

Scottish Update

Issue 3 | September 2002

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The newsletter of The Christian Institute (Scotland)

TALE OF TWO CITIES:
Glasgow bans lap dancing
while Edinburgh embraces
the 'sex industry'

GOSPEL FREEDOM:
Executive considers
'religious hatred' law

ADOPTION LAW:
Will McConnell allow gay
couples to adopt children?

CANNABIS DOWNGRADE:
How the Home Secretary's
decision to soften the law on
cannabis will affect Scotland

Don't take my mummy away

Latest on the plans to ban smacking



COVER STORY: The latest news on the plans to change the law on smacking, p6

inside

Out and about

Past and future meetings of The Christian Institute, plus a report in Gaelic on our meeting in Stornoway, p4

Smacking stand

The personal story of one ordinary mother who met an influential committee of MSPs and told them not to ban smacking, p8

Gay rights in Aberdeen

City bosses launch plan to promote 'gay rights' after city is dubbed 'homophobic', p9

Sex lessons fail

New research shows current sex lessons are failing and the Executive announces a change in the way it will recommend sex education materials, p10, 11

Lap dancing ban

Glasgow's hard line against the 'sex industry' couldn't be more different to Edinburgh's approach, p12

Drugs worry

How new cannabis laws will affect Scotland, plus alarming levels of drug-driving and other news on drugs, p13-15

Tough motherly love

Read the inspiring story of Maxie Richards, an ordinary housewife who opened her home and her heart to help drug addicts, p15

Gagging the Gospel?

How laws on 'religious hatred' could end up being used to gag religious debate and silence Christians, p16



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ScottishUpdate

The Section 28 effect

Politicians! Do they ever actually listen to ordinary people? Well, yes sometimes they do. Here is an example. First Minister, Jack McConnell, has recently blocked plans to give out the morning after pill in schools (see page 11). That is no small thing. The Executive was definitely pushing the idea a year ago. Why the sudden change? Simply this: McConnell wants to avoid direct confrontations with family and Christian groups. That's the Section 28 effect.

Christians joined forces in a remarkable way against the repeal of Section 28, yet it was repealed despite over one million people voting against it. One or two people have asked me, if a million people voting in an independent referendum can be ignored by the politicians what is the point of making a stand on other issues? But perhaps those people didn't realise that two major battles were won in the fight to keep the clause.

First, important legal safeguards for parents were won. Parents must now be consulted on their child's sex education and the materials can be legally challenged where they are inappropriate. Those safeguards would not be in place if people had not made a stand.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, the profile of the whole debate and the response of ordinary people made clear that there is widespread support for family values. Most Scots do not

accept the anti-family agenda. 'Keep the Clause' was a great encouragement to Christians. The campaign had a powerful message which even sceptical politicians and journalists could not ignore.

When Christians make a courageous stand for morality on issues of public concern, they are a preserving influence. They are salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Christians can provoke people's consciences which can then be a good influence on public opinion. This can be a real restraint on our politicians.

Even people who have no Christian faith see this. The atheist philosopher, Jeremy Bentham, said: "...such is the nature of man when clothed with power...[that] whatever mischief has not yet been actually done by him today, he is sure to be meditating today, and unless restrained by the fear of what the public may think and do, it may actually be done by him tomorrow."

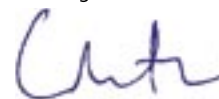
It was because Christians spoke out that Jack McConnell changed the Executive's policy on the morning after pill. Holyrood is clearly now frightened of upsetting the public on issues of family values. Public opinion is one reason why Glasgow is taking a different view to Edinburgh over the 'sex industry'. Glasgow's Evangelicals, Roman Catholics and feminists appear to have joined forces to combat sleazy lap-dancing nightclubs (see page 12).

On the issue of smacking,

the Executive's Deputy Justice Minister says he would prefer a total ban on smacking. But that is not what the Executive is proposing, it is planned that only some forms of smacking will be banned. This is because they are scared of upsetting the public. As it happens, even these lesser proposals have outraged people – and rightly so. In fact, a committee of MSPs seem to be particularly worried about the proposals to ban the smacking of under-threes (see page 6).

The very safeguards won in the Section 28 battle are now being used to protect children from inappropriate sex education materials. The Executive has been forced to change its policy on how it recommends materials (see page 10). This is largely the result of ordinary people making a stand at a local and national level.

The world will always need Christians to be salt and light. If we maintain our Christian distinctiveness and make sure that our salt does not lose its saltiness, then we will be "the salt of the earth" to carry out preserving work in a decaying world in desperate need of Christ's love and forgiveness.

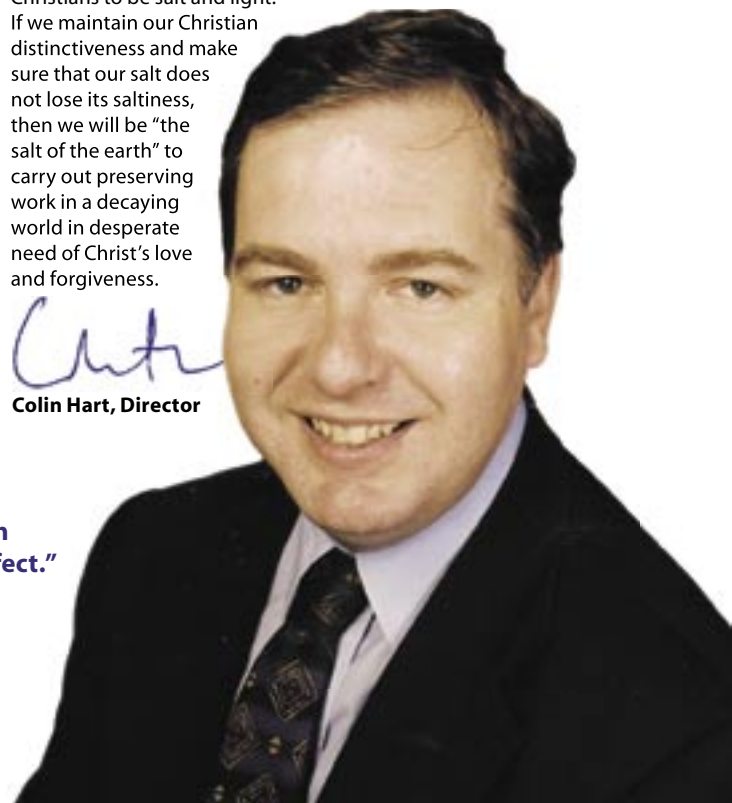


Colin Hart, Director



Last year, *ScottishUpdate* reported that the Executive was pushing the idea of giving out the morning after pill in schools. That has now been stopped by Jack McConnell. It is widely thought he wants to avoid confrontations with Christian and family groups. He doesn't want any more repeats of the Section 28 fiasco.

