

institute Update

Issue 1
November 2001

THE
CHRISTIAN
INSTITUTE

CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN A SECULAR WORLD

The free UK-wide newsletter of The Christian Institute

Plans to ban
smacking in Scotland
and Northern Ireland

Protect yourself
from the new EU
employment
directive

Gay rights
teachers
code
delayed in
England

defending the

family



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Defending the family

Welcome to the first edition of *Update*. The aim of this magazine is to let you – our supporters – know what The Christian Institute has been working on, and to encourage you in your own efforts to be salt and light in this world.

At the moment there is, in particular, a great need for Christians to defend marriage and the family. Explicit sex education, plans to ban smacking, and calls for gay marriage and gay adoption are all uncovered in this edition of *Update*. These issues rewrite the basis of marriage and the family.

But marriage and the family are not arbitrary constructs. They do not need rewriting. They were created by God for the benefit of man. It should be no surprise therefore to find research showing married families are by far the best for children and adults alike.

The Government rightly recognises that marriage is "the surest foundation for raising children". So, it is entirely right for public policy to promote marriage and the family. Marriage should be privileged in law and public policy.

Whether people believe in God or not, society nevertheless benefits from the married family. This is part of God's common grace to all people. For the sake of our neighbour, Christians should have a



Mike Judge, Publications Manager

genuine concern to maintain this grace.

Of course, marriage and the family are more than just beneficial, they are inextricably linked to the most basic morality:

Marriage for one man and one woman is the only context for sexual activity; parents have a moral duty to raise their children with loving discipline; and children should honour their father and mother.

As Christians with a legitimate voice in a democracy we cannot be silent when public policy or our Government encourages behaviour which is not only harmful but also plain wrong. With calm and courageous words, Christians – young and old – must speak out.

People may not listen. They may go their own way. But whether battles are won or lost, it is important that there is a witness to the Truth. Our concern is to be salt and light. We must defend the family.



CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN A SECULAR WORLD

The Christian Institute, 26 Jesmond Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PQ.
Tel 0191 281 5664 Fax. 0191 281 4272

The Christian Institute is a company limited by guarantee and a charity registered for the promotion of the Christian faith throughout the United Kingdom.
Registered charity No. 100 4774.

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Christians throughout the UK have had the opportunity to hear about the work of The Christian Institute first hand.

In the last few months staff at the Institute have travelled throughout Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England to encourage local supporters as they take a stand for Christian values where they are.

There has been an extensive series of meetings around Scotland drawing attention to the Institute's sex education campaign. People in Perth, Edinburgh, Inverness, Dundee, Motherwell, Blairgowrie, Falkirk and Kirkcaldy have heard the story behind the campaign and have had a chance to see for themselves the actual sex education teaching materials controversially recommended by the Scottish Executive. The Institute has also held a number of specialist education meetings, informing

Christian teachers, governors and parents about important issues in education. People in Cardiff, Bath, Coventry, Chessington and Keswick came to hear practical advice on how to be salt and light in their local schools and communities.

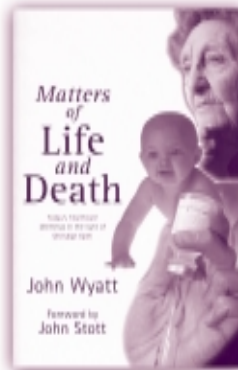
General meetings, giving information about the Institute's work and encouraging local Christians have taken place in Gorran Haven, Birmingham, Bromley, and Liverpool.

The Institute has also been represented at conferences in Belfast, Keswick, Swanwick and at the Christian Resources Exhibition in Birmingham.

meetings
far &
wide



Outstanding Books



Matters of Life and Death

By John Wyatt
Inter-varsity Press
ISBN 0-85111-588-8

This outstanding book approaches the ethical issues surrounding the start and the end of life from a solid Biblical, yet deeply personal perspective.

Wyatt, a leading neonatal paediatrician in the UK, examines biblical perspectives on 'humanness' and clearly lays out the details of the ethical dilemmas currently facing the medical profession.

This is not, however, a book of dry philosophical argument. The complexity and pain of the issues are not dodged. In the words of Wyatt:

'We must wrestle with these ethical dilemmas not with anger, hatred or judgment in our voices, but with tears in our eyes. For empathy is the way of Christ.'

