



**DR ROSENA ALLIN-KHAN MP**  
HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Maisie Jennings  
Chestnut Grove Academy  
45 Chestnut Grove  
SW12 8JZ

Our Ref: RA7513

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Dear Maisie,

**Re: Period Poverty**

I am glad that yourself and the Equality and Feminist club at Chestnut Grove took the time to me recently regarding period poverty.

I share your concerns that women and girls across our country are struggling to afford adequate sanitary provision, which in turn impacts their health, hygiene and livelihood. A survey conducted by the children's charity Plan International UK found that one in 10 girls have been unable to afford sanitary products and almost half had missed an entire day of school because of their period.

There have even been cases where schoolgirls have had to improvise sanitary protection because their families cannot afford it due to poverty pay and welfare cuts. Low income families should not have the additional burden of struggling to afford sanitary products.

The Government believes that it is a matter for schools to decide whether to make sanitary products available for their existing budgets. I take the view that as well as giving our schools the resources they need, we must ensure they give every child the support they deserve. All our pupils deserve a good quality of life, so I believe resources should be allocated from the Department for Education's budget to end the scandal of period poverty in schools.

All women, regardless of age, social status or background, should be able to easily access the sanitary products they need. I believe that funding should be provided for free sanitary products for secondary schools, foodbanks and homeless shelters. I would also like the Government to announce a clear timetable for abolishing VAT on sanitary items altogether.



**Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP**

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I also agree that education is key if we want tackle this problem, and think that age-appropriate sex and relationship education should be a compulsory part of the curriculum so that our young people are properly informed.

Thank you once again for writing to me and for sharing your views.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP  
Member of Parliament for Tooting

