. We need the government to fund councils to provide crisis support – is that something you can commit to?*