

Notice of Motion 2021/201: Methodist Homes (MHA)

The Conference acknowledges and celebrates Methodist Homes (MHA) contribution to the care of older people during the pandemic. MHA delivers high quality care homes, retirement living and community services to enable people to live later life well. From the outset of the pandemic, MHA was affected by staff and resident illnesses, and very sadly a significant number of deaths. At this time of crisis, the charity was having to secure its own personal protective equipment (PPE) for its staff, fight for testing for residents and staff, and deal with the debacle around people being sent out from hospitals to care homes without testing. Sadly, the pandemic was often seen through the prism of graphs and numbers but not so at MHA. The staff rose to the challenge, becoming friends and family of the residents, providing comfort and support during the darkest periods when families were not able to visit. The role played by MHA chaplains supporting residents, their relatives and staff was particularly valued. In keeping with good employment practices MHA has instituted a programme of wellbeing for staff who have had to live through the most harrowing experiences, who comforted residents who were suffering and dying.

The Conference welcomes the action of MHA in speaking out and publicising the enormity of the challenges faced by care providers, and the failure of Government to offer adequate support and protection.

The Conference notes that the charity continues to speak out, as a voice for the care sector, for the long-promised changes to the social care system and has launched its campaign #FixCareForAll# (www.mha.org.uk/action) based on a five-point plan.

1. A new fully resourced system that ensures a fair price for care.
2. A national workforce strategy that values people and supports the recruitment, retention and development of staff
3. Transparency and accountability to ensure investment in the sector is spent on enhancing the quality of care, delivered through financial regulation
4. Models of care that are co-produced and co-designed with older people and the sector
5. Seamless pathways and collaboration between health and social care, focused on holistic care when and in the way people need it

The Conference urges the Methodist people to hold MHA in prayer and support its campaign by writing to their MPs and asks that the President and the Vice-President write in support of the MHA campaign to the Prime Minister.

Proposed: The Revd Dr Keith R Albans

Seconded: Mr Bala Gnanapragasam

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. The Revd Charity Nzegwu | 5. The Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson |
| 2. The Revd Nigel Cowgill | 6. The Revd Catherine H Bird |
| 3. Dr Daleep S Mukarji | 7. The Revd Delyth A Liddell |
| 4. The Revd David I H Hardman | 8. The Revd Ian S Rutherford |

Budgetary implications

No direct budgetary implications can be foreseen at this time.

Notice of Motion 2021/202: Myanmar

The Conference expresses its alarm and dismay at the violence in Myanmar being perpetrated by the military against its own citizens. We grieve with those whose loved ones have been killed or injured and those who have lost their homes, villages, churches, and livelihoods. We express our deep concern for those who live daily with fear, and we share their anxiety over the potential for wider civil conflict.

We note the correspondence of the Presidency to our partners in the region immediately after the military takeover assuring them of our prayers. We ask Methodists and others to continue in fervent prayer for a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict and a return to stability under a truly representative government. We continue to pray for those working for peace and for wise and effective responses on the part of ASEAN states and the international community. We encourage our congregations to make efforts to keep themselves and their communities informed of the situation.

Proposed: The Revd Dr Bonni-Belle F Pickard

Seconded: The Revd Melinda T Bell

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. Ms M Anne Haggarty | 5. The Revd Christopher J Collins |
| 2. The Revd Rosemary J Fletcher | 6. The Revd Revd Dr Karl A Rutledge |
| 3. Mrs Shelagh Morgan | 7. The Revd Daniel J Balsdon |
| 4. The Revd Eleanor G Jackson | 8. |

Budgetary implications

No direct budgetary implications can be foreseen at this time.

Notice of Motion 2021/203: Foreign Aid

The Conference notes with concern the UK Government's cut to the foreign aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of Gross National Income. As a justice-seeking church, we believe that it is right that richer nations financially support initiatives to tackle global poverty, address injustices, and encourage sustainable development. Methodists were highly active in the 2005 *Make Poverty History* campaign and the Conference is disappointed that its aims still have not been adequately met. COVID-19 has highlighted the world's inequalities and therefore this is not the time for the government to be cutting an aid programme which has in previous years been assessed to be of high quality.

Under the UK Government's plans, overseas aid spending has been reduced from 0.7 per cent to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI), meaning the international development budget has fallen by around a third, from £15.2 billion in 2019 to around £10 billion in 2021. The 0.7 per cent target had been met every year since 2013, enshrined in law since 2015, and was a commitment of all the main political parties at the last General Election. As a justice-seeking church we believe that this is simply inappropriate and Christians must speak out about this.

