

# Scottish Update



July 2001

The Newsletter of The Christian Institute (Scotland)

**Scottish sex  
education  
update**

**New drugs  
lessons  
research**

**Latest on  
Scottish  
divorce  
reform**

We want to help  
Scottish Christians take

# action

says Institute Director, Colin Hart

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## ScottishUpdate

# Action and encouragement

**N**o one likes to think they are alone in a fight. Each of us knows how difficult it can be to make a stand without support. This is why the writer to the Hebrews says: "encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

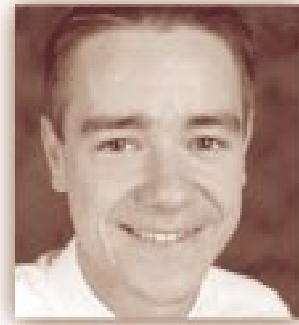
It has been a great encouragement to compile this *Scottish Update* and learn about all the good work that has been done by churches and individual Christians throughout Scotland.

I hope it will be an encouragement to all who read about the stories of courage and commitment.

The recent sex education scandal, uncovered by The Christian Institute, caused many people to approach their local councils and demand reassurance that the materials recommended by the Executive would not be used in their schools.

Read about the story of Iain Murdoch from Wishaw who went to see Education Minister, Jack McConnell, putting him on the spot about why his department recommended the explicit materials.

Or consider the story of Mrs Mitchell from Inverclyde, who addressed a meeting of school board chairmen and gave them a



**Mike Judge,**  
Publications Manager

copy of the Institute's influential report, *Sex Lessons for Kids*.

Action like theirs, and the action of many others, has had positive results in the councils of East Renfrewshire, the Western Isles, Moray and Inverclyde.

The Christian Institute has been fighting on many other issues such as drugs education, divorce reforms and the morning after pill in schools.

It is an encouragement to hear others in public life speak out on these things. The Institute was saddened by the news of the death of Cardinal Winning.

Cardinal Winning took a courageous stand and spoke out in a way that put many evangelical leaders to shame.

Let The Christian Institute encourage you to make a clear and courageous stand for Christian values in Scottish public life.

## director's message salt & light

We want to help Scottish Christians take action to be salt and light in our society.

And what a great need there is just now for such a Christian witness.

We have begun to make our voice heard on the Executive's plans to make divorce easier. The final legislation is not now expected until 2003.

The battle continues on this and other fronts. Stonewall, the English "Gay rights" group, has just hit the jackpot with a £387,000 lottery grant for its work in Scotland.

If gay rights protesters don't give up, then neither must we (1 Corinthians 15:58). As we seek to take a stand for Christian values, we are grateful for all your prayers and support.



Colin Hart, Director

Is that a fact? Surprising statistics on how people live and what they think

# Did you know?

All the publicity that is given to the 'decline of the traditional family' in Scotland can sometimes paint a bleak picture of our society. But contrary to what is often portrayed by the media, marriage is still the choice of the majority and Christian values are still upheld by many. Here are some statistics that might surprise you.

### Over 1 million Scots are active members of a church

In 2000 over a million people in Scotland were active members of Trinitarian churches,<sup>1</sup> bearing in mind that the entire population of Scotland is slightly over five million<sup>2</sup>, this means that one in five of the population belongs to a church. Official statistics reveal that a fifth of the population of Scotland take part in voluntary activities, and more of these people give up time to volunteer for church or religious activities than for any other cause.<sup>3</sup>

### Marriage

UK figures show that just 0.2% of households are headed by a homosexual couple. This compares with over 50% that are headed by a married couple<sup>4</sup>. In Scotland 56% of the adult population is married, just

7% are separated or divorced and 6% have chosen to cohabit without marrying.<sup>5</sup> Amid the talk of 'alternative family structures' it is sometimes forgotten that marriage is still the norm. According to the largest survey of its kind, 1.4% of men in Britain have had a homosexual partner in the past five years. The figure for Scots men is only 1%.<sup>6</sup>

### Children and their parents

Over two-thirds of Scottish children live with their married parents. Only 8% have parents who cohabit, less than a tenth live with a parent who has never married and just one in eight live with a divorced or separated parent.<sup>7</sup> Marriage is still recognised by the majority of Scottish people as the best environment in which to bring up children.