Responding to the culture of death

A primer of bioethical issues
By John R Ling
Day One Publications
ISBN 1 903087 26-0

This excellent book provides a good introduction to many of the complicated bioethical issues that we are faced with in the world today.

John Ling starts by laying out a strong biblical framework and goes on to look in detail at such important issues as abortion, IVF, embryo experiments, cloning, genetic engineering, euthanasia and surrogacy.

The book provides a clear Christian analysis of recent trends in medicine and science. It is both informative and practical, urging us to take action against the ever-growing culture of death.



These books can be ordered from
The Christian Institute

Abstinence sex education almost adopted in Cornwall

The abstinence approach to sex education continues to gain ground.

As it becomes more and more obvious that the prevailing 'safer sex' message is fundamentally flawed, local people in Cornwall almost pulled off a remarkable victory.

With the public gallery packed by 140 supporters, a motion that Cornwall

County Council should adopt an abstinence programme was defeated by 28 votes to 24 - a margin of only 4 votes.

The amendment to the Council's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy also aimed to prevent the morning-after pill from being given out in schools.

Cllr. Mrs. Armored Carlyon, Chairman of Cornwall's

Community Standards Association and Christian Institute supporter, proposed the motion.

She said: "The message of the last 25 years has failed. No doubt many people have acted in good faith, but we have to accept the fact that it has failed... Our young people are our future - and that of our country. They are

precious - they are not there to be exploited."

After the debate, Miss A. Whitaker, Honorary Secretary of the Community Standards Association, said she was very pleased with the length and seriousness of the debate and that the Council had agreed to hold a forum on abstinence education at a later date.

Proposed Welsh circular does not protect children's innocence

the circular itself is lukewarm about marriage

In Wales the National Assembly recently sought comments on a draft of its new sex education circular.

The consultation finished at the end of September: The Christian Institute responded, as did many supporters in Wales.

The draft circular is concerning in several ways. For example, although the law states that the importance of marriage should be taught in sex education, the circular itself is lukewarm about marriage.¹ The Assembly also pressurizes primary

schools to teach sex education, when the law does not require them to do so.²

The circular is inconsistent: for example, it regularly mentions that parents should be consulted, but then questions whether religious parents can be relied upon to teach their children the facts of life.³

Thankfully both the law and the national curriculum are significantly better than the circular. Also individual schools decide their own sex education

policies.

This draft circular would fail children. It epitomises an approach to sex education which does not safeguard children's innocence. Christians should pray not only for a change of circular, but also for a change of heart.

¹ Education Act 1996, Section 403 (1A) and *Draft "Sex and Relationships Guidance for Schools"*, National Assembly of Wales, 2001, page 3

² *Ibid*, page 7

³ *Ibid*, paragraphs 1.27 and 1.28

Third local council bans dangerous health education materials

A Christian Institute supporter in North Lanarkshire has succeeded in getting his local council to ban explicit sex and drugs education materials.

Revd. Iain Murdoch from Wishaw launched a local campaign to have the materials banned after he was shown materials by the Institute.

North Lanarkshire has become the third local council to ban the materials, which are backed by the Scottish Executive.

In March the Institute revealed that these materials were being recommended by the Executive in new Health Education Guidelines.

The sex education materials include homosexual role-play, buying condoms for 'homework', and lessons which discuss sado-masochism, multiple partners and anal intercourse.

One of the drugs packs tells teachers to "resist" teaching from an anti-drugs perspective. Another includes role-playing a drug dealer and teaches that crack cocaine is not necessarily addictive.

The Christian Institute has been pressuring the Executive to withdraw these materials from the list of recommended resources.

And at a local level, the Institute has been urging supporters to make sure the

materials are not used in their schools.

East Renfrewshire Council and The Western Isles Council took measures to ban resources after receiving letters and protests from Christian Institute supporters.

Now those councils have been joined by North Lanarkshire, which has banned *The Primary School Sex and Relationships Education Pack*, *The Primary School Drugs Pack*, *Taking Drugs Seriously*, *Taking Sex Seriously*, and the Channel 4 sex education series, *Living and Growing*.

