



Rt. Hon David Cameron MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

28 January 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

As Members of Parliament representing no less than nine parties in the House of Commons, we write to express our grave concern about proposals for a rape clause on tax credits. These proposals have still not been clarified or more importantly scrapped altogether.

Section 6.4 of the Government's Red Book, from July 2015's budget, addresses plans to limit benefit payments to parents with two children. It states that the "*Department for Work and Pensions and HMRC will develop protections for women who have a third child as the result of rape, or other exceptional circumstances.*"

MPs from numerous parties have repeatedly raised concerns about this policy with Ministers at every level of Government - including yourself. However, we feel that there is still, unfortunately, not enough actual clarification as to how this policy would work in practice, let alone the more fundamental fact that it is simply immoral and has no place in twenty-first century Britain.

This issue has rightly caused major concern with women's welfare groups and rape crisis organisations. It is our strong belief that this policy will only stigmatise vulnerable women and children who have already had to suffer unimaginable pain and torment.

It is our sincere belief that this policy was perhaps not fully considered or thought through when it was added to the Government's budget. Therefore, we do not believe that the Government genuinely wants to summon women who have been raped, to appear before Government officials and prove that they were raped, leading to the birth of their third child.

Therefore we implore you, Prime Minister, to do the right thing and scrap the rape clause today.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Thewliss MP (Scottish National Party - Glasgow Central)  
Andrew Percy MP (Conservative Party - Brigg and Goole)  
Jess Phillips MP (Labour Party - Birmingham Yardley)  
Tom Brake MP (Liberal Democrats - Carshalton and Wallington)  
Liz Saville-Roberts MP (Plaid Cymru - Dwyfor Meirionydd)  
Caroline Lucas MP (Green Party - Brighton Pavillion)  
Mark Durkan MP (Social Democratic and Labour Party - Foyle)  
Danny Kinahan MP (Ulster Unionist Party - South Antrim)  
Jim Shannon MP (Democratic Unionist Party - Strangford)