

# The exceptions to child exceptionalism

Migrant deservingness in the UK's free school meal debates

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# Petitions

UK Government and Parliament

## ! Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[What you need to do](#)

[Find out about the temporary suspension of petition debates](#)

Petition

# End child food poverty – no child should be going hungry

Government should support vulnerable children & #endchildfoodpoverty by implementing 3 recommendations from the National Food Strategy to expand access to Free School Meals, provide meals & activities during holidays to stop holiday hunger & increase the value of and expand the Healthy Start scheme

[More details](#)

**Sign this petition**

**1,112,083** signatures

[Show on a map](#)

100,000



ROADSIDE MUM

"Public funds were charged £30. I'd have bought this for £5.22," said Twitter user Roadside Mum of the parcel she received



P.SCHENK 18

**LEFT OUT AT LUNCH**

# LET'S #ENDCHILDFOODPOVERTY TOGETHER

**“We must act with urgency to stabilise the households of our vulnerable children. No child in the UK should be going to bed hungry. Whatever your feeling, opinion, or judgement, food poverty is never the child's fault. Let's protect our young. Let's wrap arms around each other and stand together to say that this is unacceptable, that we are united in protecting our children. Together we can end this problem.”**



**WE LIVE IN THE FIFTH RICHEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD.  
NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY IN THIS COUNTRY.**

[FIND HELP NEAR ME](#)[HOW CAN I HELP?](#)

Parent or Guardian of [redacted]  
14 Jun 2019  
Dear Parent/Guardian,  
We are contacting you regarding the outstanding balance on your [redacted] Parentpay account. Our records show that you are in debt.  
Today your account is showing a debt of -£768.20  
Please arrange for this money to be paid immediately. Once the debt is cleared please ensure the account always remains in credit.  
The cost of a school dinner meal (excluding break snacks) is £2.30 per day - £11.50 per week.  
You have 4 ways to pay:  
1. In the secure online payment system ParentPay, using the login already provided, go to [redacted]  
2. Using the PayPoint card provided or the barcode on the bottom of this letter in a local store  
3. BACS transfer to A/C: [redacted] sort code: [redacted]  
4. Cheque payable to [redacted]  
No matter how you pay you can check the account balance anytime by logging into your ParentPay account at [redacted]  
If you have any concerns or questions regarding this matter, please contact the school office immediately, otherwise we will expect your remittance.  
Please be aware that if the debt is not cleared further action will be taken to recover the debt.  
Yours sincerely  
Principal [redacted]  
Ref [redacted]

Dickson E, Rosen R and Sorinmade K (2022) Hunger or indebtedness? Enforcing migrant destitution, racializing debt. In: Bourne C, Gilbert P, Haiven M, et al. (eds) The Entangled Legacies of Empire: Race, Finance & Inequality. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

“each time I was having the school meals they were putting debt on my mum, keep adding debt what she needs to pay, and by the time you know it, they had her in thousands of pounds in debt – the last one I saw was one hundred and twenty pounds. Me and my mum we were really scared because we were so worried – ‘how is my mum going to pay this money’ – we didn’t have anything then, we were just living our lives”

Young person involved in NELMA’s campaign for free school meals

Dear Department of Education,

Children should  
not go hungry  
because of their  
parents immigration  
status!

We need free school meals!

Left out at lunch :(  
Free school meals for  
everyone who needs them!



[nelmacampaigns.wordpress.com](http://nelmacampaigns.wordpress.com)  
facebook: [nelmacampaigns](https://www.facebook.com/nelmacampaigns)  
twitter: [@nelmacampaigns](https://twitter.com/nelmacampaigns)



NELMA Free School Meals  
campaign postcard

## 6. Applications made in the UK

Fees category	Current Fee	New fee from 20 February 2020	Fee Change
Indefinite leave to remain	£2,389	£2,389	£0
Leave to remain - Other	£1,033	£1,033	£0
Leave to enter for persons in the UK who are liable to immigration detention	£1,033	£1,033	£0
Visitor Extension main applicant & all dependants	£993	£993	£0
Transfer of Conditions (TOC) or Application for a document confirming identity and immigration or nationality status - limited leave to remain	£161	£161	£0
TOC or Application for a document confirming identity and immigration or nationality status - indefinite leave to remain	£229	£229	£0

