

common purpose

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Glenys Kinnock MEP and Eluned Morgan MEP
Labour European Office
Third Floor
Transport House
1 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9SD

Dear Glenys and Eluned

Thank you for forwarding the correspondence you have received about Common Purpose. We are aware of the internet posting of the event chaired by Roger Helmer MEP for the Campaign for an Independent Britain, with Brian Gerrish as a speaker.

Over the last couple of years Common Purpose has come under attack from a small group of individuals, notably Brian Gerrish and David Noakes, who believe we have a pro-European agenda. Criticism has also come from the United Kingdom Independence Party and the British National Party. These individuals are making untrue, offensive and defamatory claims about Common Purpose on the internet, which are being repeated on various conspiracy theory blogging sites. We are also being notified of a large number of Freedom of Information Act requests being received by public sector organisations about their relationship with Common Purpose and the information from these requests is then appearing on the internet.

Common Purpose is very proud of its track record of working with leaders of all backgrounds, ages and sectors. We receive a broad spectrum of media coverage that highlights the positive impact of our leadership development programmes and award schemes. Our reputation is very important to us and Common Purpose is founded on the principles of independence and non-alignment. The Common Purpose Trustees recently issued a brief response to these criticisms on our website. This, along with a list of Trustees is attached for your reference.

This campaign against us is time-consuming and distressing for staff to deal with, as well as undoubtedly defamatory. We have been advised the sensible approach is not to give these claims oxygen by responding to them. I would welcome your advice if you have experience of handling these sorts of matters.

Yours sincerely

Julia Middleton
Chief Executive and Founder

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