**A LIFE WORTH LIVING**

1999, Labour Chancellor Gordon Brown, recognised that for many older people, television was a multi-faceted lifeline, vital to their well-being. He elected to make TV licenses free for those 75 and over.

Today’s Government have seen fit to disregard this lifeline, for our older and most vulnerable citizens removing free licenses telling the BBC it’s up to them to provide them.

Active Wales has stated, this is a deeply sad situation that lies firmly at the door of the Government, as it has done since 1999, not the BBC as many people think.

Many of our members are disabled, housebound and live alone. One member said:

“Television is the only thing that keeps us in touch with life, gives us something to look forward to, and keeps us sane”

Another member, a widow in her early 80’s, stated that television was the only form of pleasure she had left in life, this government were making her life not worth living”

Many of this age group are housebound, live on their own, and have little, if any, company. The State Pension is meagre, and many of our members live in poverty, unable to afford to heat their houses, unwilling to go in to debt.

Treasurer of Active Wales, John Vincent said:

“The 1997 Government set up the free TV licenses for 75 year olds, it was a small token, a drop in the ocean, but at least it showed some respect for older people’s needs. To take it away now, shows greater disrespect and disregard at a time when older people are already vulnerable, it’s a disgrace and we should not accept it”

Age UK have set up a petition to save free TV for older people which you can sign by clicking on the link below.

[SIGN THE PETITION HERE](https://campaigns.ageuk.org.uk/page/34266/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=1unr39mb4wgod-CUGlA)

Active Wales calls on this UK Government to make a compassionate judgement, to reverse their decision to remove free TV licenses for this age group. Additionally, to extend the policy to all people of pension age.