### Stay at home Mums

In the UK almost half of women of working age with a child under 5 have chosen to stay at home to look after them instead of going out to work.<sup>8</sup> In Scotland of all mothers who do paid work, there are significantly more who work part time than full time. In fact, less than one in four mothers work full-time.<sup>9</sup>

Christian values are still upheld by many in Scottish society

- <sup>1</sup> *Scottish Social Statistics*, 2001, page 152
- <sup>2</sup> *Population Trends*, Spring 2001, page 61 (1999 figures)
- <sup>3</sup> *Scottish Household Survey Bulletin 4*, 2000, page 21
- <sup>4</sup> House of Commons Written Answer, extracted from *ONS Labour Force Survey*, 11 May 2001
- <sup>5</sup> *Scottish Household Survey Bulletin 6*, 2001, page 43
- <sup>6</sup> Johnson A et al, *Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles*, Blackwell Scientific, 1994, page 463
- <sup>7</sup> Table extracted by the Central Research Unit, The Scottish Executive, from the *Scottish Household Survey 1999*
- <sup>8</sup> House of Commons Written Answer, extracted from *ONS Labour Force Survey*, 11 May 2001
- <sup>9</sup> *Scottish Household Survey Bulletin 5*, 2001, page 13

reminder



## Section 28 and all that

Despite strong opposition the Executive repealed Section 28 last year. After a consultation on sex education guidance proposals, which raised concerns especially over the sidelining of marriage, they published their final version in March. Marriage was back in, but only as “of value for religious groups and others in Scottish society.” The Executive also issued guidelines on sex education. Significantly, previous references to “moral codes” and “Scottish law” had been removed. The guidelines recommend a list of resources containing appalling materials with lessons, among others, on condom use, homosexual role-play and masturbation, highlighted in our report *Sex Lessons for Kids*.

General Assembly adopts pro-marriage policy

# Church victory

A minister scored a surprise victory over his own denomination’s education committee in the recent Church of Scotland General Assembly. Revd Ian Watson, a Minister in Caldercruix, successfully urged the assembly to adopt an openly pro-marriage policy, against the advice of Jack Laidlaw, convener of the church’s Education Committee.

Revd Watson’s motion called for “priority to be given sensitively to the marriage relationship, the inclusion of the choice of abstinence from sex before marriage, and the responsibilities of parenthood in any school curriculum.”<sup>1</sup> His motion was passed by 330 votes to 240.

In his speech before the assembly, he said that current sex education was “geared towards the one-night stand” and should instead promote marriage, which was good for people’s health and finances and for their children.

Jack Laidlaw said that he was against “such a direct steer at this moment in time”<sup>2</sup>. He had earlier reported that he was “pleased” that Jack

McConnell had “accepted much” of what the church had asked for the previous year and that this was reflected in the Scottish Executive’s Circular to schools which was issued on 22 March 2001.<sup>3</sup>

In an interview with the Times Educational Supplement Scotland after his victory, Ian Watson said, “Young people feel pressure that it is not normal to be a virgin when you turn 16... Where young people are is confusion. They do not know what is right and what is wrong and they are taking their standards from television.”

He continued, “The consequences of that are increased abortions,

increases in sexually transmitted diseases and broken hearts. So what I want the Church to be doing is encouraging the promotion of marriage and sex abstinence before marriage.”<sup>4</sup>

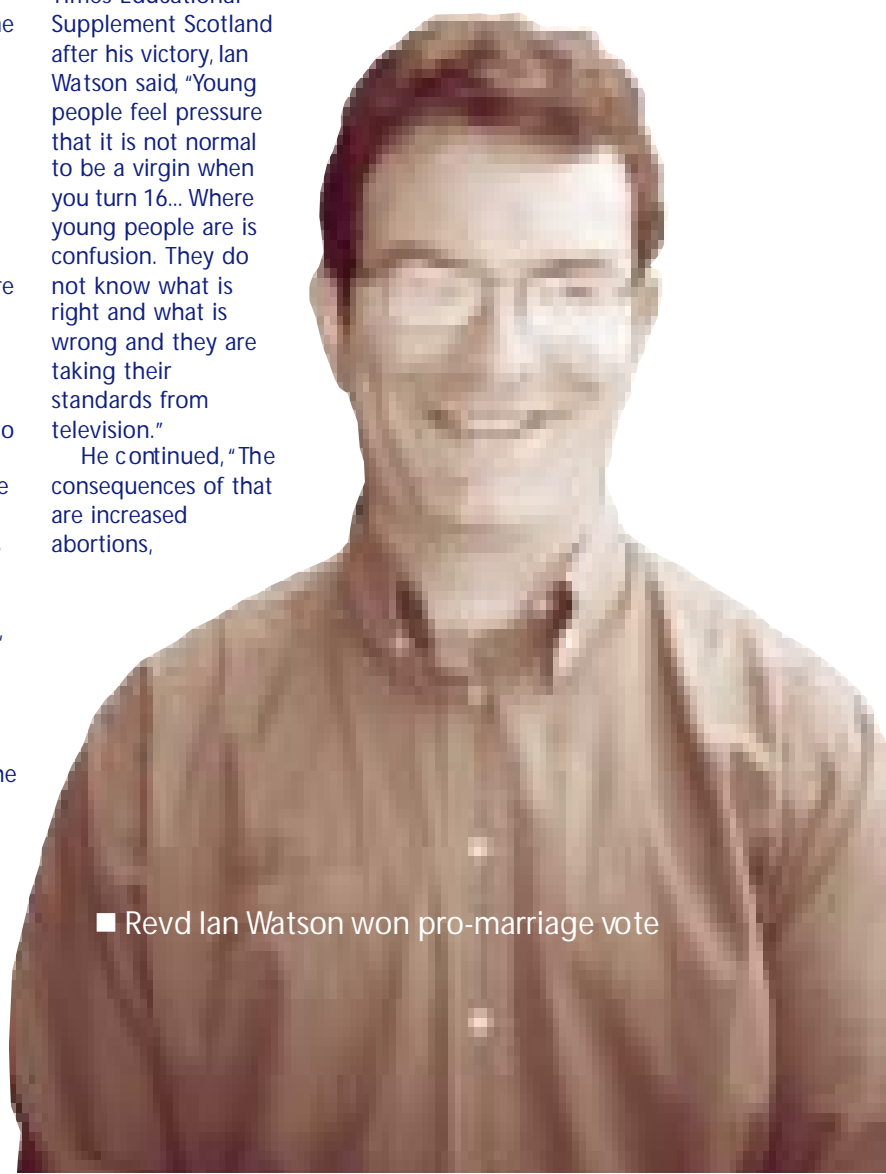
Revd Watson told TES Scotland that he drew his background facts from materials produced by The Christian Institute.

