

WHAT IS SUSA?

Susa is a wide-ranging resource hub that is designed to deliver more extensive and effective Christian engagement in politics and government.

Named after the biblical city from which we get a Prime Minister, a Senior Civil Servant, a Lobbyist and an Activist (can you name them?), it aims to encourage and equip Christianity in the UK so that church increasingly sees its role in political engagement as being: biblical; missional; and possible.

There is not a square inch of domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: 'It is Mine!'

Abraham Kuyper, Dutch Theologian and Prime Minister

WHY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT?

It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible.

George Washington

Politics is the method for doing government, and God is very interested in government because it is all about how we value and prioritise our relationships (personal, social, and economic). Consequently, if Jesus is Lord, then government is the 'family business' of God.

Through our clear biblical mandate to be 'salt and light', all God's people have a missional call to serve and to lead in the public square for His glory and our healing. Politics and government needs Christians who are led by the Holy Spirit and take the Bible seriously.

WHY NOW?

The times that we live in present huge challenges and great opportunities for Christian engagement in politics and government. The failures of secularism have cultivated widespread cynicism towards public life. Lacking vision and dynamism, modern politics has become evermore pragmatic and managerial. A loss of trust and political apathy has resulted in a haemorrhaging of membership and deep financial crises in the main parties. Bereft of new ideas and energy, this political vacuum represents a 'kairos' moment for Christian political engagement.

When people tell me that the Bible has nothing to do with politics, I ask them, 'Which Bible are you talking about?'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now.

Martin Luther King Jnr.

As the Sacred-Secular Divide that reduced faith to a private activity continues to collapse, the opportunity to affect widespread cultural change through politics is again possible. Although much Christian political involvement tends to focus on issue-based campaigning and policy protest, there is now an urgent need to develop a more broad-based and positive engagement. Moving beyond the language of defensive decline, this new participation needs to 'speak truth to power' and communicate hope across

every sphere of public life, from local to national.

WHAT WILL SUSA DO?

With an emphasis upon prayer and practice, Susa will encourage engagement by communicating the message across a diverse range of channels; educating, informing and inspiring church to lead and serve in politics and government.

It will equip by providing resources. Educative and multi-format, these will include written material, video content, internet facilities and importantly, network opportunities to connect to the numerous groups and individuals that are already actively engaged in a variety of ways. Their skills, experience, knowledge and inspirational examples are essential for

facilitating engagement. In turn, as more extensive and effective participation takes place, these stakeholders will realise direct and indirect benefits.

God is personal, but never private. And the Bible reveals a very public God... Private religion avoids the public consequences of faith.

Jim Wallis, 'God's Politics'

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Edmund Burke

Susa will contain and connect a huge library of resources relating to developing a Christian worldview in politics and for getting involved practically.

Specific elements of the resource include: a fun and interactive quiz; prayer resources; clear theological justification for practical political engagement (and some arguments against); historical examples of Christian political engagement (including some negative examples); an overview of the contemporary context for Christian political engagement; information about how to become prayerfully and practically involved in politics; discursive and educational materials for churches and small groups (including material specifically tailored to the needs of youth, black majority churches, new churches, etc.)

WHAT CAN I DO?

As a hub for encouraging and equipping, Susa will draw informative and inspiring contributions from MPs, Peers, MEPs, local councillors, policy advisors, party activists/organisers, school governors, researchers, prospective parliamentary candidates, and many more.

As a resource for church generally (and key strategic sub-groups specifically), Susa requires extensive collaboration with individuals, agencies, networks and organisations working at the coal-face of politics and government.

From charities to campaign groups, from think-tanks to denominations, all have a stake in seeing political culture positively impacted for God by providing material resources or support. So what are you waiting for?

We can change the world if we can change ourselves. Indeed, that is the only way the world is changed, for politics ultimately works through people and our acceptance of responsibility.

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, 'The Politics of Hope'

WHO IS BEHIND SUSAS?

Led by [Bible Society](#), this initiative is supported by:

- Christians in Politics: www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk
- Christians in Parliament: www.christiansinparliament.org.uk
- 24-7 Prayer www.24-7prayer.com
- Evangelical Alliance – Forum for Change www.eauk.org/forumforchange
- Christian Socialist Movement www.theccsm.org.uk
- Conservative Christian Fellowship www.ccfwebsite.com
- Liberal Democrat Christian Forum www.christianforum.libdems.org
- Theos – the public theology think-tank www.theosthinktank.org.uk

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