



BRIEFING NOTE

Protest Rights Under Threat: The Crime and Policing Bill

Issued by: Cytûn — Churches Together in Wales
Date: March 2026
Audience: Faith communities and concerned citizens across Wales
Action required: **Write to your Westminster MP before 14 April 2026**

Summary

The UK Government's Crime and Policing Bill contains a 'cumulative disruption' clause that would allow police to restrict peaceful protests based on earlier, unrelated demonstrations in the same area. Faith leaders across Britain — including Cytûn's General Secretary Dr Cynan Llwyd — have joined a major interfaith coalition calling on MPs to remove it before it becomes law. A Commons vote is scheduled for 14 April 2026.

1. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Crime and Policing Bill was introduced to Parliament in February 2025. Alongside welcome measures on knife crime and anti-social behaviour, it contains provisions that pose a serious threat to the right to peaceful protest in England and Wales. The Bill has passed the House of Lords and returns to the Commons for a key vote on 14 April 2026.

This Bill does not stand alone. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and the Public Order Act 2023 have already significantly restricted protest rights, prompting the Joint Committee on Human Rights to warn of a 'chilling effect' on democratic participation. The current Bill adds further layers of restriction to an already tightened framework.

2. THE 'CUMULATIVE DISRUPTION' CLAUSE

Amendment 372 would require police, when deciding whether to impose conditions on a protest, to consider 'cumulative disruption' from previous demonstrations in the same area — regardless of whether those protests were organised by the same people or related to the same cause.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has raised serious concerns about the clause:

- There is no definition of 'cumulative' and no time frame is specified.
- There is no definition of 'area', enabling potentially large zones to be affected.
- Protests on different subjects by different people count towards the cumulative total.
- The clause would disproportionately affect recurring demonstrations, weekly vigils, and sustained campaigns.

An earlier version of this provision was introduced by secondary legislation and subsequently quashed following judicial review. The Government now seeks to reintroduce it through primary legislation.

3. THE FAITH COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Cytûn — Churches Together in Wales — has joined a major cross-faith coalition in opposing these provisions. Dr Cynan Llwyd, Cytûn's General Secretary, was among the signatories of a joint letter to The Times and to MPs ahead of the Commons vote.

“Peaceful protest has always been part of how society seeks justice and change. For many Christians, this connects directly to our calling as citizens — to act, both individually and through our churches, on matters of public importance. This proposal risks going too far by restricting protest not because of what people are doing, but because of what others may have done before them.”

— Dr Cynan Llwyd, General Secretary, Cytûn

This response is rooted not in partisanship but in the conviction that the freedom to demonstrate peacefully is integral to a healthy democracy — and to the Christian calling to seek justice and the common good.

4. WRITE TO YOUR WESTMINSTER MP

Act before 14 April 2026

Every MP represents a constituency. Writing to yours is one of the most effective ways an individual can influence legislation — and it takes just a few minutes.

Step 1 — Find your MP

Visit members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP and enter your postcode. Every household in Wales has a directly elected Westminster MP.

Step 2 — Contact your MP

- **By email:** via the Parliament website above, or at www.writetothem.com
- **By post:** [Name] MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA — no stamp required.
- **In person:** contact your MP's office to attend a constituency surgery.

Step 3 — What to say

In your own words, you might:

- Introduce yourself as a constituent and person of faith.
- Express concern about Amendment 372 — the cumulative disruption clause.
- Ask your MP to vote against it, or to support amendments to remove it.
- Request a response setting out their position.

Further Information

Full article: www.cytun.co.uk/en/8529-2

Commons Library briefing on the Bill: commonslibrary.parliament.uk