Revd. Murdoch, from Wishaw, said: "When The Christian Institute showed me the materials I was appalled. I had to do something."

"I and Monsignor Conway, my local Roman Catholic colleague, went to see my local MSP Jack McConnell – who is also the Education Minister – and showed him some of the classroom materials.

"Mr McConnell said he would be appalled if teachers use such material, but subsequently he did not take any action to withdraw the list, to express his public disapproval, or to give any assurance that similarly inappropriate materials would not be recommended in the future."

"After sharing concerns with other local churches

and community groups, I with others urged MSPs to take action and I started to organise a petition.

"While that was going on we concentrated on getting the materials banned in North Lanarkshire. Over a period of five months we pressed councillors and officials. Eventually they agreed to ban the irresponsible sex and drugs teaching materials."

Revd. Murdoch has been running a petition to call on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to withdraw the list and to ensure that all teaching materials comply with the statutory guidelines.

The petition also says "we consider that the use of such materials in the classroom would be irresponsible and inappropriate, and significantly extend the boundaries of what is seen as normal or morally acceptable in the use of illegal drugs and in sexual activity."

He has collected thousands of signatures and hopes to present his petition to the Scottish Parliament soon.

A spokesman for North Lanarkshire council said: "because of the adverse publicity attracted by some of the materials, we decided to take the additional step to make double sure that nothing offensive would appear in the classroom."

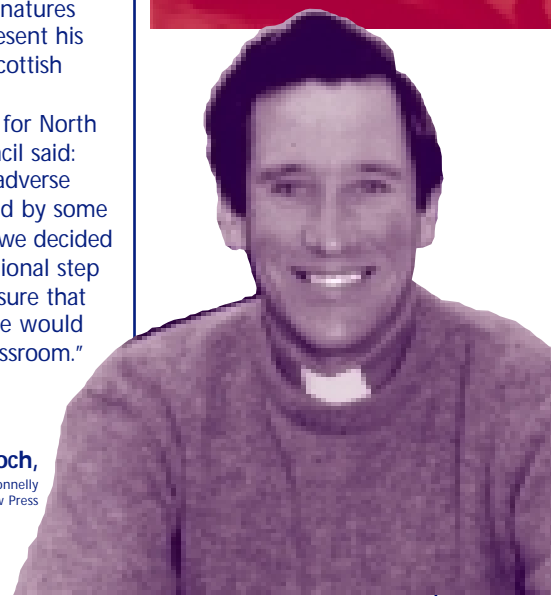
Revd. Iain Murdoch succeeded in getting the materials banned in North Lanarkshire

How this story affects the rest of the UK

- The worst of these sex and drugs education materials are produced in England and are available to schools throughout the UK
- It shows the kind of lessons that may be used if Section 28 is repealed in England and Wales
- It shows what can be achieved if Christian people are willing to act!

Revd. Iain Murdoch,

Picture by Jim Donnelly
courtesy Wishaw Press



In the 1800s, Josephine Butler campaigned against legalised prostitution and succeeded in raising the age of consent to 16

Victorian victory over state-regulated prostitution

One woman's courage against the Army, the Navy, the Government and powerful brothel keepers

Edinburgh's recent failed attempt to regulate a 'safe' prostitute zone in the city was not the first such scheme to fail.

In the 1800s, girls as young as 12 were being sold into prostitution. For 20 years, prostitution was legally regulated by the state in ports and garrison towns around the UK.

The extraordinary legislation was an attempt to deal with the huge numbers of service men in the British Armed Forces who were going down with venereal disease.

The *Lancet* reported in 1858 that, at any one time, a fifth of the army was in hospital suffering from venereal disease.¹

The authorities became seriously alarmed. In 1863 the Secretary of State for War suggested the hygienic control of prostitutes as the solution.

The 1864 Contagious Diseases Act in effect proposed the state regulation of Prostitution in 11 ports and garrison towns. Other Acts in 1866 and 1869 increased the number of towns.

Under the legislation any women in these towns who were suspected of being prostitutes were subjected to forced medical examination and treatment.

Christian campaigner, Josephine Butler, was alarmed that the nation was publicly tolerating prostitution and that many innocent women were being subjected to the

forcible examinations.