"McConnell wants to avoid direct confrontations with family and Christian groups. That's the Section 28 effect."



Christian Institute meetings: where

Turas an Institiud Chrìosdail

Joe MacPhee

Air Dihaoine an 10mh latha den Mhaigh 2002, thainig John Burn, (Cathraiche) agus Humphrey Dobson, (Ard Neach Sgrudaidh), bhon Institiud Chrìosdail a Leodhas airson a chiad uair a chumail dà choinneamh ann an Steornabhagh a bha air leth soirbheachail.

Bha a' chiad choinneamh gu h-araidh airson ministearan agus eildearan a thoirt comhla bho air feadh an eilein. Chruinnich ceithir duine fichead gu leir o na h-eaglaisean eadar-dhealaichte agus chaidh comhradh inntinneach air adhart mu obair an Institiud agus mar as urrain na h-eaglaisean taic a thoirt le fiosrachadh a chumail ris na coimhearseachdan aca fhein.

Feasgar, chruinnich sluagh mor de shia fichead neach ann am Bun Sgoil Steornabhaigh, a dearbhadh gum bheil uidh mhor anns an obair a tha an Institiud a deanamh.

Mhinich John Burn dhan mhiinntir a bha g'eisdeachd nadar na h-obrach anns am bheil iad an sàs agus mar a tha soirbheachadh leotha. Bha e

air leth inntinneach cluinntinn gum bheil an t-Institiud a-nis a cumail suil gheur air na tha gabhail aite aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

Bhruidhinn Humphrey Dobson an uair sin nas mionaidiche mu obair an Institiud, leithid an leasachadh a tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba am beachd a thoirt a mach an aghaidh pàrantan a bhitheas a smachdachadh an cloinne agus mar a thathar a deanamh strì airson an lagh an aghaidh a bhi cleachdadh canaib gu bhith air atharrachadh. Bhruidhinn e cuideachd air na ceumanan eagalach a tha luchd fearas-feise a gabhail airson gun urrainn dhaibh clann uchd-mhacachadh.

Chaidh grunnan cheistean fhoighneachd aig deireadh na coinneimh agus an uair sin bha cothrom aig daoine billeagan fiosrachaidh a thoirt leotha.

Ged is e seo a' chiad turas aig an Institiud ann an Leodhas tha sinn cinnteach nach e an turas mu dheireadh aca a bhitheas ann.



Far and wide in 2002: past and future meetings

 past meetings

 future meetings (see opposite page)



we've been and where we're going

Christian Institute meetings planned for Autumn 2002

This Autumn, The Christian Institute will be holding a series of meetings throughout Scotland. Each meeting will focus on issues of current concern to Christians. These will include the plans to change the law on smacking, the softening of the

Executive's policy against drugs and proposals to make divorce quicker and easier. Other topics will be covered too.

Staff from The Christian Institute will be able to offer advice and practical help for individuals who want to make

a stand for Biblical truth. The meetings will be encouraging and informative.

If you would like further information about any of our meetings, please contact The Christian Institute. Telephone 0131 226 3555.

Inverness Thistle Hotel, Milburn Road, Inverness, IV2 3TR	26th Sep 7.30pm	Motherwell GLO Centre, 78 Muir Street, Motherwell, ML1 1BN	23rd Oct 7.30pm
Edinburgh Holiday Inn, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UA	3rd Oct 7.30pm	Glasgow Glasgow Hilton Grosvenor, Great Western Road, Glasgow, G12 0TA	24th Oct 7.30pm
Scottish Christian Resources Exhibition Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 8NF (The Christian Institute will have a stall at this event.)	3rd-5th Oct	Perth Queens Hotel, Leonard Street, Perth, PH2 8HB	6th Nov 7.30pm
Glasgow Yoker Evangelical Church Bible Conference, 2420 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, G14 0QL	5th Oct 3.30pm - 5.00pm 6.00pm - 7.00pm	Stirling The Stirling Highland Hotel, Spittal Street, Stirling, FK8 1DU	7th Nov 7.30pm
Ayr Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Dalblair Road, Ayr, KA7 1UG	8th Oct 7.30pm	Chirnside Southview Evangelical Church, Crosshill, Chirnside, Scottish Borders, TD11 3UF	12th Nov 7.30pm
Dumfries Cairndale Hotel and Leisure Club, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2DF	9th Oct 7.30pm	Falkirk The Park Lodge Hotel, Camelon Road, Falkirk, FK1 5RY	21st Nov 7.30pm
Gatehouse of Fleet Gatehouse of Fleet Christian Fellowship Community Centre, Dromore Road, Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire	10th Oct 7.30pm	Dunfermline King Malcolm Hotel, Queensferry Road, Dunfermline, KY11 5DS	22nd Nov 7.30pm
For more information, telephone The Christian Institute: 0131 226 3555			

Smacking: the

By Mike Judge

The controversial plan to change the law on smacking is making progress through the Scottish Parliament.

The proposals are contained in the Criminal Justice Bill. The Justice 2 Committee of the Parliament has been taking evidence on the measures contained in the bill – including the proposals to change the law on smacking.

The committee has now finished taking evidence and will soon present a report on the general principles of the bill to the whole Parliament. The Parliament will then debate the bill. Amendments to specific sections of the bill cannot be made at this stage.

The Christian Institute has been monitoring the committee hearings. It appears that many members of the committee have been sceptical about the necessity and the

workability of plans to ban all smacking of under-threes.

It seems that the biggest concern to the committee is that ordinary parents could be the subject of judicial proceedings for trivial incidents of smacking.

However, it appears that most of the committee is backing plans to have an outright ban on the use of 'implements', blows to the head and shaking. This ban would apply to children of all ages.

Comments from members of the committee can be read in the panel (right).

