This week is [Challenge Poverty Week](https://www.povertyalliance.org/cpw/) (6 October-12 October). Each year, hundreds of organisations in Scotland raise their voice against poverty and unite with others in calling for a just and equal Scotland. If you want to join in with your unit/local area we have created a sample letter below which you can use to contact your MSP.

We would encourage you to add your own voice to it. Why not have a chat in your unit or local area about:

* How is poverty impacting your area?
* What would you like the Scottish Government to do to help reduce child poverty and those living in poverty?

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**An open letter to [your local decision maker] for reducing child poverty in Scotland.**

Dear [your local decision maker],

This Challenge Poverty Week, Girlguiding Scotland’s young members from [your unit name/area] are writing to you to demand action to reduce child poverty, and its impact, in Scotland.

Girlguiding’s research shows that the cost-of-living crisis and job security is a huge worry for many girls both in and out of guiding.

* 62% of 11-21 year olds are worried about not being able to afford their bills
* 55% of girls aged 11-21 worry about getting a job in the future
* 54% of 11-21 year olds are worried about AI taking away their jobs

At Girlguiding Scotland we’re proud to have been part of the successful campaign to end period poverty in Scotland. Adding our voice alongside those of other amazing organisations doing great work in this area. In 2020 the Free Period Products Bill became law in Scotland, placing a legal duty on local authorities to ensure that period products are available for free to anyone who needs them.

While this was a great step forward, Girlguiding Scotland wants to see an end to child poverty. We believe it’s important to talk openly about the effects of poverty and challenge the stigma around it. We believe all families should have the resources they need and an income through work and/or benefits that means no child grows up in poverty.

Poverty in Scotland is causing children to have poor mental health and worry about their futures. 25% of girls (aged 11-21) say their mental health is negatively affected by worrying about money (Girls’ Attitudes Survey 2025, Girlguiding). From our lived experience [add in lived the impacts of poverty in your area here].

As Girlguiding Scotland young members, we want to see a Scotland where no one’s health or wellbeing is impacted by poverty.

Along with other organisations campaigning in this area, we want our voices to be heard in the fight against child poverty. We are calling on you and the government to: [Add in asks from young members to the list below]

* Enable everyone to be able to attend school, through free school transport and lunches, and affordable uniform for all ages.
* Continue the ‘Young Persons’ (Under 22s) Free Bus Travel Scheme’ until young people turn 26 and include all forms of public transport.
* Reduce energy bills and increase the availability of energy grants.
* Raise the minimum wage for under 18-year-olds to align with the minimum age for over 18-year-olds.
* Create more job opportunities for young people that don’t require formal qualifications.
* Invest in youth work and youth programmes to give young people more positive, safe spaces to socialise.
* Increase funding and resources for community spaces.
* Create free access to exercise facilities to improve everyone’s physical and mental health.
* Fund access to free fruit and veg and incentivise workplaces to provide free healthy meals.

Yours sincerely,

Girlguiding Scotland members from [your unit or local area].