



**All-Party Parliamentary Group on
Artificial Intelligence**

AI and Our Spiritual and Cultural Lives

**Navigating the Intersection of
Technology, Tradition, and
Human Essence in the AI Era**



**2 December 2024
Policy Forum**

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INTRODUCTION

This document is a transcript with summary of an APPG AI evidence meeting that took place on 2 December 2024 in the House of Lords Committee Room 4A, UK Parliament. The transcript exclusively contains crucial discussion elements; not all points are addressed.

DETAILS

- Evidence Session: AI and Our Spiritual and Cultural Lives
- Time 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm (GMT)
- Date: Monday 2 December 2024
- Venue: Committee Room 4A in the House of Lords.

EVENT PARTNER

AI Faith & Civil Society Commission

CONTACT SECRETARIAT

appg@biginnovationcentre.com
APPG AI Secretariat
Big Innovation Centre

EVIDENCE GIVERS

- **Steven Croft**, The Rt. Rev the Lord Bishop of Oxford
- **Silkie Carlo**, Director of Big Brother Watch. Commissioner of the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission and a practising Buddhist.
- **Roseita Royce**, President of British Film Festival, CEO of Big Ben Studios.
- **Simon Belsham**, Founder and former-CEO of The Healing Company, Inc. and Wellbeing Consultant
- **Kate Devlin**, Professor of Artificial Intelligence & Society in the Department of Digital Humanities, King College, University of London. Commissioner of the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission, and a Humanist.

MEETING CHAIRS AND RAPPORTEUR

The Meeting was co-chaired by **Allison Gardner MP** and **Lord Clement-Jones**; Co-Chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence.

Rapporteur for this meeting: **Professor Birgitte Andersen**, CEO Big Innovation Centre



Aim of Session

AI and Our Spiritual and Cultural Lives: Navigating the Intersection of Technology, Tradition, and Human Essence in the AI Era

As artificial intelligence continues to shape modern life, its influence on people's spiritual and cultural lives is an emerging area of concern and interest. AI not only influences how we live and work, but also how we experience fundamental aspects of humanity, such as memory, autonomy, attention, purpose, well-being and creativity. In doing so, it also raises important questions about human dignity and meaning in the age of Artificial Intelligence.

With contributions from civil society, policymakers, academia and representatives from wellbeing and creative industries, the discussion will address both the challenges AI poses to spiritual and cultural life, and whether there are any opportunities for AI to enhance these dimensions. It will also prompt discussion on ways we can protect human identity and values in AI development moving forwards.

Questions were raised to inspire the discussion:

- **Spiritual and Cultural Impact:** What are the ways AI is already impacting spiritual and cultural identities? How might it further impact these key aspects of what makes us 'human' in the future?
- **Preserving Cultural And Spiritual Heritage:** What are some of the risks AI is presenting in these areas? How can we ensure human spirituality and creativity are protected in an AI era?
- **Technological enhancement:** Can AI be used to uplift spiritual and creative sectors? What are examples where AI has already played a role in enhancing these aspects of life?
- **Civil Society's role:** How can civil society play a part in protecting and promoting spiritual and cultural values in the AI era? What unique insights can it bring to the debate



Lord Taylor of Warwick, Tom Collins MP, Lord Ranger of Northwood, Allison Gardner MP, Nicole Pearson (AI Faith & Civil Society Commission), **The Lord Bishop of Oxford, Roseita Royce** (Big Ben Studios), **Lord Clement-Jones, Professor Birgitte Andersen** (Big Innovation Centre and APPG AI Secretariat), **Simon Belsham** (The Healing Company Inc. (former) and Wellbeing Consultant), **Kate Devlin** (King College, University of London, and AI Faith and Civil Society Commission), and **Silkie Carlo** (Big Brother Watch, and AI Faith and Civil Society Commission).





FINDINGS

ACTION FIELDS FOR POLICY AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

ACTION FIELDS FOR POLICY AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The APPG AI Evidence Session on 'AI and our Spiritual and Cultural Lives' emphasised the necessity for responsible and ethical engagement with technology to ensure the flourishing of human spiritual and cultural lives and integrity in society.

As we navigate the complexities of artificial intelligence and its implications for society, the meeting underscored the importance of establishing a framework for artificial intelligence (AI) grounded in human values and ethics. It emphasised key priorities for AI policy, practice, and governance, including a **human-centric focus** that prioritises individual well-being and dignity, the **engagement of faith communities** to incorporate spiritual and cultural perspectives in shaping ethical AI development, and the protection of **cultural integrity** to ensure technological advancements respect and preserve diversity and traditions. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the need for **ethical development**, advocating for AI systems that adhere to moral principles and contribute positively to society, and **collaborative efforts** to bring together diverse stakeholders to address the broader implications of AI on communities. The overarching goal is to ensure that AI not only aligns with ethical and cultural values but also enhances human well-being and promotes the collective good of society.

1. The Role of Faith Communities in AI Discussions:

- Faith communities are important dialogue partners in addressing the ethical implications of AI, emphasising human flourishing and personal interaction over technology.

2. Human-Centric Approaches:

- The Church and other faith groups advocate for AI that promotes personal contact and community, ensuring technological engagement focuses on human values.

3. Addressing the Spirituality Crisis:

- There's a growing need for meaning and connection as traditional spiritual institutions decline, with technology often filling this gap through consumerism.

4. The Impact of AI on Society:

- AI can enhance and challenge spirituality, leading to both disconnection and opportunities for growth, depending on how it is developed and implemented.

5. Ethical AI Development:

- Urgent calls for ethical guidelines in AI creation, ensuring it respects and promotes human rights, privacy, and equitable access to technology.

6. Importance of Cultural Integrity:

- There's a risk of cultural homogenisation due to the dominance of AI trained on limited datasets, threatening languages and traditions not adequately represented.

7. Economic and Employment Considerations:

- AI poses risks to job security and roles in the creative sector if not properly integrated, calling for a balance between innovation and sustaining skilled labour.

8. Recommendations for Policymakers:

- **Adopt a National Well-Being Index:** Monitor well-being alongside AI development.
- **Ensure Ethical AI Regulations:** Collaborate to create transparent and inclusive AI frameworks.
- **Invest in Community Initiatives:** Fund projects that promote social connections and cultural heritage.
- **Integrate Technology Education:** Foster understanding of technology's implications in society through education.
- **Support Research and Ethical Standards:** Incentivise research on the cultural impact of AI and create guidelines for responsible use.

9. Collective Responsibility and Community Engagement:

- Engage communities in the AI conversation, adopt protective strategies for cultural heritage, and emphasise the interplay between technology and ethical values to ensure technology serves humanity positively.

10. Promote Collaborative Governance:

- Encourage cooperation between tech companies, policymakers, and faith communities to create an inclusive framework that ensures diverse perspectives are considered in AI development. This collaboration can help establish trust and accountability, enabling technology to be harnessed for the common good while addressing societal concerns and spiritual well-being.



Evidence Giver:
Steven Croft



Evidence Giver:
Silkie Carlo



Evidence Giver:
Roseita Royce



Evidence Giver:
Simon Belsham



Evidence Giver:
Prof. Kate Devlin



APPG AI Chair:
Allison Gardner MP



APPG AI Chair:
Lord Clement-Jones CBE



Secretariat & Rapporteur:
Professor Birgitte Andersen



**AI Faith & Civil Society
Commission**
Nicole Pearson

EVIDENCE

A JOINT APPG AI EVENT WITH THE



AI FAITH & CIVIL SOCIETY
COMMISSION



Nicole Pearson
AI Faith & Civil Society Commission



Introduction to our event partner, the “AI Faith & Civil Society Commission”:

Nicole Pearson, Consultant at the Commission

Introduction

It's wonderful to see such a packed room today. My name's Nicole, and I work as part of the secretariat for the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission, which are partnering with the AI APPG on this event today.

Background

The Commission was established about a year ago, shortly after the Bletchley Park 'AI Safety Summit', in recognition of what we saw as a gap in the AI conversation—a space to have a discussion around the human implications of AI and to bring together different perspectives from across faith and civil society.

Our Goal

Our goal is being rooted in the belief that it's by bringing together these different perspectives from faith, civil society, and technology that we can truly start to try and navigate some of the complexities of AI more effectively.

Panel Introduction

So, we have Commissioners from across different beliefs and backgrounds, and you're going to hear from two of our Commissioners today, Professor Kate Devlin and Silkie Carlo. I think the whole panel will really illustrate what the value is of bringing together non-conventional perspectives in the AI conversation.

The Urgency of Safeguarding Human Essence

We are particularly excited about this event today, because some of the most urgent questions for the Commission has always been

- how we can safeguard the human essence in our arts, culture, and spirituality—expressions that have really been refined for centuries—and
- how we can address the fact that, no matter how powerful AI becomes, for better or for worse, it will always be lacking that ineffable character that stems from our human creativity and our human imperfection.

So thank you very much to the APPG AI for hosting this event today.