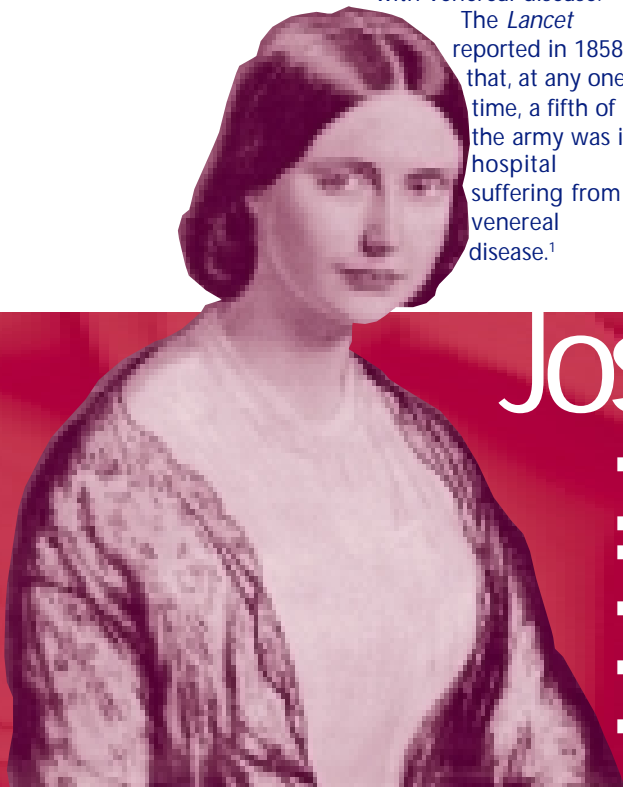
Josephine Butler held huge public meetings up and down the land in a campaign to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts.

There was tremendous opposition from the brothel owners. Mobs were stirred up to give violent opposition even breaking up prayer meetings called to pray for the campaign.

In the first year of the campaign alone Josephine Butler travelled 3,700 miles and organised 99 public meetings.

Eventually the age of consent was raised to 16 and in 1883 the Contagious Diseases Acts were suspended.

¹ Quoted in Fisher, Trevor, *Scandal: The Sexual Politics of Late Victorian Britain*, Allan Sutton Publishing, 1995, page 13



Josephine Butler

- Born Josephine Grey in 1828 in Northumberland, the seventh child of John and Hannah Grey.
- Married George Butler in 1852.
- Successfully campaigned against State-regulated prostitution.
- Succeeded in raising the age of consent for sexual intercourse from 12 to 16 – the same law that remains today.
- Arranged over 900 public meetings, and published 520 books and pamphlets on prostitution.
- Organised well over 17,000 petitions with over 2 million signatures collected.

The dangers of harm reduction

Why this approach to many moral issues is so flawed ...next page

We've had enough: Families protest against the tolerance of vice on their doorstep

Residents win battle to remove 'prostitute zone' from their streets

Residents in a suburb of Edinburgh have succeeded in removing a 'prostitute zone' from their area.

The 'tolerance zone' in Leith had to be moved because the regeneration of the area had led to an increase in residential properties and an influx of new families.

For over a decade police in Edinburgh have been operating a scheme that allows prostitutes to work 'safely' in a specified 'zone'.

But pressure from the local residents forced them to rethink this policy in their area.

Residents complained that prostitutes "took clients into our backyard to have sex; they left used condoms wherever they went; ... they injected drugs in full view of the street; men looking for prostitutes propositioned female residents".¹

Police attempted to switch the 'zone' to a non-residential area, however there was concern it would be impossible to prevent the 'tolerance zone' spilling over to residential areas.

The police were so committed to the project

that they proposed the provision of a bus service to transport the prostitutes from a drop in centre near to the original 'tolerance zone' to the new area. They hoped that this would prevent the prostitutes walking through residential areas.² But local residents would not accept this 'compromise'.

A local civil servant said the prostitutes would be "going to a zone completely surrounded by residential areas. It might be fine on paper, but in practice it just doesn't work".³

A spokesman for Lothian and Borders Police said that they had "a pragmatic approach to Street Prostitution".

