

Westminster Justice and Peace Commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

“The Commission exists to promote action and reflection on peace and social justice in the Diocese of Westminster, in the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.” (Westminster Yearbook 2022, p38)

Justice and peace issues may be local, national or international.

Accordingly, the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission will:

- Be a visible sign of justice and peace in the Diocese.
- Facilitate parishes, schools and individuals to form groups and networks for reflection and action on peace and justice.
- Identify and raise awareness of injustice and its root causes, including structural injustice.
- Promote justice and peace spirituality.
- Dialogue and discern with the Cardinal and Bishops on justice and peace matters.

Membership

The Commission is comprised of up to 12-15 members. Membership falls into 3 groups:

Group 1: Members by Appointment

1. The Chair (accountable to Bishop)
2. The Coordinator (accountable to Chair)
3. CAFOD Westminster staff member
4. CARITAS Westminster staff member

Group 2: Episcopal Area Representatives

Five members should be appointed to represent the five different geographical areas of the Diocese. These should be appointed by the Chair following an application process.

5. Representative for West London (nominated by the West London Network)
6. Representative for East London
7. Representative for Central London
7. Representative for North London
8. Representative for Hertfordshire

These representatives serve the two-way function of informing the Commission of local concerns, and relaying Justice & Peace Diocesan agendas back to their Parishes and Networks.

Members will serve for a term of three years.

Group 3 : Additional Commission Members

A further 3-6 people to provide expertise and wisdom to the work of the Commission, who would also be able to provide time, energy and, where helpful, leadership on sub-committees and working groups.

Members would be expected to demonstrate existing commitment to the priority areas and a capacity for multi-agency networking.

Members will be committed to working in ecumenical & interfaith partnerships and with all people of good will. Members will have a demonstrable knowledge in one or more of these areas:

- Environment & Climate Justice
- Fairtrade & Ethical Investment
- Refugees & Migrants
- Peace & Ending the Arms Trade
- Israel & Palestine
- Housing & Homelessness
- Education, Youth and Formation
- Work, Unemployment & Poverty
- Equality, Inclusion and Racial Justice
- Human Rights
- Beginning & End of Life
- International Development

These to be appointed by the Chair following an application process.

Members will serve for a term of three years.

Co-option

Additional members can also be selected by co-option to ensure sufficient diversity and expertise. The Commission will aim to ensure that the membership of the Commission reflects the diversity of the Diocese in terms of representation by gender, age, ethnicity, disability, clergy, lay, religious, staff, volunteers etc.