The Rt. Revd. Dr. Steven Croft

The Lord Bishop of Oxford

Introduction

It's an honour to give evidence in this forum and on this question. I'm seeking in this evidence to address the spiritual dimensions of the question. I take as a given that AI is a broad and non-specific collective term for the revolution in technology we are living through globally and embraces social media; narrow AI; generative AI and the more speculative general AI which might be said to imitate human intelligence.

Role of the Bishop

As Bishop of Oxford, it's my role to oversee the Church of England across the counties of Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We are a community of over 800 parish churches; around 300 schools and over 120 chaplaincies to every sector of society. I try and lead for the Bishops in the Lords on technology, AI and online safety. I am also co-chair of the Anglican Communion's science commission which aims to help the Anglican church across the world engage more confidently with science.

Pope Francis and AI

On 14th June this year Pope Francis addressed the G7 in Puglia in Italy. The theme of his address is the effects of artificial intelligence on the future of humanity. It's interesting that the Pope chose this topic above all other topics for an address to the most powerful politicians in the world.

The Pope's Message

The burden of what I want to say this afternoon is captured by a combination of the text of the address and the video of the Pope's arrival at the G7. The address is balanced. The address highlights the benefits of AI and stresses that AI is itself a product of human ingenuity and God given talents. AI is a powerful tool with huge potential benefits but also significant risks and dangers.

Personal Engagement

But what Pope Francis said needs to be understood in the light of what Pope Francis did. He came in person to Puglia despite ill health. He enters the conference room and moves in turn around the G7 leaders. He greets each one in turn with love and respect and affection. He embraces several. There is deep humanity and understanding in each encounter, deep compassion and appreciation of the burdens carried by those in leadership. The G7 leaders are not encountering an algorithm nor a set of ideas nor just some useful advice. The G7 are meeting a person – and a model of how faith communities can engage well with questions of technology.

The Church's Responsibility

The Church like all faith communities needs to engage with an everchanging world of technology. The Church needs humility and help to navigate this change well. But there is no doubt in my own mind about character of our engagement. In our engagement with technology when faced with a choice the Church needs always to turn towards human interaction, personal encounter and face to face community.

The Essence of Christianity

Christianity is a deeply personal and humane faith. Yesterday was Advent Sunday. We are approaching the great festival of Christmas. At the centre of Christmas is the believe that Almighty God, make of heaven and earth, became a child, born to raise the sons of earth in the words of the carol. There is no greater sign of the worth of the individual person in all of human culture.



Technology as a Tool

The Christian faith is and must be deeply personal, mediated through personal interaction not through technology. Technology for the church can be an excellent servant but a poor master to communicate love and care for all the world. We need to be present with each other. Digital encounters are better than no encounters but there is no substitute for human contact.

Historical Perspective on Technology

Technology has driven significant spiritual change in past centuries. The invention of the printing press in the 16th Century changed the way the population interacted with texts and especially the texts of scripture and the liturgy. This led to a more literate population, a more democratised, less hierarchical spirituality, more willing to challenge authority. According to Tom Holland in *Dominion*, this shift at the Reformation provides a central driver for the evolution of Western culture.

Navigating Current Changes

Technology and AI are currently providing an even greater shift in the way the population access information which brings both opportunities and pitfalls. The Churches and Christians will need time to navigate this well. This could be the work of several generations involving improvisation and experiment and change. During the pandemic we saw a rapid rise in online services. By and large these have fallen away in favour of the local and the personal. Reflections on personal and family responses to AI – digital fasts and sabbaths are slowly beginning to emerge.

The Church's Wider Role

The Church needs to navigate technology in terms of its own life and offering guidance to Christians but also has a wider public role.

Faith Communities as Dialogue Partners

Faith communities are a vital dialogue partner with civil society in the larger conversation about AI and society. At present this is largely a two way conversation symbolised by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's conversation with Elon Musk. But that two way conversation needs to widen to include the interests of citizens, of people. Faith has a key role to play in that widening conversation about what kind of society we need for human flourishing. The Church can be a convenor and contributor to that conversation. The Rome Call on AI Ethics signed in 2020 is one fruit of that dialogue.



Global Perspective and Justice

The Church and other world faiths bring a global, international perspective and especially a global south perspective to debates on technology. I was present two weeks ago at a global gathering of lead science bishops from 22 Provinces of the Anglican Communion – the majority from the global South. The Church brings a passionate concern for justice – for the fruits of new technologies to be shared and accountable. The Church brings a concern for human purpose and the role of work in human flourishing not simply as a means to earn money. The Church brings an honest appraisal of human weakness, error and tendency to wickedness to inform the work of regulators and developers which contrasts with the naïve libertarianism of some technology companies. The Church can help create and sustain communities of resistance in terms of critical use of technology.

Wisdom of Faith Communities

All of the faith communities have wisdom and insight to share on what makes for a good life and death, on confronting suffering, on a good society and on the role of technology. My request to government and Parliament is to give due regard to these insights, be aware of where our society's values have come from and engage fruitfully with this vital area for human flourishing and for society.



Summary: The Rt. Revd. Dr. Steven Croft, The Lord Bishop of Oxford

Main Messages:

- **Human and Spiritual Dimensions:** AI and technology should be engaged with a focus on their impact on human relationships, personal encounters, and community. Faith communities play a crucial role in highlighting the need for human interaction in the face of technological advancements.
- **Role of the Church:** The Church must navigate technological change with humility, ensuring that its engagement prioritises community and spirituality over solely digital interactions.
- **Global Perspective on AI:** Faith communities bring a unique global perspective, particularly from the Global South, emphasising justice, equality, and the human purpose behind technological progress.
- **Consequences of AI:** While AI presents opportunities, it also poses significant risks. Understanding these dimensions is essential for developing responsible policies.
- **Dialogue with Civil Society:** There is a need for broader conversations that include the voices of citizens, addressing how AI affects society and human flourishing.
- **Ethical Considerations:** The Church and faith communities advocate for ethical frameworks that consider the implications of technology on human life and values.

Action Points for Politicians and Civil Society:

By following these messages and action points, politicians and civil society can work collaboratively to ensure that technology, particularly AI, serves humanity positively and ethically:

- 1. Engage with Faith Communities:** Politicians should actively involve faith communities in discussions about technology, ensuring that ethical and spiritual insights are integrated into policy-making.
- 2. Promote Human-Centric Policies:** Develop and advocate for policies that prioritise human interaction and well-being in the implementation of AI technologies.
- 3. Foster Inclusive Conversations:** Create diverse platforms for discussion that include citizens from various backgrounds, allowing them to voice their concerns and aspirations regarding AI.
- 4. Address Ethical Implications:** Collaborate with faith groups to develop ethical guidelines that inform the development and deployment of AI technologies, ensuring they serve human interests.
- 5. Support Justice and Accountability:** Implement measures that ensure equitable access to the benefits of technology, aiming to alleviate disparities in society.
- 6. Encourage Reflection on Technology:** Promote initiatives that help individuals and communities reflect on their relationship with technology, including practices like digital fasts and sabbaths.
- 7. Invest in Education and Awareness:** Provide resources and opportunities for communities to understand AI and its implications, fostering informed dialogue around technology's impact on society.



Silkie Carlo

Director of Big Brother Watch. Commissioner of the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission and also a Practising Buddhist

Introduction and Background

I'm Silkie Carlo. I'm speaking as I'm the director of Big Brother Watch, but I'm also a Commissioner of the AI Faith in Civil Society Commission, which is frankly where some of the most interesting conversations about AI and the future have happened. I'm involved with the AI Faith in Civil Society Commission because I've been working on technology and human rights for the past ten years or so. I was raised as, and am, a practising Buddhist. Of course, one tries to keep perspectives separate, but I do think I bring a certain perspective when I think about AI and the future. There's no doubt, and I think anyone who follows a faith would say that it informs, to some degree, your everyday work and perspective, and that is certainly the case for me.

Navigating Interesting Times

They say that you may live in interesting times; we definitely live in interesting times, and now is the most fascinating pivotal point for new technology and the decisions made in this place. In all seriousness, for our children and our grandchildren, life will be completely different from the life we've had, owing in large part to artificial intelligence.

We cannot navigate this period without considering the AI space and its potential to connect billions of people. This offers insights into what artificial intelligence and technology mean for the future, especially when viewed through the perspective of faith and spiritual values.

The Need for Engaging Communities

What I want to speak about briefly is the case for why I think we need to engage faith communities and civil society in these discussions about AI and the future. The first reason is that so far, it seems very much as though the birth of artificial intelligence is something that's happening to people rather than by people. When you think about AI, you probably think about Elon Musk or distant billionaires who have a monopoly on a very unique and guarded area of technology and science that isn't available to the everyday person. However, the everyday person, the general public, are affected by artificial intelligence all the time. In my day-to-day work, I look at what those effects are and how they're already playing out.

