



Call for Evidence: Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households

Introduction

What is the Call for Evidence for?

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York set up the Families and Households Commission In March 2021 to find out about the pressures and challenges facing all families and households in England today. The Commission will offer practical proposals to the Church of England about ways to maximise support for all families and households, and offer information to other faith groups. In addition, the Commission will make recommendations to shape public policy and improve support both locally and nationally for families and households.

We will be issuing two separate calls for evidence: this first Call for Evidence invites adults aged 18 and over to contribute. The second, at a later date, will invite young people aged under 18 to contribute their experiences and ideas.

Organisations and all groups working with individuals and families are invited to contribute to both Calls for Evidence as appropriate.

Who should respond to this Call for Evidence?

Individuals aged 18 and over from all kinds of backgrounds and cultures, including all faith groups and those with no faith.

Local and national organisations, groups, charities, mutual aid institutions, and church/faith institutions which support families and households.

What is this Call for Evidence about?

This first Call for Evidence is divided into four main sections which reflect the range of issues that the Commission is considering:

Section 1: This focuses on how Christian theology, traditions and teaching and the learning from other faiths can inform our understanding of family life and households.

Section 2: This explores the understanding of the social history of families and households in England up to the present day, and the changing nature and expectations of family life,



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taking account of diversity, cultural differences and variations in living arrangements.

Section 3: This focuses on how to promote and support the well-being of children and young people and enable them to grow within stable, loving families, households and communities.

Section 4: This examines the building and sustaining of strong couple relationships, the role of marriage, civil partnerships and cohabitation in modern society, and ways to resolve conflict between intimate partners/couples and between individuals.

Responding to the questions

The Call for Evidence covers a variety of themes and includes a large number of questions. **We would like everyone to answer the first three general questions before moving on to answer questions in some or all of the four sections.** You are invited to respond to as many of the sections and to answer as many questions as you wish. However, there may be some sections and/or questions which are less relevant to you or your organisation and you may wish to ignore these.

We do not expect you to respond to all of the sections or all of the questions unless you wish to do so. Please select those that are most relevant to you.

The Commission is keen to learn from your own or your organisation's experience and there are no right or wrong answers. The questions offer free text answers, but please restrict your answers to the boxes for each question. You might like to use bullet points or numbered lists to record key information. There is an opportunity at the end to provide any additional information that has not been covered in your answers.

When answering the questions, please do NOT refer to or provide any information (such as names, addresses, locations) that may personally identify any individual. When a question asks you to respond from your personal or professional experience, please do not include any details that could personally identify anyone in your family or any individual that you or your organisation knows.

Please note that reference to 'organisation' in the questions always includes local and national organisations, groups of all kinds, voluntary and statutory agencies, charities, mutual aid institutions, churches/places of worship, and church/faith-based institutions.



Examples of good practice

We would like you to highlight examples of programmes and initiatives which provide support which you know makes a difference in the lives of individuals and families. These may be local initiatives offered by a church/faith group or community-based organisation, or those offered by a national organisation. Please provide information about and include links to specific programmes, reports and materials.

When giving examples please do NOT provide any information that could personally identify an individual or beneficiary. If you choose to provide case illustrations in respect of initiatives please ensure that they are anonymised and do not contain personal details that could identify the individuals/families concerned.

Background information

At the end of the questionnaire, we ask you to provide some background information about yourself or about the organisation you are representing. **This information will never be shared with anyone outside the Commission and will remain confidential to the Commission.**

If you are responding to the Call for Evidence in a personal capacity we ask for some general information about your age, ethnic background, religious affiliation if any, and gender. This information will be used to enable us to contextualise the responses we receive. You are not required to provide this information and there is an option to tick if you prefer not to answer any of these questions. The information you give will be confidential to the Commission and will never be shared.

If you are responding to the Call for Evidence on behalf of an organisation, we ask you to provide some information about the organisation. We will not share this information with anyone else or any organisation outside the Commission.

What happens next?

When you have completed the Call for Evidence and answered as many questions as you wish, please send the completed form to the address at the end of the Call for Evidence

Following the Call for Evidence, the Commission will analyse the data received and plan a number of focus groups and evidence days around England to consider certain themes in more depth.



