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“The central question at issue, then, is this: where is the ethical foundation for political choices to be found? The Catholic tradition maintains that the objective norms governing right action are accessible to reason, prescinding from the content of revelation.

According to this understanding, the role of religion in political debate is not so much to supply these norms, as if they could not be known by non-believers – still less to propose concrete political solutions, which would lie altogether outside the competence of religion – but rather to help purify and shed light upon the application of reason to the discovery of objective moral principles. This “corrective” role of religion vis-à-vis reason is not always welcomed, though, partly because distorted forms of religion, such as sectarianism and fundamentalism, can be seen to create serious social problems themselves. And in their turn, these distortions of religion arise when insufficient attention is given to the purifying and structuring role of reason within religion, it is a two-way process.

Without the corrective supplied by religion, reason too can fall prey to distortions, as when it is manipulated by ideology, or applied in a partial way that fails to take full account of the dignity of the human person. Such misuse of reason, after all, was what gave rise to the slave trade in the first place and to many other social evils, not least the totalitarian ideologies of the twentieth century.

This is why I would suggest that the world of reason and the world of faith – the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief – need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilization.” Address given at Westminster Hall, 17/09/10

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St Thomas More (1478-1535)
Patron of The Catholic Union of Great Britain

Catholic Union Charitable Trust

The Catholic Union Charitable Trust (CUCT) was launched in 2015 to develop and strengthen the role of advancing Catholic moral and spiritual principles by means of educational conferences, lectures, training, seminars and by the implementation of a social media strategy.

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Putting the Catholic view in the Public Square

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

attributed to Edmund Burke (1729-1797)
Statesman and Member of Parliament



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“No one can demand that religion should be relegated to the inner sanctum of personal life, without influence on societal and national life, without concern for the soundness of civil institutions, without a right to offer an opinion on events affecting society. Who would claim to lock up in a church and silence the message of Saint Francis of Assisi or Blessed Teresa of Calcutta? They themselves would have found this unacceptable.” (24/11/13, no. 183)

“We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.” (16/9/13, Meditation)

The Catholic Union of Great Britain

The Catholic Union of Great Britain (CUGB) was founded in 1870. The CUGB has been the consistent voice of the laity working to promote and develop the values of Catholic social teaching and speaking out on issues that affect Catholics. It works with the Bishops’ Conference and Parliament. This is to ensure that our values and interests are presented to key decision makers who determine legislation and social policy. We also work to promote the common good in public life. It is vital that the Catholic voice continues to be proclaimed in public. We liaise with the wider Christian community on issues of common interest. Funding is through donations and annual or life membership subscription.

The Union’s Role

The Catholic Union enjoys consultative status to the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. It influences the changing nature of the Parliamentary world where the Government itself relies on the recommendations of expert Commissions, which in turn take public or invited evidence and advice.

With wide expertise in different disciplines, the Union has been able to make effective criticisms and representations to Government in many areas.

It has specialists on its Parliamentary and Public Affairs Committee and it also has representatives in the field of bio-ethics with the Catholic Medical Association with whom it has a Joint Medical Ethics Committee.

Our Objectives

- The Catholic Union is the leading lay organisation in Great Britain whose primary objective is to champion the spiritual, moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church in the public sphere. It is the established voice of lay Catholics in this country.
- The Catholic Union seeks to speak out on issues that may affect the freedom of Catholics to live according to their consciences.
- The Catholic Union also seeks to uphold a Christian standpoint in public life, through representations to Parliament, Government bodies and the media.

Will you join us?

We are seeking new members from every parish in England and Wales and in Scotland.

Please join us today to continue to enable the Catholic voice be heard in our Parliament.

- An annual Summer Gathering is held at places of historical interest to Catholics.
- The AGM and Reception is held in London in November.
- Members are invited to Catholic Union lectures and conferences.
- Members receive regular newsletters and Parliamentary updates.
- Benefactors are invited to a special annual event.

You can also join online at catholicunion.org.uk

Membership Application The Catholic Union of Great Britain

Please tick all which apply and kindly complete the form in BLOCK CAPITALS

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 Single £300 Joint £400 Benefactor £2,500

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 63 Jeddo Road, London W12 9EE.
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