The World Health Organisation has claimed that this budget cut will put the poorest countries at risk of "neglected tropical diseases" with tens of thousands likely to die as a result. The Conference thanks the Revd Richard Teal and Mrs Carolyn Lawrence for signing letters on our behalf on this, and for the work of JPIT on this and many issues.

It resolves that:

- 1 That a letter be sent from the Conference to the Prime Minister and to the Foreign Secretary requesting an urgent reversal of this policy on the grounds of justice and human rights.**
- 2 That all Methodist societies be requested to contact their MPs as a body.**

3 That all Methodist members are encouraged to write to their MPs to oppose these cuts.(The latest information and a template letter are offered at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/aid)

Proposed: Mr James D Blackhall

Seconded: Miss Margaret Greer

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Deacon Jennifer A J Jones
2. The Revd Catherine H Bird
3. The Revd Rosemary J Fletcher
4. Mr Balachandren Gnanapragasm
5. Mr Dudley Coates
6. Mr Samuel Ebden
7. Mr Steve Rogers
8. Mr James T Carver

Budgetary implications

No direct budgetary implications can be foreseen at this time.

Notice of Motion 2021/204 – Immigration

The Sovereign Borders Bill will be brought to the UK Parliament in July 2021, the UK Government having released their New Plan for Immigration which introduces a new ‘two-tier’ system for how we treat people fleeing persecution and conflict. Many of the measures outlined risk creating more injustices in the UK’s asylum system which will increase the trauma and pain experienced by asylum seekers attempting to reach safety in the UK.

They also undermine our obligations under international law. July 2021 will mark the 70th anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention, which specified the rights of refugees and the responsibilities of governments to offer sanctuary. However, the UK Government’s proposals are at risk of contradicting the important standards set by the UN Refugee Convention. Ahead of the Convention’s 70th anniversary next month, it is more important than ever that we recognise and champion the rights and dignity of people fleeing persecution and conflict.

The Methodist Church joined “Together with Refugees” (<https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk>) in May 2021. As part of this new coalition, we have committed to recognise that how we treat refugees reflects who we are. The hostility with which the government’s new plans propose to treat refugees contradicts our commitment to uphold the dignity of all people. As a Church which is committed to a biblical imperative of welcoming the stranger, we cannot tolerate policies which risk creating conditions which contradict this calling. As a Church which seeks to offer sanctuary, witness to God’s love and stand for justice, we must speak up for human dignity and flourishing.

The Conference

- (i) Requests the President and Vice-President to write to the Home Secretary to highlight the potential injustices of the two-tier system, the obligations under international law and the need for human dignity and flourishing to be upheld
- (ii) Commends the initiatives being progressed by “Together with Refugees” and the Joint Public Issues Team
- (iii) Encourages churches, circuits and districts to engage with local MPs on these issues as the Sovereign Borders Bill makes its way through Parliament

Proposed: The Revd Ian S Rutherford

Seconded: The Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Mrs Karen L Attaway
2. The Revd Rory J Dalgliesh
3. Mr Bala Gnanapragasam
4. Mrs Elizabeth J Hudson
5. The Revd David I H Hardman
6. Mr Steve Rogers
7. Mr James D Blackhall
8. The Revd Catherine H Bird

Budgetary implications

No direct budgetary implications can be foreseen at this time.

Notice of Motion 2021/205: COP26

On 14 June 2021 the Young Christian Climate Network's relay to COP26 left the G8 Meeting in Cornwall to start its journey to Glasgow where COP 26 is taking place in November 2021.

COP26 workers based all over the world (including those based in the UK - James Appleby and Mollie Pugmire) have done great work in bringing issues of climate justice to the attention of governments and the media in the run-up to the event.

There is a strong call from young people to engage with climate justice and to address the issue of loss and damage, not least from the Youth President and 3 Generate representatives, with climate change and environmental stewardship always featuring heavily in each year's gathering.

The Conference

(i) asks that the President and Vice-President to write to the President of COP26 calling on COP to make bold decisions and to listen to the voices of young generations

(ii) commends the work of the COP26 workers

(iii) sends a greeting and message of support to the Young Christian Climate Network's relay to COP26

(iv) encourages all churches, circuits and districts to engage with COP26 before, during and after the event including holding a Climate Sunday service ahead of COP26.

Proposed: The Revd Ian S Rutherford

Seconded: Mr Michael C Pryke

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Ms Verity Wild
2. The Revd Nicholas B Baker
3. Ms Rachel Barwise
4. The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye
5. Mrs Anna Malnutt
6. Mr Jack Hodge
7. The Revd Joanna R Rand
8. Ms Grace McAloon

Budgetary implications

No direct budgetary implications can be foreseen at this time.