Inviting candidates to events

A checklist for churches

Remember

Events are about building relationships with candidates so that you are in a better position to push for policies that tackle poverty. The aim is **not** to endorse a political party or influence how people vote.

Name of event:

Date of event:

1 to 2 months before

- [ ] Find out who is standing as a candidate for each party in your constituency at: whocanivotefor.co.uk/ppcs/details

Who should we invite?

Invite candidates from at least the mainstream parties. Make it clear you have done so in any event publicity.

- [ ] Decide if you'd like to ask specific questions and assign someone to lead the conversation during the visit. Visit this page for question ideas: caid.org.uk/whattoask
- [ ] Think about how you can show that your church cares about poverty. For example, could your church make and display art or banners?

2 weeks before

- [ ] Send your candidates a reminder. If you plan to serve food, check their dietary requirements.

On the day of the event

- [ ] Assign someone to meet your candidates and chaperone them around the event.

Notes

During the event

- [ ] Get to the main activity quickly and get talking about poverty. If you have questions, ensure you ask them and someone notes down the responses.
- [ ] Show your candidates anything your church has prepared, for example, banners, artwork or bakery.
- [ ] Ask them to commit to meet with your church again if they are elected.

What about photos?

If you feel publicity will help build a relationship with your candidates, ensure press releases and social media posts are also seen to be politically neutral.

At the end of the event

- [ ] Thank your candidates. Present them with anything you have made to make a lasting impression.

After the event

- [ ] Follow up with an email or letter, and thank them again. Mention any commitments they made during the visit.
- [ ] Think about how you can continue the relationship you have built. Consider inviting them to a future event.
- [ ] Let us know how the visit went.
  Email us at: campaigns@christian-aid.org

A final reminder - stay neutral!

Under charity law, churches can engage in political activity to influence politicians and campaign for policy change. However, the law requires churches to maintain - and be seen to maintain - political neutrality and independence at all times with regard to parties and candidates.

Notes

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