



The Voice of Catholics in Public Life

General Election 2024: the Catholic Union's guide for candidates and voters

1. Care for vulnerable people

"Amid the daily concerns of political life, the smallest, the weakest, the poorest should touch our hearts: indeed, they have a 'right' to appeal to our heart and soul." Fratelli tutti (Pope Francis), 2020

Ask your parliamentary candidates if they will...

- work towards eradicating rough sleeping and homelessness
- help end the use of temporary accommodation for vulnerable families
- treat those seeking asylum in this country with compassion
- support the return of international aid spending to 0.7% of GDP
- uphold the UK's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals
- give care and compassion for those who can't always be heard.

2. Religious freedom

"...the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits." Dignitatis humanae (Pope Paul VI), 1965

Ask your parliamentary candidates if they will...

- be a voice for persecuted Christians around the world
- support the work of the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief
- uphold legal protections for freedom of religion and belief
- commit not to support church closures during any future pandemic
- help make workplaces more inclusive for people of faith.

3. Family Life

"The well-being of the individual person and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family." Gaudium et Spes (Pope Paul VI), 1965

Ask your parliamentary candidates if they will...

- recognise families as the basis for society
- uphold the recommendations of the Cass Review
- work towards a fairer tax system for families
- support lifting the two-child cap on benefits
- help increase the supply of genuinely affordable homes.

4. Education

"For a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which, as man, he is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, he will share." Gravissimum educationis (Pope Paul VI), 1965

Ask your parliamentary candidates if they will...

- support faith schools
- help new Catholic free schools to open where there is demand
- recognise and uphold parent choice in RSHE education
- champion free speech on university and college campuses
- ensure teachers and lecturers are properly paid and supported.

5. Dignity of Life

"Life is the first good received from God and is fundamental to all others; to guarantee the right to life for all and in an equal manner for all is the duty upon which the future of humanity depends." Address to the Pontifical Academy for Life (Pope Benedict XVI), 2007

Ask your parliamentary candidates if they will...

- oppose attempts to introduce assisted suicide
- support the creation of a Palliative Care Strategy
- resist attempts to weaken safeguards for abortions
- uphold the right to private prayer in all places
- help improve maternity services and early years support.

