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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Children and young people who are or may be LGBT  
can't be pawns in Catholic Church civil war**

Equal Future 2018 today has called on the Catholic Church not to make children and young people who are or may be LGBT pawns in the growing factional struggles within the Church's hierarchy.

Tiernan Brady, Campaign Director of Equal Future 2018, said "LGBT must not be dragged into the internal rifts that are emerging in the Catholic Church. Some factions within the Church are trying to prevent any change in approach towards LGBT people even though truth clearly demands it. Over the last few weeks so-called conservative elements have openly threatened the Pope and others and connected those threats expressly to homosexuality."

"In October the Catholic Church's Synod on Young People will be held in Rome. This is a once-in-a-generation moment where the Church can consider how to prevent the real damage of stigma that is being done to children and young people across the globe who are, or may be, LGBT. The decisions taken at this synod will be felt for years to come by children and young people whether they are Catholic or not. What is increasingly clear is that so-called conservative elements within the Church are trying to block any progress on LGBT at the Synod, with disregard for the mental health of children and young people. The Equal Future 2018 Campaign is calling on all people who wish to see change to contact their country's Synod delegates themselves or through the campaign at [www.equalfuture2018.com](http://www.equalfuture2018.com)"

Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia called this week for the Synod on Young People to be cancelled.

"For too long LGBT people have had to grow up sustaining damage from stigma caused by the message that to be LGBT is a misfortune or a disappointment or worse, a stigma contributed to and perpetuated by current Catholic Church teaching on LGBT. For the sake of the wellbeing of the very individuals the Synod on Young People is intended to focus on, they must not now be made pawns in a wider Catholic Church battle, with the result that future generations continue to have their lives needlessly and avoidably blighted " Brady continued.

"Consultations with young people in the run up to the Synod have made clear that they want the Synod to talk about LGBT people. Some elements within the church are now trying to derail their wishes. Across the world, poll after poll shows that Catholics support LGBT people being treated equally. It is time the upper management of the Catholic Church themselves acknowledge the truth their flock know, rather than trying to stifle it" Brady concluded.

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Editors notes:

Equal Future 2018 is an international humanitarian campaign which seeks to seize on a moment in history to raise awareness around the world of the damage done to children when they are given the sense that being LGBT would be a misfortune or a disappointment.

We are a determined campaign, but not one that stoops to anger or condemnation. We are a campaign of hope and optimism and we seek to campaign with respect and dignity.

In raising awareness, Equal Future 2018 aims to shift behavior, straight away.