
Freedom

Questions to ask

- Are you aware that Christians have lost their jobs for expressing their faith in the workplace? What steps would you take in response?
- How would you protect the freedom of Christian parents to raise their children in line with their faith?
- Should we give foreign aid to countries that persecute Christians?

Family

Questions to ask

- How should government promote lifelong marriage of a man and a woman as the normal basis for family?
- Should people be forced to recognise others' self-defined gender identity in all circumstances?
- Will you back parents' freedom to determine what their children are taught about relationships and sex?
- Should websites be held responsible for showing children pornography?

Life

Questions to ask

- How do you support the rights of unborn children to live rather than be destroyed through abortion, embryology or IVF?
- Should prayer or protest about abortion be allowed in public?
- Would you support a law to ban sex-selective abortion?
- What will you do to prevent the legalisation of assisted suicide?

Christianity

Questions to ask

- What is your opinion of Jesus Christ and his teachings?
- What role does Christianity have to play in today's society?
- How would you stop discrimination against women through sharia law being practised in the UK?
- What code of conduct would restore the link between the public and private morals of MPs?

How to use this guide

- Read through the leaflet so that you're familiar with the key issues and ready to engage.
- When you meet a candidate on the doorstep or you're at a hustings, use some of the suggested questions.
- Use the material inside the leaflet to back up your points and explain clearly what you want to see.
- Keep this leaflet by your front door or on your person so that you have it when you need it.

What else you can do?

Don't wait for the candidates to come to you. Find out details about your candidates at: www.whocanivotefor.co.uk

If you've found this useful, please help your family, friends and church get involved by sharing it with them.

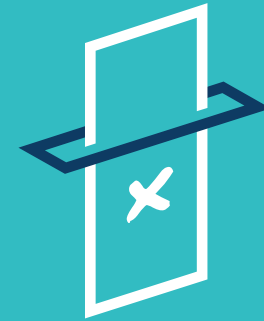
Find more resources to read, watch or download at: www.christianconcern.com/election

Why get involved?

The election campaign is an excellent opportunity to testify to God's pattern for humanity and power for salvation. It's compassionate to speak up. It flows from our love for God and love for neighbour.

How you use your voice is at least as important as how you vote.

There are certain issues that quickly reveal whether a society recognises or rejects the reality that **we are made in God's image**. It is vital that Christians speak out on them, even if others want to bury them.



THE
POWER
OF THE
CROSS

General Election 2019 Good Question Guide

www.christianconcern.com/election

020 3327 1135

'The Power of the Cross' is an initiative of:

Christian Concern

Freedom

'That we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness'
(1 Tim 2:2)

Christians are eager to be good citizens and to be active in serving society. But that means being faithful to Jesus Christ not just in private but in public, including our workplaces and in our community service. We want to be free to live according to biblical belief and behaviour both so that we can honour Jesus and so that we can share the good news about him with others.

- The freedom to live and speak for Jesus Christ is under increasing threat in the UK. Read examples at: www.christianconcern.com/cases
- Research by the Equality and Human Rights Commission has highlighted the scale and diversity of challenges experienced by Christians.
- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe called on member states to protect Christian freedoms and practise 'reasonable accommodation'.

We need to see:

- Better legal protection for freedom of conscience and the manifestation of Christian faith - at the very least we need to see 'reasonable accommodation' adopted.
- Explicit legal protection publicly to disagree with, disapprove of, and critique worldviews, beliefs and lifestyles, without falling foul of hate crime, public order, human rights or equality legislation.
- Funding to countries that actively persecute Christians cut.

Family

'Male and female, he created them'
(Gen 1:27)

God created the family as the bedrock of society and for the good of all. It is a vital context for imparting values and learning relational behaviour.

Family flows from marriage – the life-long, exclusive union of one man and one woman. Marriage is also a picture of God's relationship with humanity.

A society rejects these vital building blocks at its peril.

- God's pattern for family has been gradually dismantled as the norm in the UK, with disastrous consequences. Parliament has recently forced 'same-sex marriage' on Northern Ireland and supported 'no-reason divorce'.
- A 15-year-old is now more likely to have a smartphone (62%) than to have a father in the house (57%).¹
- Family failure cost the public purse £51bn in 2018², not counting the psychological, relational, and spiritual costs.
- Gender confusion has spread rapidly, with child referrals to gender clinics increasing thirtyfold since 2009.

We need to see:

- The government promote and support the normal pattern of family (including one man, one woman marriage) in policy.
- The strengthening of divorce law against 'no-fault' divorce.
- A tax system that encourages and supports marriage.
- The protection of parent's freedom to raise their children in line with Christian belief and behaviour - including by removing their children from RSE lessons.
- Policies that protect children from transgender ideology.

Life

'In the image of God, he created them'
(Gen 1:27)

Every human person is created by God and loved by Him. The gift of life is our most precious 'possession' and protecting it is a primary role of government.

Our value isn't ultimately derived from what we can contribute but because we are created. How we treat the most vulnerable in our society speaks volumes about what we really treasure.

- Around 1 in 5 pregnancies now end in abortion - that's about 200,000 abortions each year. Even more tiny lives are destroyed through IVF and embryological research.
- Parliament recently voted to force Northern Ireland to relax its abortion laws that had saved over 100,000 lives.
- Campaigners have pushed for the introduction of 'buffer zones' preventing pro-life witness near abortion centres.
- Pressure to legalise assisted suicide continues. The issue is likely to be debated in the next parliament.

We need to see:

- An end to abortion and an end to the destruction of tiny human lives through IVF and embryological research.
- The freedom to peacefully pray or protest in public and near abortion centres.
- A new law to prohibit abortion on the grounds of gender and to equalise the upper time limit for abortions of disabled and non-disabled babies.
- Continuation of the ban on assisted suicide.

Christianity

'The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being'
(Heb 1:3)

Jesus Christ has had a greater and more positive effect on our society than any other person.

Our laws, language and culture, our art and science and the rise of social institutions including welfare, healthcare, education and government, all owe much to the influence of the Christian gospel.

- Christians and churches continue to contribute significantly to society. Research valued the contribution of churches to social action in 2014 at £3.5bn.³ That's before considering the work of individual Christians or Christian charities.
- Catholic adoption agencies have been forced to close because they wouldn't compromise their ethos.
- The widespread use of sharia courts has undermined the principle of one law for all and discriminated against women who are in unregistered sharia marriages.

We need to see:

- A new confidence in the value and relevance of Britain's Christian heritage and appropriate teaching in schools.
- Better protection of the freedom of Christian churches, charities and schools to serve their communities without compromising their Christian identity.
- Continuation of Christian acts of worship in schools.
- Legislation to require the registration of all religious marriages.