

# ACSI EUROPE

Student Leadership Conference 2026 – United Kingdom

***Be Strong and Courageous***

Fall of 2026 • United Kingdom

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*  
— Joshua 1:9

## FUNDRAISING GOAL

**EUR 10,000**

To fund the **first-ever** ACSI Student Leadership Conference in the United Kingdom

## 1. A Historic Moment for Christian Student Leadership in the UK

Something is stirring among Christian students in the United Kingdom. Schools are growing. Networks are forming. And for the first time, there is real momentum behind a question that ACSI Europe is positioned to answer: Who will invest in these young people before the world does?

SLC UK 2026 is that investment — the first-ever ACSI Student Leadership Conference held on British soil, a deliberate, Spirit-led act of faith in the next generation of Christian leaders. More than an event, it is a declaration that British Christian students will not navigate the pressures of their generation alone.

ACSI Europe exists to strengthen Christian schools and their leaders so they can faithfully live out their biblical mission. The SLC has been one of our most strategic expressions of that mission for the past 28 years held in Europe. Help us expand this mission in the lives of students in the UK aged 13–18 who are discovering who God has called them to be.

### At SLC 2026 UK, we want every student to:

- Grow in personal commitment to love and serve God
- Recognize and respond to God’s call on their lives
- Develop the leadership skills that God has gifted them with
- Strengthen their spiritual support network

## 2. The Need: Students Under Pressure, Schools Under Strain

Christian secondary students in the UK face intense pressure. Secular ideologies challenge their identity and convictions daily. Digital culture pulls at their attention and sense of truth. In many communities, they are a small minority — often without peers who share their faith or leaders equipped to walk with them through these challenges.

What UK Christian students need most:

- Community with peers who share their faith and calling
- Formation rooted in biblical worldview and courageous leadership
- Mentors and older students who model what it means to lead with integrity
- A sense that they are part of something larger — a global community of Christian schools

### The Financial Reality Facing UK Christian Schools

Participation in events like SLC is increasingly difficult for many UK Christian schools and families. A set of compounding pressures has created a genuine access crisis:

<b>20% Tuition Increase</b>	Added VAT has placed immediate and significant pressure on school budgets and family finances.
<b>No Government Subsidy</b>	Unlike state schools, Christian schools receive no public funding. Every cost is borne entirely by the school community.
<b>Travel &amp; Accommodation</b>	Travel costs add a further barrier, placing events like SLC out of reach for many schools without targeted support.
<b>Equal Access Imperative</b>	A student's family income should never determine whether they can access quality leadership formation. This campaign exists to close that gap.

*Your gift makes the difference between a student attending and a student staying home.*

## 3. Proven Results: Why We Believe SLC UK Can Succeed

SLC UK 2026 is not starting from zero. It builds on nearly three decades of ACSI Europe's experience through the Student Leadership Conference in Hungary, which has become one of our most strategic ministries for developing young Christian leaders. Over the years, SLC has helped students grow in faith, deepen their leadership courage, build meaningful Christian friendships, and return to their schools with renewed vision.

Because of this long-standing experience, ACSI Europe is not launching an untested idea in the UK. We are extending a proven model—one with a clear purpose, a strong history, and visible fruit—into a context where the need is urgent and the opportunity is significant.

One participant described the impact this way:

*“Leaders like me would have far fewer chances to learn from other Christian educators, gain new ideas, and grow in vision. SLC provides encouragement, practical strategies, and a global perspective.”*

— Participant at SLC Hungary

## 4. Why Now?

Courage is not formed in comfortable circumstances. It is forged precisely when the pressure is real, the questions are hard, and young people must decide what they actually believe. That is the world UK Christian students inhabit today — and that is why the moment for SLC UK is now.

We sense the Lord calling us to invest in this generation before the window narrows. The UK is home to a growing network of Christian schools whose students have never had access to a continental SLC — until now. The timing is not accidental:

- Christian school communities in the UK are increasingly connected through ACSI Europe
- Demand from schools for student leadership formation has grown significantly
- ACSI Europe’s proven track record running SLCs in Europe provides the expertise to do this well
- A first event in the UK in October 2026 creates an anchor for ongoing, annual investment in British Christian student leadership

If we do not act now, another year passes in which hundreds of UK Christian students face their challenges without the formation, community, and vision that SLC provides. If we act now, we plant something that can grow for a generation.