The committee received more than 250 written submissions on the Criminal Justice Bill. Of these, over 190 were from members of the public – mostly couples who were against the plans to ban smacking.

This clearly had a huge impact on the committee members, who decided to invite two individuals to go before the committee and answer questions about their views.

One of those individuals was Trudy Kinloch. Read about her experience – and why she decided to speak out – on page 8.

The committee also took evidence from many expert organisations including the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates and the British Psychological Society. Read some useful quotes from their evidence on page 8.

MSPs on the Parliament's Justice Committee have been examining the smacking plans. Here's what they think:



Pauline McNeill, Convener (Lab, Glasgow Kelvin):

"I am interested in the practicalities of implementing such a provision." (8 May 2002, col. 1280)

"If the law is to be clarified by making it an offence for a parent to smack a child under three, the police will be involved and the parent will have to account for their actions in every case in which there is a complainer." (15 May 2002, col. 1358)

"Although we all may desire to legislate to ensure that no child is damaged by hitting, the practicalities of the law might mean that some innocent and good parents were prosecuted, as they would not be able to hit their child in any circumstances." (22 May 2002, col. 1385)

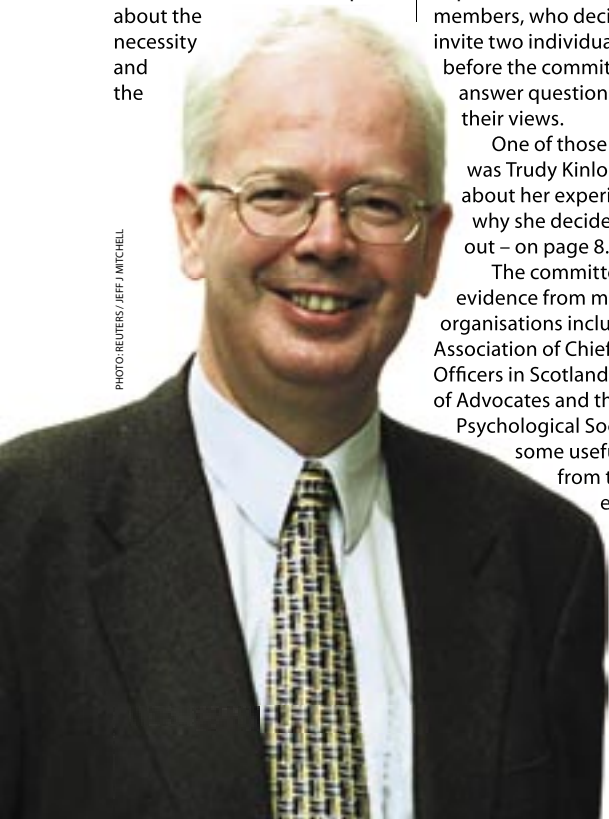
"Why should we not legislate further to narrow the scope of the [reasonable chastisement] defence and to reduce the prospect of someone harming a child with the use of instruments?" (22 May 2002, col. 1447)



Bill Aitken, Deputy Convener (Con, Glasgow):

"Is it not true that most smacking incidents occur in the home? ...How, then, could a case of this type be proved except by having closed-circuit television in every house? The provision seems to be unenforceable and lacking in credibility ...This is a very intrusive provision ...it is controversial because it is regarded by many as intrusive and an unwarranted interference in the way in which people bring up their children." (8 May 2002, col. 1282)

"The common law of Scotland is clear that judges and sheriffs have made determinations down through the ages on what is and what is not an assault. What is the problem here? In answer



Justice Minister Jim Wallace is responsible for the smacking plans

story so far

to a question from Mr Hamilton earlier, you [Jim Wallace] said that the last thing you want to do is to legislate for every conceivable circumstance. With respect, that is what you are trying to do here." (15 May 2002, col. 1363)



Alasdair Morrison
(Lab, Western Isles):

"Many ordinary parents and ordinary citizens do not see anything wrong with mild forms of chastisement. Is it reasonable to expose such parents and people who hold that view to the full weight of the law?" (22 May 2002, col. 1394)

"I have read the submissions by members of the public and a whole host of organisations. I am alarmed by the frequency with which the wooden spoon is deemed a reasonable form of physical chastisement." (8 May 2002, col. 1278)



Duncan Hamilton
(SNP, Highlands and Islands):

"Why does the Executive view the direction of parental attitudes as a matter for legislation and statute?" (8 May 2002, col. 1279)

"You [Jim Wallace] said that the proposed bill does no more than restate the current situation. That brings us back to the question of why we are bothering with the bill, given that we have a common-law position established under the case of *A v UK*. We asked last week exactly which of the provisions in the bill are not already covered by common law, and we could not find any." (15 May 2002, col. 1361)



George Lyon
(LibDem, Argyll and Bute):

"What evidence is there that the present law does not protect children from real harm?" (15 May 2002, col. 1360)

"I was thinking of a child throwing a tantrum, running one way and being grabbed by the parent to pull them back. That could be regarded as shaking." (15 May 2002, col. 1360)

"You [Rosemary McIlwhan, Scottish Human Rights Centre] said that because most physical chastisement takes place in the home,

there is little chance that it will be reported. I suspect that most of us would agree that that is how the world works. If that is the case, what would be the practical application of the legislation?" (22 May 2002, col. 1387)



Scott Barrie
(Lab, Dunfermline West):

"Is there a contradiction between a stance, with which I sympathise, that wants to end the physical chastisement of children and the rights of parents to bring up their children and deploy their norms?" (22 May 2002, col. 1383)

"As you are well aware, the current law allows reasonable chastisement to be given as a justification for hitting children. Do you not think that that is a vague test?" (22 May 2002, col. 1426)

"The Executive is trying to clarify some parameters that people should not go beyond, which is more helpful than the current situation, in which everything is open to interpretation all the way along the line." (22 May 2002, col. 1449)

**Quotes from The Scottish Parliament,
Justice 2 Committee Official Report.**

Resource from The Christian Institute:

The Christian Institute produced a comprehensive and readable briefing on the proposals to change the law on smacking. *Locking up Parents?* showed how

parents would be plunged into fear and confusion under Jim Wallace's plans. When it was published, the Institute's briefing made national news. The Christian Institute also submitted a detailed response to the Justice 2 Committee. The briefing and the submission are available from The Christian Institute. For copies, please telephone **0131 226 3555**



The personal story of an ordinary mother who went before a Scottish Parliament Committee to say: 'don't ban smacking'



■ By Trudy Kinloch

Concerned by the Scottish Executive's proposals to criminalize smacking, I wrote to a committee of MSPs using The Christian Institute's guidelines. Consequently I was invited to personally present my views to the Committee. The Lord helped me during daunting questions from MSPs. As an ordinary mother of four young children I sought to explain how I used smacking lovingly as a means of discipline. I gave the example of my toddler, unable to understand reasoning, who needed to learn to stay in his car seat. Hopefully the committee saw how loving parents could suffer prosecution, potential imprisonment and the consequent harm that would be inflicted on families.