<sup>1</sup> The Herald, 25 May 2001

<sup>2</sup> *Loc cit*

<sup>3</sup> Speech by the Rev Jack Laidlaw, delivered on Thursday 24 May 2001. Can be viewed at <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/servingscotland/educationspeech.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Times Educational Supplement Scotland, 1 June 2001



■ Revd Ian Watson won pro-marriage vote

Church of Scotland minister sets up Parliamentary petition to pressurise Executive

# Sign up!

**A** Church of Scotland minister is determined not to let the Executive off the hook over its list of recommended sex education materials.

Revd Iain Murdoch, from Wishaw, is asking people to sign up to a Parliamentary petition aimed at removing the Executive's list of recommended sex education materials.

The petition, which complies with official rules, asks the Scottish Parliament to urge the Department for Education to withdraw the list of recommended materials.

A copy of the petition will be sent to people on The Christian Institute mailing list within the next few weeks.

The Institute met with Revd Murdoch in March this year and brought his attention to the appalling sex education resources.

Revd Murdoch, who lives in the constituency of Education Minister Jack McConnell, decided to meet the Minister and voice his concerns.

Together with a local catholic priest Revd Murdoch spoke to Mr McConnell and showed him the lessons uncovered by The Institute, including drugs education materials that are equally shocking.

Mr McConnell listened at length to their concerns, telling them that this was the first time he had seen some of the materials. He promised to reply in writing, addressing all their points.

After waiting six weeks, Revd Murdoch was disappointed to receive merely a standard response that made no reference to their concerns.

Mr McConnell has tried to make reassuring

statements about sex education, but Revd Murdoch is unconvinced.

Revd Murdoch said: "The Education Minister has not taken any action to withdraw the list, to express his public disapproval, or to explain how and why this list was included."

Urging Christians to take action he said: "It is important to approach local councils, referring to both the sex and the drugs materials, and it is important to get specific assurances about not using those classroom resources which the Institute has highlighted."

Copies of the petition can be obtained from The Christian Institute. Telephone **0131 266 3555** for more details.

**Have you received a reply from Jack McConnell?**

Read our rebuttal of the claims, p6

## McConnell admits: 'much is not appropriate'

In his most embarrassing admission so far in the scandal over sex education resources, Education Minister Jack McConnell has admitted that much of the *Primary School Sex and Relationships Education Pack* recommended by his

department is not appropriate for nine-year-old primary school pupils.

In a written answer in the Scottish Parliament on 14 June he said, "...since the pack is designed to assist and inform teachers, and cover the differing

educational needs of children at various ages, it follows that much of its content will not be appropriate for use with nine-year-old children."

Despite the fact that his own department endorses the pack, he went on to say,

"It is for individual schools and authorities to decide whether to use this pack..."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Written Answer S1W-14485, 14 June 2001. The question was asked by Brian Monteith MSP

# The truth

Have you received a response from **Jack McConnell** about sex education? The Institute's **Chris Prest** gives a point-by-point demolition of the excuses

**Jack McConnell says:**  
*"Resources designed for a variety of purposes including teacher training have been taken out of context, sensationalised and presented as though they were classroom resources aimed at very young children. Perhaps even more worryingly, certain reports have highlighted resources that were never designed for use in schools and presented as though they were."*

**The Christian Institute reveals:**

The introduction to *Taking Sex Seriously* says: "This pack has been written to be used in a flexible way in both formal and informal education settings" and "In schools there are a number of areas of the curriculum in which the pack might be used."<sup>1</sup>

*The Primary School Sex and Relationships Education Pack* states: "The pack is a "tool kit" of resources and activities that should be of use to all primary schools."<sup>2</sup>

*Living and Growing*<sup>3</sup> is specifically designed for use in schools by Channel 4 Learning with follow-up worksheets to videos. *Knowing Me Knowing You* and *Taught not Caught* contain precise lesson plans and children's activities.

