

Press Release EMBARGOED until 11 am Friday 28 March 2014

CUTTING EDGE CONSORTIUM
LGBTI ANGLICAN COALITION

Religious Leaders Support Marriage for Same-Sex Couples

A number of religious leaders have signed the statement below. A press conference and photo-call will be held at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ at 11 am on Friday 28 March 2014.

We rejoice that from tomorrow same-sex couples will be able to marry in England and Wales.

As persons of faith, we welcome this further development in our marriage law, which has evolved over the centuries in response to changes in society and in scientific knowledge.

We acknowledge that some (though not all) of the faith organisations to which we belong do not share our joy, and continue to express opposition in principle to such marriages. We look forward to the time, sooner rather than later, when all people of faith will feel able to welcome this development.

List of Signatories

** denotes Friday attendance expected*

Revd Steve Chalke

Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive, Liberal Judaism*

Derek McAuley, Chief Officer, General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches*

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain *

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism*

Revd Sharon Ferguson, Senior Pastor, MCC North London*

Rt Revd Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham*

Rt Revd Lord Harries of Pentregarth, former Bishop of Oxford

Rt Revd Richard Lewis, former Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich*

Rt Revd Peter Selby, former Bishop of Worcester

Rt Revd John Saxbee, former Bishop of Lincoln

Rt Revd Michael Doe, Preacher to Gray's Inn, former Bishop of Swindon*

Rt Revd David Gillett, former Bishop of Bolton

Rt Revd Stephen Lowe, former Bishop of Hulme

Very Revd Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans

Very Revd Jonathan Draper, Dean of Exeter

Very Revd Mark Bonney, Dean of Ely

Very Revd Lister Tonge, Dean of Monmouth

Very Revd Mark Beach, Dean of Rochester

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The Cutting Edge Consortium is an alliance of faith-based LGBTI-supporting organisations, trade unions, and others united in challenging faith-based groups to promote equality and human rights.

More information at

<https://sites.google.com/site/cuttingedgeconsortium1/about-us>

2. The LGBTI Anglican Coalition provides UK-based Christian LGBTI organisations with opportunities to create resources for the Anglican community and to develop a shared voice for the full acceptance of LGBTI people.

More information at

<http://www.lgbtac.org.uk/>

3. If you are planning to attend the press conference on Friday it would be helpful to let Anne van Staveren at Friends House know. Annev@quaker.org.uk.

4. For press queries please contact any of the following:

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