



ALLIANCE of CATHOLICS & MUSLIMS



Bulletin 1 - September 2026

WELCOME and MISSION

Welcome to the first ever bulletin from the Alliance of Catholics & Muslims (ACM). Heartfelt thanks to those of you who have agreed to be on our mailing list. We hope that these monthly bulletins - call them newsletters or updates - will be helpful as we seek to share with you the aspirations and aims of ACM, as well as keeping you abreast of our efforts.

To begin with, it's important to share with you our mission statement, in which we set out the foundation of our identity as an alliance, our shared vision as lay Muslims and Catholics, and the key objectives by which we hope to make our vision a reality, and so do our bit to promote the common good. Here it is.

ACM Mission Statement

Committed to knowing, loving and serving Almighty God, Whom both Catholics and Muslims worship, and to upholding the universal moral law which both Catholics and Muslims affirm, we come together to work with charity towards the following objectives:

...To promote love, understanding, and cooperation between Catholics and Muslims

...To end the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people and to bring about the liberation of Palestine

...To promote understanding of the Jewish question as it manifests itself in the Holy Land and around the world, in politics, economics and culture, human discourse, the family, and the preservation of life itself.

...To protect Muslims and Christians from Jewish persecution both in the Holy Land and around the world

...To affirm the universal moral order to which all humankind is subject and from which none are exempt

We ask for the prayers of one and all as we embark on this effort. And we look forward to your thoughts and questions.

Urging HE Archbishop Longley to extricate the CES from disastrous proposal

It was with horror and disbelief that we learned of the recent proposal that the Catholic Education Service (CES) is to work alongside the Board of Deputies of British Jews on a Department for Education (DfE) initiative 'to produce new teaching tools on antisemitism'. The teaching resources to be developed in this government-funded initiative are to be deployed in the first instance in schools within the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

As we explained in our letter to Archbishop Longley, with the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the ongoing wars launched at the behest of Benjamin Netanyahu, and the ruthless use of lawfare by Jewish organisations here in the UK to silence and to punish those who speak out, the idea of at this moment putting anti-Semitism front and centre is at best insensitive, and at worst indirect collusion in these



HE Archbishop Bernard Longley, and the Archbishop of Westminster, the Rt Rev Richard Moth, alongside Greg Pope Exec. Director of the Catholic Bishops' Conference and members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews at the announcement of the initiative.

crimes. The fact that the programme is first to be deployed in Birmingham, with its large and flourishing Muslim population, only adds to the sense of disbelief. Whilst not for a moment seeking to undermine the authority or to question the good intentions of these leading archbishops, we are bound to ask why is it that placating Jewish sensibilities and elevating Jewish victimhood, seems to be regarded as more important than challenging the Jews in the UK about the behaviour of their co-religionists in the Holy Land, and the behaviour of Jewish organisations like Jewish Lawyers for Israel and the Jewish Medical Association, who are unstinting in their efforts to have doctors who condemn the bombing of hospitals in Gaza, suspended by the GMC or sacked from their jobs? Again, one feels compelled to ask why is it that the unspeakable evil of an ongoing, live-streamed genocide seems secondary to concerns about alleged anti-Semitism? Let's be honest, whenever the behaviour of the Jews causes people to speak out, much if not all of these valid and necessary criticisms are brushed off as a manifestation of some kind of irrational hatred of Jews. We at ACM repudiate unreservedly any expressions of hatred, but believe that smears about hate and so-called

hate speech are too often deployed simply to discredit legitimate criticism.

Let's be clear, both Muslims and Catholics - and indeed all right-thinking people - have a duty to challenge such gross violations of the moral order. For the bishops to allow the Catholic Church to be manipulated in this way is not only naïve in the extreme, but morally hazardous in a very real way. How is the solemn duty of the Catholic Church to uphold the universal moral order fulfilled by an initiative such as this? And let it be said, that the Jews themselves are not helped when the Church - at this critical moment in human history - fails to challenge their behaviour, but rather goes out of its way to indulge their desire to elevate alleged anti-Semitism, while failing to condemn these gross violations of the moral order.