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At the end of this Call for Evidence we ask whether you or your organisation would be willing to contribute further at a later stage in the Commission's work and/or attend some of the activities. If you are willing to contribute further to our work we ask you to provide details as to how we may contact you to tell you about the Commission's activities. **There is no obligation to provide contact details if you would prefer not to contribute further to the Commission's work and do not wish to be contacted.**

If you do provide contact details to enable us to contact you, these will never be shared with anyone outside the Commission and we will seek further permissions to include you and/or your organisation in these activities before inviting you to participate in them.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The Commission respects the confidentiality of all the information that you provide in this Call for Evidence. All the information you provide to the Commission will be kept securely and in compliance with the UK General Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. This requires us to follow data protection principles to ensure that the information you give is used fairly, lawfully, takes into account people's rights and is kept safely and securely. Your personal details will never be shared with anyone outside the Commission team, and individuals and organisations will not be named personally in Commission reports and presentations unless you or your organisation have specifically given permission to be identified by name.

We ask for permissions to use the information provided at the end of the Call for Evidence and it is important that you check these before pressing Submit and submitting your contribution.

The information provided will be analysed by members of the Commission and researchers working with them and will be treated confidentially at all times. When we have analysed all the information collected during the life of the Commission we will prepare reports about the findings for the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. We may draw on information you have provided about specific programmes and initiatives if you have given permission for this, and the Commission will always attribute the contributions appropriately. The findings may then be shared more widely through presentations and articles. Permissions will be sought if any individual or any organisation who have provided evidence to the Commission are to be named.

The information you give to the Commission will be archived securely after publication of the findings. You can find out more about the Commission's privacy policy [here](#).

I consent to the use of my data as described in the Privacy Notice



Willingness to participate in the Call for Evidence

Before responding to the Call for Evidence please check the following statement to indicate that you have read this information and that you are willing to participate. If you are not willing to participate and tick 'No' you will not be able to proceed with the Call for Evidence online and will exit the survey.

I am at least 18 years old and I have read and understood the information about this Call for Evidence, including the privacy and confidentiality statements, and how the information I provide will be used by the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households.

I voluntarily agree to participate in this Call for Evidence (please tick)

General Questions

1. Are you contributing to the Call for Evidence in a personal capacity or on behalf of an organisation?

All references to 'organisation' in the questions always includes groups of all kinds, statutory and voluntary agencies, charities, mutual aid institutions, churches/places of worship, and church/faith-based institutions.

I am responding in a personal capacity

I am responding on behalf of an organisation/group/church/faith-based institution



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2. We know that everyone's experience of family life is personal and that experiences vary. We want to capture these variations and to understand what 'family' means to a wide variety of people. What does the term 'family' mean to you?

Please do not provide personal information which could identify you or members of your family.

3. The aim of the Commission is to find ways to support the wellbeing of families and households of all shapes and sizes and enable them to flourish. In your view or that of your organisation, what do you consider to be the main characteristics of:

- i) individual flourishing?**
- ii) family flourishing?**



Section 1

These questions focus on how Christian teaching and other faith traditions can inform and influence our understanding of family life and households in England. We would like to hear from members of all faith groups. Please answer as many questions as you wish.

4. Please list the key principles that can be drawn from Christian and other faith traditions and scriptures that should enable families and households to flourish.

5. When thinking about children and childhood, in what ways does your faith, or that of your organisation, inform how we should value and support children and young people to flourish?



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6. When thinking about marriage and other intimate couple relationships, how does your faith or that of your organisation inform the support that can be offered to help them flourish?

7. When thinking about how to support marriages and other intimate couple relationships to flourish, in your view how can the teaching of Christian and other faiths inform government and public policy?



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8. In what ways does your faith inform how individuals who are single should be supported to flourish?

9. What can be learned from Christian and other faith traditions and scriptures about friendship and how to support friendships to flourish?



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10. What insights can be drawn from the Christian tradition and other religions and scriptures about the role of parenting in enabling children to flourish?

11. In your view, how can religious beliefs shape the support provided by the Church of England and other faith groups for individuals, families and households of all shapes and sizes?



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12. In your experience, in what ways might religious beliefs and traditions inhibit or present challenges to the flourishing of families and households?

Section 2

These questions focus on the social history of families and households and the changes that impact on and influence living arrangements today. We would also welcome your reflections on the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Please answer as many questions as you wish. Please do not include any information in your answers that could personally identify any individuals or families.

13. Reflecting on your own experience what have been the biggest changes in family life during your lifetime?



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14. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what have been the biggest changes in family life that your organisation has noticed since its inception?

15. In your experience, how have household patterns and living arrangements changed during your lifetime?



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16. Thinking about the coronavirus pandemic and the associated lockdowns and restrictions on daily life, in your experience what have been the most positive impacts on:

- i) individuals?**
- ii) families and households?**

17. Thinking about the coronavirus pandemic and the associated lockdowns and restrictions on daily life, in your experience what have been the most negative impacts of the pandemic on:

- i) individuals?**
- ii) families and households?**



18. In your view, how should individuals, families and households be supported to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic by:

- i) church and faith groups**
- ii) government**

Please give examples of support that you know is available.

