

Guidelines for writing for *Reform*

Thank you for your interest in writing for *Reform*. Please take note of the following guidelines:

First, pitch an idea

- It is advisable to pitch an idea for an article, rather than writing the article on spec. There are many reasons we might not publish an article – including having published similar articles too recently, or having a high volume of other submissions – and we prefer not to waste your time.
- If you have already written the article, we will consider it for publication, but no more or less favourably than an unwritten idea.
- The best way to pitch an idea is by email to reform@urc.org.uk. Your message will then be sent on the editor.
- The *Reform* office is often very busy, so please be patient, but feel free to chase up your email if you do not hear back.

What we are/aren't looking for

- Local church stories, please. *Reform* can never get enough interesting stories from local churches, especially good news stories from their mission. You don't even have to write these up yourself – if you have a story, we can interview you about it over the phone and write it up for you, should you prefer.
- We rarely publish poetry or fiction, except from professionally published collections.
- We do not publish articles in reply to other articles in *Reform* – the letters page is where we print such responses. If you do submit such an article, we may suggest publishing it as a letter, edited down to the appropriate length (up to 300 words).
- Similarly, comments on the internal politics and policies of the United Reformed Church are more likely to get an airing on the letters page than as an article.

Specifications

- Feature article for *Reform* are generally between 750 and 1,000 words in length. Submissions much outside these parameters are less likely to be accepted for publication.

Date

- The content of *Reform's* features pages is often finalised a month before subscribers receive the magazine. For example, the December/January issue might be finalised by the end of October. Please bear that in mind when pitching articles related to the church year or events in the news.

Multiple authorship

- *Reform* does not publish articles by more than one author – unless they are writing in dialogue with one another. Our experience is that the more writers a text has, the less it says.
- You are welcome to get advice on your article from others, but there will only be one name on it.

Submission

- Please submit the article by email to editor.reform@urc.org.uk.
- Please submit it as a word processing file, not on paper or saved as a pdf.