These resources have

not been taken out of context. It is amazing that Mr McConnell should think there is any proper context for such explicit materials. The Christian Institute's report merely reproduced extracts from the lessons with little or no further comment. Regrettably, the extracts spoke for themselves.

*"Some people have recently suggested that certain materials are "recommended" by the Executive. This is not the case."*

A Scottish Executive document specifically describes the list of materials as "helpful sources of information and resources."<sup>4</sup> The materials are listed in the Executive's *5-14 National Guidelines Health Education Guide for Teachers and Managers*. The Guide states: "the guidelines provide the 'what' of the curriculum, the guide offers advice on the 'how'.<sup>5</sup>

*"The Report was widely welcomed by all sections of society and it is extremely helpful to have available a consensus view from a range of professional and religious perspectives. The Group unanimously concluded that the package of safeguards was sufficiently complete, wide-ranging and robust to meet the legitimate concerns of the public, parents and*

*teachers. The Group also concluded that existing curriculum guidelines and support materials available to teachers on sex education were adequate and required no revision."*

The report referred to is known as the McCabe report. There was no open consultation on it. The group was not unanimous in its conclusion. The Catholic Education Commission representative on the Group, John Oates, had his concerns formally noted in Paragraph 1.9: "I consider the new section of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Bill particularly as it makes no reference to marriage, to be inadequate and am concerned that it will impact upon the nature of the circular and the guidelines."

*"Pupils should be encouraged to appreciate the value of stable family life, parental responsibility and family relationships in bringing up children and offering them security, stability and happiness. Pupils should also be encouraged to appreciate the value of commitment in relationships and partnerships including the value placed on marriage by religious groups and others in Scottish society."*

This is a quote from a circular sent to all schools to give guidance on sex

education. The circular is inadequate. It suggests that marriage is valued only by some minority groups in Scotland. But 70% of children in Scotland live in a married household. Most people marry and most marriages last for life.<sup>6</sup>

*"I have written to all those concerned with publishing these documents to make clear that, in future, all such lists must make absolutely clear the status of the materials referred to and consider carefully the appropriateness of such materials."*

This is simply not good enough. This statement suggests that a proper review of these materials had not been undertaken prior to publication. The Executive must remove the list of resources from its guidelines.

<sup>1</sup> *Taking Sex Seriously*, Cohen J et al, Healthwise, 1994, page 3

<sup>2</sup> *The Primary School Sex and Relationships Education Pack*, Cohen J, Healthwise, 1997, Preface

<sup>3</sup> *Living and Growing*, Bennett J and Fenlon K, Channel4 Learning Limited, 1998

<sup>4</sup> *5-14 National Guidelines Health Education: Guide for Teachers and Managers*, The Scottish Executive, Learning and Teaching Scotland, November 2000, page 2

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, page 1

<sup>6</sup> See *Population Trends 83, Spring 1996*, page 36

## Dundee church leader speaks out in the media

A minister in the Free Church of Scotland expressed his concern about developments in sex education by writing to the newspapers. In a letter published in *The Scotsman* on 3 April 2001, days after that paper ran a major front page and editorial against the materials, Revd

David Robertson wrote: "I am sure Scottish parents and teachers will not follow the executive's advice, but it is somewhat disingenuous for Mr McConnell to act as though he had not endorsed that advice and to blame The Christian Institute for simply pointing out what

the government is doing."<sup>1</sup> In an article for the Free Church of Scotland web site he urged Christian parents to "use the freedom and the influence that we have to ensure that no children, not just our own, are taught this smut. To that end every parent should know what is being

taught in their schools and must insist that the extremes advocated by the Scottish Executive are not promoted."<sup>2</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> *The Scotsman*, 3 April 2001  
<sup>2</sup> Article entitled *Sex Lessons for Kids*, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2001 <http://www.freechurch.org/robbo/robboaf.htm>

## Local success

**O**utraged parents and concerned members of the public have convinced some local councils to review sex education materials exposed by The Christian Institute.

Armed with The Institute's report, *Sex Lessons for Kids*, they are demanding that such materials should not be used in their schools.

### East Renfrewshire

East Renfrewshire Council has withdrawn *Taking Sex Seriously* and *Pathways to Sexual Health* from its draft list of sex education resources.

The move follows a letter sent to the council from a local Christian Institute supporter, who highlighted concerns about the packs.<sup>1</sup>

### Western Isles

Letters from parents and churches resulted in a positive response from the education committee of the Western Isles.

