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Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

Sent by email only.

02 March 2022

Dear Secretary of State

**Re: Role of faith groups in levelling up**

I'm writing to you following the publication of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper to highlight the importance of working with faith groups.

As you may know, the Catholic Union is a membership organisation, which represents the views and interests of 4.5 million Catholics in Britain.

There is much in the White Paper to welcome, and the Catholic Union certainly supports the overall objectives of helping people live longer and more fulfilled lives and raising living standards and well-being across the United Kingdom.

As you mention in your foreword to the White Paper, the objectives of levelling up are not just social and economic, there is a moral dimension to this work as well.

The Catholic Church, and faith groups in general, have the potential to contribute a great deal to levelling up – indeed faith groups are critical to much of what the Government is seeking to achieve.

It was therefore disappointing to see just one brief mention of faith groups in the Levelling Up White Paper, especially as your Department leads on the Government's faith engagement work.

I wrote to you on 21 September last year to welcome your appointment as Secretary of State and ask for an update on when the Government's Independent Faith Engagement Review would be published.

The Levelling Up White Paper would have been a good opportunity to have taken forward recommendations from this review for improving engagement with faith groups. I hope this work has not become side-lined, a concern which I raised in my letter to you last year.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss how faith groups can contribute the Government's levelling up agenda if this would be helpful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Nigel Parker**  
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