19. Thinking especially about individuals, in your experience how can their needs within a family be supported by the Church of England and other faith groups without undermining the family unit?



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20. Thinking especially about individuals within a family, in your experience how can their needs be supported by government and the legal system without undermining the family unit?

21. In what ways can the Church of England and other faith groups assist in reducing inequalities in our society?



22. In what ways can government and the legal system assist in reducing inequalities in our society?

Section 3

These questions focus on factors which either inhibit or protect the wellbeing of children and young people and ways to support them. Please answer as many questions as you wish. Please do not include any information in your answers that could personally identify any individuals or families.

23. In your experience or that of your organisation, what are the most important factors in family life that help children and young people from all kinds of backgrounds to flourish?



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24. In your experience or that of your organisation, what are the most important factors in family life that inhibit the wellbeing of children and young people from all kinds of backgrounds and present the biggest threat to their being able to flourish?

25. In your personal or professional experience, what have been the most challenging aspects of the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns for children and young people?



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26. In your personal or professional experience, how can families be supported to promote the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people?

Please provide examples of initiatives and programmes locally and nationally that you know offer support for parents and protection for children.

27. In your personal or professional experience, how can families be supported to protect children and young people from harm, such as abuse, bullying, substance misuse and criminality?

Please provide examples of initiatives and programmes locally and nationally that you know offer support for parents and protection for children.



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28. In your personal or professional experience, how can families be supported to enable children and young people to thrive and reach their potential?

Please provide examples of initiatives and programmes locally and nationally that you know enable children and young people to thrive.

29. Thinking about vulnerable children and young people who are not able to live with their birth parents and may be looked-after formally or informally, in your personal or professional experience, how can we ensure that appropriate kinship care or alternative family provision is in place and well-supported? *Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are addressing this issue.*



30. Thinking about spirituality and faith in children's lives, from your experience or that of your organisation, how can the Church of England and other faith groups support the development and teaching of faith?

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are supporting the development of faith in children's lives.

31. In your experience or that of your organisation, how can the Church of England and other faith groups seek to tackle domestic abuse?

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are addressing this issue.



32. In your experience or that of your organisation, how can the Church of England and other faith groups seek to tackle youth violence and gang culture?

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are addressing these issues.

33. In your experience or that of your organisation, how can the Church of England and other faith groups seek to tackle parental neglect?

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are addressing this issue.



Section 4

These questions focus on how to build and sustain stable couple relationships, the role of marriage, civil partnerships, and cohabitation in today's society, and ways to reduce couple and family conflict. Please answer as many questions as you wish. Please do not include any information in your answers that could personally identify any individuals or families.

34. In your view or that of your organisation, what is the role of marriage in today's society?

35. In your experience, or that of your organisation, what are the principal indicators of commitment in intimate couple relationships, including marriage, civil partnerships and cohabitation?



36. Thinking about adult couple relationships, in your experience or that of your organisation, how can the Church of England and other faith groups nurture and support them to flourish?

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are supporting couples to build and sustain their relationship.

37. Thinking about adult couple relationships, in your experience or that of your organisation, how can government and public policy nurture and support them to flourish?

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are supporting couple relationships to flourish.



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38. Thinking about how couples today develop a romantic, intimate relationship, in your experience or that of your organisation, what are the main influences they experience? (Please list up to five)

39. Thinking about how couples today develop a romantic, intimate relationship, in your experience or that of your organisation, what are the main challenges they face? (Please list up to five)



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40. In your experience or that of your organisation what can the Church of England and other faith groups do to reduce:

- i) couple conflict**
- ii) family conflict**

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are seeking to reduce couple conflict and/or family conflict.

41. In your experience or that of your organisation what can government and the legal system do to reduce:

- i) couple conflict?**
- ii) family conflict?**

Please provide examples of any initiatives and programmes that you know are seeking to reduce couple and/or family conflict.



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42. In the box below, please add anything else you would like to tell us about how families and households of all shapes and sizes and from different cultural backgrounds can be helped to flourish. Please give links to any programmes and initiatives that you know are supporting families and/or households. Please do not include any information that could personally identify any individuals or families.

Information about you or your organisation

Thank you for answering our questions and providing material for the Commission.

In this section we would like to ask for some information about you or your organisation/group, church/faith institution so that we can contextualise your answers to the questions. Please ensure you have read and understood the Privacy and Confidentiality section at the beginning of this Call for Evidence. More details about the Commission's privacy and confidentiality policies can be found [here](#).

If you answered the questions in a personal capacity please complete questions 43-49.

If you answered on behalf of an organisation or group, please move on to question 50.