Director of Education, Murdo MacLeod, said: "There are materials in existence that are not acceptable to us. We will not allow our schools the use of any material that would be unacceptable to parents."<sup>2</sup>

### Moray

Moray Council Educational Services Committee has agreed to consult widely on a draft policy on sex education in schools. Consultation is to include parents, school boards, and local councillors.

The Institute supports this consultation and will be making its report, *Sex Lessons For Kids*, readily available to consultees.

### Inverclyde

Mrs Mitchell, a school board chairman from Inverclyde, addressed a meeting of all other board chairmen in her area and gave them a copy of *Sex Lessons for Kids*.

Concern was expressed that the materials recommended by the Executive should not be used in Inverclyde schools.

Mrs Mitchell also held a meeting for parents that resulted in strong condemnation of the resources. She urged the parents to write to the Director of Education.

Local churches also got involved. Struthers Memorial Churches raised a petition and wrote letters to MSPs, Tony Blair and Scottish Education Minister, Jack McConnell.

The actions of the churches resulted in front-page news in a local newspaper.

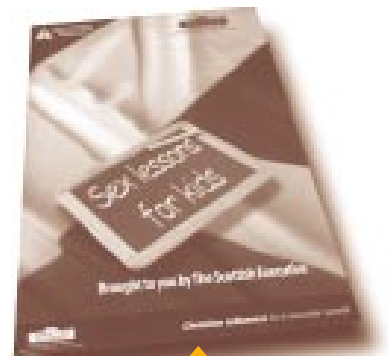
- <sup>1</sup> Letter from East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, 3 May 2001  
<sup>2</sup> *Stornoway Gazette*, 31 May 2001

## English look to Scotland

The Scottish scandal over sex education materials has made news throughout England and has led to questions about what is being taught in English classrooms.

After The Christian Institute published its report, *Sex Lessons for Kids*, it was contacted by the *Sunday Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, the *Press Association* and *BBC Radio 4* as well as other local media.

Many people in England have ordered copies of the Institute's report fearing that the controversial materials may be being used in their schools.



our sex education report

## Meetings in Scotland

Christians in Scotland have had the opportunity to hear about The Christian Institute's sex education campaign at first hand. The Institute has held meetings in Edinburgh, Perth and Inverness.

Copies of the actual sex education teaching guides, controversially recommended by the Scottish Executive, were available to read at each meeting.

The NASUWT (Fife branch) teaching union asked The Christian Institute to speak at a fringe meeting of their Annual Scottish Conference.

The meeting was attended by two MSPs who expressed their concern at the nature of the sex education materials on display.

The Institute is holding an all-day exhibition and a meeting in Motherwell on 6 September, and a morning meeting in Dundee on 22 September.

Contact The Christian Institute for more information. Telephone 0131 226 3555.

## Institute director, Colin Hart, talks to the BBC's "Frontline Scotland" In the frontline

Institute Director, Colin Hart, appeared on the BBC's Frontline Scotland and gave a clear Christian perspective on the state of sexual health in Scotland.

Mr Hart revealed on the programme, aired in May, that Chlamydia rates in Scotland have increased by 75% in the last five years.

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease that has virtually no symptoms and can result in infertility and ectopic pregnancies.

The programme claimed that some sexual health clinics are finding that as many as one in four young women are infected.<sup>1</sup>

Mr Hart questioned whether current approaches to sexual health were working.

He said: "We've tried the message of safer sex and it just simply doesn't work. More and more explicit sex education at very young ages is just simply not working.

"The teenage pregnancy



rates have not gone down, neither have the STD rates gone down, or the pregnancy rates gone down, it just simply has not worked."

Offering an alternative, Mr Hart said: "It is still true that most young people delay having sex before the age of 16.

"I think there's a very great problem with teaching to the lowest common denominator and

assuming they're all sexually active.

"They're not, and we should discourage them, and we should encourage them to wait, and discourage them from being sexually active."

<sup>1</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/uk/scotland/newsid\\_1328000/1328263.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/uk/scotland/newsid_1328000/1328263.stm) as at 26 June 2001

## The ill-state of Scotland's sexual health

One third of Scottish 15 year olds are sexually active.<sup>1</sup> The pregnancy rate amongst Scottish teenagers is one of the highest in Western Europe,<sup>2</sup> and the number of under-16s having abortions increased by almost 10 per cent from 1999 to 2000<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, despite the vast amount of "safer sex"

information directed at children, throughout the UK, 50% of the under-16s do not use contraception at first intercourse.<sup>4</sup> Also in 2000, nearly a quarter of all sexually active female patients who were treated for sexually transmitted diseases, such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea, were under the age of 20 years.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Burtney, E., 'Teenage Sexuality in Scotland', Health Board for Scotland, 2000, page 3

<sup>2</sup> 'Teenage Pregnancy', Government White Paper, 1999, page 14

<sup>3</sup> 'Abortions performed in Scotland', ISD Online – Sexual and Reproductive Health at [http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/isd/sexual\\_health/Abortion/](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/isd/sexual_health/Abortion/)

AAS\_homepage.htm as at 25 June 2001

<sup>4</sup> Burtney, E., *Op cit*, page 3

<sup>5</sup> 'Genitourinary Medicine: Activity', ISD Online – Sexual and Reproductive Health at [http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/isd/sexual\\_health/gum/GUM%20Activity.htm](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/isd/sexual_health/gum/GUM%20Activity.htm) as at 25 June 2001

# Fast-track divorce left in the slow lane

It appears the Executive has slammed the brakes on plans to introduce quickie-divorce following responses to the public consultation.

The Christian Institute understands that the Executive has delayed publishing a draft Family Law Bill until late 2002.<sup>1</sup> There will be yet another consultation on the draft bill.

In September last year, the Executive launched *Parents and Children*, its white paper for changing family law in Scotland.

The proposals threaten to undermine the value of marriage by changing the law on divorce and cohabitation.

The Christian Institute launched a campaign to highlight the issue and encouraged people to respond to the consultation.

Many did so and their actions may have forced the Executive to stall the progress of the 'reforms'.

It is likely that a full Bill will not be published until after the Scottish Parliament elections, due in 2003.

- The Executive proposes:
- abolishing adultery and desertion as grounds for divorce;
  - creating new fast track divorce on separation grounds; and
  - equating cohabitation with marriage.

Adultery and desertion will be merged into the vague notion of 'unreasonable behaviour' and the separation periods needed for divorce cut from 5 years to 2 (where one party remains opposed to the divorce) and from 2 years to only 1 (where both parties consent).

The Executive also plans to apply many of the legal procedures used on divorce to the separation of couples that live together. Former cohabitantes are to be granted 'equal shares' of goods, money and property acquired during the relationship.

In law the distinction between cohabitation and marriage is being blurred.

Around 7 out of 10 divorces are on separation grounds in Scotland.

In 1998 25% of divorces in Scotland involved children under 16.<sup>2</sup> But in England it was 56%.<sup>3</sup>

The word "reconciliation" is not mentioned once in the White Paper. Each year

hundreds of would-be divorcees are reconciled. In Sheriff Courts alone an average of at least 1,700 divorce petitions per year (or 16% of those initiated) were dropped in the period 1989-1993.<sup>4</sup>

Senior researcher at The Christian Institute, Humphrey Dobson, said: "The Executive is effectively planning easy 'no-fault' divorces after 1 year separation.

"Jesus rejected 'no-fault' divorce, saying in Matthew 19 that divorce "for any and every reason" was wrong. Jesus did allow divorce on the grounds of adultery. Instead of making divorce easy we should be promoting reconciliation and saving troubled marriages."

<sup>1</sup> Correspondence from the Scottish Executive Justice Department, 22 June 2001

<sup>2</sup> *Parents and Children*, The Scottish Executive, The Stationery Office, 2000, page 16

<sup>3</sup> *Marriage, Divorce and Adoption Statistics (England and Wales) 1998*, ONS, 2000, Table 4.10

<sup>4</sup> *Civil Judicial Statistics Scotland*, Reports 1989-1993, Table 8. More up-to-date figures are no longer recorded.



Our family law report

## newsinbrief

### Kirk changes view on cloning

In a surprise u-turn, the Church of Scotland has decided to support the cloning of human embryos for medical purposes.

But it urged the Government to explicitly ban reproductive cloning.

The new policy reverses the Kirk's previous opposition to the idea. In 1996, the Assembly expressed serious reservations about the use of human embryos in genetic research.

(*Daily Mail*, 23 May 2001)

### McConnell shelves school discipline plans

Jack McConnell abandoned plans to reduce school exclusions, saying "Good discipline cannot be separated from effective learning and teaching."

(*Times Educational Supplement*, 22 June 2001)

### 4 in 10 teens drunk when virginity is lost

A survey in Fife revealed that 40% of 13 and 14-year-olds were drunk when they had sex for the first time. There is growing concern as hundreds of youngsters across Scotland are being treated in hospital for the effects of alcohol. (*The Herald*, 5 June 2001)

### Around-the-clock drinking plans

Scotland may introduce 24-hour drinking laws. A taskforce has been set up by the devolved Government to devise a new system. (*The Times*, 30 April 2001)

# Project given half-a-million pounds to 'breakdown prejudice' Stonewall grant

The gay rights organisation, Stonewall, has been awarded a grant of £387,000 from the Community Fund, formerly the National Lottery Charity Board, for their work in Scotland.

Further funding from charitable trusts and foundations will bring the total to £513,000.<sup>1</sup> The money will be used to fund *Beyond Barriers*, a three-year project designed to 'break down prejudice towards gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.'<sup>2</sup>

The grant will fully fund the salaries of four new



employees, recruitment, office costs and project costs.

