

Countering Political Extremism Resources

Statements from churches national and locally on political extremism

Churches have unequivocally rejected the message of political parties as being contrary to God's love and have encouraged Christians to vote accordingly.

The Methodist Church

“reject any political parties that attempt to stir up racial and religious hatred and fear of asylum seekers”

This resource has been produced by the Joint Public Issues Team (the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church). For more information and resources, visit: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

In February 2004, the Methodist Church:

1. Affirms that the Methodist Church is open to all in its worship, fellowship and service to the community. The policies and practices of those who promote racism and religious intolerance are incompatible with the Methodist Church's social witness, biblical teaching and our understanding of the love of God for all people.
2. Encourages people to vote in local, national and European elections. While not endorsing any particular political party, we urge people not to vote for candidates who promote racist policies.
3. Expects members of the Methodist Church to practise and promote racial justice and inclusion, and reject any political parties that attempt to stir up racial and religious hatred and fear of asylum seekers.

The United Reformed Church

“we affirm that membership or any form of support for organisations such as the British National Party is incompatible with Christian discipleship”

Mission Council notes with concern the rise in many European countries of extreme right-wing and racist political parties. While we accept that such parties are entitled to operate within the democratic process we believe it is vital that they do not become accepted as part of normal political life. Within Britain we affirm that membership or any form of support for organizations such as the British National Party is incompatible with Christian discipleship.

As a Church we celebrate our increasing number of multi-ethnic congregations. In advance of the forthcoming local

and European elections we call upon all local churches to continue to practise and promote racial justice and inclusion.

We call upon local churches to encourage voting during the local and European election in the light of these principles.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain

“Believes that policies and practices of those who promote racism and religious intolerance are incompatible with biblical teaching and our understanding of the nature of God as revealed in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ”

Notes with concern the rise of political extremism and the presence of racist parties operating within the political life of this country.

Believes that the policies and practices of those who promote racism and religious intolerance are incompatible with biblical teaching and our understanding of the nature of God as revealed in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Encourages full voting participation in local, national and European elections, but urges people not to vote for candidates who promote, give assent to, or are associated with racist policies.

Calls upon churches in membership with BUGB to practice and promote racial justice and inclusion, and reject any political parties that attempt to stir up racial and religious hatred, and fear of asylum seekers and migrant workers.

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Produced by the Joint Public Issues Team

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

To give feedback or ask any questions on this resource please email
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The Church of Scotland