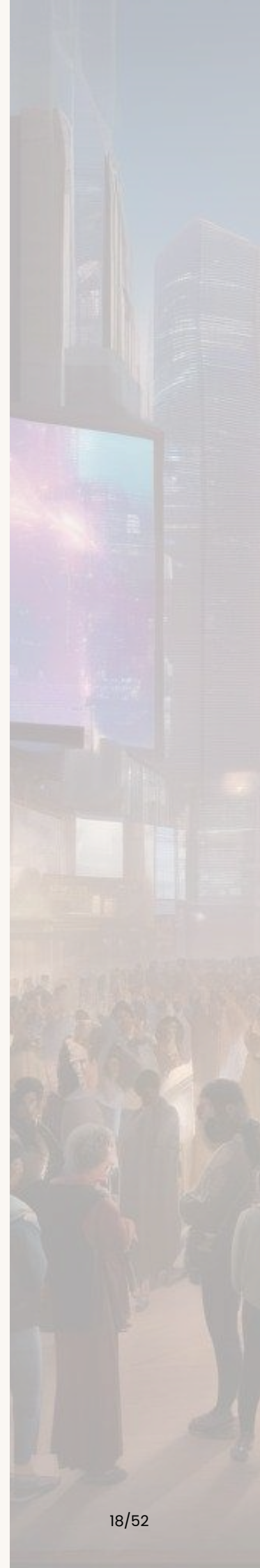
Impact on Systems and Legislative Gaps

For example, in the criminal justice system, significant decisions are being made about people based on artificial intelligence, and also in the health system in ways that often people don't even understand and may not be aware of. In terms of how that plays out legislatively, there is talk about an AI bill, possibly two bills that might relate to AI in this parliamentary term, but they're looking at frontier risks. We will no doubt talk in this session today about distant future risks, which are important and existential, but people's lives are already being affected. Their outcomes, the welfare they receive, the health services they get, and criminal justice and financial decisions made about them are all influenced by artificial intelligence in ways that are hard to grasp.

Ethical Considerations and Community Engagement

There's much more legislatively that could be done about that. In Europe, for example, with the AI Act, it's not perfect, but we don't have one. We have very little legislation regarding this. So, there is a bit of a democratic deficit around AI, and when we think about community and how different communities of people will understand and engage with this enormous societal transformation, that democratic deficit signals that we have a problem, and there's much more engagement to be done.

The second reason I want to give for why this engagement is so important is the nature of the questions that artificial intelligence raises for communities. I've referenced some of the most serious and profound questions imaginable about human societies. I mentioned health and criminal justice, but also accountability. How do you have accountability in a society where decisions are being made that even those in power might not understand? They might not even know what data goes into those decisions, and the people affected by them might not know the implications.



Addressing the Future of Technology and Its Implications

For example, there is a bill going through Parliament at the moment, the Data Use and Access Bill, that will make all automated decisions much more opaque. This might feel like dry legislative stuff, but it has enormous consequences and impacts everyone. The profound questions raised by legislative details aren't being grappled with. What about the future of war? It's something many of us will be thinking about at the moment, given the political state of things. In the future, who wins wars might not depend on hearts and minds but rather on machinery and AI. There are profound, big questions about the balance of power in the world. We have to balance the everyday decisions and the huge existential questions posed by artificial intelligence that impact the rights we will enjoy as human beings enormously.

Human Rights and Technology Intersection

For me, as a human rights campaigner, human rights are absolutely at the core of that. The human rights framework is arguably the most widely agreed-upon framework for encapsulating human values and protecting humanity. There are serious questions about how we can protect human rights with the dawn of artificial intelligence, and we're already seeing the challenges arise. I focus specifically on privacy and surveillance, which are becoming more distant concepts in a world with an increasing presence of AI.

There is a significant overlap between concepts of surveillance and concepts of divinity, as technology becomes more omniscient and omnipresent, watching and judging our actions through automated software. This reality is increasingly incorporated into our everyday lives and into the judgments made about us. Privacy is under immense strain in this high-tech world, but in truth, nearly all rights are affected by artificial intelligence.

Neuro Rights and Future Considerations

It may be that we need to develop new rights to protect individuals, and freedom of religion and freedom of thought are certainly among them. We often view technology as external to ourselves, whether it be the cameras on our walls or the devices we carry in our pockets. However, we are now seeing more reliance on biometric technology that penetrates deeper than before, measuring aspects of our physicality.

But the next frontier is neurological technology. People are beginning to discuss 'neuro rights,' recognising how our minds are affected by artificial intelligence. This involves not just the shaping of our thoughts through algorithms but also predictive analytics that may already be influencing how we think about things and how we might behave in the future. While these topics may sound futuristic, many faces in this room are already familiar with advanced technology taking hold in these areas, including in this country, which is not properly legislated.

Consciousness, AI, and Human Values

This brings us to the question of how technology can interfere with our brains and minds, affecting different groups. At the core of this discussion is often the consideration of AI in relation to consciousness and humanity. I remember reading a lovely phrase in Rowan Williams' book, "Being Human," where he expressed that consciousness leaves the question of the sacred open. Many of us do not yet fully understand consciousness—indeed, it is still poorly understood even in psychology.

People are starting to question whether AI could itself be conscious or whether there could be a future where AI possesses some form of consciousness. This highlights the profound questions that remain unaddressed. We must be cautious of a future that could lead to what is termed 'digital dehumanisation.' It is essential that human values are at the forefront of this new world we are creating, especially when engaging with the billions of individuals who belong to faith communities.

Engagement and Collaboration for a Better Future

In summary, as we consider the future of artificial intelligence, it is crucial to involve diverse voices from faith communities and civil society. These groups can offer valuable insights and help ensure that the development of AI aligns with our shared ethical values and human rights. Engaging with these perspectives will not only enrich the dialogue around AI but also help shape a future that prioritises humanity in an age of advancing technology.

The conversation around artificial intelligence and its implications is vast and continually evolving. It's essential that we encourage dialogue not only among technology experts and policymakers but also with ordinary citizens, faith leaders, and members of civil society.

Open forums and inclusive discussions can demystify AI, revealing how it impacts everyday lives and encouraging public engagement in shaping the governance surrounding this technology. As decision-makers consider new AI legislation, the inclusion of various community perspectives can foster a more democratic and reflective approach to these urgent issues.

Furthermore, as AI technology progresses, we may encounter scenarios where ethical dilemmas arise regarding bias, discrimination, and the potential for misuse of data. Faith and community leaders are often well-equipped to provide moral guidance on these matters, helping to navigate the complexities of what it means to uphold human dignity in the face of technological advancement.

Involving faith communities in AI discussions also enriches the conversation around ethics and morality. Each faith tradition has its unique teachings and principles that can contribute to the broader discourse on AI and its developmental pathways. This input can lead to more nuanced and compassionate outcomes that resonate with diverse populations.

Sustainability and Future Responsibility

Moreover, as we ponder the implications of AI, it is essential to consider its environmental impact. Technologies have ecological footprints, and the increasing reliance on substantial computational power raises questions regarding sustainability. Engaging faith communities, many of whom advocate for stewardship of the Earth, can help highlight these issues and promote an approach to AI that is not only human-centered but also environmentally responsible.

Looking ahead, the intersection of technology, ethics, and faith will undoubtedly become more pronounced. We need to be proactive in shaping a future where AI contributes to the common good, reflecting our shared values and human rights. Ensuring that no one is left behind in this technological transformation is crucial, as is maintaining the emphasis on inclusivity and equity.

Collective Responsibility for the Age of AI

Ultimately, the path we choose today in our discussions and decisions about artificial intelligence will have far-reaching consequences for our societies, our rights, and our shared humanity in the years to come. It's our collective responsibility to ensure that this future is one that upholds dignity, promotes justice, and reflects the best of our human values. Engaging faith communities and civil society in these conversations is not just beneficial; it is imperative for fostering a just and equitable world in the age of AI.

As we conclude this important discussion, it's vital to reiterate the necessity for collaboration among various sectors of society. Technology is a powerful tool, but it is ultimately our choices and values that will guide its use. Engaging faith communities, alongside civil society, will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted issues that artificial intelligence presents.

We should not shy away from difficult conversations about the implications of AI, whether it involves ethical considerations, privacy concerns, or its impact on social justice. By bringing together diverse perspectives, we can cultivate a richer dialogue that fosters understanding and presents a united front to influence policies in favour of human rights and ethical frameworks.