A spokeswoman for Stonewall said: "At the end of the day the money will be used to make Scotland a more inclusive society."<sup>3</sup>

However news of the grant was not greeted with universal approval. Family rights campaigners had

strong concerns.

The Revd Jim Cowie, chairman of the Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility said: "We have grave concerns about this large amount of money going to an agency which has been at the forefront of aggressive promotion of homosexual lifestyles."<sup>4</sup>

Last year Stonewall

received a lottery grant of nearly £1million and established an office in Glasgow.<sup>5</sup>

The Christian Institute does not accept money from the lottery because of its opposition to gambling. The Institute instead relies on the giving of its supporters.

<sup>1</sup> *The Edinburgh Evening News*, 12 June 2001 and *The Scotsman*, 13 June 2001

<sup>2</sup> *The Edinburgh Evening News*, 12 June 2001

<sup>3</sup> *Loc cit*

<sup>4</sup> *The Herald*, 13 June 2001

<sup>5</sup> *The Herald*, 14 April 2000 and *Stonewall Newsletter*, Vol. 9 Issue 4, Spring 2001

## Homosexual group sex legalised

Group sex is always wrong whether it is homosexual or heterosexual



Group sex for homosexual men has been legalised in Scotland after the repeal of a law in May.

Hailed by gay rights campaigners as 'the last major piece of discrimination against us in sex offences laws'<sup>1</sup>, section 13 (2)(a) of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 was repealed on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

MSPs voted by fifty-nine votes to one<sup>2</sup> to accept the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Bill.

The *Pink Paper*, a homosexual newspaper, said that even the one vote against the Bill was the

result of the MSP pressing the wrong button.<sup>3</sup>

The Executive said the Bill was to remove laws that were thought to be 'incompatible' with the European Convention on Human Rights.<sup>4</sup>

However, the Convention allows for laws that are in the interest of the protection of public health or morals.<sup>5</sup>

Phil Gallie, MSP for South of Scotland, spoke out against the Bill, believing that Parliament should not condone such activities:

"In order to achieve equality, rather than group sex being legalised for gay

men, it should be outlawed for people of all sexual preferences", he said.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Duncan Hothersall, Spokesman for the Equality Network, quoted in *The Pink Paper*, 8 June 2001

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Proceedings, Vol. 3, No. 5 Session 1, 30 May 2001. Can be viewed at [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/agenda\\_and\\_decisions/mop-01/mop-05-30.htm](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/agenda_and_decisions/mop-01/mop-05-30.htm)

<sup>3</sup> *The Pink Paper*, 8 June 2001

<sup>4</sup> Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Bill [as passed]

<sup>5</sup> The European Union of Human Rights, Article 8 (2)

<sup>6</sup> Quoted in *The Times*, April 27 2001

# Drug use in Scotland: the facts

In the last year 26% of males and 20% of females aged 16-19 and 37% of males and 21% of females aged 20-24 have taken drugs.<sup>1</sup>

Drug-related crime in Lothian and Borders rose by 32% from 1996 to 2000.<sup>2</sup>

The value of drug seizures in Central Scotland rose from £40,000 to £542,000 in a year<sup>3</sup>, and in Strathclyde

in 2000 the figure was £7 million.<sup>4</sup>

In Scotland there are now 30,000 drug addicts, 10,000 children whose parents are on drugs and £540 million worth of drug-related crimes annually. In 1999 340 people died from drug abuse.<sup>5</sup>

Drug-taking has wider implications. 12% of road accidents are cannabis related.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Scottish Social Statistics*, 2001, page 83

<sup>2</sup> *Scottish Daily Mail*, 17 April 2001

<sup>3</sup> *The Herald*, 28 April 2001

<sup>4</sup> *Daily Record*, 2 April 2001

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>6</sup> *The Influence of Cannabis on Driving*, TRL report 477, TRL/Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, 2000, page 5

# Dangerous drugs lessons recommended by the Executive

**D**eep concerns have been raised that dangerous drugs education packs are invading Scottish schools.

In the same recommended list as the controversial sex education materials (see pages 4-6), the Scottish Executive has recommended two disturbing drugs education packs.<sup>1</sup>

Both packs downplay the risk of becoming addicted to crack cocaine for first-time or occasional users.<sup>2</sup>

*The Primary School Drugs Pack* and *Taking Drugs Seriously* (recommended for age 12 and over by the Executive) are both from England and both believe in 'Harm Reduction' rather than trying to prevent drug use.

Harm Reduction says that we cannot stop children taking drugs or acting on their sexual

desires so we must tell them all the facts to make sure whatever they do is 'safe'.

