

**OXFORD
LETTER**

UNION

INVITATION



the OXFORD UNION

Daniel Wilkinson

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Dear Mr Donohue,

I am writing to extend an invitation for you to speak at the Oxford Union in one of our historic debates this coming term. It would be a great privilege were you to accept this invitation, and I sincerely hope you will be able to join us for the debate.

The Oxford Union was founded in 1823 by students protesting the restrictions placed on freedom of speech and expression by the University of Oxford. Since our foundation, the Oxford Union has been defined by its outspokenness and dedication to creating the conversations that matter. Through that aim, we have evolved into one of the most prestigious student societies in the world.

Throughout our history, we have played host to world-leading politicians, thinkers, and activists alike who have spoken on the most important issues of the day. From former Presidents Nixon, Carter, and Reagan, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Oxford Union has been at the forefront of contemporary political and social debate. It would be an honour if you were to join us in debate and continue this fine tradition.

We would be delighted, therefore, were you to speak on the motion:

This House Believes The Catholic Church Can Never Pay For Its Sins

In the wake of the Pennsylvania grand jury report, the Catholic Church has once again been put under the public spotlight for its actions. Following revelations about prolific child sexual abuse and the false imprisonment within the infamous Magdalene laundries, the church has taken steps to accept responsibility for the actions of its members including public apologies, expelling priests, and limited payout programs for victims. Whilst living up to a message of repentance is something of clear importance to the Church's new leadership, critics argue that based on the scale of damage done, efforts continue to be insufficient. In light of this we ask, can the Catholic Church ever pay for its sins?

As is tradition, the debate will be held on a Thursday evening, though there are currently a number of possible dates: **17th January, 24th January, 31st January, 7th February, 21st February, 28th February.**

The Union offers a unique combination of tradition and prestige, with our student members often constituting those who go on to be the leaders of tomorrow. Almost all of our debates have been uploaded to the Oxford Union YouTube channel, but of course, the level of media attention would be entirely up to your discretion.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any wish to discuss this invitation further.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Wilkinson

President

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