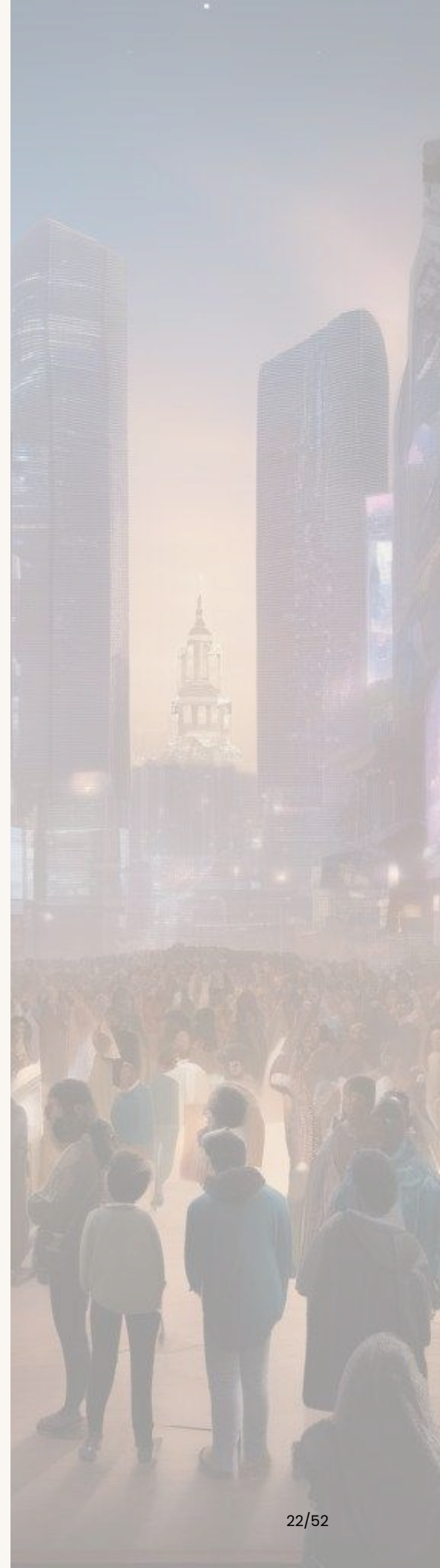
Looking toward the future, let us be vigilant and proactive. We must ensure that artificial intelligence serves humanity rather than the other way around. This is not just a technical or legal challenge; it's a moral one. By prioritising human values and ensuring that policies reflect our collective commitment to justice, equity, and respect for all individuals, we can navigate the complexities of this new technology responsibly.

In closing, I urge all stakeholders to invest in ongoing dialogue, education, and mutual understanding. Let us strive for a responsible and inclusive approach to artificial intelligence that reflects the best aspects of our shared humanity. As we stand on the brink of immense technological advances, let us all work together to shape a future where technology complements our lives and upholds the rights and dignity of every individual. Thank you.

The Need for a Human-Centric Approach in AI Development.

I hope that various religious organisations coming together can emphasise the importance of focusing on humanity in AI development. Currently, our approach resembles nuclear proliferation, where we focus on building rapidly and powerfully, only considering damage limitation later. This is quite a dangerous strategy. Innovations should genuinely serve humanity and meet specific needs.

I also understand the geopolitical pressures for technological advancement; if we don't establish ourselves as a leader in AI here, others, like China, will take the lead, which brings significant political implications. However, we must be cautious in how far we go. It appears that the UK, in particular, is falling behind other democracies in prioritising efforts to serve humanity rather than just concentrating on damage control after the fact."



Summary: Silkie Carlo's Evidence Statement

- **Introduction and Background:**
 - Silkie Carlo serves as the director of Big Brother Watch and a Commissioner with the AI Faith in Civil Society Commission.
 - Has over ten years of experience working on technology and human rights.
 - Draws on her background as a practising Buddhist to inform her perspective on AI.
- **Navigating Interesting Times:**
 - The current era is pivotal for technological advancements, particularly in AI.
 - Emphasises the need to consider the implications of AI for future generations.
- **The Need for Engaging Communities:**
 - Advocates for the inclusion of faith communities and civil society in AI discussions.
 - Stresses that AI development affects the general public, not just elite figures like billionaires.
- **Impact on Systems and Legislative Gaps:**
 - Highlights the influence of AI on decision-making in criminal justice and healthcare.
 - Points out the lack of legislative action regarding AI in the UK, indicating a democratic deficit.
- **Ethical Considerations and Community Engagement:**
 - Raises concerns over accountability in automated decision-making.
 - Discusses the need for community engagement to address ethical challenges posed by AI.
- **Human Rights and Technology Intersection:**
 - Argues that human rights frameworks are essential as AI evolves.
 - Privacy and surveillance issues are becoming increasingly significant as AI becomes more integrated into daily life.
- **Neuro Rights and Future Considerations:**
 - Calls for the development of new rights to protect individuals, including 'neuro rights.'
 - Warns of the potential for digital dehumanisation as AI influences thoughts and behaviours.
- **Engagement and Collaboration for a Better Future:**
 - Advocates for diverse voices to be included in AI development discussions to reflect shared ethical values.
 - Encourages open forums to demystify AI and its societal impacts.
- **Sustainability and Future Responsibility:**
 - Highlights the environmental implications of AI technology and the importance of stewardship.
 - Emphasises proactive engagement to ensure AI contributes to the common good.
- **Conclusion:**
 - The decisions made regarding AI today will have long-lasting impacts on society and human rights.
 - Urges stakeholders to invest in dialogue, education, and a balanced approach to AI that prioritises humanity and dignity.
 - Highlights the need to avoid a purely profit-driven approach and instead focus on serving humanity through responsible AI development.

Silkie Carlo's Call to Action

Call to Action:

Silkie Carlo's encapsulates the need for community engagement, legislative reforms, ethical accountability, and a commitment to human rights in the face of advancing AI technology.

Silkie Carlo's key call to action can be summarised as follows:

- **Engage Communities and Diverse Voices:**
 - Carlo emphasises the importance of including faith communities and civil society in discussions about AI, encouraging active participation to ensure that the perspectives of various groups are not overlooked.
- **Address Legislative Gaps:**
 - She calls for urgent legislative action to address the influence of AI in critical areas such as criminal justice and healthcare, highlighting the need for robust laws to protect public interests.
- **Promote Accountability and Ethical Decision-Making:**
 - Carlo raises the need for accountability in automated decision-making processes and advocates for ethical considerations to be at the forefront of AI development.
- **Develop New Rights to Protect Individuals:**
 - She stresses the necessity for new rights, particularly 'neuro rights,' to safeguard individuals from the potential dehumanising effects of AI.
- **Foster Open Dialogue and Education:**
 - Carlo urges stakeholders to commit to ongoing dialogue and education about AI technologies, advocating for open forums that demystify AI and its implications for society.
- **Ensure AI Serves the Common Good:**
 - She calls for a proactive approach to ensure that AI technology contributes positively to society, prioritising human dignity and ethical values over profit-driven motives.



Roseita Royce

President of British Film Festival, CEO of Big Ben Studios.

Introduction

My name is Roseita Royce. I'm the Head of the British Film Festival and CEO of Big Ben Studio. In the power of entertainment

You might not know me, but I know each of you. How is this possible? Because I am in the entertainment industry, and we control the world. It may sound exaggerated, but it is real. You are spending more time on social media, television, radio, and cinema than with your own family. I know you, even if you don't know me, and I know the money spent on entertainment.

Concerns About Religion and Spirituality

When it comes to religion, we have discussed everything—your concerns about spirituality, the world, and the dangers you face. You are right; you are in real danger. I just came back from Nevada, where we had a productive meeting to see if we can control the power of AI. If this power goes into the wrong hands, we are finished—not just because of money or politicians, but because the whole world is in danger. We need to take action today.

The Need for Vigilance Around AI Technology

We must start paying attention to this new technology. We underwent an 18-month strike involving writers, actors, and filmmakers trying to stop those manipulating the narrative. Why? Because they are faking information. The message I want to convey is that AI has changed everything. You are not receiving the real information; what you hear may have been altered along the way.

Impact on Beliefs and Values

Now, think about our beliefs. Everyone comes from different families with distinct backgrounds, religions, and values. Can you prevent AI from changing the future for your children? No, you cannot. It is like trying to sell candles when electricity has already been invented; once it's here, you cannot stop it.

Taking Control of Technology

We need to focus on how to ensure this technology does not fall into the wrong hands. It is vital that, in this room, you are trying to accomplish something positive, but there is a gap in knowledge between those creating AI and us who are trying to regulate it. That gap is vast.

If we do not take control now, the only way to manage this power is by providing accurate knowledge to our teenagers and to everyone working in this industry. We must find a way to control this dangerous power; otherwise, it will go out of control.

The Difference Between Miracles and Magic

There is a difference between miracles and magic. With the money I possess as a senior producer in a massive studio, I hold this magic in my hands. When I say 'I', I'm referring to many producers with billions—not just millions—in the entertainment industry. We are richer than some governments and have more control over you because we know you intimately.

Understanding Your Information

We know what you like, when you are at home, when you turn on the TV, and even your favourite colours. We understand your personal circumstances—you've given us this information through social media. We even know when you were born, your age, and details like whether you are going through a divorce or about to buy a house.

You provide all of this information to us, and we are using it, often to your detriment. It is simply a machine; there are no emotions involved. If someone has this information, the data you provided to the AI will be used against you.

Be Cautious of AI's Power

You should be careful. I don't know if you watch crime dramas, but when someone is arrested, they might say, "If you talk now, we will use that against you." You might have spoken to this AI before it even existed, and now it holds all your information, ready to use it against you.

The Reality of Control

If you don't believe me, I can create a new world and tell you a story that you will believe in. How can religion stop me? I am both a miracle worker and a magician; I can make you believe in something that is not even possible.

