

Archbishops' Commission
on
Families and Households
CALL FOR EVIDENCE



Launch Date: 11th October 2021

Respond by: 19th November 2021

About the Commission

What is the Archbishops' Commission on Families & Households?

In March 2021, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York established a Commission on Families & Households. The origin of this Commission lies in Archbishop Justin Welby's 2018 book 'Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope'. Building on a key chapter 'Family – caring for the core', the Commission aims to articulate and address the pressures and challenges facing families and households, drawing on Christian theology and tradition, whilst also highlighting the good and the positive in terms of what works well and how that can be built on.

What is the intended output from the Commission?

The Commission is committed to publishing its final report in November 2022.

Does the Commission have more than one aim?

The overarching aim is to offer practical and deliverable recommendations and ideas on what enables all families and households to thrive and prosper as the cornerstone of every community in our society. In particular, the Commission will consider the enormous and far-reaching impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on families and households.

The aims are:

1. To articulate and address the pressures and challenges facing families and households, whilst also highlighting the good and the positive in terms of what works well and how that can be built on, drawing on Christian tradition. Families and households will be considered in the diverse variations in which they exist today.
2. To offer practical and deliverable ideas on what enables families and households to flourish as the 'fundamental nuclei' or the cornerstones of every community in our society.
3. To make proposals to shape the trajectory of public policy relating to families and households across all government departments.
4. To look at what actions the Church of England could take, on its own or in partnership with others, to help support families and households, and to explore radical new pathways that contribute to family and human flourishing.

Who is on the Commission?

The following are the twelve members of the Commission, each of whom brings significant expertise and personal experience. Their biographies can be found on the Commission website [here](#).

Chair: Professor Janet Walker OBE	Co-Chair: Rt Revd. Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham
Professor Kwame Akuffo OBE JP	Dr Krish Kandiah
Dez Brown	Dr Carole Kaplan
David French	Dr Elaine Storkey
Revd. Dr Julie Gittoes	Dr Sarah C Williams
Esther Gregory-Witham	Ex-Officio Member of the Commission: Andrew Selous MP, Second Church Estates Commissioner
Rt Revd. Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Doncaster	

The Commissioners are supported by a designated Secretariat and a small group of independent Expert Advisers.



About the Call for Evidence

What is the Call for Evidence?

This is a formal engagement exercise which is an important stage in the work of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households, designed to gather factual evidence, lived experiences and information to shape the gathering of further evidence via round table discussions, focus groups and in-depth interviews, and to contribute to the findings in a published report.

This is the first specific piece of engagement for the Commission's work and forms the start of an ongoing conversation.

Who do you want to hear from?

In order to understand the immense social, cultural and economic changes that shape our lives today, and to develop a shared understanding, the Commission wishes to listen to and hear from as broad a range of people as possible: individuals and members of the general public from all walks of life, aged 18 and over, and different groups and organisations. We welcome responses from people from different faith backgrounds and those with no faith, whose lived experiences can provide the rich understanding of everyday life.

We are issuing two separate calls for evidence: this first one invites adults aged 18 and over to contribute. The second, which will follow at a later date, will specifically invite young people aged under 18 to contribute their experiences and ideas. Organisations and all those groups working with individuals and families are invited to contribute to both Calls for Evidence as appropriate.

What do you want to learn/hear about?

The Commission has four key themes that it wants to explore:

1. The theology underpinning our understanding of family life and relationships – exploring the learning and relevant debates in Christian and other faith traditions that can guide policy-making to enable families and households to flourish.
2. The social history of families and households - exploring the changing nature and diversity of family life and household composition, taking account of singleness, lone-parent households, and extended family and community living arrangements.
3. Children and young people – exploring how children and young people can flourish and meet their potential within stable, supportive loving homes.
4. Couple relationships – exploring ways to build and sustain strong couple relationships of all kinds, and the support needed to strengthen marriage and civil partnerships and to reduce conflict in families and households.

There are specific questions on all four themes.

What are the deadlines for responding?

The closing date for written submissions of evidence is 19th November 2021



How do I provide my evidence?

Please provide written evidence using the online survey at the link below or by completing a hard copy and returning to the Commission's Secretariat.

Call for Evidence link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Familieshouseholds>

Contact Information

Email: familiesandhouseholds@lambethpalace.org.uk

Write: Call for Evidence – Secretariat
Families & Households Commission
Lambeth Palace
London SE1 7JU

What happens next?

Between October and June 2022, the Commission will be conducting visits, in-depth interviews, round-table discussions and focus groups, and holding a series of evidence days based on the four themes. Additional insights, case-studies, research findings and analysis will be considered alongside other evidence and examples of good practice to assemble as detailed and broad a picture as possible. In the Call for Evidence we ask if you are willing for us to contact you to tell you about our activities and to invite you to attend.

FAQs

I am not a Christian, can I respond?

Absolutely, we welcome responses from individuals and organisations of all faiths, and those who have no faith.

What will you do with my evidence? Will you be quoting me, or can I submit anonymously?

You will see on the response form that you have a number of options with regard to how the Commission may use your evidence. We ask for your permission to quote from your responses and to attribute these, or you can choose to provide the information anonymously if you wish.

What are your privacy principles?

We take your privacy seriously and any information you provide will not be passed to any further parties for other purposes. Personal information will be subject to GDPR regulations and will never be shared outside the Commission. You can find details about the privacy policy [here](#).

When will the report be published?

The final report is due to be published in November 2022