"We do not condone it, because it puts women at risk and can encourage crime and anti-social behaviour. We would prefer it did not exist, but it does and it will not go away".⁴

Rather than enforce the laws against prostitution they allow it to take place in a monitored area in an attempt to minimise other criminal activity that often takes place alongside it.

But Lothian and Borders Police have had to give in to local pressure.

Chief Supt Pat Byrne said, "We police by consent and this trial was not acceptable to the society we represent – therefore the experiment will end."

"We will be telling the girls that after November 30 it will no longer be acceptable and if we have not found an alternative location by then we will have to do what we are charged to do and that is police society."⁵

The Chief Superintendent's belief in policing 'by consent' is a cause for concern because it suggests that the changeable opinion of a community can have more force than the law itself.

"They took clients into our backyards to have sex; they left used condoms wherever they went"

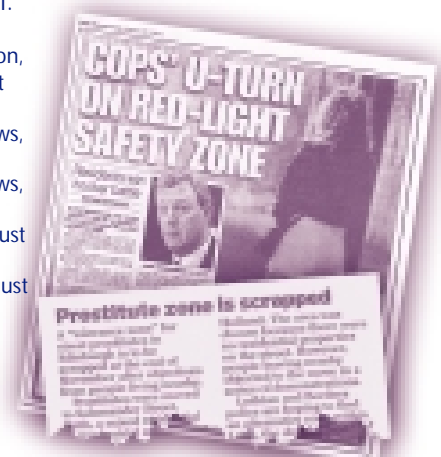
¹ Letter from Alex Gordon, The Herald, 28th August 2001

² Edinburgh Evening News, August 24th 2001

³ Edinburgh Evening News, August 24th 2001

⁴ The Observer, 26th August 2001

⁵ The Scotsman, 31st August 2001



Why Christians must speak out against this damaging philosophy

The dangers of 'harm reduction'

'Harm reduction' increases the very harm it seeks to reduce

Turning a blind eye to mainstream morality in the hope of promoting safety is the well-intentioned but flawed thinking which lies behind what is called "harm reduction".

Harm reduction is a damage-limitation approach which has been adopted in many controversial areas.

It has been the dominant philosophy of sex education for many years, and a harm reduction approach was used to justify a "tolerance zone" for prostitution in Edinburgh.

The Christian Institute has now uncovered drugs education materials which teach children safer ways to use drugs rather than telling them to avoid drugs altogether.

Because harm reduction seeks to promote safety, it can have a very human face: When condoms are given out to kids, experts say it is to protect children from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease.

When police tolerate prostitution, they say it helps them to control the

situation and protect the women.

Christians must be ready to answer the challenge of "harm reduction" approaches to modern moral issues.

The fact is, harm reduction increases the very harm that it seeks to reduce.

The "safer sex" message has failed to bring about the promised reduction in teenage pregnancies, which continue to stay at an alarmingly high level.

New diagnoses of many sexually transmitted diseases have increased¹ and teenage abortion rates have gone through the roof.²

Local residents who lived in the Edinburgh prostitute zone said that prostitutes "took clients into our backyard to have sex; they left used condoms wherever they went; ... they injected drugs in full view of the street; men looking for prostitutes propositioned female residents".³

Pat Attridge, the local Councillor in Edinburgh, supported the prostitute zone but admitted: "prostitutes were

travelling from other cities to the zone and the police were just caught between a rock and a hard place."

The tolerance of prostitution, under-age sex, or drug use creates an atmosphere which encourages more of these unsafe activities.

All these things are illegal and harmful to society, yet in some areas Councils and the police have given up.

There will always be a minority who engage in these activities, but we must not put at risk the many in a misguided attempt to protect the few.

Public disapproval of anti-social activities is a very strong restraining influence on most people. Christians must work to promote this public opinion and say "no" to harm reduction.

¹ http://www.phls.co.uk/facts/STI/sti_uk_data.htm as at 18 October 2001

² *Abortion Statistics Series A B nos 24 and 26*, ONS

³ Letter from Alex Gordon, *The Herald*, 28 August 2001

"A hygienic supply" of prostitutes

Read how one Christian campaigner faced the same 'harm reduction' arguments... and won! (see p6)

Changes to employment law will affect Christian groups

The absolute freedom of all religious groups to employ only believing staff is to be curtailed by the UK Government following its agreement to a new EU employment directive.