The Business of Show Business

When you watch a series, you become attached to the characters. When you know they are fictional, millions still pay to see them in cinemas and buy their merchandise. Why do we do this? Because it is a business for us, and we are making money from it.

We do not care if you do not like it. It's like someone selling sandwiches, disregarding those with allergies; they are selling sandwiches regardless. If you have a problem, it's not their concern.

Conclusion: The Dangers of Manipulation

It is essential to understand that there is no business in this world like show business that can deceive you and play with your mind. We can do whatever we want with our stories, and now we have AI to assist us in crafting that world.

Do you truly believe you are safe? - Think again.

My Role in the Age of AI

I cannot say that I am a friend or foe of AI; rather, I seek to navigate this complex landscape. As a mother and producer, I am trying to use AI in a positive way. While I cannot stop its advancement, I believe we can control it and direct it towards beneficial uses, because it can be helpful when applied correctly. However, the financial forces at play are staggering—about two trillion dollars in the entertainment industry.

Why is the entertainment industry so significant? We wield more influence than governments and are responsible for captivating the attention of eight billion people as our audience. When I make a film, my goal is to sell it around the world; I want people from all backgrounds—whether British, American, Russian, Chinese, or Indian—to buy tickets and watch.

The technology I work with is far more advanced than what is commonly known. While the average understanding of technology may be basic, there are powerful AI systems currently at work behind the scenes in the entertainment industry. Ultimately, everything revolves around money, and the power of entertainment can exceed that of governments because we engage with your emotions.

Summary: Roseita Royce's Evidence Statement

- **Meet Roseita Royce: Leading the Charge in Entertainment**
 - Roseita Royce is the head of the British Film Festival and studio.
 - The entertainment industry has significant influence, as people spend more time on social media, television, and cinema than with their own families.
 - Roseita acknowledges her awareness of the audience's engagement and expenditures in entertainment.
- **Confront the Threats Presented by AI**
 - The rise of AI presents real dangers that need urgent attention.
 - Roseita emphasises the need for action to control AI's power before it falls into the wrong hands.
 - She cites a recent meeting in Nevada aimed at tackling these concerns, highlighting the global implications of unregulated AI.
- **Stay Vigilant About the Impact of AI Technology**
 - We must recognise the urgency to remain informed about the changes AI brings, especially regarding the authenticity of information we receive.
 - The narrative in the entertainment industry is being manipulated, and viewers are often consuming altered content without realising it.
- **Ensure We Take Control of Our Technological Future**
 - It is essential to focus on ensuring that AI technology is controlled and used responsibly.
 - Address the vast knowledge gap between those creating AI and those regulating it, underscoring the importance of education around this technology.
 - Emphasise the need to provide accurate information to younger generations and individuals working in the industry.
- **Understand How Personal Information is Used**
 - Acknowledge that personal data collected from social media is used by the entertainment industry to influence audiences.
 - Roseita stresses that viewers unknowingly provide data about their preferences and situations, which can be manipulated against them.
- **Recognise the Entertainment Industry's Monumental Influence**
 - The entertainment industry has more power than some governments, which enables it to shape public opinion and emotional responses.
 - Roseita draws attention to the fact that financial motives drive the industry, prioritising profit over audience welfare.
- **Navigate the Complex Role of AI in the Future**
 - Reflect on Roseita's desire to use AI positively as a producer, despite acknowledging the challenges it brings.
 - Understand that storytelling within entertainment can create alternate realities, influencing beliefs and behaviours on a large scale.

Roseita Royce advocates for responsible engagement with AI, awareness of its implications, and active participation in shaping a future where technology serves the common good.

Specifically, her Call To Action includes:

- **Harness AI Responsibly:** She urges the need for the entertainment industry and society to control and direct AI towards beneficial uses rather than allowing it to fall into the wrong hands.
- **Educate and Inform:** Roseita Royce stresses the importance of providing accurate knowledge and education about AI technologies, particularly to younger generations and those working in the industry or with regulation. This aims to bridge the existing knowledge gap between users, creators and regulators.
- **Acknowledge the Power Dynamic:** She calls for recognition of the entertainment industry's significant influence over public perceptions and emotions, urging individuals to be more aware of how their personal information is used and manipulated.
- **Act Against Manipulation:** Royce encourages vigilance and critical thinking from audiences to challenge the narratives presented to them, ensuring they remain informed and cautious regarding the information they consume.
- **AI Labelling:** AI content (all types) should be clearly labelled to indicate that it is an artificial construction which originates from artificial intelligence and is not real-life or created by a human.



Simon Belsham

Founder and former-CEO of The Healing Company, Inc. and Wellbeing Consultant

Opening Remarks

For the past 25 years, I've worked across the UK, US, and Europe, leading and investing in consumer businesses with a focus on how technology helps solve human problems. This journey has shown me how deeply consumerism and technology shape not just what we buy, but what we believe. As traditional institutions like religion have receded, our innate need for connection, meaning, and purpose hasn't disappeared. Instead, it's been channeled into consumerism and, increasingly, into technology. This shift has created a profound challenge: while we are materially richer, we are spiritually poorer. I believe this convergence of spirituality, technology, and artificial intelligence represents both a crisis and an extraordinary opportunity for renewal—if we act with expediency, care, and intention.

Defining the Spirituality Crisis

Spirituality has long been central to human experience. Historically, it was rooted in religion and shared practices, but as faith in traditional institutions declines, many have turned to consumerism to fill the void. Over the past 25 years, this “replacement of religion with consumption” has driven economic growth but left many spiritually malnourished. Younger generations in particular are realising that capitalism is running on empty calories, that more “stuff” doesn't make us happier, healthier, or morally richer. Instead, it has contributed to declining individual and planetary health. One in six UK adults experiences a common mental health problem weekly, and public health systems are neither incentivised nor equipped to cope.

The Role of AI

Technology, particularly AI, has both shaped and amplified this crisis. Social media algorithms thrive on comparison culture, fostering aspiration but also loneliness and disconnection. AI's amplification of misinformation demonstrates its risks—75% of COVID misinformation came from just 12 accounts, spread by algorithms prioritising engagement over truth. Looking ahead, AI's potential to replace human labor raises existential questions. Millions of jobs are likely to be replaced (or at a minimum augmented), risking marginalisation for many and deepening the crises of identity and purpose. Without intervention, AI's speed and scalability could produce inequalities that, unlike previous technological shifts, may not be recoverable.

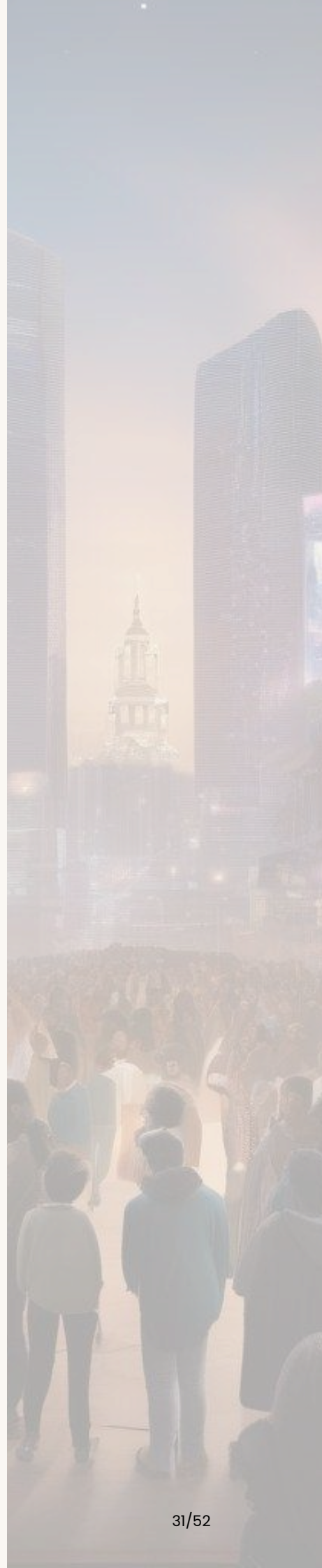
Yet, this is not just a story of decline—it's also one of adaptation. Spirituality is evolving. Google searches for "spirituality" have doubled in less than five years, reflecting a growing hunger for meaning. Practices like mindfulness, meditation, and awe-inspiring encounters with art and nature are gaining traction. My former colleague, Dr. Deepak Chopra, in his book *Digital Dharma*, highlights this shift as a search for deeper purpose in an age of uncertainty. AI, if guided ethically, could help address this spirituality crisis.

Promising Examples

Promising examples already exist:

- **Virtual Experiences of Awe:** AI-powered VR platforms let users explore the cosmos or immerse themselves in nature. In Switzerland, an AI-driven platform modeled on Jesus saw 60% of users report a spiritual connection.
- **Mental Health Support:** AI tools like Woebot.ai offer scalable, evidence-based care to reduce anxiety and depression.
- **Community Building:** Taiwan's Sunflower Movement used technology to rebuild public trust; where trust in government increased from 7% to 70% through tech-enabled civic engagement.