Experts criticise Executive's plans to change the law on smacking

What you can do:

The Justice Committee's report will be presented to the whole Scottish Parliament for debate. When this happens we will inform supporters about how they can help. If you are on The Christian Institute's mailing list, you will be kept up to date with the latest developments. To join our mailing list telephone The Christian Institute on 0131 226 3555

Faculty of Advocates:

"To exclude any physical punishment of children under the age of three years carries the risk of bringing into the criminal justice system persons who would not otherwise come to the attention of the police or social services. The consequences of conviction, leading to the possible loss of employment and severe strains on family life may have adverse implications for the wellbeing of the child, which could outweigh the damage caused by the punishment."

Submission to Justice 2 Committee, see Agenda of 12 June 2002 J2/02/23/A

Helen Stirling, British Psychological Society:

"That is what the research is saying – it is not a question of whether one smacks; it is the degree that matters. The other important thing is the context

in which that is done. Families in which children are brought up with warmth and affection, and are not only punished for not behaving but are taught how to behave, produce functional children."

The Scottish Parliament, Justice 2 Committee Official Report, 22 May 2002, col. 1379

Andrew Cameron, Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland:

"Although operational officers may at times consider a set of circumstances to be of a minor nature compared with types of serious assault, they – and we, as chief officers – have a responsibility to ensure that we deal with the complaint of a member of the public and report the matter to the procurator fiscal... There is obviously a likelihood that more work will be required to be undertaken by police

officers to investigate the smacking of children under three years."

The Scottish Parliament, Justice 2 Committee Official Report, 15 May 2002, col. 1320

Norman McFadyen, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service:

"If section 43 were enacted as it stands, such persons [ordinary parents who smack their children] could be the subjects of police reports, because it provides for the absolute prohibition of physical punishment of the under-threes. It follows that if a complaint were made to the police and if it were investigated, it might be reported to the procurator fiscal if there were enough evidence."

The Scottish Parliament, Justice 2 Committee Official Report, 5 June 2002, col. 1494



Aberdeen council launches action plan to promote 'gay rights'

■ By Iain Bainbridge

City chiefs in Aberdeen have launched a radical action plan to combat 'cultural homophobia'.¹

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Action Plan is the first of its kind in Scotland. It was produced by Aberdeen City Council last October.

The plan proposes that steps should be taken across the whole gamut of Council services to ensure that gay rights are fully promoted.

Plans include placing gay books in school libraries and specifically welcoming adoption applications from 'LGBT' individuals.

But the plans have drawn criticism from locals. Following

the flying of a 'gay pride' flag over the council chambers, one Aberdeen father told a newspaper: "I don't mind gays but I hate having this kind of thing forced on me."

"I am quite happy for them to do what they want but I can't see what flying their flag on the Townhouse does for their cause. If you ask me, the whole thing smacks of exhibitionism. It's just not right."²

The action plan was produced by a working group of gay rights campaigners, councillors and council officers.

The plan states: "A history of cultural homophobia in the North-East of Scotland has led to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community of Aberdeen being the least visible of the equality target groups."³

However, despite claims of "homophobia" it is clear that Aberdeen City Council is already actively supporting homosexual projects.

The Council has given money to a number of gay rights groups. It has already provided funding for the Grampian Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Switchboard to produce leaflets and posters to advertise their service.⁴

The Council has also given funding to enable representatives from Aberdeen Lesbian Group to attend lesbian network meetings and conferences of the Equality Network.

What you can do:

If you live in Aberdeen, write to your councillor expressing your disapproval of this action plan. Say you object to your tax money being spent promoting gay rights. Copy your letter to the leader and the Chief Executive of the council.

The address of the council is:
Aberdeen City Council,
Town House,
Aberdeen, AB10 1FY

Examples from the Action Plan:

Education

- Ensure LGBT Switchboard leaflets are accessible to pupils and staff in all secondary schools.
- Ensure resources are made available in school libraries which reflect positive images of alternative families, including books by gay authors.
- Involve relevant outside agencies in 'sexuality education'.
- Develop a peer supported LGBT Youth Project – linked to Schools, Community Education etc.

Communication

- Establish a forum for the LGBT community to have dialogue with Council services.
- Organise a conference with the LGBT Forum to review their function and agree priorities.
- Continue to provide resources to enable relevant groups and organisations to be actively involved in the LGBT Forum.

Awareness raising

- All council staff to be given training on LGBT issues involving outside agencies.
- Flying of a rainbow/ribbon flag from the Town House on specific days of the year.
- Provide management guidance on dealing with homophobic bullying and harassment of staff.
- Further develop web site links between the Council's web site and relevant LGBT community groups and organisation.

Support for LGBT people and their families

- Audit support provided by Aberdeen City Council to LGBT people and their families. Identify gaps in provision of support.

Health

- Ensure specific actions to meet the health needs of the LGBT community are included in the Council's Health Strategy.

