



## **Response from the Directors of the Alliance to the Statement by the House of Bishops**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Along with many, within the Church of England and beyond, we have read the latest statement from the House of Bishops.

We are saddened by the division brought about by the whole LLF process to the Anglican Communion and the global catholic church. We are therefore grateful to the House for its reminder that *The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.*

The Alliance stands firmly behind those bishops referred to in paragraph 27 of the Bishops' Statement:

*"there remains a significant number of clergy (including some bishops) and local churches who, whilst welcoming and supporting LGBTQI+ members in a variety of relationships, believe that the Church of England is in error in making this provision, as well as others who would regard any further developments of this kind (such as bespoke services) to be a step too far."*

We too are *deeply conscious of the pain and sensitivities in the life of the Church of England* brought about by this prolonged debate. We lament this reality, and acknowledge that it affects those from every perspective of the LLF debate. We witness the anguish of those within the LGBTQI+ communities who seek further change.

We are also deeply aware of the profound pain experienced through this process of those who, as a matter of conscience, find it impossible to accept change to our historically received doctrine of marriage; and also those who, according to conscience and their reading of scripture, have accepted the call to lives of celibacy, who are all too often overlooked in our thinking and debating.

We affirm the church's call to welcome all people to the love of God made known in Christ, received through repentance and faith; and join with our bishops in acknowledging our own imperfections and need for the grace of Christ.

It is around this central tenet of what it means to be Anglican that the Alliance has come together in a desire to help the Church proclaim Jesus to our nation with clarity and

confidence, in unity with the vast majority of the Anglican Communion and the catholic church worldwide.

We welcome the House's decision to publish their legal and theological advice and from now on to follow due process as the Church continues to wrestle with this contentious and sadly divisive issue.

Although, like all observers, we await further detail as to the House's understanding of the next steps in this process, we share the concerns expressed by many across the spectrum of views that the new initiatives and bodies being proposed could mean going through the LLF journey again, risking similar results and ever deeper pain across the Church.

With our continuing prayers for the members of the Programme Board, our bishops, clergy and members of local churches.

With love in Christ

Mr Ade Adebajo

The Revd Canon John Dunnett

The Revd Canon Adam Gaunt

The Revd Sarah Jackson (Chair)

The Revd Canon Paul Langham

The Revd Canon Vaughan Roberts

The Revd Jago Wynne

*The Directors of the Alliance*