

Christian Filmmaker Banned From Filming at Historic Site Over His 'Religious Affiliation'

It seems decidedly true that a historical Christian site would be of the utmost significance to Christians. And yet, it was a Christian – a Catholic documentarian – banned from filming one in England.

Christian Holden, a filmmaker, was commissioned earlier this year to lead a documentary project about Saint Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, a 7th-century, Anglo-Saxon monk and bishop. The film was to depict the so-called St. Cuthbert's Way, a 62-mile trek from Melrose Abbey to Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumberland, England.

St. Cuthbert's Cave is believed to be the initial resting place of St. Cuthbert's body in 687 A.D., where monks allegedly hid the bishop's body during Viking raids.



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Before filming "The Way of St. Cuthbert," Holden sought permission from the National Trust, the nonprofit body responsible for protecting and caring for historical sites and natural landscapes across the United Kingdom.

The National Trust ultimately refused his request, citing its policy against "religious affiliation." However, it's not clear whether the decision was based on the religious nature of the project or Holden's personal religious convictions.

Voice for Justice UK, a Christian human rights organization,

is representing Holden. While the National Trust didn't clarify why exactly it refused the documentarian, the religious freedom group believes the decision amounts to discrimination under the Equality Act of 2010, which names religion as a protected characteristic.

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