

**Christopher Luxon**

Prime Minister, New Zealand  
Office of the Chief Executive  
Level 8 Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

**Collective Petition: Preserve Tax Exempt Status for Churches**

Dear Prime Minister Christopher Luxon,

We, the undersigned, represent a diverse group of individuals gravely concerned with your recent comments that you are “actually quite open to that consideration” regarding the taxation of churches.

The Statute of Elizabeth from 1601 rightly recognizes the indispensable role that charities play in society by crafting out a tax-exempt status for certain charitable organizations, including churches.

Churches regularly bridge the gap between government and individuals. They offer a wide range of programs outside of religious services, including but not limited to food banks, addiction treatment, parenting programs, prisoner reintegration services, schools, retirement homes, mental health support, and other spiritual and social services.

Removing their tax-exempt status would place an unnecessary financial burden on these organizations and directly result in fewer people receiving help. Taxing churches will needlessly divert critical resources away from charitable activities and diminish the capacity of churches to serve those most in need.

Your proposal to tax churches is unjust and shortsighted. We urge you to immediately reconsider any efforts to tax churches.

Sincerely,

***International Christian Concern***

And the undersigned: