

The Center for Christianity & Public Life

Media Bio:

Michael Wear is President and CEO of the Center for Christianity and Public Life, a nonpartisan institution, based in Washington, D.C. with the mission to contend for the credibility of Christian resources in public life, for the public good. He is a trusted resource and advisor for a range of civic leaders on matters of faith and public life.

Long Bio:

Michael Wear is President and CEO of the Center for Christianity and Public Life, a nonpartisan institution based in Washington, D.C. with the mission to contend for the credibility of Christian resources in public life, for the public good. He is a leading strategist, speaker and practitioner at the intersection of faith, politics and public life. As one of President Obama's "ambassadors to America's believers" (Buzzfeed), Michael directed faith outreach for President Obama's historic 2012 re-election campaign. Michael was also one of the youngest White House staffers in modern American history: he served in the White House faith-based initiative during President Obama's first term, where he led evangelical outreach and helped manage The White House's engagement on religious and values issues, including adoption and anti-human trafficking efforts. For well over a decade, he has been a trusted resource and advisor for a range of civic leaders on matters of faith and public life.

Michael was the founder of Public Square Strategies LLC, a sought-after firm that helps religious organizations, political organizations, businesses and others effectively navigate the rapidly changing American religious and political landscape.

Michael's first book, Reclaiming Hope: Lessons Learned in the Obama White House About the Future of Faith in America, offers reflections, analysis and ideas about the role of faith in the Obama years and what it means for today. He has co-authored, or contributed to, several other books. In 2020, Michael was the co-author, alongside Professor Amy Black, of a major report on "Christianity, Pluralism and Public Life in the United States" that was supported by Democracy Fund. In 2022, he was the co-author, along with Melissa wear, of a report on evangelicals and interfaith engagement commissioned by Interfaith America. Michael has served as an advisor to, and storyteller for, the Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement's Faith In/And Democracy Initiative for the past three years. He also writes for The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Catapult Magazine, Christianity Today and other publications on faith, politics and culture.

Michael holds an honorary position at the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Center for the Public Understanding of Religion. Michael and his wife, Melissa, are both proud natives of Buffalo, New York. They now reside in Maryland, where they are raising their beloved daughters, Saoirse and Ilaria.