## 5. Our Approach: What SLC UK 2026 Will Look Like

SLC 2026 UK is a four-day event for secondary students aged 13–18, taking place in October of 2026 in the United Kingdom. With space for up to 100 participants, every element of the conference is designed to meet students where they are and form them for where God is calling them.

### Program Design

Every element of the SLC program is carefully designed to ensure that the experience for each student is appropriate and of the highest quality. Students are not simply placed in general sessions — they are met where they are and equipped for where God is calling them.

Main Plenary Sessions

Thematic Workshops

Biblical teaching on courageous, Christ-centered leadership	Practical leadership tools rooted in biblical worldview, introducing students to the foundations of servant leadership
<b>Student-led Discussion Groups</b> Small groups provide opportunities for leadership. They are designed to promote reflection and deeper levels of interaction for spiritual growth.	<b>Worship &amp; Fellowship</b> Building cross-school community and strengthening the spiritual support network among British Christian students
<b>School Action Plan</b> Throughout the conference students work with their peers and chaperone from their own school to develop a project that they will implement to serve their community. This provides students a further opportunity to practice their developing leadership skills.	

### Student Discussion Group Leaders

Students aged 16 and older have the opportunity to serve as discussion group leaders — leading peers of a similar age or guiding younger students. This is one of SLC’s most powerful formation pathways: students don’t just receive leadership formation; they begin to practice it.

### Student Selection and Preparation

Schools are encouraged to begin their student selection process well in advance. Thoughtful selection — prayerfully identifying which students are ready to be challenged and formed — is one of the most important things a school can do to ensure SLC has lasting impact.

ACSI Europe provides preparation resources to help schools ready their students for the conference, including documents on choosing and preparing your SLC team, a description of SLC, and guidance on action planning. We want every student to get the most out of this event — which can only happen with your excellent support, planning, and prayer.

## 6. How We Will Know if the Need is Met

Progress will be measured through both quantitative and qualitative indicators. Our targets for SLC UK 2026:

<b>80+</b>	Students from Christian schools across the UK attending
<b>5+</b>	Distinct UK Christian schools represented at this inaugural conference
<b>10+</b>	Students aged 16+ trained and serving as peer discussion group leaders
<b>100%</b>	Schools receiving follow-up resources for ongoing student leadership development

Beyond the numbers, we will know the need is being met when:

- Students return to their schools with renewed faith, fresh courage, and clarity about their calling
- Christian schools in the UK are more deeply connected to one another and to the broader European family of Christian education
- A leadership pipeline emerges — older students mentoring younger ones, year after year
- Schools report concrete student-led initiatives inspired by what began at SLC UK 2026

#### **What will occur if this need is met:**

A generation of British Christian students — who might otherwise have faced their challenges in isolation — will instead be formed together: rooted in God’s Word, connected across schools, and equipped to lead with conviction and courage in a complex world.

## **7. Invitation to Partnership**

The first SLC UK cannot happen without partners who share the conviction that the next generation matters — not just for the church, but for the witness of Christ across the United Kingdom and Europe.

Our fundraising goal of EUR 10,000 will underwrite the cost of this inaugural event, ensuring that no student is excluded because of financial hardship. With the event taking place in October 2026 funding decisions made now directly determine how many students can attend.

### **Give**

Examples of how a gift can make a difference:

- **€380** — Fund one student’s registration fee
- **€500** — Make it possible for one student to participate fully, including registration and travel
- **€1,000** — Support one ACSI team member serving as an experienced SLC leader
- **€5,000** — Join as a Founding Partner of SLC UK through a leadership gift that helps launch this landmark event

**Online giving:** <https://acsieu.org/wp/donations/student-leadership-uk/>

### **Pray**

Intercede for the students, teachers, and organizers preparing for this event. Pray that God would go before SLC UK 2026 just as He went before Joshua — and that every student who attends would leave stronger, more courageous, and more certain of their calling.

### **Connect**

Introduce ACSI Europe to Christian schools, churches, individuals, or foundations in your community who share a passion for raising up the next generation of bold, faithful leaders.

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*North American donors may give through ACSI headquarters (a registered 501(c)(3) organization) with designation to ACSI Europe – SLC UK.*

Contact us at: [ACSEurope@acsi.org](mailto:ACSEurope@acsi.org)

**ACSI Europe – Strengthening Christian Education Across Europe**