



Equipping Christians  
for the General Election

# General Election 2017

A selection of probing questions, which you may wish to ask candidates relating to issues of Life, Family and Justice.

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## General Election 2017 – Key Dates

<b>3 May</b>	Dissolution of Parliament
<b>11 May</b>	Deadline for delivery of nomination papers for candidates
<b>22 May</b>	Voter registration deadline
<b>23 May</b>	Postal vote application deadline
<b>31 May</b>	Proxy vote application deadline
<b>3-4 June</b>	Final weekend before polling day (try to hold your hustings before this date)
<b>8 June</b>	Polling day (booths open from 7am-10pm)

## Questions for Candidates

See below for a list of probing questions, which you may wish to ask your candidates, relating to Life, Family and Justice.

### Family

#### Family and Tax

- Do you support the reintroduction of the recognition of marriage in the tax system that took effect from 1 April 2015?
- Bearing in mind the overwhelming evidence of the benefits of marriage for adults, children and society at large, will you commit to fight hard for the level of recognition of marriage to be raised from the current 10% transferable allowance to a fully transferable allowance?



#### Gambling

- Will you support new legislation to reduce the stakes permitted on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) to £2?
- Will you hold the Government and the Gambling Commission accountable for action to assist problem gamblers include provision of one stop self-exclusion mechanisms online and financial transaction blocking?



#### Marriage

- Do you support the right of those who believe in marriage solely as the union between one man and one woman to articulate their view?
- What would you do to ensure those who maintain a traditional definition of marriage as the union between one man and one woman remain free to hold and express their view?



- Do you support the right of those who believe in marriage as traditionally understood, to articulate their view? What would you do to ensure such people remain free to hold and express their view that marriage, properly conceived, can only exist as the union of a man and woman?
- Do you recognise that it is important and appropriate to use public monies to invest in marriage support services because of the significant benefits of marriage for both adults and children?
- Will you commit to openly investing in marriage support services and to increasing the amount of money invested in this crucial area?

### Online Safety

- Do you agree that promoting a voluntary approach to filtering amongst some internet service providers and mobile phone operators is inadequate?
- Would you support the introduction of statutory default adult content filters that can be lifted only as requested by an adult?
- Would you support the implementation of the age verification measures in the Digital Economy Act and work to see enforcement of the measures reach as many websites as possible?
- Do you agree that violent pornography can have a damaging effect not only on children, but also for relationships, families and efforts to reduce violence against women?
- Do you agree that the standards for control of pornography should be the same online as offline?



### Sex and Relationships Education

- Do you agree that the delivery of good SRE depends on encouraging parents to talk to their children about sex and relationships?
- Do you support the idea that the SRE curriculum should be centralised into a 'one size fits all' approach which would remove the current scope for parental involvement in shaping the local school curriculum?
- Sadly, governors do not always consult parents on the content of SRE. Would you work to enhance the current decentralised approach to the SRE curriculum by calling for the provision of a legal obligation on governors to do so?



- Do you support the principle that if parents are unhappy with a school's chosen curriculum they should have the right to withdraw their children from the lesson?

## Life

### Abortion

- Will you commit to working for law reform to end the discriminatory anomaly in our law that uniquely permits abortion on the basis of serious disability up to and during birth?
- Will you commit to working for law reform to ensure that all women presenting for an abortion should be assessed in person by at least one doctor?
- Will you commit to reducing the upper time limit for abortions in England, Wales and Scotland so they align with European averages?
- Will you oppose efforts to decriminalise abortion in England and Wales?



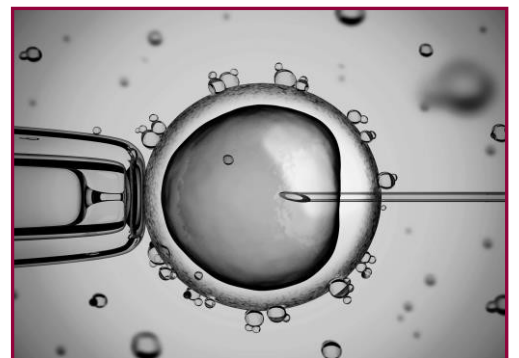
### UK Abortion Policy - Internationally

- If elected, would you vote to prohibit the funding of abortions in developing countries through the UK's overseas aid programme and redirect this money to improve basic maternal health care?
- Do you consider the controversial term 'sexual and reproductive health and rights' to include the provision of abortion services?
- Should the UK Government be funding advocacy campaigns for legislative reform in countries with restrictive laws on abortion?



### Embryology

- Do you think creating and destroying human embryos for research purposes is ethical?
- Would you commit to campaign for the reallocation of all funding on human embryonic stem cell research, which involves the destruction of over 1.6 million human embryos, to adult stem cell research, which has so far given rise to 75 therapies?



- Will you commit to repealing the legislation that permitted animal-human hybrids?
- Will you commit to repealing three-parent children Regulations, which some are already asking to be made more widely available?

### Assisted Suicide

- Will you oppose any attempt to change the law to legalise assisted suicide during the course of the next parliament?
- What action would you take to ensure better provision of effective palliative care across the UK?



## Justice

### Human Trafficking

- Are you aware of trafficking and modern day slavery taking place within this constituency and what do you propose to do to address it and to support victims?
- Will you promote further legislation to guarantee the reflection and recovery period of support for trafficking victims and to assist them in long term rehabilitation afterwards?
- Will you work to ensure a swift roll out of independent child trafficking advocates schemes across the whole country as soon as possible? Will you also ensure that the advocates will have all the necessary legal powers and responsibilities in accordance with international guidelines?
- Will you work for a review of the laws on prostitution and its impact on trafficking for sexual exploitation and help to change attitudes towards demand for paid sex that fuels this form of human trafficking?



### Commercial Sexual Exploitation

- What would you do to address commercial sexual exploitation and to promote better strategies to help people to exit prostitution?
- Would you work for a review of the laws on prostitution and its impact on trafficking for sexual



exploitation in order to help change attitudes towards the demand for paid sex that fuels this form of human trafficking?

- Would you support legislation to criminalise the purchase of sexual services in order to reduce demand for commercial sexual exploitation and protect the vulnerable?
- In Northern Ireland – Will you work to support the effective implementation of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) (Northern Ireland) Act 2015, including the implementation of section 15 criminalising the purchase of sexual services?

## Religious Liberty

- Would you be willing to support the introduction of reasonable accommodation to protect individuals' freedom to act according to their beliefs including in relation to their employment or business?
- Would you act to ensure that counter-extremism measures are proportionate, focussed on violent extremism and that they will not result in the prosecution of people simply because they hold unpopular or non-mainstream (but non-violent) views?
- Would you support churches' ability to run children and youth programmes without needing to register and be inspected by Ofsted?

