evangelical alliance
together making Jesus known

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street
London
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By email only

From: Gavin Calver, CEO
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Monday, 20 July 2026

Dear Prime Minister Andy Burnham,

Invitation to meet with UK evangelical leaders who are actively restoring social cohesion

I want to start by congratulating you on becoming prime minister. On behalf of the Evangelical Alliance staff team and membership I want to assure you we will be praying for you and your team as you take up your responsibilities and seek to restore public confidence in politicians, and politics serving the people of the United Kingdom.

We are an 180-year-old organisation that has united individuals, churches and organisations across the UK with a common vision to see lives and the nation transformed by the gospel. Today, we represent a constituency of over 2 million evangelical Christians who are committed to seeing the nation flourish and to serve those most in need in local communities, as Jesus combines, illustrated in the Bible.

Since the 2024 election, we have sought to build constructive relationships with the Labour government. I have attended several roundtables at 10 Downing Street and have been part of discussions about the rise of Christian nationalism in Britain. I have also held separate meetings between Baroness Maeve Sherlock, Lord Khan of Burnley and Miatta Fahnbulleh MP for Peckham with evangelical leaders when they each held the faith minister brief.

As the newly appointed prime minister, I am writing to ask if you would meet with evangelical leaders to hear how they are helping to strengthen local social cohesion.

In several press conferences leading up to your nomination, you set out a vision for 'place-based collaboration' as an integral tenet to regional and local growth. Churches are central to successful implementation. When you were the Mayor of Greater Manchester, you

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worked closely with evangelical churches and organisations in addressing issues such as improving family support, ensuring a pathway from school to employment or apprenticeship and tackling poverty. In your role as prime minister, we urge you to see the wider evangelical constituency as a committed and critical friend in delivering your devolution agenda.

Over the course of your tenure, there will be policy issues where we will disagree, perhaps most notably the Draft Conversion Practices Bill. For over eight years, the Evangelical Alliance has engaged governments of all political colours in their efforts to address gaps in the law and protect against coercive, abusive and harmful practices. However, the current proposals are wide in their scope, vague in their definition, and weak in the protection against misuse. In addition to hearing leaders discuss their engagement locally, this meeting could provide an opportunity for you and your team to hear first-hand their concerns, and how proposals could wrongly disparage the incredible work of churches and undermine freedom of religion or belief.

You assume office at a time in our nation when politics are fragmented and deeply fractured. It is our prayer that you will succeed in leading the nation forward. The UK evangelical church shares your ambition to rebuild institutions and restore confidence in politics. We are good news people in a polarised society and we are here to serve and advocate for those most in need.

I do hope there will be an opportunity to meet this autumn and to introduce you to leaders rooted in their communities and dedicated to serving the common good.

Yours sincerely,

Revd Gavin Calver
CEO
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