Examples are taken from Aberdeen City Council, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Action Plan*, pages 11-12

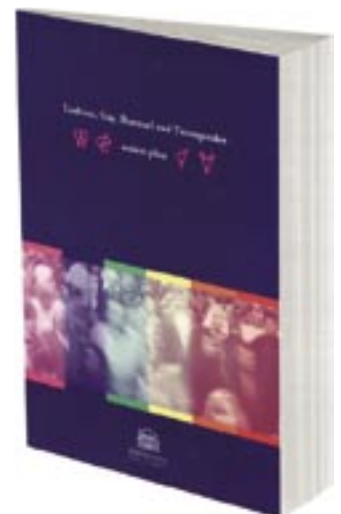
¹ Aberdeen City Council, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Action Plan*, page 1

² *Daily Record*, 17 June 2002

³ Aberdeen City Council, *Op cit*, page 1

⁴ *Ibid*, page 5

Aberdeen Council's action plan:



Jamieson 'admits' recommended sex lessons are inappropriate

Resource from The Christian Institute:

The influential report, *Sex Lessons For Kids*, is available priced £2.50 (incl. p&p). For a copy, please telephone The Christian Institute: **0131 226 3555**



■ By Mike Judge

The Scottish Executive has announced it will change the way it recommends sex education materials. In the future, the Executive will make clear which materials are suitable for use with pupils and which are suitable only for teachers.

The Executive's policy-shift follows months of bad publicity over its recommendation of teaching packs which include lessons in partner-swapping, gay role-play and sado-masochism.¹

The Executive has always maintained that these packs were only meant for teachers. However, the new policy

announcement will be seen by many as an admission that the current recommendations are inappropriate.

The announcement came in a letter from Education Minister, Cathy Jamieson, to the Scottish Parliament's Education Committee on 17 May.

The committee had written to the Minister after it had seen examples of lessons from the recommended materials. The committee was appalled by their content and demanded an explanation from the Education Minister. The committee was made aware of the materials by a 11,500-strong petition organised by Church of Scotland minister, Iain Murdoch.

However, although it says it will be clear which resources are for use with pupils, the letter from Cathy Jamieson says there are no plans to revise the current list of recommended resources. This means the list will still recommend the controversial lessons.

The Christian Institute will therefore continue to put pressure on the Executive, on health boards and on local authorities to ensure that these materials are not used in schools.

¹ Cohen, J and Wilson, P, *Taking Sex Seriously*, Healthwise, 1994, pages 31, 90-91

Campaign time-line:

March 2001:

The Christian Institute publishes *Sex Lessons for Kids* which reveals the shocking lessons recommended by the Scottish Executive. It is published on the day that the repeal of Section 28 has effect and makes front-page news in *The Scotsman*. Weeks of press reports follow.

April 2001:

The Christian Institute holds public meetings and exhibitions in Perth and Inverness, focusing on the materials.

May 2001:

The Western Isles council becomes the first local authority to ban the controversial materials from being used in its schools. The Christian Institute holds a public meeting and exhibition in Edinburgh.

July 2001:

The Christian Institute gives Revd Iain Murdoch copies of the sex education materials, which he takes to show his local MSP – Jack McConnell, then the Education Minister. Gil Patterson MSP joins calls for the recommended materials to be removed. East Renfrewshire becomes the second council to ban some or all the

materials. Revd Iain Murdoch launches his petition against the recommended materials.

August 2001:

Labour-run North Lanarkshire council becomes the third local authority to ban some or all the materials. It is an embarrassment to local MSP and Education Minister, Jack McConnell.

September 2001:

Institute supporter, May McDonald and friends collect hundreds of signatures for Iain Murdoch's petition. Her local council, Renfrewshire, re-examines its sex education policy. The Christian Institute holds public meetings and exhibitions in Motherwell, Perth and Dundee. Scottish Daily Mail contacts all 32 councils and asks whether they use the recommended lessons. Only eight councils said they did.

November 2001:

The Christian Institute holds public meetings and exhibitions in Stirling and Falkirk.

December 2001:

The Christian Institute provides a display for an exhibition of the controversial materials at the Scottish Parliament. The national press and broadcast media turn out in strength. Iain Murdoch's petition is handed in to Parliament with 11,500 signatures.

January 2002:

The Scottish Daily Mail reports that the Executive is set to dump the recommended resources. However, there is no official confirmation of this.

February 2002:

The Christian Institute holds a public meeting and exhibition in Dunfermline. Renfrewshire becomes the fourth local council to ban some or all the materials.

March 2002:

The Christian Institute holds public meetings and exhibitions in the Scottish Borders.

April 2002:

MSPs on the Education Committee roundly condemn the sex education materials. They were alerted to the material after the public petitions committee forwarded Iain Murdoch's petition to them for further consideration.

May 2002:

New Education Minister, Cathy Jamieson, responds to the Parliament's Education Committee and announces the new policy. In future, a distinction will be made between materials recommended for use with pupils and materials recommended only for teachers.

McConnell blocks moves to give out morning after pill in schools

■ By Humphrey Dobson

Plans for school nurses to give out the morning after pill to girls under-16 have been quashed by Jack McConnell.¹

In a comprehensive U-turn, he condemned the scheme as 'stupid and irresponsible'. The plans were set in motion last year when the former Health Minister, Susan Deacon, expanded the role of school nurses to include tackling sexual health.²

At the time, Christian organisations were quick to express serious concern. Jack McConnell is now thought to be keen to avoid clashes with family and Christian groups.

If the plan had not been stopped in its tracks, school nurses could have given out the drug without the knowledge or consent of parents.

The morning after pill contains a powerful hormone and is taken to prevent pregnancy in the 72-hour period following intercourse.

It is a form of abortion and there have been no studies on its long-term effects on young girls. It gives the green light to sleeping around, 'underwriting under-age promiscuity'.³

¹ *Scottish Daily Mail*, 26 June and 1 July 2002

² Press Release SE0606/2001, Scottish Executive, 12 March 2001

³ *Scottish Daily Mail*, 26 June 2002

Two new studies criticise current sex education

STUDY 1: 'Safer sex' lessons a failure

■ By Dr Seyi Hotonu

Children's knowledge of 'safer sex' has little impact on their sexual behaviour according to one of Scotland's largest research studies.

The study led by Glasgow University compared typical sex education with a new more explicit approach, known as SHARE.¹

The study, which involved nearly 6000 pupils, found that despite knowing more about 'safer sex' the children in the SHARE programme didn't actually practise it.

The programme failed to reduce the levels of unsafe sex or unwanted pregnancy.

The SHARE programme was started in the late 1990s with 25 schools in the Tayside and Lothian regions agreeing to take part in a trial involving sex education for their 13-15 year old pupils.

Twelve schools used existing sex education programmes. The remaining 13 schools used SHARE.

Teachers, sex education specialists and health promotion departments developed SHARE over two years using original and pre-existing materials including the controversial 'Taking Sex Seriously'.

