

Stay Alert to Justice Campaign: Briefing

#stoyalertojustice

**STAY ALERT
TO JUSTICE** 

What is Stay Alert to Justice?

Stay Alert to Justice is the new campaign from the Methodist Church along with the Baptist Union and United Reformed Church.



A 2'53 film is narrated by representatives of the three denominations including, from the Methodist Church, Revd Barbara Glasson, Prof Anthony Reddie and Anna Merriman. It makes passing reference to the recent change in Government guidance in England from 'Stay at Home' to 'Stay Alert', and reminds us of the things to which we need to stay alert.

Purposes of the campaign

- To keep a focus in the Church on the justice issues highlighted by covid-19 by using a simple slogan which can be repeated and a film which can be widely shared
- To create a link in the minds of Church members and the wider public between Methodism and justice
- To remind Methodists of our calling as Christians to stand against injustice
- To raise awareness of poverty, racial justice and the environment as well as other issues at a time when they risk being forgotten
- To encourage conversations about the future beyond the lockdown and our role in making choices about it
- To enable individuals and the Church to make a positive response to current political debates

Key messages

- COVID-19 has brought huge changes to all our lives, but inequalities mean that some people have been hit even harder than others.
- Therefore as Christians we are challenged to:
 - Stay alert to **poverty**
 - Stay alert to **racial justice**
 - Stay alert to the **planet**
- As we emerge from the lockdown, **if we stay alert to justice** we can work together to make the right choices for the future. We can make choices to build a country where no-one goes hungry, where all people flourish, where our planet is nurtured.

Why this campaign matters to our whole Church

- COVID-19 has highlighted and deepened inequalities in society, and will require urgent and long-term responses from the Church.
- Our Calling to challenge injustice requires us to orient our choices, our actions and decision-making to those who are most marginalised. The first step is to raise awareness across the Church. The 'Stay Alert to Justice' campaign is a tool to enable us to do this.
- As conversations about the "next steps" for our Church and society open up, holding justice at the centre of our response will enable us to align our priorities and choices to where the need is greatest. This will be crucial to making sure the Good News remains central to response as a Church.

How can you use this campaign?

You could

- share this film on social media with a comment or a prayer,
- use the slogan (repeatedly) and link to the film in public statements or in letters to MPs or the media
- encourage churches to engage with the film through District or Connexional messages, highlighting the resources on the website, and encouraging us all to reflect on the things to which we need to stay alert.

Find out more

- Contact Hannah Brown, brownh@methodistchurch.org.uk or 020 7467 5101
- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/corona-virus/stoyalert/>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu_fZqc0qGs