

Proposal to church council asking for the church to support the CAN Bill

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From

Proposal:

- That our church supports [Zero Hour's campaign for the Climate and Nature Bill](#) by
 - Signing up as a church as a supporter of the CAN Bill
 - Asking our [new] MP to sign up as a supporter of the CAN Bill
 - Informing the church family we have done this and encourage them to consider signing as individuals

Why should our church get involved?

The decisions that will be taken by this government will be critical for the future of planet and people.

- We are called to love our neighbour (Mark 12:31)
- We are called to seek justice (Isaiah 1:17)
- We pray as Jesus taught us "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10)
- If we take this seriously we must do what we can to have government that acts for the common good and to safeguard our common home - our faith must be accompanied by action (James 2:17).

Our involvement in the political sphere, including elections, demonstrations and lobbying, are an expression of our faithfully seeking God's kingdom on earth. By participating in the political process we bring a vision rooted in Godly values to a world which desperately needs this wisdom as it grapples with this deepest of crises.

In the context of unchecked climate and environmental degradation, participation of our church congregations in the holding to account of our elected representatives should be seen as an act of stewardship, integral to our charge to care for the gift of God's creation, and encouraged as a courageous witness to our faith in the face a national rhetoric that is making the exercise of this stewardship a space of self-interest, deliberate division and misinformation.

The world is crying out for courageous moral leadership at this time. This is the job of the church. It is to call for what is right from those we have elected to represent us - that the UK might demonstrate genuine climate leadership in taking meaningful action commensurate with the unfolding emergencies.

Why support the Climate and Nature Bill?

The Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill commits the Government to doing the UK's fair share to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees and preserving our ecological landscape. Support for this science-based and truth-telling legislation will demonstrate public and political support for urgent action.

The Climate and Nature Bill would:

1. Provide a clear, joined-up plan—as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, requiring a plan that considers both together.
2. Reduce UK emissions in line with the Paris Agreement—ensuring that UK emissions are reduced rapidly, for the best chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C.
3. Halt and reverse the decline in nature—setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030, as agreed at COP15.
4. Ensure that the UK takes responsibility for our overseas footprint—both emissions and ecological.
5. Involve the public—giving people a say in finding a fair way forward through a 'climate and nature assembly'.

[Read more about the Climate and Nature Bill here](#)

We live in a democracy where our leaders are elected to serve the interests of their constituents. Our [new] MP needs a powerful mandate to back the CAN Bill in Parliament.

Concluding thoughts

We are the ones who know who created and loves this beautiful earth and its inhabitants, human and non-human. The church should be leading the environmental movement, way out in front. Having our logo on Zero Hour's web page is a good way to do that, and it will encourage others, churches, Christians and non-Christians to sign up as well.

We would be very happy to hold a meeting to discuss this if needed.

August 2024