Nearly 4200 pupils took part in up to 20 SHARE sessions.

Amongst other things, the pupils were taught how to develop skills such as "sexual negotiation" and condom use.

¹ Wight D, Raab, G M and Henderson, M et al, 'Limits of Teacher Delivered Sex Education: Interim Behavioural Outcomes from Randomised Trial', *British Medical Journal*, 324, 15 June 2002, pages 1430-1435. Full version also published as: Wight D, Raab, G M and Henderson, M et al, 'Limits of Teacher Delivered Sex Education: Interim Behavioural Outcomes from Randomised Trial', MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, 2002, pages 1-17

STUDY 2: Emotional trauma of early sex

■ By Dr Seyi Hotonu

Recent research from Edinburgh University has found that children are being let down by sex education which teaches nothing about the emotional consequences of early sexual activity.¹ This small study confirms findings of larger studies showing that many children regret under-age sexual activity.

Included in the condemnation is the Scottish Executive's flagship sexual health programme, Healthy Respect.

The study asked teenage girls about their first sexual experience. Half of those interviewed expressed regret at losing their virginity. A third said that the experience was either unwanted or express ambivalent feelings about it.

Almost a third said that they were pressurised into having sex by either their boyfriend or friends and just under a third reported violence ranging from coercive sex to serious sexual violence.

The research claimed that projects such as Healthy Respect were letting teenagers down because they were teaching them about the physical and not the emotional aspects of a sexual relationship.

The then Scottish Health Minister Susan Deacon confirmed the short-sighted focus on merely physical issues when the Healthy Respect programme was launched.

She said the aims of Healthy Respect were "to promote better sexual health, prevent unplanned teenage pregnancies... reduce the number of sexually transmitted

infections... [and] to develop appropriate and effective sexual health support for young people."²

¹ Gillan, E, academic thesis, undated. See also *Sunday Herald*, 10 March 2002

² Press Release, Scottish Executive SE2034/2001, 30 August 2001

Resource from The Christian Institute:

The Christian Institute has produced a helpful guide on what to do if you are unhappy with your school's sex education. For a copy, please telephone The Christian Institute: **0131 226 3555**

A tale of two cities

Glasgow shames Edinburgh as city chiefs take differing lines on the 'sex industry'

What you can do:

If you live in Glasgow, write to the Deputy Leader of the council, **James Coleman**. He has been the main proponent of the firm stance against lap dancing clubs. Thank him for his courageous stand and tell him you support his action. Write to him at:

Glasgow City Council,
City Chambers,
George Square,
Glasgow,
G2 1DU

■ By Rachel Woodward

There is increasing pressure to publicly accept an 'anything-goes' view of sexual behaviour. Lap dancing lounges, sex shops, prostitution, free 'emergency contraception' for school children – our society is facing more and more blatant attacks on Christian family values.

However, Glasgow and Edinburgh are responding to this pressure in totally opposing ways. Edinburgh City Council's response seems to be to 'go with the flow'.

For many years Edinburgh operated a legalised red light district or 'prostitute zone'.¹

The council's Tory group leader believes that 'saunas' "...have a role to play in keeping the sex industry off the streets"².

A business consortium has announced plans to open a 'super-sauna' in the city, aiming "...to bring the sex industry to the level of a five-star hotel"³.

Edinburgh currently has four lap dancing clubs and is considering an application from American firm Spearmint Rhino for a 'high class' lap-dancing 'sex multiplex'.⁴

This 'open' and 'tolerant' attitude to sex goes much further than just the 'entertainment' industry. In June Lothian Health Board stated that it may consider allowing the morning after pill to be given out by school nurses (though the Executive has since blocked the move).⁵

In contrast, on all of these fronts, the policy in Glasgow could not be more different. When the morning after pill proposals were reported, NHS Greater Glasgow were quick to reassure, "We do not prescribe the morning-after pill in schools and have no plans to do so."⁶

Glasgow council is also resisting the opening of lap dancing lounges in the city. Spearmint Rhino had to withdraw plans to open two

new clubs in Glasgow after the council stated that "Our formal position from now on is that lap dancing is not welcome in Glasgow".⁷

Working in conjunction with Strathclyde police they are "...enforcing a 'zero tolerance' approach to the sex industry to help women get out of prostitution".⁸

Glasgow city council has come under fire in the liberal press for being 'prudish', 'priggish' and 'excessive'.⁹ However, Glasgow is standing firm and showing moral courage that is sadly lacking in many other cities.

¹ *Evening Times*, 24 August 2001

² *Evening News*, 10 June 2002

³ *The Scotsman*, 14 June 2002

⁴ *The Sunday Times*, 9 June 2002; *Evening News*, 10 June 2002; *The Scotsman*, 14 June 2002

⁵ *Evening News*, 26 June 2002

⁶ *Evening Times*, 26 June 2002

⁷ *The Times*, 8 June 2002; *The Sunday Times*, 9 June 2002

⁸ *The Herald*, 4 April 2002

⁹ *The Scotsman*, 10 June 2002

Licensing system too weak for lap dancing

Glasgow city council's decision to ban all lap dancing clubs from the city has provoked much debate about the rapid increase in such forms of sleazy 'entertainment'. What comes as a shock to many is that under the current law lap dancing

clubs do not have to apply for a specific licence. They just need a liquor licence.

The only legal objections that can be made must relate to the sale of liquor. There is very little scope for objecting on principal to the nature of the

entertainment provided.¹

Anne Hamilton, principal policy officer with Glasgow City Council, is calling for changes to the legislation in order to give local authorities more power to block applications. She has gained support from

Roseanna Cunningham, SNP justice spokeswoman.² Sandra White MSP is also taking action to try to change the law.³

¹ *Evening Times*, 6 February 2002

² *The Herald*, 6 February 2002

³ *The Scotsman*, 14 February 2002



Study shows alarming levels of drug-driving

■ **By Jonathan Phillips**

Researchers at Glasgow University have found that nearly one in ten young drivers has driven while high on illegal drugs.¹ Cannabis was involved in 78% of those cases.²

Alarming many of the young people interviewed believed that cannabis had little or no impact on driving

skills or performance.³

However, smoking cannabis greatly reduces concentration and the ability to focus on complex tasks such as driving. The impairing effects of cannabis use on driving also continue much longer than that of alcohol.

