



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

HH Pope Francis
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City

23 October 2018

Dear Pope Francis

The Synod on Young People represents a unique moment for all of us in the Catholic Church to consider the impact negative societal attitudes towards LGBT people have on all children and young people as they grow up. We have a real chance to lead on tackling the damage that is done to children and young people when they are caused to believe that to be LGBT would be a misfortune to them or a disappointment to their parents.

On your flight home from the World Meeting of Families in Dublin on 26 August this year, you said that parents of children who may be gay must “not condemn, but dialogue”, “make space for their son or daughter to express themselves” and to accept their children ‘just as they are’. We strongly agree with your sentiments.

Your comments followed the launch, a few days beforehand, of an important worldwide initiative, called ‘Equal Future 2018’, to raise awareness of the damage done to young people, particularly children, when they are caused to feel that to be LGBT would in any way be a misfortune or a disappointment.

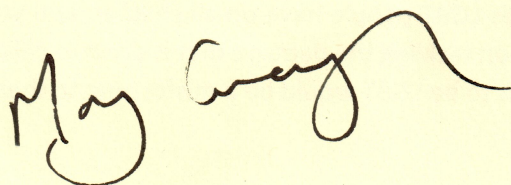
A stated objective of the Synod on Young People, currently under way in Rome, is to address situations where young people face exclusion around the world for social or religious reasons. Equal Future 2018 was set up, in part, to answer the Synod’s request for feedback, and to call on the Synod to consider the damage done when children and young people are given the sense that to be LGBT would be a misfortune or a disappointment, and the role of the Church’s current teaching in their being given that sense.

We, as Roman Catholic members of the United Kingdom Parliament, wish to lend our voices to that campaign. We believe that the Catholic Church has an important role in standing up for the marginalised and the voiceless, and in protecting people from damage. The Synod represents a moment for us to assert that leadership on behalf of young people and to protect them from the damage that results from negative or ambivalent attitudes about LGBT people being communicated to them.

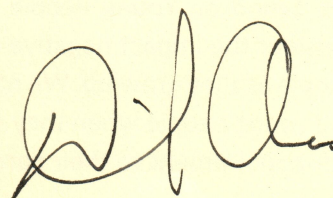
Whatever debates and disagreements exist within the Church, they must not cause the Synod to fail to examine and address the psychological hurt and damage done to young people through their being given any sense that to be LGBT would in any way be a misfortune or a disappointment – a sense to which current Catholic teaching is contributing.

May we please appeal to you directly, Holy Father, to ensure that the Synod fathers turn their attention fully to this matter, and help to relieve the suffering of young people, around the world, straightaway.

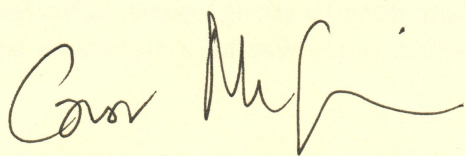
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mary Creagh', with a stylized, flowing script.

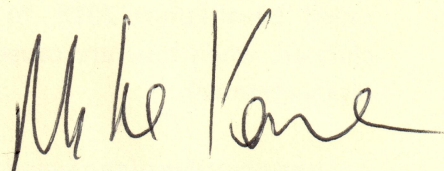
Mary Creagh MP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Amess', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sir David Amess MP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Conor McGinn', with a stylized, flowing script.

Conor McGinn MP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kane', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Kane MP

CC: XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops