

# Meeting with your Member of Parliament

# Your Power as a Constituent

- **History of the UCC** – active in the public arena
- **Democracy requires engagement between elections**
- **Engaged citizenship** is part of Christian discipleship

# Your Power as a Constituent

- It is important to be political,  
but not partisan
- Building an **ongoing relationship** with your MP is important

# Your Power as a Constituent

- National bodies can bring limited pressure to bear on government.
- **MP's are most sensitive to the views of their constituents.**
- MP's can influence their caucus.

# Preparing

- Make an **Appointment**
- **Know Your Subject**
- Be Familiar with the **Political Process**

# Preparing

- **Know Whom you Represent** – on whose behalf are you speaking?  
(yourself, your group, congregation...)  
*Can't speak for the UCC but can speak as a member.*
- **Organize your Delegation**

# During

- **Meet 15 min ahead** at the MP's office, if going as a delegation
- **Be articulate and concise**
- Name **why this issue is important to you** (as a Christian, a UCC member, a citizen...)
- **Don't speak too long**

# During

- Find out **your MP's views**
- Give the MP some **good political reason** why they should take a stand (useful polls etc)
- Draw a **commitment from them**, that means you will have to get back in touch with them.



# During

Would your MP be prepared to

- Raise the issue in their caucus
- Make a public statement
- Ask a question in Parliament
- Talk to another MP or cabinet minister on your behalf
- Write a letter raising your concerns
- Raise the issue at a party meeting
- Sign a petition

# During

- **What if my MP raises a question I can't answer?** Promise to **follow up**, and then contact the Mining Justice Network, the Open for Justice Campaign, or staff in the GCO office.
- **Leave information with your MP** – offer supportive material ( UCC letters, briefing notes, stories...) that will remind your MP of your concerns

# Follow-Up

- Send a **thankyou note** or e-mail
- If you have promised any **further information, deliver it soon**
- Make sure your **MP honours any commitment** made to you. **Contact them to find out if you don't hear within 2 weeks.**

# Follow-Up

- **Debrief** with your delegation- what worked and what didn't?
- **Communicate** with allies – network, regional groups, GCO.
- **Re-engage with your MP** as new developments arise.