

## CHALLENGE TO CP FROM A MR WALKER

**From:** [jrgwalker@aol.com](mailto:jrgwalker@aol.com) [<mailto:jrgwalker@aol.com>  
<<mailto:jrgwalker@aol.com>> ]  
**Sent:** 16 June 2008 11:06  
**To:** Joanna Thorpe  
**Cc:** tim@timfarron.co.uk <<mailto:tim@timfarron.co.uk>>  
**Subject:** A Challenge to Common Purpose

To: Joanna Thorpe  
Marketing Director  
Common Purpose

Dear Ms. Thorpe,

Your Charity is clearly under attack on a very large scale if you have had to publish a section "Is it true that Common Purpose....." here on [www.commonpurpose.net](http://www.commonpurpose.net) <<http://www.commonpurpose.net/>> (Tim, please scroll down to the bottom to find it). I know of no other charity that has had to resort to such measures.

Back in 1999, I worked for Macmillan Cancer Relief as a fundraiser. During an internal 'teach-in' day for the Charity in Manchester, I remember talking to Nick Young, the Charity's then Chief-Executive (now Sir Nicholas Young, CEO of the British Red Cross) and during our chat I remember asking him what would Macmillan do if somebody criticised the Charity to the point that it damaged the Charity's good name and the ability of the Charity to fundraise effectively. He said, without any hesitation whatsoever, that Macmillan would first make sure it was not at fault; then it would try and reason with the source of criticism; and, if that failed, would then resort to legal action to protect the Charity's good name and reputation.

I have to say that I am astounded that you have not attempted to silence, through legal action, your critics. If you are a *bona fide* charity, as you claim to be, with absolutely nothing to hide, then you would have taken your critics to court by now for slander and libel.

Common Purpose's excuse for not doing so, which I read in a copy of a letter you wrote recently to one of your clients, was that you didn't want to give the 'oxygen of publicity' to your critics. This is pathetic. If you are being maliciously targeted, then you are duty bound to

seek legal redress to restore your good name - this is what is expected of any decent charity with absolutely nothing to hide. One gets the feeling that you would not like your critics to have their day in court under oath.

I await your reply with interest. You will see that I have copied this letter to my MP, Tim Farron, who will also be interested in your response to this letter.

Yours sincerely

Justin R. G. Walker

## **COMMON PURPOSE REPLY**

-----Original Message-----

From: Joanna Thorpe <[Joanna.Thorpe@commonpurpose.org.uk](mailto:Joanna.Thorpe@commonpurpose.org.uk)>  
<<mailto:%20%20Joanna.Thorpe@commonpurpose.org.uk>> >  
To: [jrgwalker@aol.com](mailto:jrgwalker@aol.com) <[jrgwalker@aol.com](mailto:jrgwalker@aol.com)>  
CC: [tim@timfarron.co.uk](mailto:tim@timfarron.co.uk) <[tim@timfarron.co.uk](mailto:tim@timfarron.co.uk)>  
Sent: Mon, 16 Jun 2008 17:32  
Subject: RE: A Challenge to Common Purpose

Dear Mr Walker

Thank you for your email of Monday 16 June and concern about Common Purpose's reputation.

Common Purpose's reputation is being attacked by a small number of persistent people, who are making a number of untrue claims about our organisation, which range from Common Purpose grooming children for sex to being a pro-EU criminal organisation working to secretly abolish the UK state. You will have noticed that some of the criticism also comes from organisations like the British National Party. There is no doubt that these claims are defamatory.

We take the protection of our reputation very seriously and continually seek advice about how to handle, and review our strategy for dealing with, these untrue claims. Sadly the internet today is the perfect medium for all sorts of conspiracy theories. Common Purpose is very happy to discuss the work we do, and respect anyone's right not to agree with or support it, but it is important to us that the facts are correct. As such, we took the steps to create a website to communicate the facts and to correct the untruths about the organisation. Setting up a website is actually a fairly common response. We trust that people will read the claims and make their own informed decision about the motivation of those people who have written them. From reading the [www.commonpurpose.net](http://www.commonpurpose.net)

<<http://www.commonpurpose.net/>> site you will understand we are small/medium sized educational charity and our funding structure is different to the large fundraising charities like Macmillan. You can read our accounts here:

<http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk/home/CompanyInfo.aspx>.

We continue to monitor the need to take legal action, and the expense involved in this. We are of course, in touch with the Charity Commission, as our regulator, about these claims too.

If you have any questions about Common Purpose I would be delighted to talk to you, and Mr Farron MP, or to put you in touch with any of our Trustees:

<http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk/home/aboutus/trustees.aspx>.

You can read some of the comments from supporters and participants online here: [www.mycommonpurposeexperience.org](http://www.mycommonpurposeexperience.org)

<<http://www.mycommonpurposeexperience.org/>> or visit our press room

<http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk/home/aboutus/press.aspx> to get a more balanced of the coverage about Common Purpose.

sp;

regards

Joanna

**Joanna Thorpe**  
**Marketing Director**

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<<http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk/home.aspx>>

**Common Purpose gives leaders the inspiration, the knowledge and the connections they need to produce real change.**

## RESTATED CHALLENGE

From: [jrgwalker@aol.com](mailto:jrgwalker@aol.com)

To: [Joanna.Thorpe@commonpurpose.org.uk](mailto:Joanna.Thorpe@commonpurpose.org.uk)

CC: [timfarron@hotmail.com](mailto:timfarron@hotmail.com); [tim@timfarron.co.uk](mailto:tim@timfarron.co.uk)

Sent: Sun, 8 Feb 2009 21:40

Subject: Common Purpose must defend itself....or else!

Dear Ms Thorpe,

As you can see from the message below, I contacted you back in June of last year about the attacks on Common Purpose and how astounded I was that this 'charity' that you work for was refusing to clear its name in the courts as any proper charity would. Last week I saw on the Edge Media TV Channel an interview with Brian Gerrish who put forward a compelling and convincing case that your charity is, without doubt, taking part in treasonous and criminal activities (<http://www.tpuc.org/node/538> <<http://www.tpuc.org/node/538>> ).

The presenter of the programme, Theo Chalmers, offered repeatedly a 'right of reply' to Common Purpose to defend itself at a future date. I earnestly hope that you will take up this offer.....ideally you should agree to a live debate with Brian Gerrish so that we can sort out once and for all if there is any substance to Mr Gerrish's allegations. Failure by yourselves to take up this offer, which would cost the charity very little if anything financially, will make ordinary decent people believe you have something to hide and will leave you open to actions under Common Law to bring Common Purpose to justice.

As you can see, I have again CC'd my MP, Tim Farron, who I'm sure will be interested in how you respond to this.

I await, hopefully, your prompt reply.

Yours sincerely

Justin Walker