

## Regional Church Leaders Survey

### Section 1. Taking Part in the Survey

**Thank you for taking part in the Life on the Breadline research online survey.**

This survey is part of the Life on the Breadline research. Life on the Breadline is a three year research project funded by the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) at Coventry, Manchester and Canterbury Kent Universities.

The aim of the research is to analyse the nature, scope and impact of Christian engagement with urban poverty in the UK in the context of austerity since the 2008 financial crisis.

The aim of this survey is to examine Christian responses to UK poverty at a regional church level across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

You have been invited to take this survey as a regional church leader within a national Church in the UK. The survey uses the word region to refer to areas within national Church structures, and recognises the importance of the individual nations within the UK.

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The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete and will be available until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The data that you provide in this survey will be stored securely. For information about how we store and treat the data you provide please **download and read this data information sheet**.

- You have the choice of whether you would like your name and position to be used in the research, or if you would like to be referred to anonymously as a 'regional church leader' (not using your official role title) in your national Church affiliation and the region in which you work – for example 'a regional church leader in the \*\* Church in Birmingham'.
- You can opt out of completing the survey by closing and exiting the browser.
- You can also press 'Finish later' to save your answers and complete the survey at a later date.

For more information visit <https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/> or contact Dr Chris Shannahan at [christopher.shannahan@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:christopher.shannahan@coventry.ac.uk) or Dr Stephanie Denning at [stephanie.denning@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.denning@coventry.ac.uk)

Thank you! *The Life on the Breadline Project team*

<p><b>PARTICIPANT CONSENT:</b></p> <p>I have read and understood the above information.</p> <p>I understand that, if my answers are fully anonymised, it will not be possible to withdraw them from the study once I have completed the survey. If I give my name in the survey responses, I understand that I can withdraw by contacting Dr Chris Shannahan before 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.</p> <p>I agree to take part in this questionnaire survey.</p>	<p>Select answers</p>	<p>I consent to participate in the 'Life on the Breadline' Church leaders' online survey and</p> <p>I consent to my real name and position being used in project publications [If yes, please state your name and position:]</p> <p>OR</p>
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I confirm that I am aged 18 or over. Please tick the box in order to signal that you consent to participate in this survey: [Required]		I consent to participate in the 'Life on the Breadline' Church leaders' online survey and wish to be referred to as a regional leader through my national Church affiliation and region in project publications
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## **Section 2. About you**

Which national Church/tradition/denomination in the UK do you work for/are you affiliated to?	Open text box	
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**In the remainder of the survey, questions that refer to 'your Church' do so in reference to your answer to question 2.**

What is your position in this Church?	Open text box	
Which nation(s) in the United Kingdom are you based in? (Please tick all that apply)	Select answers	England Scotland Wales Northern Ireland
Which specific region(s) of these nations do you work in? (For example, which county/diocese/district/area do you work in?)	Open text box	

**In the remainder of the survey, questions that refer to 'region' do so in reference to your answer to question 5.**

## **Section 3. Poverty in your region**

For this survey we are looking for you to answer questions to represent your region (diocese/district/area/equivalent) within your national Church. Where there are differences within the region, please answer for an overview as best as possible.

*How we define poverty and austerity in this research:*

**Poverty:** when people do not have enough resources to meet basic needs and to take part in society (definition used by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation).

**Austerity:** an economic policy to reduce government debt by reducing spending, which impacts upon people's everyday lives.

Overall, do you think that poverty has increased, decreased or stayed the same in your region in the last 10 years?	Select answers	Increased Decreased Stayed the same
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Please give an example of how poverty has changed in your region in the last 10 years	Open text box	
Please rank the degree to which you think that these factors have influenced changes in poverty in your region in the last 10 years	Rank 1 (Most influential) to 5 (least influential), or N/A	Welfare policy changes People's personal decision making Rising cost of living Unemployment Low wages Debt High renting costs Ill health Family instability Family size Other (please specify)
On average, how well do you think that local leaders in your Church in your region understand the nature of poverty in the UK?	Select answers	Very well Fairly well Not well I do not know
- On average, how well do you think that the congregations at affiliated churches in your region understand the nature of poverty in the UK?	Select answers	Very well Fairly well Not well I do not know
- Why do you think this is?	Open text box	

#### **Section 4. Responding to poverty in your region**

Overall, do you think that tackling UK poverty is a high priority for your Church in your region?	Select answers	High priority Medium priority Low priority
- Why do you think that is?	Open text box	
Has this priority changed in the last 10 years?	Select answers	Increased Decreased Stayed the same
- Why?	Open text box	
Overall for your Church in your region, how does action on UK poverty compare with action on other issues?	Scale (Responding to UK poverty is... More important than/As important as/Less important than responding to...)	Climate change Global poverty Evangelism The ageing population Youth work Church growth Parish ministry Baptisms, weddings, funerals Faith schools Refugees
Overall, how does your Church in your region prioritise the following in relation to UK poverty?	Rank 1 (Most important) to 3 (Least important), N/A	Campaigning and advocacy Fundraising for activities responding to UK poverty Running activities responding to UK poverty
What key theological values, approach to mission and understanding of Christian	Open text box	

discipleship shape this response to UK poverty?		
In what ways do affiliated local preachers or worship leaders in your region focus on UK poverty in worship or in mid-week fellowship group meetings?	Open text box	
- How often does this happen?	Open text box	
What activities do you know of that affiliated churches in your region have taken part in to respond to UK poverty? (Please tick all that apply)	Select answers (can choose multiple)	Food bank Community/kitchen/meals Community supermarket Cooking classes Children's holiday club Homeless shelter Clothes/toys/non-food provision Advice centre Money management advice/course Other (please specify) None
- Have these activities taken place with...	Select answers (can choose multiple)	Other Churches Non-Christian faith groups Secular groups Faith-based charities Took place alone
What implications does a commitment to challenging UK poverty have for your national and regional Church strategy in relation to:  - Its financial priorities and use of its funds - Decisions about the deployment of ordained clergy and layworkers - The support for/closure of local church buildings - The training of student ministers at theological colleges	Open text box	

### **Section 5. Responding to UK poverty in relation to the government**

How do you think that the impact of your Church's response to UK poverty in your region compares to the central government's response?	Select answers	My Church in my region has had more impact than central government My Church in my region has had less impact than central government Similar impact across both I do not know
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Has your Church in your region been involved in campaigns against the central government's austerity policies?	Select answers	Yes No I do not know
- What are some examples of this?	Open text box	
How well do you think that central government policy makers on UK poverty understand the work that your Church is doing to respond to UK poverty?	Select answers	A well-developed, accurate understanding Some understanding Poor understanding I do not know
- What are some examples of this?	Open text box	
Do you think that your Church in your region can influence central government policy makers on UK poverty?	Select answers	Yes No I do not know
- Why do you think this?		
If you are based in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, how do you feel that the devolved Parliament/Assembly has responded to these issues?	Open text box	

### **Section 6. Final page**

Would you like to be added to the Life on the Breadline blog mailing list to receive updates on the project including findings and project events such as the end of project conference?	Select answers [required]	Yes No
If yes to the above question, what email address would you like to be contacted on?	Open text box	

**Thank you for taking part in this survey!** Please press 'finish' to submit your answers.