Personal responses



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43. We are keen to know how people of different ages respond to the issues the Commission is considering. Please indicate which of the following age bands you are in by ticking one of the following:

- 18-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71-80
- 81-90
- 90+
- Prefer not to say

44. We want to hear from people of different cultures and ethnic backgrounds. Please tick one box which best describes your ethnic background.

- White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- White: Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White: Any other background
- Multiple ethnic background: White and Black Caribbean
- Multiple ethnic background: White and Black African
- Multiple ethnic background: White and Asian



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- Multiple ethnic background: Any other background
- Asian/Asian British: Indian
- Asian/Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian/Asian British: Chinese
- Asian/Asian British: Any other background
- Black, African, Caribbean, Black British: African
- Black, African, Caribbean, Black British: Caribbean
- Black, African, Caribbean, Black British: other ethnic group
- Arab
- Any other ethnic background
- Prefer not to say

45. We expect to make recommendations to the Church of England and provide information to other faith groups about ways in which families and households can be supported to flourish. The next question asks about the religion you associate yourself with, if any.

- I do not associate myself with any religion
- Christian, Church of England
- Christian, Catholic, Protestant, or another Christian denomination



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- Buddhist
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Another religion
- Prefer not to say

46. Please indicate your gender or how you identify yourself.

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

47. The next question asks for your full postcode. Your postcode will only be used to identify the characteristics of the area where you live. It will never be shared with anyone outside the Commission.

Postcode

48. The Commission will be holding a number of focus groups and evidence days around England in the coming months. Please indicate if you would be willing for us to contact you to provide information about these activities and invite you to attend or to contribute further to the Commission's work.

- I am willing to be contacted about the Commission's activities



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I do not wish to be contacted about the Commission's activities

49. If you are willing to be contacted, please provide us with information about how we may contact you. These details will never be shared with anyone outside the Commission.

Contact Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Permissions to use information provided by individuals in response to the questions in the Call for Evidence

Thank you for answering our questions and for contributing to this Call for Evidence.

Please indicate how we may use the information you have provided by ticking one of the options below:

- I agree that the information provided can be used by the Commission and quoted directly in publications, and my name can be cited where appropriate
- I agree that the information I have provided can be used by the Commission and quoted directly in publications but I wish to remain anonymous and my name must not be cited
- I agree that the information I have provided can be analysed and used by the Commission in publications in anonymised form only, it is not to be quoted directly, and my name must never be cited.

When you have checked one of the permissions above you have completed the Call for Evidence.

Please send your completed submission to:

Email: familiesandhouseholds@lambethpalace.org.uk

Post:

Call for Evidence – Secretariat
Families & Households Commission
Lambeth Palace



Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households



London
SE1 7JU

50. If you have completed this Call for Evidence on behalf of an organisation, statutory or voluntary agency, group, church/faith-based institution please answer the following questions so that the Commission has a record of your agency, church or faith group.

Organisation Name

Address

Website (if applicable)

Please indicate if it is a local or national organisation, and describe its main focus or remit

Job title of the person completing the Call for Evidence



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51. If you have completed the Call for Evidence on behalf of a faith-based organisation or group please indicate the religion you represent

- Christian, Church of England
- Christian, Catholic, Protestant, or another Christian denomination
- Buddhist
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Another religion

52. The Commission will be holding a number of focus groups and evidence days around England in the coming months, please indicate whether your organisation would be willing for us to contact them to provide information about these activities and invite them to attend or to contribute further to the Commission's work.

- My organisation is willing to be contacted about the Commission's activities
- My organisation does not wish to be contacted about the Commission's activities

53. If your organisation is willing to be contacted, please provide us with information about how we may contact them. These details will never be shared with anyone outside the Commission. If your organisation does not wish to be contacted, you do not need to provide any contact details.

Contact Name

Email Address

Phone Number



Thank you for contributing to this Call for Evidence and answering our questions.

Permissions to use the information provided by organisations in response to questions in the Call for Evidence

Please indicate how we may use the information you have provided by ticking one of the options below.

- I agree that the information provided on behalf of my organisation can be used by the Commission and quoted directly in publications, and the organisation's name cited where appropriate
- I agree that the information provided on behalf of my organisation can be used by the Commission and quoted directly in publications but my organisation wishes to remain anonymous and its name must not be cited
- I agree that the information provided on behalf of my organisation can be analysed and used by the Commission in publications in anonymised form only, it is not to be quoted directly and the name of the organisation must never be cited.

When you have checked one of the permissions above, you have completed the Call for Evidence. Please send it to:

Email: familiesandhouseholds@lambethpalace.org.uk

Post:

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