Under the directive, which was signed in October 2000, UK employment law must be amended to forbid any form of discrimination on the grounds of religion or sexual orientation.

When the Government said it would sign up to a new EU employment directive, The Christian Institute said it represented a serious threat to religious liberties across Europe.

The directive may result in Churches and Christian organisations being forced to employ atheists or practising homosexuals.

Under the original wording, the only jobs that could definitely be reserved for Christians were church

ministers and RE teachers in a religious school.

Changes were made to the directive to widen the exceptions following huge pressure from The Christian Institute and others. Some 12,000 letters were received by the Government.

The new wording offers more protection. However, the impact on religious organisations depends on exactly how the Government implements the directive.

The Department for Trade and Industry recently asked The Christian Institute to take part in consultations on implementation.

They said the Institute had played a 'significant' role in discussions surrounding the directive.

Although the Government has until December 2003 to implement the directive, the Home Secretary David

Blunkett recently suggested that this may be brought forward.

Over the next year it will become clear what level of protection the Government intends to give to religious bodies.

In the meantime, The Christian Institute is seeking to help Christians prepare themselves to avoid being successfully sued under the new law.

A Christian organisation which wants to employ a Christian Managing Director will first of all have to prove that it is an organisation "based on religion or belief".

Then it will need to prove that believing in that religion is a "genuine, legitimate and justified occupational requirement" of that particular post.

If it cannot do this to the satisfaction of an employment tribunal it will be in trouble.

'Wording is crucial' as UK implements European employment directive

How you can prepare for the new employment law

What can Christian organisations do to prepare for the directive?

To increase their chances of resisting a legal challenge under the new employment law, churches and Christian organisations

will have to be very clear and open about their Christian basis and about what they expect of staff in terms of belief and conduct.

These matters should be explicitly dealt with in trust

deeds and other founding documents. Incorporating a doctrinal basis is a good idea.

Employment contracts and staff policies must make clear that staff are required to live out the

faith. If a job includes activities such as prayer or evangelism this must be set out. They must also state what forms of immorality may result in disciplinary proceedings or dismissal.

Institute tells Select Committee: 'don't go soft on drugs'

Institute Director, Colin Hart, is concerned with the move away from a preventative emphasis.

Copies of The Christian Institute's submission on drugs are available.

The Christian Institute has sent a submission to the Home Affairs Select Committee on drugs.

The committee is evaluating the Government's drug policy and the possible effects and merits of liberalising existing drug laws.

Institute Director, Colin Hart, is concerned with the move away from a preventative emphasis.

In the Institute's submission he argued that the government's drug policy has been undermined by the use of harm reduction approaches

in drug education.

He warns that the harm reduction approach, increasingly dominant in general drug education, was invented for use with drug addicts, and is not suitable in the classroom or similar situations where the majority of the audience are not drug users.

This approach also contradicts the Government's successful approach to stopping people smoking, which is completely preventative.

The Institute says that decriminalisation will increase the demand for

and supply of drugs, and will also remove the deterrent and stigma that currently stops many young people from taking up drugs.

The Institute raised concern that cannabis related deaths on the road are already a serious problem. It will be made worse with liberalisation – as will drug related crime, with the higher demand for drugs resulting in more theft.

The Select Committee plans to publish its report in the new year.

Co-ordinated campaign to legalise cannabis

Politicians are facing increasing pressure to legalise cannabis.

The campaign to legalise the drug will continue in parliament this autumn with the second reading of a Private Members Bill and a major inquiry by the high-powered Home Office Select Committee into the possible effects of changes to the law.

While the Private Members Bill is unlikely to

succeed it adds growing momentum to calls to change existing laws on cannabis, as does the setting up of the select committee.

The campaign to legalise cannabis was stepped up significantly in the summer after Peter Lilley, the former deputy leader of the Conservative party claimed "the present law is unenforceable and indefensible" ¹.

The then leadership

contender Michael Portillo followed this by stating that the advocates of legalisation had "made their case" ².

Senior MP's from all parties, including the Home Office Minister David Blunkett, have expressed support for a debate.

