



**LGB&T Anglican Coalition**  
**3 May 2013. Press Statement on:**

**"Men and Women in Marriage"**  
**A Document from the Church of England Faith and Order Commission**  
**For Immediate Use**

The LGB&T Anglican Coalition wishes to register its dismay at men "Men and Women in Marriage", the recently published report from the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England. Ostensibly an affirmation of what the Church of England believes about marriage, it appears, to us, to be merely an attempt to justify the Church of England's recent submission to the government opposing same sex civil marriage. It also makes specific and derogatory references to same-sex relationships.

Unlike the Pilling working party, which has consulted with the people most directly affected by this issue, i.e., lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) people, especially those who are members of the Church of England, the Faith and Order Commission has not, as far as we are aware, made any attempts to consult our constituency.

This is now our sticking point as a Coalition: that there should be no further Church of England reports or statements about matters that affect LGB&T people without clear evidence of participation in the process by LGB&T people. Without such participation the reports will have no validity.

Many authors have commented on the omissions in the report, for example, a historical perspective on the way marriage has evolved in the West, and the lack of women's perspectives on marriage. This document also fails to take proper account of how the social and legal attitudes to gender equality and to marriage have changed over the centuries. The understanding that marriage is an equal relationship for men and women is a modern idea. Until very recently the social and legal consequence of gender inequality that was built into the institution of marriage has had a profound effect on the relationships that are formed. We are surprised by this given the breadth and depth of scholarship on the Commission, which we know contains a range of views. We are delighted that one member, Charlotte Methuen, has published a personal, alternative, perspective on the subject, and hope that others will feel able to express their views in time.

In our opinion, a report that is so unrepresentative of the Church of England, as a whole, and that has been almost universally dismissed by academics and commentators alike, is not fit for further study and should be swiftly withdrawn.

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# LGB&T Anglican Coalition

## Member Groups

The Anglican Coalition provides UK based Christian LGB&T organisations with opportunities to create resources for the Anglican community and to develop a shared voice for the full acceptance of LGB&T people in the Anglican Communion.

The Group Members are as follows:

**Accepting Evangelicals** is a open network of Evangelical Christians who believe the time has come to move towards the acceptance of faithful, loving same-sex partnerships at every level of church life.

<http://www.acceptingevangelicals.org>

**Changing Attitude** is a campaigning group drawn by God's love to work for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Anglican Communion.

<http://www.changingattitude.org.uk>

**The Evangelical Fellowship for Lesbian and Gay Christians (EFLGC)**, formed in 1979, is a group of women and men, most of whom are lesbian, gay or bisexual and come from an evangelical Christian background..

<http://www.eflgc.org.uk>

**Inclusive Church** is a network of individuals and organisations working to break down the barriers to full inclusion at all levels of the Church of England.

<http://www.inclusive-church.org.uk>

**The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement** is a UK-based international Charity which challenges homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations.

<http://lgcm.org.uk>

**The Sibyls** is a UK-based confidential Christian spirituality group for transgender people, and their supporters.

<http://www.sibyls.co.uk>

**The Two:23 Network** is a new network of Christians, connected by LGBT issues that aims to include and encourage all to discover the love of God for themselves, pursue the call of Christ and live in a way that cherishes others just as God cherishes us. It has developed from the LGBT-affirming ministry of Courage.

<http://two23.net/>

**General Synod Human Sexuality Group** works in General Synod for deeper understanding on issues of sexuality.