



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

LONDON SYNOD SAYS NO TO HEATHROW EXPANSION ¹

The Church has joined the growing opposition to Heathrow expansion. The London Synod agreed at its meeting on 12 March that 'the Diocese should oppose the development of a new third runway and sixth terminal at Heathrow.'

Synod had debated the February report 'on the proposed expansion of HEATHROW AIRPORT by the Head of ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE.' London Synod represents the episcopal areas of 2 cities (London and Westminster), Edmonton, Kensington, Stepney and Willesden. 64 delegates voted in favour, five were against and three abstained.

Christine Shilling, NoTRAG's Press Secretary said 'local people have needed to hear this public statement of support from the Church of England for a long time. We've been campaigning since 2002 to bring attention to the devastating social and environmental consequences of further expansion at Heathrow which outweigh the unproven economic benefits. Our communities are on death row. So we're delighted that at the 11th hour London Synod has reached this conclusion.'

The Synod report said: "It does have to be asked, can indefinite expansion ever be sustainable? Will it not always be supported by the same arguments as are deployed now? Does there come a point to draw the line, if so why not now?"

John Stewart, chair of HACAN noted: 'We welcome the decision the church has made. The church is quite right to say that the Government has to draw the line at the further expansion of Heathrow.'

Geraldine Nicholson, Chair of NoTRAG commented, 'the list of groups opposed to the Brown runway just keeps on growing. Brown, Hoon and their Cabinet colleagues are looking increasingly isolated. We call on this Government to stop listening so hard to the aviation industry and try listening to others instead.'

¹ http://www.london.anglican.org/NewsShow_11700
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