



The Right Honourable Stephen Timms MP
invites you to the BME Churches Launch of

CHRISTIANS ON THE LEFT.



'God in Government'

6:30pm - 8:30pm

3rd June 2014

Attlee Suite, Portcullis House



Please RSVP to:

admin@christiansontheleft.org.uk



Speakers include:

Claudine Reid MBE



Celia Apeageyi-Collins



With

Chuka Umunna MP

Stephen Timms MP

Marvin Rees (Bristol Mayoral candidate)

Plus video montage

Music: Noel Robinson

Please come and bring others to see how we can be of use to you and your congregations.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christians on the Left exists to support believers as they engage with the left side of politics. They provide times of prayer, worship and fellowship. They create space for Biblically-based theological grappling with policy issues. They mentor and train many young people pursuing a vocation in politics. They work in close partnership with the Conservative Christian Fellowship and Liberal Democrat Christian Forum.

Their primary identity is in Christ, not a political ideology, but their reading of scripture inevitably leads them to *“speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves”*, standing against injustice in all its forms, on the side of poor and needy.

They believe that in his wisdom, God knows us better than we know ourselves, including our tendency towards selfishness as individuals and communities. So they believe that in the pattern of Biblical traditions such as Sabbath and Jubilee, our systems and structures should be ordered in a way that mitigates the inevitable trickle up of power and wealth towards the powerful and the wealthy.

They have a range of opinions on social issues that do not necessarily align with what may be a left/liberal viewpoint. In fact they are working hard to make sure that the British Labour party stays broad-based, rather than narrow on these issues. They are fully aware of the church’s present frustration at not being listened to or taken seriously, and are working hard to build bridges to improve this situation rather than ‘throwing in the towel’.

Christ’s words and actions mean that our political engagement is non-negotiable. Decisions are made by those who show up. If we are not engaged, then who is making the decisions? We believe that within your congregations are some of the future leaders of our country and we want to help you nurture and support them, putting steel in their spines and resourcing them through training and mentoring to engage in a way that is Biblical and effective.

To this end it has been a privilege and pleasure to put this programme together with *Christians on the Left* and Jonathan Oloyede from NDOP who encourage you to send not only yourselves but your ‘bright young things!’.

Faithfully,

Claudine Reid MBE + Celia Apeageyi-Collins