In September, the Church of England's Board for Social Responsibility, argued that the possession of cannabis

should be decriminalised. ³

¹ Lilley, P *Common Sense on Cannabis*: Social Market Foundation: July 2001, page 6

² The Scotsman, 19 July 2001

³ Church of England Board for Social Responsibility, Submission to the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into *The Government's drug policy: is it working?* 24 September 2001.

The smacking proposals for Scotland and Northern Ireland:

Scottish Parents could face prison for smacking their children under new proposals from the Scottish Executive. The proposals, which could become law next year include:

- A ban on smacking children under three
- A ban on the use of implements (e.g. wooden spoon) on children of any age
- A ban on smacking by childminders¹

¹ Scottish Executive Press Release: *No smacking rule for children under three*: 06/09/01

The Northern Ireland Executive plans to change the laws on smacking, and has released a consultation with options including:

- A complete ban on smacking
- A checklist to govern when parents may smack
- Statutory children's rights²

² Northern Ireland Office of Law Reform: *Physical punishment in the home* September 2001

Scottish parents could risk jail for smacking their children

Parents in Scotland could be prosecuted for smacking their children under proposals from the Scottish Executive.

The proposals, which may become law by the end of next year, include bans on smacking children under three, on using implements such as a wooden spoon and on smacking by childminders.

The Northern Ireland Executive has also released a consultation on smacking, with options including a ban on all smacking and introducing statutory children's rights.

These measures could have severe effects on ordinary loving families.

At present, UK law permits parents to smack on the grounds of 'reasonable chastisement', but anti-smacking campaigners claim this clause needs "clarifying".

Groups like Save the Children demand an outright ban on all smacking.¹

Most parents, on the other hand, believe proper and effective discipline is an act of love, and the vast majority believe that this includes physical punishment.²

On legal grounds, groups such as the Law Society of Scotland argue that existing legislation provides sufficient child

protection, with courts able to distinguish between 'reasonable chastisement' and abuse.³

Public opinion supports smacking, with 90% of parents using physical discipline.⁴

¹ Save the Children response to *The Physical Punishment of Children in Scotland: A Consultation*; February 2001, the Scottish

Executive, Response 150

² 1998 Office For National Statistics Survey, reproduced in Annex A of *Protecting Children, Supporting Parents – A Consultation Document on the Physical Punishment of Children*, Department of Health, January 2000

³ The Scottish Law Society, *The Physical Punishment of Children (Op cit)*, Response 212

⁴ 1998 Office for National Statistics Survey, *Op cit*

These measures could have severe effects on ordinary loving families.

If smacking is criminalised in Scotland, pressure will be increased to ban it in the rest of the United Kingdom

Our briefing on physical discipline, *Locking up Parents*, included an analysis of these Scottish proposals when they were published for consultation. Copies of *Locking up Parents* are available from The Christian Institute

Young Lib Dems want to ease porn laws

The Young Liberal Democrats tabled a motion for debate at the recent national conference of the Liberal Democrat party calling for an easing of the pornography laws.

They want an end to the censorship of material depicting consensual sexual activity between adults and a reduction in the cost of sex shop licences.

They argued that the law allows 16 year olds to engage in heterosexual and homosexual activity but does not allow them to view explicit pornography depicting such activity.

The policy also enjoys the support of leading Liberal Democrats. Simon Hughes, home affairs spokesman, said: "The big danger is not sex on the screen, it is violence. The

natural prude ought to be more concerned about that."¹

Lembit Opik, spokesman for youth affairs said: "Nobody has come up with evidence of harm from hard-core porn."²

Mark Oaten, party chairman, said: "Internet and child pornography are out of control and growing. We can tackle those areas more effectively if we take

a more lenient and mature approach to the tolerable aspects of pornography."³

Despite this support for the policy, the motion was withdrawn at the last moment because of the terrorist outrages in the US.

¹ *The Sunday Times*, 9 September 2001

² *Ibid*

³ *The Guardian*, 18 August 2001

Locals protest against plans for a sex shop in Camborne

The Council plans to decide on the application in November

Councillors, churchmen, youth leaders and parents have formed a formidable alliance against an application for a licensed sex shop in Camborne, Cornwall.

The application concerns shop-front premises which are close to churches, schools and youth centres as well as a high street shopping area.