An earlier study found that the number of drug related road deaths has soared six-fold

since the mid-1980s. It showed that nationally 18% of road death fatalities had traces of illicit drugs in the body.⁴

The prevalence of drug-driving is increasingly becoming a major concern to police forces across Scotland. The Government's plans to reclassify cannabis, which will inevitably result in cannabis being smoked more freely, can

only make the problem worse.

- ¹ *Recreational Drugs and Driving: Prevalence Survey*, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit 2001, page iii
- ² *Ibid*, page 37
- ³ *Ibid*, page 38
- ⁴ Sexton, B F et al, *The Influence of Cannabis on Driving*, DETR, TRL, Report 477, 2000, page 1

Home Secretary forgets that Scottish police must report all offences to the Procurator Fiscal

Police chaos after Blunkett ignores Scots law in cannabis downgrade

■ **By Humphrey Dobson**

The Westminster Government has announced its plans to downgrade cannabis from a Class B to a Class C drug. This reclassification will apply to the whole of the UK.

However, it seems that the Home Secretary forgot to examine the consequences for Scottish law – leading to warnings of chaos on the streets.¹

The plans for reclassification include a new policing policy. The Home Office believes that in most cases the police will seize cannabis found on a person and give them a warning. No report will be made to the prosecuting authorities.

But this policy cannot be used in Scotland. Unlike the rest of the UK, in Scotland officers must report all offences to the Procurator Fiscal – the prosecuting authority.

Norrie Flowers, chairman of the Scottish Police Federation, said: "This is going to put

Why reclassification is dangerous and wrong:

- Sends out the message to young people that taking cannabis is OK.
- Reclassification undermines parents who want to keep their children away from drugs.
- It severely weakens laws on cannabis. It will make using cannabis no worse than taking sleeping pills without a prescription.

The Government hopes that the proposals will become law by July 2003. But first of all they must be voted on in the Commons and in the Lords.

an awful lot of confusion in people's minds which makes our job more difficult. People are saying this is a carte blanche to buy and sell drugs as they wish, but it isn't...possession is still an offence which will be reported to the fiscal".²

However, many young Scots will not know the technicalities of police procedure and Westminster's confused message is likely to encourage

cannabis use.

The outcome could be a disaster. In the London borough of Lambeth, a 'softly, softly' experiment on policing cannabis has been tried. It has resulted in children as young as ten publicly smoking cannabis and drug dealers operating openly in the streets.

¹ *The Herald*, 11 July 2002

² *Loc cit*

Resource from The Christian Institute:

The Christian Institute has published this helpful briefing on the decriminalisation of cannabis. *Going Soft on Cannabis* examines the 15 most popular arguments for softening the law on the drug and demolishes each one. For a copy, please telephone The Christian Institute on 0131 226 3555



Drugs legalisation failure is “a scenario too awful to contemplate”

■ By Chris Prest

A Glasgow drugs expert has spoken out against calls to legalise drugs. Writing for the *Sunday Herald* Neil McKeganey, professor of drug misuse research at Glasgow University, says the death-toll from legalising drugs like heroin could be in the tens of thousands.

Professor McKeganey criticises claims by pro-legalisation groups who say legalisation would not lead to more drug abusers. He said that view is nothing more than an act of faith. He says the cost, if they were wrong, would be dramatic.

Those who want drugs to be legal try to make their controversial views more appealing by saying legalisation should be accompanied by education and treatment programmes.



However, Professor McKeganey is highly sceptical. He says that currently, neither education or treatment has been effective in stopping drug abuse. Given this situation, the last thing society should do is dive head-long into a policy which could increase drug abuse.

The professor also criticised calls to provide addicts with heroin free on prescription from the NHS. He suggested this was an incentive to become

addicted. A user has to buy his own heroin but if he becomes addicted – it is free!

The pro-legalisation lobby often point to the problem of young people addicted to drugs. They say that licensed vendors could be restricted by law from selling to under 18s.

But when looking at the failure of the authorities to stop outlets selling tobacco and alcohol to underage children, Professor McKeganey doubts that licensed drug outlets

would be any better.

Above all, Professor McKeganey says legalisation is a dangerous idea because it is a policy of no return. Once a legalisation policy is undertaken, there is no turning back. For these reasons he warns that a failed policy of drugs legalisation is a scenario too awful to contemplate.

Professor Neil McKeganey's article was published in the Sunday Herald on 5 May 2002

Scottish drug abuse levels down, contradicting the Executive's claims that 'say no' policy isn't working

■ By Chris Prest

People argue for the legalisation of drugs because they claim that there is so much drug use that the law is unworkable. The Executive claims that the “say no” approach to drugs education has failed. But the fact is that despite a recent rise in drug-related deaths, overall illegal drug use in Scotland has been

going down.

Between 1996 and 2000 the rate of drug use by those aged 20-24 fell by 38%. In the 16-19 age group the fall was 22%.¹ In the same period the proportion of people using cannabis dropped from 8% to 6%. It is interesting to note that 1996 marked the start of the anti-drugs campaign ‘Scotland Against Drugs’. In the year 2000 there was also a significant

drop in the proportion using amphetamines, LSD, magic mushrooms (psilocybin), ecstasy and temazepam.²

We are led to believe that illegal drug use is widespread. Yet the latest figures reveal that over 80% of 16-59 year olds in Scotland have never used an illegal drug.³ Indeed even amongst what is regarded as the most vulnerable age group, those aged 16-29, some 63%

are reported as never having used an illegal drug.⁴

Figures used come from the Scottish Crime Survey 2000

¹ Drugs Misuse Statistics Scotland 2001, Information and Statistics Division, 2002, page 15

² *Loc cit*

³ *Ibid*, page 16

⁴ *Ibid*, page 17



Controversial English group runs Scotland's drugs helpline

■ **By Mike Judge**

A highly controversial English organisation, which tells school children that crack cocaine is not necessarily addictive, is running the Scottish Executive's new drugs helpline.¹

Calls to the 'Know The Score' helpline are routed to the Liverpool-based organisation, Healthwise. This extreme group has produced schoolroom teaching packs which say crack is not addictive to first-time or

occasional users.² The packs also encourage children to role-play being a drug dealer and teach them it is safer to smoke heroin than to inject it.³

The contract to run the helpline was awarded to Healthwise despite high-profile criticism of its drugs education materials.⁴

The Executive's helpline is part of the £6.3 million 'Know The Score' drugs programme which was launched in March this year. It signalled

the Executive's surrender in the war against drugs as far as drugs education is concerned. In this area the Executive has now pursued a policy of appeasement via an experimental 'harm reduction' approach.