These examples show that AI can enhance connection, well-being, and spirituality—but only if its development aligns with humanity's highest ideals.



Recommendations

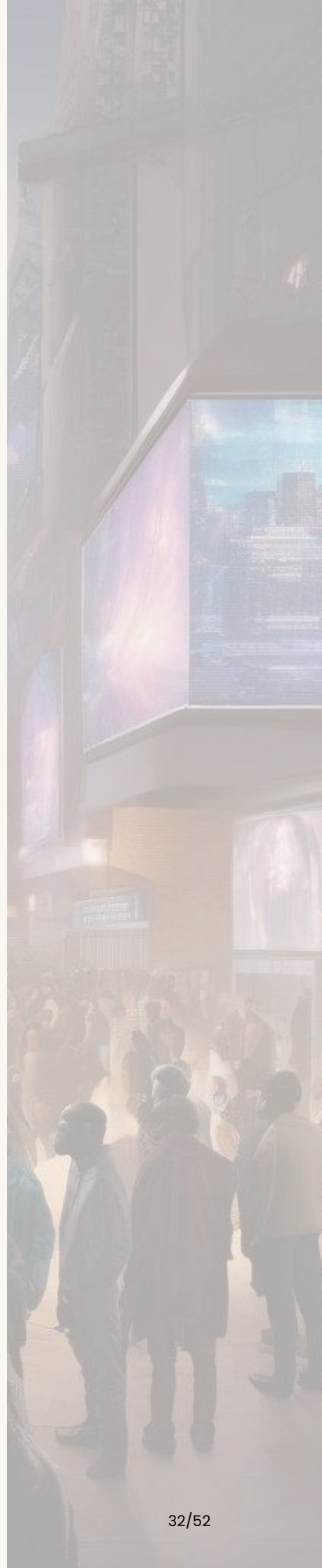
The question is not whether spirituality and AI will shape our future—they will—but how we ensure they uplift rather than diminish us. I propose five steps for Parliamentarians:

- 1. Adopt a National Well-Being Index:** Inspired by Bhutan's Gross National Happiness, this index should track mental health, community cohesion, and access to awe, while integrating holistic, multidisciplinary health measures. This index can guide investment in education, health, and cultural programs. As the business adage goes, if we don't measure it, we don't manage it.
- 2. Regulate AI Ethically Through Collaboration:** The UK must lead in developing ethical, inclusive AI, ensuring algorithmic transparency and prioritising diverse perspectives. Collaboration across faiths, philosophies, and cultures is essential to ensure AI reflects shared human values rather than exploiting vulnerabilities for profit.
- 3. Invest in Community and Culture:** Strengthen local networks by funding community centres, arts programs, and nature-based initiatives. Trust builds in shared spaces—schools, places of worship, post offices, and even pubs. These hubs of connection are antidotes to AI's tendency to divide and isolate.
- 4. Promote Education for Technology and Meaning:** Starting with government, all ministers should undergo reverse mentoring, pairing them with young people who deeply understand AI's cultural and ethical implications. I'd recommend schools teach philosophy, emotional literacy, and mindfulness alongside technical skills, all with the goal that we need to prepare the next generation to navigate AI and life's profound questions.
- 5. Support Research into Ethical AI:** Develop a cross-institutional program leveraging our long history for independent research at the UK's world-class universities, combining expertise in technology, ethics, theology, and social sciences, with a focus on how AI can enhance rather than fragment, ultimately creating valuable intellectual property, attracting global talent, and reinforcing the above recommendations.

Conclusion

Today, we stand at a crossroads. AI is still emerging, and we have an opportunity to shape it. Let us build a society where technology serves humanity's highest aspirations.

Thank you.



Summary: Simon Belsham

Main Points

- **Spirituality Crisis:** The decline of traditional institutions, particularly religion, has led to a rise in consumerism as a substitute for connection, meaning, and purpose. This shift has made society materially richer but spiritually poorer.
- **Impact of AI and Technology:** AI has amplified the spirituality crisis through social media's comparison culture and misinformation. The potential for job displacement raises concerns about identity and purpose, creating a risk of widening inequalities.
- **Evolving Spirituality:** Despite these challenges, there is a growing desire for meaning and connection, as evidenced by increases in mindfulness and other spiritual practices. AI, if developed ethically, has the potential to address these spiritual needs.
- **Examples of Positive AI Application:** AI can enhance well-being and spirituality through virtual experiences of awe, mental health support, and community building, demonstrating its capacity to foster connection and support.
- **Opportunity for Societal Progress:** A focus on spirituality could lead to improved health, stronger communities, and enhanced economic and cultural leadership for the UK.

By implementing the following action points, both policymakers and businesses can play a pivotal role in addressing the spirituality crisis and ensuring that technology, particularly AI, enhances rather than diminishes our collective humanity.

For Policymakers:

- **Establish a National Well-Being Index:** Create an index that measures mental health, community cohesion, and access to enriching experiences. This could guide policies and investments in social programs.
- **Promote Ethical AI Development:** Develop frameworks for ethical AI that prioritise transparency, inclusivity, and the representation of diverse perspectives. Foster collaboration among stakeholders across various sectors.
- **Strengthen Community Initiatives:** Fund and support community-based projects that promote connection, such as community centres, arts programs, and initiatives that encourage face-to-face interactions.
- **Integrate Education on Technology and Ethics:** Implement educational programs in schools that teach not only technical skills but also philosophy, emotional literacy, and mindfulness to prepare students for the implications of technology. Invest in **Research on AI Ethics:** Support cross-institutional research that examines the intersection of technology, ethics, and social sciences, focusing on how AI can enhance human experience.

For Businesses:

- **Adopt Purpose-Driven Strategies:** Develop business models that prioritise social responsibility and community engagement, moving beyond traditional profit motives to include enhancing consumer well-being.
- **Create Ethical AI Products:** Ensure that AI applications developed by businesses are aligned with ethical standards that safeguard user interests, transparency, and fairness.
- **Foster Community Engagement:** Build platforms that enhance community interaction and trust, using technology to connect people meaningfully rather than isolating them.
- **Support Employee Well-Being:** Implement programs that promote mental health and a sense of purpose among employees, fostering a workplace culture that values human connection and spirituality.
- **Collaborate with Policymakers:** Work alongside government initiatives to shape regulations and standards that ensure technology serves humanity's highest aspirations, contributing to the broader social good.



Kate Devlin

Professor of AI & Society in the Dep of Digital Humanities, King College, Uni of London. Commissioner of the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission, and a Humanist.

Opening Remarks

I'm Kate Devlin, I'm Professor of Artificial Intelligence & Society, in the Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London. I am a co-investigator and the Creative lead on the UKRI-funded Responsible AI UK programme. I am also a Commissioner on the AI, Faith and Civil Society Commission, where I represent Humanists UK. I have been a Patron of Humanists UK since July 2022. I am speaking as an expert in AI, including my knowledge of AI as it affects the creative industries, and am speaking in a personal capacity about my Humanist perspective on AI and about the need to reflect people's values in AI so that this technology is developed in a fair and responsible manner that enhances our lives.

Cultural Contribution of the Creative Sector

I wish to talk here about one particular part of the UK's cultural identity: that of a creative nation. The cultural and creative sector in the UK, which added £126bn to the economy in 2022, is lauded worldwide, shaping our national identity and providing us with a form of soft power. We are all emotional beneficiaries of this too: how much harder would the pandemic lockdowns have been without art, music, books, TV, film, and games to console us, as well as public service broadcasters delivering information to us when we needed it most? Creativity enriches us all, whether we are doodling on a page or listening to a podcast. It makes life beautiful. The widespread uptake of AI – especially of generative AI such as foundation models that can produce plausible text and images – has already had a profound effect on our cultural identities.

Threats to Intellectual Property

These industries are under threat from the big tech companies who train their machine learning models on copyrighted material that they have scraped from the web without permission. In roundtable discussions that I have run, IP and copyright is the number one most discussed topic. IP rights are vital in driving innovation, and a threat to IP is a threat to the sector's growth. A knock-on effect of this is decreased job opportunities in the creative industries, and a market over-saturated with submissions of poorer-quality AI-generated content. This is not to say that AI cannot be used in this sector; there are opportunities for it as a tool, but it needs to be integrated in a considered and responsible manner so as not to negatively impact this rich economy. If we value human creativity and the culture that has been handed down to us over centuries, then we must ensure that AI is managed carefully to protect all of those who create or who enjoy the results of creativity.

Preserving Cultural Heritage

In terms of preserving cultural heritage, the majority of generative AI models are based on datasets scraped from the Web. English is by far the most common language of these datasets, comprising approximately 60-70% of the data used for training. This, and the predominance of tech companies in the Western World, means that there is a threat of cultural homogenisation, which could lead to the erosion of languages and traditions that are underrepresented or excluded from the datasets. This is exacerbated by the AI algorithms on social media platforms that prioritise English-language content. We know also that AI perpetuates bias and is less accurate when dealing with marginalised groups, leading to unintended – but sometimes intentional – cultural erasure. This is well-evidenced but infrequently mitigated.

