

Political and Civic Engagement. The

Council speaks on behalf of the church on social, political and ethical issues through media statements and interviews, articles, blogs, meetings with politicians, responses to government consultations and participation in campaigns following the General Assembly decisions.



Ecumenical Relations. The Council is involved in the work of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) and represents the church on bodies such as Christian Aid and Church Action on Poverty. The Council provides significant funding for the ACTS Racial Justice officer who is based in the ACTS office. For more information go to <http://www.acts-scotland.org>

The Council is part of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) through the CEC Church and Society network.

Resources. The Council produces a number of information resources to communicate with diverse audiences.

E- Newsletter. The monthly newsletter gives an overview of the activities of the Council during the month. To receive our monthly electronic newsletter please email icrosthwaite@cofscotland.org.uk

Credits: photographs were taken by M. Aitken, StartAgain, Stormcrypt.

Leaflets. The leaflets inform congregations and the general public on a specific issue and provide discussion topics for reflection. Current leaflets include: *End of Life issues: A Christian perspective; Credit Crunch: Holding out the Word of Life; Scotland's Choice, Report of the Scottish Prison's Commission.* All leaflets are downloadable from the Church of Scotland website.

Videos. Through its dedicated channel in YouTube, the Council showcases issues of particular importance to being a Christian in today's Scotland. The channel is available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ChurchandSociety#g/u>

Conferences. The Council sponsors lectures by eminent scientists, economists, business people, philosophers and politicians on a wide variety of topics. Recent speakers include, Alan MacFarlane, Ann Pettifor and Dr David Pullinger. Many of their presentations can be seen in the Council's YouTube Channel.

Website. Our website holds along with current news and events, downloadable copies of recent Council reports, leaflets and information about organisations with which we share common links. The website is available at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/churchsociety/

Themed Blogs

www.endoflifeissuesdebate.blogspot.com
www.ecocongregationscotland.blogspot.com
www.addictedlifestyles.blogspot.com
www.churchsociety.blogspot.com



Church of Scotland



Church and Society Council



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The remit of the Church and Society Council is to facilitate the Church of Scotland's engagement with and comment upon national, political and social issues through:



- the development of theological, ethical and spiritual perspectives in the formulation of policy on such issues;
- the effective representation of the Church of Scotland in offering on its behalf appropriate and informed comment on political and social issues;
- the building, establishing and maintaining of a series of networks and relationships with leaders and influence-shapers in civic society and engaging in long-term dialogue and the exchange of ideas with them;
- the support of the local church in its mission and engagement by offering professional and accessible resources on contemporary issues;
- the conducting of an annual review of progress made in discharging the remit and the provision of a written report to the Council of Assembly.

The Structure of the Council

The Council was formed in 2005. Its current convener is Rev Ian Galloway, minister of Gorbals Parish Church, Glasgow. The Council's Secretary is Rev Ewan Aitken.

The Work of the Council

Policy Development. The Council brings to the Assembly reports on a wide variety of current topics to assist the church's General Assembly in taking a view on the matter. Recent reports have included end of life issues, ethics of defence, addictions, climate change, growing up in Scotland, and economic justice. These reports are written by Council members and others co-opted for the task. They are also used to develop congregational debate and action.



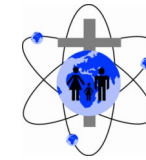
Projects

Responding to Climate Change Project provides inspiration, information, resources and guidance to congregations on implementing the church's commitment to challenging climate change. The project supports the work of Eco Congregation Scotland. For more information go to the Eco Congregation Scotland website on

<http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland/>

and the Eco Congregation blog at

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.blogspot.com>



The Society Religion and Technology Project has a 40 year track record in helping the church engage in issues of science and ethics with briefing papers,

research, policy papers and other educational resources. It leads the Council's work on the development of a commission on Economics.

Education. The Council continues the nearly 200 year history of the church's education committee. It supports religious representations on the 32 Local Authority education committees, develops church education policy and provides training and resources for those involved in chaplaincy. It also provides resources for schools.

The Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office monitors both Holyrood and Westminster on behalf of 11 denominations. It helps congregations and others engage in the political process and supports work of denominations on campaigns such as *Get Fair* and *Living Wage*. To receive its monthly update go to its website at <http://www.actsparl.org/>

Local Involvement. The Council believes that word has to be rooted in the life of its congregations for it to be truly authentic. Through our local involvement officer it provides support and resources to help make this happen.