**Per Person costs  
/ 2.5 years**

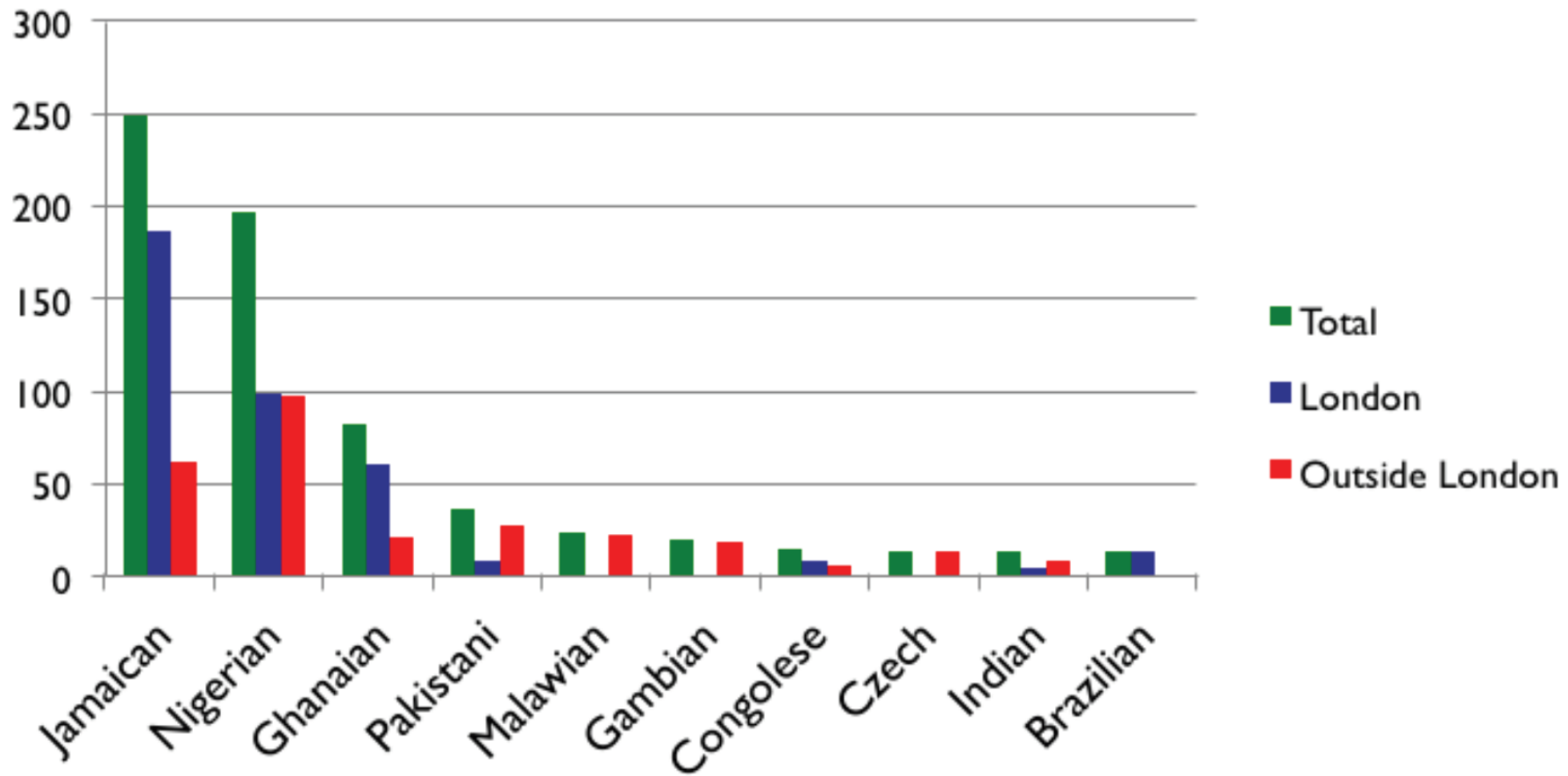
We recommend that its scope include:

1. The current eligibility thresholds for Free School Meals. The Government should seek to ensure disadvantaged children are not excluded from Free School Meal eligibility (in line with National Food Strategy recommendations) and to work with the Devolved Administrations to eliminate disparities between the nations. Current estimates show 2 in 5 UK children under the poverty line are missing out. **The ongoing eligibility for children with No Recourse to Public Funds should be addressed explicitly.**

<https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/For-the-Attention-of-PM-Boris-Johnson-pdf.pdf>

14th January 2021

Figure 9 – Families by nationality of parent (principal immigration applicant)



N = 869

Blog

# Home Office in the media

Organisations: [Home Office](#)

## No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

[Home Office news team](#), 5 May 2020 - [Fact sheet](#)



There has been some reporting in the media recently of the Government's policy on no recourse to public funds (NRPF) in response to the coronavirus outbreak

"We have also temporarily extended the eligibility criteria for [free school meals](#) to support some families with no recourse to public funds, in recognition of the difficulties they may be facing during these unique circumstances."

stones, rebuttal to ministeri  
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## CALL FOR PERMANENT EXTENSION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR DISADVANTAGED MIGRANT CHILDREN



Derren Hayes

Friday, August 14, 2020

Leaders of children's charities, unions and rights groups have written to Education Secretary Gavin Williamson calling on him to permanently extend free school meals to pupils from low-income migrant families with no recourse to public funds.



<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/call-for-permanent-extension-of-free-school-meals-for-disadvantaged-migrant-children>



[School students and educators protest outside Downing Street against the government decision not to extend free school meals during half term and the Christmas holidays](#) Credit: Guy Smallman/Getty Images