# Calls for Archbishop of Canterbury to resign over same-sex intimacy remarks



Calls have emerged for the resignation of Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby following his recent comments on a podcast supporting sexual intimacy in same-sex relationships under specific conditions. The remarks have sparked a backlash, particularly from Evangelical factions within the denomination, who argue that Welby's views represent a stark departure from established Church doctrine.

The controversy originated from Welby's appearance on the podcast The Rest is Politics, where, in response to a question from co-host Alastair Campbell, he expressed that sexual activity should occur within what he described as stable, committed, and faithful relationships, irrespective of gender. Welby further elaborated that couples in civil partnerships or same-sex marriages should be able to seek a church service of prayer and blessing.

These comments have drawn the ire of the Alliance, a collaboration of Church of England groups that adhere to traditional biblical teachings on sexual ethics. The Alliance has formally communicated with the archbishops and bishops, voicing concerns over what they consider a deviation from the Church's agreed doctrines without following the constitutional process. They argue that such significant changes in doctrine related to sexual ethics should have involved a formal process rather than be introduced through public discourse.

In addition to voicing their concerns, the Alliance has expressed intentions to establish a de facto parallel province within the Church of England, which they see as a necessary move in response to the perceived doctrinal changes. They point out the absence of provisions that would allow clergy with traditional views to be overseen by bishops who share their beliefs.

The official stance of the Church of England classifies sexual intimacy as an expression confined within marriage, which they define as a lifelong union between one man and one woman. This doctrinal position is reiterated in the pastoral guidance outlined for the Prayers of Love and Faith in 2023.

In response to the backlash, a statement released by Welby's office clarified that his remarks reflect personal views that have evolved through prayer and theological reflection, and align with those held by the Archbishop of York and other bishops. The statement emphasised his commitment to inclusivity within the Church community, particularly towards LGBTQ+ members.

Welby acknowledged the ongoing division among bishops over this issue and reiterated his commitment to ensuring that individuals holding traditional viewpoints continue to have a significant place within the Church of England.

Tim Dieppe, Head of Public Policy at Christian Concern, a UK-based group, criticised Welby's position in an op-ed, arguing that those adhering to traditional views are firmly rooted in Church doctrine and implying that bishops deviating from these teachings should resign. Dieppe questioned the appropriateness of holding leadership positions within the Church while maintaining beliefs that diverge from the traditionally stated doctrine.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-justin-welbys-gay-sex-comments-spark-backlash.html> - Corroborates Archbishop Justin Welby's comments on gay sex and the backlash from Evangelical factions, including his appearance on 'The Rest is Politics' podcast and the reaction from the Church of England Evangelical Council.
* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-demand-welbys-resignation-after-gay-sex-comment.html> - Supports the calls for Justin Welby's resignation following his comments on gay sex, highlighting the argument that his views represent a departure from the Church of England's doctrine.
* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-justin-welbys-gay-sex-comments-spark-backlash.html> - Details the specific conditions under which Welby supports sexual intimacy in same-sex relationships and the criticism from the Church of England Evangelical Council.
* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-justin-welbys-gay-sex-comments-spark-backlash.html> - Explains Welby's elaboration on couples in civil partnerships or same-sex marriages seeking church services of prayer and blessing, and the subsequent criticism.
* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-justin-welbys-gay-sex-comments-spark-backlash.html> - Describes the concerns of the Alliance regarding the deviation from the Church's agreed doctrines and the lack of a formal process for such changes.
* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-justin-welbys-gay-sex-comments-spark-backlash.html> - Mentions the intention of the Alliance to establish a de facto parallel province within the Church of England due to perceived doctrinal changes.
* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-justin-welbys-gay-sex-comments-spark-backlash.html> - Clarifies the official stance of the Church of England on sexual intimacy being confined within marriage as defined by the Church.
* <https://www.christianpost.com/news/archbishop-justin-welbys-gay-sex-comments-spark-backlash.html> - Provides the statement from Welby's office regarding his personal views and commitment to inclusivity, as well as the ongoing division among bishops.
* <https://christianconcern.com/comment/archbishop-abandons-doctrine-to-approve-of-same-sex-intimacy/> - Supports Tim Dieppe's criticism of Welby's position and his argument that traditional views are firmly rooted in Church doctrine.