

13 June 2016

We are writing on the matter of the EU vote to express a view that we share

Freedom of expression, a vital human right, is the bedrock of our search for knowledge, and as a human right, something that has been assured through the development of strong European human rights institutions. The journey from the crisis at the end of the Second World War to the situation that we have, where individuals have rights assured through a cooperative Europe has led to us securing unparalleled protection of individual liberties and freedoms.

We have seen terrible things done by extreme governments in the last century, the consequence of rising racism and nationalism. We now again live in a time where [racism](#)¹ and [nationalism](#)² are on the rise and becoming more [mainstream](#)³. In France the far right [National Front won 6.8 million votes](#) in regional elections in 2015, its largest ever score⁴. The [Austrian presidential election](#) narrowly missed electing the far right candidate⁵. In Austria the nationalist freedom party achieved 35.1% of the vote share at the last elections.

There is a crisis on our southern European borders where the wars of ISIS and corrupt governments are causing enormous instability. In 2014 [3.9 million refugees had left Syria](#)⁶. We face a grave global challenge with the [impact of environmental change](#)⁷ which will require concerted efforts if we are to avoid a disaster for our children and grandchildren.

We believe the presence of Britain in the EU is a positive counter-balance to other forces. This provides us with relative stability and [peace](#)⁸ that in turn has let us travel freely, learning across boundaries about each other. We may not trust many politicians but we think the lessons of our recent history are more compelling and more convincing. Our security and prosperity is made possible by collaboration and cooperation together.

We believe benefits of the EU for students, academics and universities are [clear and unambiguous](#)⁹. The very idea of a university is something that transcends national location and reaches beyond borders. We benefit hugely from the opportunity of having EU students from overseas come to our courses and from our own students going overseas to other parts of the EU for their studies. The VCs of the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University [wrote a joint statement](#) in the local press attesting to the dangers leaving the EU would bring to UK Higher Education¹⁰.

In the EU referendum we will be voting “in”, for peace and cooperation in Europe and confidence in facing the global challenges of our times, and we urge you to vote “in” as well.

Signed in a personal capacity by staff at Canterbury Christ Church University

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Andy Bloor, Senior Lecturer in Education
Graham Birrell, Senior Lecturer in Education
Dr Alan Bainbridge, Senior Lecturer in Education
Mary Woolley, Senior Lecturer in Education
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Emily Sayers, Senior Lecturer in Education
Keith Saunders, Senior Lecturer in Education
Dr Jonathan Barnes, Visiting Senior Research Fellow
Patrick Meehan, Senior Lecturer in Education
Professor Trevor Cooling
Dr Christian Beighton, Senior Lecturer in Education
Mary Andall-Stanberry, Senior Lecturer in Education
Helen Quintrell,
Dr. Gemma Vuuren-Cassar, Senior Lecturer in Education
David Bevan
Mary Wood, Senior Lecturer in Education
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Ali Body, Senior Lecturer in Education

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Catherine Ashdown, Senior Lecturer in Education

Dave Bubb, Senior Lecturer in Education

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Karen Simpson, Senior Lecturer in Primary Education

Professor Linden West

Aidan Gillespie, Senior Lecturer in Primary Education

Dr John Kullman, Principal Lecturer in the Department of English and Language Studies

Jane Kullman Ceramics/senior technician

Hazel Reid, Professor of Education and Career Management

Dr John-Paul Riordan, Senior Lecturer in Primary Education

Chris Carpenter, Senior Lecturer in Education

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Colin Walker, Senior Lecturer in Education

This message is not an official university statement. You are encouraged to consider all messages during this campaign critically. You are encouraged to use your democratic entitlement at the EU referendum. A detailed report on many of the EU issues is available here. <http://lawyers-inforbritain.uk/>

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/may/27/-sp-racism-on-rise-in-britain>

² <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/06/world-europe-160605132634954.html>

³ <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/02/far-right-europe-austria-democratic-right-elect-cleaned-up-fascist-president-suspend-country-from-eu>

⁴ <http://time.com/4147837/marine-le-pen-france-regional-elections/>

⁵ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/19/the-rise-of-the-far-right-in-europe-is-not-a-false-alarm/>

⁶ http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Highlights.pdf

⁷ http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

⁸ See for example: <http://www.independent.ie/business/brexit/eu-has-brought-us-decades-of-peace-what-europe-needs-now-is-reform-not-a-brexiteer-34763250.html>; http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/alan-grant-2/eu-referendum_b_8326028.html; For a more detailed read see <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Why-Europe-Matters-European-Union/dp/1137016876>

⁹ <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/international/eu-referendum-how-does-the-european-union-affect-universities-and-students/>

¹⁰ http://www.kentnews.co.uk/news/exclusive_kent_universities_chiefs_write_for_kent_on_sunday_as_to_why_we_should_vote_to_remain_on_june_23_1_4559461