The Labour Party

Rt Hon. Sir Keir Starmer KC Leader of the Labour Party

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Dear Faith Leaders,

As I travel around the country, I am regularly reminded of the many ways that faith contributes to the rich diversity of the United Kingdom. Since I became an MP in 2015, I have been deeply moved by the contribution of the UK's faith-based organisations. Through years of austerity, a global pandemic, overseas conflicts and a cost-of-living crisis, our faith groups have served with resilience and compassion.

You have saved lives, sustained families and strengthened communities in their hour of need. You have demonstrated what it means to be a society of service and we are forever grateful. We recognise the depths of belief and devotion that drive your commitment to social justice and social action. And we welcome your efforts to bring about a brighter future for everyone in our country.

Given the opportunity to serve, a mission-led Labour government would ensure strong partnerships with faith communities, harnessing your energy and creativity to renew our country. To help us do this, we would:

- · Appoint a government minister to lead on engagement with faith communities
- Engage faith-based organisations in the delivery of our five missions
- Promote local faith covenants to facilitate partnerships between Local Authorities and faith groups in communities
- Continue to utilise our network of parliamentary faith champions to enhance our engagement with faith communities.

In addition, in a time of worrying polarisation and division, I want to reassure you that a Labour government would be committed to building a Britain where all faith communities are safe and where diversity is celebrated

Thank you for all you have done and all you are doing. I hope that we will have the opportunity to work together to unify our country and transform our local communities. And finally, particular greetings to those who are marking Eid al-Adha, Shavuot or the Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji this week.

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