Justice Minister, Jim Wallace, said: "...Just Say No has had little or no impact and may even have had the counter-effect."⁵ A spokesman for the Executive told one newspaper that Healthwise were given

the contract because they already ran other health service helplines.⁶

¹ *The Scotsman*, 2 May 2002

² Clements I, Cohen, J and Kay, J, *Taking Drugs Seriously*, Healthwise, 2000, pages 14-15

³ *Ibid*, pages 23, 16-17

⁴ E.g. *The Scotsman*, 4 December 2001

⁵ *The Scotsman*, 20 March 2002

⁶ *The Scotsman*, 2 May 2002

The tough motherly love of a housewife who opened her home to help addicts

■ **By Dr Seyi Hotonu**

In April The Christian Institute went to a home in Bearsden, Glasgow, to visit Maxie Richards, a housewife with three grown-up children. However, she is no ordinary woman. Over the last twelve years Maxie has invited drug addicts to live in her home.

Maxie, a committed Christian, helps addicts overcome their addiction. She has never used techniques such as using methadone to wean users off drugs bit-by-bit. Instead, she prayerfully uses tough motherly love and a clear programme of abstinence from drugs.

She spends time with her lodgers, who are predominantly young people, and builds up their confidence so they can return to society drug free. Sometimes this takes several stays.

On occasions, addicts leave the house and Maxie is unsure about whether they will be able to stay off drugs. But she has many encouragements. One

young man left the house and seemed likely to take up drugs again. A few months later he contacted her to say he was off drugs and had become a Christian. The seed sown when he lived with Maxie had grown.

Maxie is self-funded, relying on donations. Recently she has been able to open a halfway house where those who have lived in her home can get used to more independent living before returning to society.

Residential rehabilitation centres are among the most successful in helping addicts get off drugs. Christian centres which use total abstinence from drugs are tremendously successful.

However, residential care is not cheap and many who want to come off drugs find there are not enough residential places available. The fact is, it is cheaper for the authorities to offer free methadone than to fund proper care.

Maxie's work began in 1986 when she realised that a few minutes from her comfortable middle-class home, teenagers

similar in age to her own children, were dying from drug overdoses.

Maxie began to pray, asking the Lord how she could help. Four years later she befriended a young temazepam addict.

The woman and her two young children moved themselves into Maxie's house where she insisted that Maxie could help her.

Soon, she was completely better. Others like her followed and Maxie has never looked back.

Maxie has seen the devastating effects that drugs have on individuals and their families and remains resolutely opposed to any softening of the law on drugs.

Maxie Richards, below, opened her home and her heart to drug addicts



Will McConnell allow gay couples to adopt children?

■ By Mike Judge

The Executive has refused to rule out gay adoption in Scotland. First Minister, Jack McConnell, may decide to follow the lead of the Westminster Parliament, which is currently considering plans to allow adoption by homosexual and unmarried couples in England and Wales.

The law on adoption in Scotland is presently the same as the rest of the UK. Press reports say Mr McConnell is keen to preserve this unity and is therefore likely to take on board any changes passed at Westminster.¹

But the Executive is not obliged to follow London's lead. Family and religious groups are urging the Executive

not to allow homosexuals and unmarried couples to adopt.

The Christian Institute has argued against changing the adoption law in this way, saying it is putting politically correct social engineering ahead of the best interests of children. The Institute's Deputy Director, Simon Calvert, said: "The overwhelming evidence is that unmarried and gay adoption

would be bad for kids. The research is crystal clear, children need a male and a female role model in a permanent relationship. The Executive can't hide behind Westminster on this. If they decide to change the law, it will be their decision and theirs alone."

¹ *The Scotsman*, 8 May 2002; *The Herald*, 8 May 2002

Laws against 'religious hatred' could be used to silence Christians

■ By Jonathan Phillips

The Executive has set up a cross-party working group to consider legislation tackling religious and sectarian hatred in Scotland.

The working group was announced last November

and is chaired by the Deputy Minister for Justice, Richard Simpson.¹

The working group has so far only met twice. It is next due to meet in September.

The group will consider a variety of proposals such as harsher sentences for crimes that are deemed to be 'aggravated' by religious hatred.

The Westminster Parliament introduced a similar law for England and Wales in December. Westminster tried to go even further and proposed creating a new crime of incitement to religious hatred, but this was rejected after journalists and religious groups feared it could be used against them.

Despite the protests against such a law in England and Wales, the Executive's working group is also considering the option of an incitement to religious hatred offence in Scotland.

This would be a serious threat to religious debate. After several years of such a law, Christians might face criminal prosecution for saying that Christ is the only way to God.

The working group is expected to produce a report on its recommendations after the summer. It is expected this will then be followed by a consultation.

The setting up of the working group has effectively halted Donald Gorrie's Private Members Bill on 'Protection from Sectarianism and Religious Hatred'. His bill is expected to be abandoned.

Mr Gorrie, who is on the Working Group, is now planning to add an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill during its second stage this autumn, calling for the introduction of a religiously aggravated offence.

His original bill put forward last June called for this as well as requiring organisations to draw up a code of conduct to combat religious hatred.

The recommendations of the working group are likely to strongly influence the path taken by the Executive and so will be very important, along with any consultation that is conducted.

¹ The Scottish Parliament, Written Answers, 1 May 2002, S1W-24710

KEY POINT:

There is an important difference between an offence which is 'aggravated' by religious hatred and a stand-alone offence of 'incitement to religious hatred'.

An aggravated offence means harsher sentences for those who commit existing crimes (e.g. assault) which are motivated by religious hatred. It is not a new offence, it just means tougher sentencing. This was introduced in England and Wales last year.

But an 'incitement' offence would be a totally new offence targeting actions deemed to provoke religious hatred. This could criminalise ordinary religious debate. Some groups might use the law against anyone who criticises their beliefs. Given time, such a law could result in Christians facing criminal prosecution simply for saying that Christ is the only way to God.