In our letter, we also raised the real danger that this proposal poses for both staff and pupils in our Catholic schools. Is a student in a Catholic school going to be labelled an anti-Semite if, for example, he or she points out that Pornhub is owned by Ethical Capital, a company co-founded and fronted by an ordained rabbi, Solomon Friedman? What consequences will a member of staff face if he or she draws attention to the leading role played by Jewish organisations in the banning of school prayer, or in the legalisation of abortion and gay 'marriage'? We all know that being identified as an anti-Semite is a smear that has serious lifelong consequences. We urge the archbishops not to impose this intolerable burden on staff and students - Catholic and Muslim and others - in Catholic schools. We urge others to also write to their religious leaders and scholars, requesting that they too call for an end to this deplorable initiative.

More details of the proposal can be found here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/government-funding-for-catholic-and-jewish-organisations-to-produce-new-teaching-tools-on-antisemitism/>

Priests Against Genocide

One has to ask how aware the above-mentioned archbishops are of the highly laudable - one might say countervailing - initiative known as Priests Against Genocide? The PAG Network is made up of Catholic clergy from some 58 countries across the globe, as we read on the PAG webpage: *The Network has grown to include over 2,200 priests and bishops from all five continents, united by the desire to bring together faith, justice, and commitment to a true and lasting peace*.

We also learn that the motivation for the establishment of the PAG Network is one that resonates with all right-thinking people: *'As Catholic priests - pastors and leaders of communities - we are outraged and cannot remain silent in the face of the humanitarian tragedy of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and other Occupied Palestinian Territories.'*

In our recent letter to the PAG, we at ACM were eager to affirm the moral framework within which the initiative was formed, namely that there is no question of trying to 'foment hatred and division'. Like the priests against genocide, we Muslims and Catholics recognise our duty to speak out. As explained earlier, the charge of being 'haters' is all too predictable, but this must never prevent us from speaking out about the kind of unspeakable suffering being endured by the Palestinian people.

Given that we are now almost three years into the genocide, and notwithstanding the opposition to the genocide expressed by many Jews, the fact remains that the world has failed and continues to fail the Palestinian people. Why is it that despite the overwhelming public horror at the genocide, and the repeated calls at the UN by the world's countries for something to be done, the killing and the ethnic cleansing have continued? Clearly, the exercise of Jewish power, particularly in the US with organisations like AIPAC, and in the UK with organisations like both Labour and Conservative Friends of Israel, plays a crucial role in this failure. At the same time, the failure of organisations like the Board of Deputies to condemn the genocide unequivocally perpetuates the sense that the Jews in the Holy Land are simply exempt from the moral order, and are free to violate all norms of international law because 'Israel has a right to defend itself'.

But it's not just about Palestine, or Lebanon, or Iran for that matter. Nor is it only about Israelis. We also took the opportunity to share with PAG, the understanding of ACM that the Gaza genocide is best understood in a broader context in the wider world, of Jewish individuals and organisations, through the promotion of secularism, materialism and relativism leading to offences against the moral order such as abortion, pornography, gay 'marriage' and transgenderism.

We also pointed out that the charge of anti-Semitism is too often used to silence any criticism of other Jews who are engaging in these and other violations of the moral order. We also affirmed Pope Leo's condemnation in *Magnifica Humanitas* of deplatforming, going on to point out that perhaps the leading practitioner of deplatforming in the world is the US-based Anti-defamation League (ADL). Again, pointing this out risks incurring the charge of anti-Semitism, with its devastating lifelong consequences.

For more about the PAG Network:

<https://associationofcatholicpriests.ie/priests-against-genocide-network/>

Thank you, Dr E Michael Jones

We at ACM owe a huge debt of gratitude to the great American scholar, Dr E Michael Jones. Author, magazine editor, and foremost thinker in an astonishing range of disciplines including English literature (his PhD), philosophy, history, economics, and aesthetics and art, as well as religion and the Jewish question, Dr Jones has for some years now been calling for the formation of an alliance between Catholics and Muslims. In a world and at a time when too many voices are inciting division if not outright hostility between Catholics and Muslims, Dr Jones recognises that despite the real theological differences between Islam and Catholicism, both Catholics and Muslims worship the same God and have a religiously reinforced commitment to the universal moral order, as we at ACM set out in our mission statement. So, to echo the call of E Michael Jones, Muslims and Catholics have much to gain from an alliance based on mutual esteem and affection, working to promote the common good. Find EMJ's books and articles and talks:

<https://culturewars.com/>

AllianceofCatholicsandMuslims@gmail.com