The primary school pack tells teachers to resist "pressure to teach from an anti-drugs perspective". *Taking Drugs Seriously* suggests children role-play being a drug dealer and learn what are the best and worst drugs. 14,000 of the packs have been sold in the UK.<sup>3</sup>

Teachers are told: "Most people who use drugs come to little harm".<sup>4</sup> The authors say that aspirin is just as much a drug as LSD.<sup>5</sup> *Taking Drugs Seriously* contains at least 8 different lessons discussing drugs legalisation. There are even tips for pupils on how to react if confronted by the police for drugs possession.<sup>6</sup>

The Executive's recommendation of these packs is at odds with the

strong anti-drugs feeling in Scotland: 20,000 people took part in the *Daily Record's* anti-drugs march on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Institute researcher, Chris Prest, said: "In the past the Executive have talked tough on drugs. I believe they are sincere in this matter."

"This is why The Christian Institute is bringing these packs into the public spotlight. We believe the Executive should review and remove the list of recommended resources for health education."

<sup>1</sup> 5-14 Guidelines Health Education Guide for Teachers and Managers, The Scottish Executive, 2000, page 77

<sup>2</sup> Cohen J et al, *The Primary School Drugs Pack*, Healthwise, 1999, pages 18-19 and Clements I et al, *Taking Drugs Seriously*,

Healthwise, 2000, pages 14-15

<sup>3</sup> *The Sunday Times*, 15 April 2001

<sup>4</sup> *The Primary School Drugs Pack*, pages 3-4

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, page 21

<sup>6</sup> *Taking Drugs Seriously*, pages 22, 40, 47, 60, 63, 74, 76, 80 and pages 68 and 78

**Make sure you get the new drugs lessons report from The Christian Institute**

If you are on our mailing list you will receive the report soon. To join the list, telephone **0131 226 3555**

## Professional code may threaten teachers' liberty

State teachers in Scotland may have to "fully respect" homosexuality if a new professional code of conduct proposed for England is mirrored here.

A General Teaching Council, long established in Scotland, has now come into existence in England. Christian teachers in England are expressing concern about the part of the Draft Professional Code of Conduct that requires them to "fully respect differences of ...sexual orientation" and "challenge prejudice and stereotypes".<sup>1</sup>

In 1998 the GTC in Scotland began a consultation on a draft code that was moderate and contained no gay rights clause.

The Christian Institute understands that the GTC in Scotland has ditched the draft code and is in the process of drawing up a new one.

It is not yet known when the GTC in Scotland will publish a new draft code. The Institute will keep Scottish supporters informed of developments.

<sup>1</sup> *The General Teaching Council for England Draft Code of Conduct*, 2001, paragraph 5

# Morning after pill in schools

Scottish schoolchildren could get the morning after pill from the school nurse under plans being introduced by the Executive.

The plans to expand massively the role of school nurses were revealed in March.

A £5.5 million training programme will include training nurses to 'tackle sexual health'.<sup>1</sup>

At the moment no school nurse is able to hand out the morning-after pill in Scotland because no local NHS Trust has given them permission.<sup>2</sup>

But the Trusts have the legal power to do so<sup>3</sup> and one Health Board has admitted "this

situation may change in the near future".<sup>4</sup>

Already some Trusts in England have begun to act. By January this year, four had done so, with three more known to be considering the move.<sup>5</sup>

In Oxfordshire, England, programmes had begun at seven schools, with five more soon to follow.<sup>6</sup>

Already the Executive has praised a controversial scheme at Boots in Glasgow which hands out the morning-after pill to girls below 16 and the Executive has admitted that in principle there is no lower age limit for prescribing it.<sup>7</sup>

The morning-after pill can be given to girls under 16 without any parental knowledge or consent.<sup>8</sup>

Seyi Hotonu, Medical Researcher at The Christian Institute, said: "Christians must watch this situation closely. We must be on our guard."



Our morning after pill report

- <sup>1</sup> Press Release SE0606/2001, Scottish Executive, 12 March 2001
- <sup>2</sup> Written Answer S1W-15785, Scottish Parliament, 11 June 2001
- <sup>3</sup> Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Amendment Order 2000, 17 July 2000 and Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Amendment (No.3) Order 2000, 8 December 2000 [from Westminster]
- <sup>4</sup> Letter to Gil Paterson MSP from Highland Health Board, 17 April 2001
- <sup>5</sup> *The Sunday Times*, 7 January 2001
- <sup>6</sup> *Oxford Times*, 12 January 2001
- <sup>7</sup> Press Release SE 1544/1999, Scottish Executive, 2 December 1998; *The Herald*, 3 December 1998; *Scotsman*, 4 December 1998, and; Written Answer S1W-15786, Scottish Parliament, 18 June 2001
- <sup>8</sup> Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991 s.2 (4), reinforced by Children (Scotland) Act 1995 s. 15 (5), cited by McLean S, *Consent and the Law*, consultation document for UK Health Ministers, 1997, page 16

## More information about The Christian Institute

If you would like more information about the work of The Christian Institute, or would like to be put on our mailing list, please contact us.

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