Responsible Use of AI

There are roles for AI, but those roles must be designated carefully. In the creative industries, some subsectors already use AI successfully, usually as a tool for productivity or as a way of automating labourious and repetitive parts of a task that are less fundamental to the creative process. Some people will be able to use these tools in their line of work. However, this is not without issues. If AI is there to carry out rote (yet necessary) parts of the creative process that are usually handed to more junior staff, how will those junior staff gain the experience needed to progress? We could end up with a lack of skilled senior staff. Any adoption of AI needs to be done with a full evaluation of downstream impact.

Opportunities in Digitisation

In terms of cultural heritage, AI offers an opportunity to speed up digitisation of archival material, or to analyse and catalogue artefacts and sites under threat of destruction. This is caveated with the acknowledgement that the skills of heritage professionals are intrinsic to this work and that human oversight will be needed to understand the nuances. This would require investment in equipment, infrastructure, and in training and jobs for heritage experts.

Civil Society's Role

As a patron of Humanists UK, a civil society organisation, I can share my own personal views of how we might protect our values in the AI era. Humanists believe that this is the only life we have, and that human welfare should be at the centre of our ethical decision making I believe that my decisions in the world should be based on rational, scientific thinking and that my life has meaning because I want to do what I can to make the world a better place for all. This is jarring when faced with the untrammelled power of AI.

The AI industry is technocratic, governed by a handful of billionaires whose entire reason for running their companies is to make money. In doing so, they are prepared to exploit people, be it through taking art, music, and writing without consent, or via the well-documented use of hidden labour – workers behind the scenes in the Global South who label datasets and moderate distressing content, or who mine the raw materials needed in dangerous and distressing conditions.

The Impact of Tech Companies

The tech companies, who need data, compute, and energy to scale up, are directly contributing to environmental threats. These actions do not consider the impact on people, but it is people who will be harmed. They do not centre the voices of those who are subject to the AI – those who have algorithmic decision-making determining their futures.

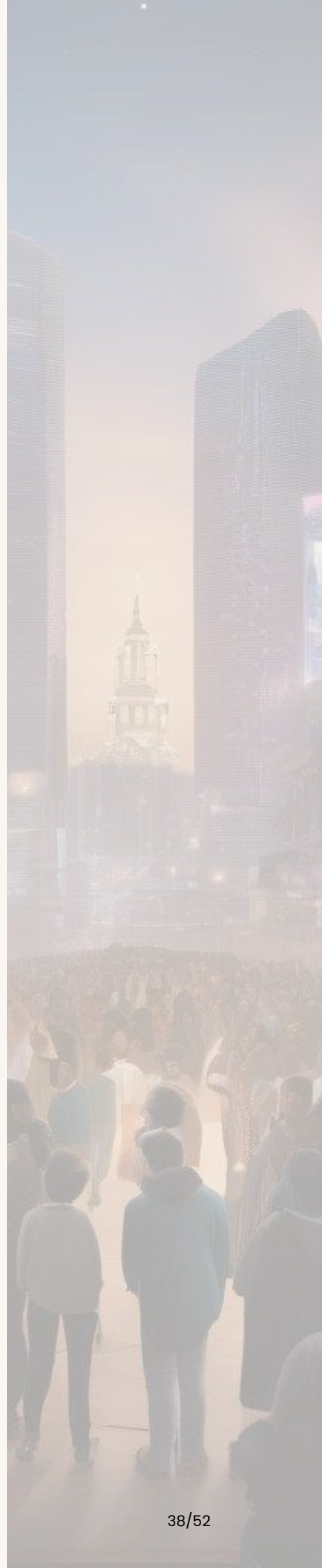
Civil society organisations, much like religious and spiritual organisations, can play a role in coordinating and championing the voices of those who are left out. They can expose and amplify the sociotechnical impacts of this technology, supporting human rights in the face of AI imposition. Humanism holds that humans are capable of great achievements. We should ensure that there is a chance for our technological future to be decided equitably and fairly, so that individuals and societies can flourish.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, while AI offers opportunities, these must be weighed against the negative impacts. I recommend three things:

1. International tech companies are stripping the value of the UK's cultural and creative economy. We need to showcase and protect our strong reputation and strengthen the UK's gold-standard copyright laws to enable our cultural and creative sector to innovate and grow.
2. The UK's ground-breaking action in convening the first AI Safety Summit shows that we are committed to responsibility and accountability at an international level. We can – and should – extend this to champion human rights and human values in this space.
3. Religious, spiritual and civil societies represent the people whose voices are rarely heard in discussions about our technological future, despite the profound impact it has on all of our lives. I urge you to use these established networks to hear from those communities and to listen to their ideas for how we can uphold human dignity in this rapidly-changing world.

Thank you.



Summary Points of Professor Kate Devlin

- **Cultural Significance of the Creative Sector:** The UK's cultural and creative sector significantly contributes to the economy (£126bn in 2022) and shapes national identity, providing emotional support during challenging times like the pandemic. Creativity enhances life and is vital for societal well-being.
- **Threats to Intellectual Property (IP):** The rise of generative AI poses significant threats to IP rights, as big tech companies often use copyrighted material without permission. This endangers the growth and opportunities within the creative industries and may lead to poorer-quality AI-generated content flooding the market.
- **Cultural Homogenisation:** The predominance of English in AI datasets risks cultural homogenisation and the erosion of underrepresented languages and traditions, leading to cultural bias and erasure.
- **Role of AI in the Creative Process:** While AI can enhance productivity, its integration must be handled with care to avoid diminishing roles for junior staff and depriving them of vital experience. There's a need for careful evaluation of AI's downstream impacts in creative fields.
- **Opportunities in Digitisation:** AI offers potential for speeding up the digitisation of cultural heritage materials and analysing artefacts under threat, but human oversight and the expertise of heritage professionals are essential.
- **Civil Society's Role:** Civil society and humanist organisations can advocate for the voices of marginalised groups and ensure that technology serves altruistic and ethical goals rather than purely profit-driven motives.
- **Environmental and Social Responsibility:** The AI industry is often led by billionaires prioritising profit over people, contributing to environmental threats and exacerbating social inequalities.

Action points by Professor Kate Devlin: By implementing the following action points, policymakers and various groups can work together to ensure that the development of AI aligns with societal values, fosters cultural diversity, and promotes ethical practices.

Strengthen IP Laws:

- Policymakers should enhance copyright laws to protect the UK's cultural and creative economy, ensuring that creators are compensated for their work and fostering innovation.

Champion Human Rights in AI:

- Extend the UK's commitment to responsible AI practices by promoting human rights and ethical standards within the AI space, following the successful AI Safety Summit.

Encourage Diverse Voices:

- Engage civil, spiritual, and religious societies in discussions about technology to amplify the voices of those impacted by AI. Create platforms for feedback from marginalised communities.

Invest in Cultural Heritage Protection:

- Support initiatives that recognise the importance of human expertise in cultural heritage, ensuring that AI applications are developed with human oversight.

Promote Ethical AI Development:

- Encourage responsible development of AI technologies, ensuring they are beneficial to society, equitable, and considerate of cultural diversity.

Foster Public Awareness and Understanding:

- Create educational programs that raise awareness of the implications of AI and promote informed discussions about technology's impact on society and culture.

Support Research in AI and Ethics:

- Facilitate cross-disciplinary research that examines the intersection of AI technology, ethics, and societal impact, ultimately guiding future AI developments.



BIOs of Evidence Givers



Simon Belsham, Founder and former-CEO of The Healing Company, Inc. and Wellbeing Consultant
Roseita Royce, President of British Film Festival, CEO of Big Ben Studios.

Silkie Carlo, Director of Big Brother Watch. Commissioner with the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission and also a practising Buddhist.

Kate Devlin, Professor of Artificial Intelligence & Society in the Department of Digital Humanities, King College, University of London.
 Commissioner with the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission.



Nicole Pearson (AI Faith & Civil Society Commission), **Oliver Ritchie** (Centre for the Governance of AI). **Anna Burdzy** and **Charles Kerrigan** (CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP), **Lord Taylor of Warwick**, **Tom Collins MP**, **PROF. Professor David Leslie** (Queen Mary University of London), **Lord Ranger of Northwood**, **Peter Fortune MP**, **Allison Gardner MP**, **The Lord Bishop of Oxford**, **Roseita Royce** (Big Ben Studios), **Lord Clement-Jones**, **Professor Birgitte Andersen** (Big Innovation Centre), **Shaun O'Callaghan** (Santander UK), **Simon Belsham** (The Healing Company Inc. (former) and Wellbeing Consultant), **Professor Kate Devlin** (King College, University of London and the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission), **Professor Stefan Zohren** (Favom), **Professor Ashley Braganza** (Brunel University London), **Richard Chiumento** (Rialto), **Robert Flick** (AMI Limited), **John Buyers** (Osborne Clarke), **Ben Johnson** (Uptitude), **Emma Cartwright** (Ernst & Young LLP).



