



BRIEFING • BRIFF

Cytûn – Eglwysi Ynghyd yng Nghymru
Churches Together in Wales

Welsh Government International Spending

A briefing ahead of the Opposition Debate on Motion NDM9249

To	Members of the Senedd, all parties
From	Cytûn: Churches Together in Wales
Subject	Opposition Debate — Motion NDM9249 (Welsh Government international spending)
Debate	Wednesday 17 June 2026
Date	15 June 2026

OUR RECOMMENDATION

Cytûn urges Members of the Senedd, from every party, to reject Motion NDM9249 and its call to end all Welsh Government international spending.

Ahead of Wednesday's Opposition Debate, Cytûn: Churches Together in Wales urges Members of the Senedd, from every party, to reject Motion NDM9249 and its call to end all Welsh Government international spending. Dr Cynan Llwyd, General Secretary of Cytûn, has issued the following briefing.

Wales: a small nation with a wide horizon

Wales has long understood itself as a small nation with a wide horizon. Our international engagement is not an indulgence; it is an expression of who we are and who we wish to be. It makes Wales a welcoming destination for the inward investment and trade that sustain jobs in our communities. It opens the world to our young people — through Taith, learners from every part of Wales have travelled to more than ninety countries, broadening horizons that no classroom alone can reach. It honours our commitments to our global neighbours living in extreme poverty through the Wales and Africa programme, and our standing as the world's first Fair Trade Nation. It keeps faith with our calling as a Nation of Sanctuary to those fleeing war and persecution. And it gives effect to a duty already written into Welsh law: the goal of a globally responsible Wales set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

A long tradition, not a passing fashion

Nor is this outward gaze a recent fashion. A century ago, in 1924, in the aftermath of the Great War, 390,296 women of Wales — almost a third of the nation's women — signed a peace petition appealing to the women of America to help build a world ruled by law rather than war. It was organised house to house, in communities and congregations the length and breadth of the country. The memorial they sent across the Atlantic, more than seven miles of signatures, was returned home to Wales in 2023 and now rests in the National Library. This initiative was followed by the Church Leaders Peace Appeal of 1925. These stories are kept alive today by the Welsh people who through churches, chapels, trade unions, and charitable endeavour

have understood the pursuit of peace and friendship beyond our borders. Wales recognises the value of friendship, responsibility, and partnership not only its cost.

A matter of faith

For the churches we represent, this is no abstraction. Ours is a faith that is local in its roots and global in its family; the call to love our neighbour has never stopped at a border, and the welcome of the stranger as a neighbour is among the clearest of our Christian obligations. We would add that the sums at stake are modest — a fraction of one per cent of the Welsh budget — while the return, in prosperity, reputation and good conscience, is considerable.

A deeper concern: the politics of division

But our concern runs deeper than this single motion.

We ask Members to reject, too, the manner of politics it represents. NDM9249 is framed as an absolute because it is designed not to govern but to divide. It is a wedge, deliberately and cynically fashioned to manufacture a dividing line and to set neighbour against neighbour. Cytûn views with real disquiet the growing use of such tactics, and the reduction of complex public questions to false either/or choices. A politics that trades in division for its own sake corrodes the common life that holds a nation together.

At a moment of genuine challenge — a time of economic pressure at home, instability abroad, a changing climate that respects no boundary — the people of Wales are entitled to legislators who take their office seriously. That means representing all constituents, including those who did not vote for them; weighing competing views in good faith; and choosing the patient work of building up over the performative political theatre of dividing. Motions that exist chiefly to generate a quarrel fall far short of that duty. They demean the institution and the parties that promote them.

An invitation to a better politics

Cytûn, without fear or favour, will continue to stand for a Wales that is confident, generous, and unafraid of the world beyond its shores. At the start of this seventh Senedd, we call for a politics conducted with grace and compassion and a genuine regard for all — values which reflect the genuine convictions of the faith we share.

We strongly urge all Members to reject this motion, and now that the binary politics of the election is over, to model instead the kind of public life that seeks common ground rather than fresh division.

Contact

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