Steven Croft

The Rt. Rev the Lord Bishop of Oxford

The Lord Bishop of Oxford's full title is The Rt. Rev the Lord Bishop of Oxford. His name is Steven John Lindsey Croft. Steven became a member of the House of Lords in October 2013 and was a member of the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence until 2020. He is a founding member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence and been a member since its incubation in 2017.

He is a founding board member for the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, and writes extensively on issues of online safety and digital ethics. Bishop Steven also speaks passionately both on his blog and in the House of Lords on the need to make gig economy a fairer, safer environment, particularly for the sake of today's young adults.

A leading advocate of fossil fuel divestment within the national Church, in April 2021 Bishop Steven was among 13 peers appointed to the Lords Select Committee for the environment and climate change. Steven has previously called for "nothing less than an ecological conversion of every person and every part of society".

At the heart of Steven's ministry is a desire to engage in the wider community with confidence and hope. He has worked creatively with Anglicans of all traditions in a very diverse diocese, as well as with civic and community leaders and the leaders of other churches and other faiths.

In 2022 Steven published a 52-page essay "Together in Love and Faith", in doing so he became the most senior figure in the Church of England to support same-sex marriage.



Silkie Carlo

**Director of Big Brother Watch.
Commissioner with the AI Faith and**

Civil Society Commission and also

A practising Buddhist.

Silkie Carlo is the director of Big Brother Watch, a non-party, non-profit, organisation formed to protect the privacy, free speech and civil liberties of people within the UK.

Before joining Big Brother Watch, she was the Senior Advocacy Officer at the UK's oldest human rights organisation Liberty where she led a programme on Technology and Human Rights. Silkie is a Commissioner with the AI Faith and Civil Society Commission and is also a practising Buddhist.



Kate Devlin

**Professor of Artificial Intelligence & Society in
the Department of Digital Humanities, King
College, University of London.**

**Commissioner with the AI Faith and Civil
Society Commission.**

Kate is Professor of Artificial Intelligence & Society in the Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London. She is a co-investigator on the UKRI's £31 million Responsible AI UK programme (RAi UK) which brings together researchers from across the UK to understand how we should shape the development of AI to benefit people, communities, and society.

Kate is a board member of the Open Rights Group, a UK-based organisation that works to preserve digital rights and freedoms. In July 2022 she was made a patron of Humanists UK for her contribution to the greater public understanding of science. She represents Humanists UK in her role as a Commissioner for the international AI, Faith & Civil Society Commission.



Roseita Royce

President of British Film Festival, Ceo of Big Ben Studios

Roseita is a British Senior Producer. As the president of the British Film Festival and the CEO of Big Ben Studios, Roseita is one of the key senior producers in the UK & USA with a focus on the international film market. She is an experienced businesswoman who has worked in the entertainment industry for more than 30 years.

Roseita started her career at an early age and ever since she has continued in the field throughout her education and work in the film & fashion industry. She studied at some of the best universities such as NFTS which is one of the top film universities in the world.

She has been the Senior Producer, Head of the Directors' team and Head of the Writers' Room for many years. She started writing when she was young and she is very well known for her 72 fiction and non-fiction comedy, fantasy, adventure, romance and drama stories and screenplays which she wrote for feature films, TV series, documentaries, educational programs & books.

She also is known for being the President of the British Film Festival, British Fashion Festival, International Animation Film Festival & London Fashion Film Festival for many years.

As a Professor & Chancellor of the International British Academy, Roseita always takes an open and honest approach to revealing the secrets behind the scenes and tricks of the trade in the film industry to thousands of new filmmakers every year.




Simon Belsham

**Founder and former CEO of The Healing Company, Inc., and
Wellbeing Consultant**

Simon's professional journey is rooted in retail across the US and UK, but has recently shifted to the wellness sector, driven by a belief that commodification has distanced people from their spiritual lives and challenged their well-being. In September 2021 Simon co-founded New York-based The Healing Company alongside Deepak Chopra, and since then has focused on building and advising a community of health and well-being brands through strategic acquisitions and enhanced branding.

Before this, he served as President of Equinox Media from November 2019 to September 2021, playing a pivotal role in launching the SoulCycle at-home bike and the Equinox+ fitness platform during the COVID-19 pandemic. His diverse experience includes leading Jet.com from March 2018 to October 2019 after Walmart's acquisition, steering it towards profitability and deeper integration within Walmart's e-commerce ecosystem. At Ocado Group (June 2011 - January 2013), he helped to build a non-grocery business, launching a fully automated robotic warehouse and a specialist online pet store. As CEO of notonthehighstreet . com from May 2015 to September 2017, Simon redefined strategies for the UK's largest curated online marketplace for small creative enterprises, leading to a successful exit after restructuring its leadership. At Tesco (2007 - 2015), he held roles such as Operations Development Director and Managing Director of Tesco.com, managing a £3 billion P&L and shaping the online grocery business across international markets.

Additionally, Simon served as a Non-Executive Customer Advisory Board Member for the John Lewis Partnership from February 2018 to January 2020, advising on customer strategy during a significant organisational change. Simon holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and BA(hons), Natural Sciences; Psychology from University of Cambridge.



ABOUT APPG AI



All Party Parliamentary Group on
Artificial Intelligence

ABOUT:

APPGs are informal cross-party groups in the UK Parliament. They are run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence (APPG AI) functions as the permanent, authoritative voice within the UK Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords) on all AI-related matters, and it has also become a recognisable forum in the AI policy ecosystem both in the UK and internationally.

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- Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP Labour
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- Lord Craig of Radley (David Brownrigg Craig) Crossbench
- Lord Cromwell (Godfrey Cromwell) Crossbench
- The Earl of Erroll (Merlin Hay) Crossbench
- Lord Fairfax of Cameron (Nicholas Fairfax) Conservative
- Lord Freyberg (Valerian Bernard Freyberg) Crossbench
- Lord Strathcarron (Ian David Patrick Macpherson) Conservative
- Lord Janvrin (Robin Berry Janvrin) Crossbench
- Baroness Kramer (Susan Veronica Kramer) Liberal Democrat
- Baroness McGregor-Smith (Ruby McGregor-Smith) Non-affiliated
- Lord Ranger of Northwood (Kulveer Ranger) Conservative (**APPG AI Vice-Chair**)
- The Lord Bishop of Oxford Stephen Croft Bishops
- Viscount Stansgate (Stephen Stansgate) Labour
- Professor Lord Tarassenko (Lionel Tarassenko) Crossbench
- Lord Taylor of Warwick (John David Beckett Taylor) Non-affiliated (**APPG AI honorary Vice-Chair**)
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All Party Parliamentary Group on
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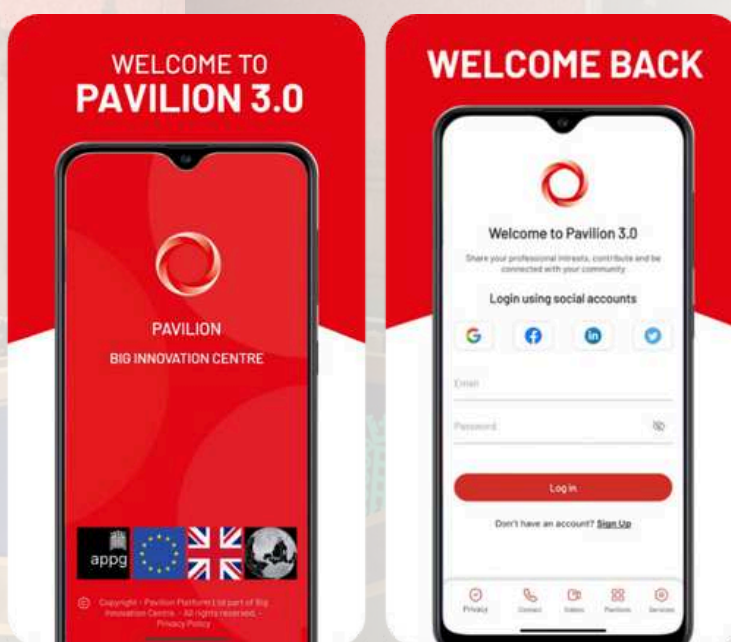
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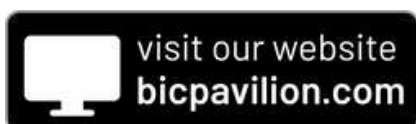
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Resources

Reports, transcripts, videos, and photo albums.



All Party Parliamentary Group on
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CONTACT

Secretariat:

Big Innovation Centre is appointed as the Group's Secretariat.

The Secretariat is responsible for delivering the programme for the APPG AI, organising the outputs, advocacy and outreach, and managing stakeholder relationships and partnerships.

Contact:

Professor Birgitte Andersen, CEO, Big Innovation Centre
appg@biginnovationcentre.com



All-Party Parliamentary Group on
Artificial Intelligence
appg@biginnovationcentre.com

SECRETARIAT

Big Innovation Centre is appointed by the UK Parliament as the Group's Secretariat.



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