Camborne Town Councillor, Shirley Collings, is the prime mover behind the campaign, organising petitioning, letter-writing, public meetings and even a small protest

demonstration. Cornwall's Community Standards Association is also involved.

Peter Malindine, a Christian Institute supporter, is doing his part too. A former civil servant, he read about our own licensing battles against the Xsensual sex show and contacted us for details of the relevant laws.

He then wrote to Kerrier District Council, setting out the arguments against granting a licence for the sex shop.

Unfortunately, many others who wrote had their

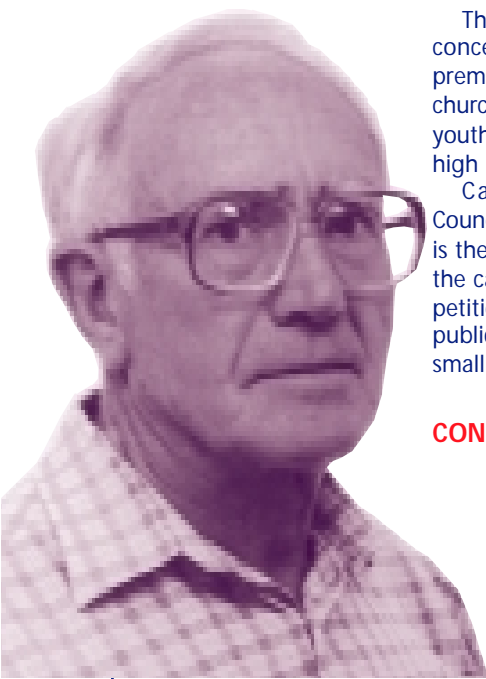
objections declared invalid because they did not address the relevant statutory grounds. Peter's preparation made sure his letter counted.

Peter has also been The Christian Institute's eyes and ears, taking photos of the location and mapping it out for us, as well as keeping us supplied with local press cuttings.

His assistance enabled us to lodge our own objection.

Kerrier District Council plans to decide on the application in November.

CONCERNED: Peter Malindine (left) contacted The Christian Institute for help



Success! Local campaign succeeds in getting council to refuse licence Institute supporter wins local battle to block sex shop

A Christian Institute supporter has succeeded in blocking moves to license a sex shop in Worthing.

Steve Stevens, a veteran Christian campaigner, won the battle to persuade the local Council to refuse a licence.

A local journalist alerted Mr Stevens in April of this year to an application for a licensed sex shop in his home town of Worthing.

Mr Stevens contacted The Christian Institute, who sent him information on the legal grounds for a council to refuse a sex shop licence.

The Christian Institute was also able to share its experience of successfully blocking a sex shop licence in Cardiff.

Mr Stevens wrote to the council addressing the statutory grounds for refusing a licence contained in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

The Act states that a licence should not be granted if it would be inappropriate, having regard to the "character of the relevant locality" or "the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put".

The proposed sex shop was in a residential area and near to a children's dance school.

Mr Stevens made use of the letters pages in the local

papers to urge people to make their views known to the council.

Together with his wife Kay he produced a petition form and gave out a hundred copies at a special inter-church prayer meeting, encouraging people to make extra copies for use in their own churches and neighbourhoods.

The Council had been asking occupiers of premises very close to the proposed sex shop for their comments.

Mr Stevens was not satisfied with this very small circle. He visited most of the nearby shops taking copies of the council's letter and the petition. He was delighted with the positive response.

He also put together a protest display with "Ban Sex Shops" in large letters,

which was photographed and published in the local papers.

By the time of the hearing in June the Council had received close to a thousand petition signatures and many letters of opposition from nearby shops and residents.

To the delight of locals, the Council refused the application. The decision made front page news in the local paper.

Although pleased with the outcome in this case, Mr Stevens remains concerned that other applications for sex shops are going on throughout the country and is continuing his campaign to alert Christians to the need to respond.

As Mr Stevens is keen on saying, "Evil triumphs when good men do nothing."

To the delight of locals, the Council refused the application

Mr Stevens (left) and his wife Kay visit Mary Whitehouse



Why Christians must oppose calls for homosexual marriage

To equate homosexual partnerships and heterosexual marriage is ridiculous because they are simply not the same.

There is huge pressure on the Government to legalise 'gay marriage'.

Homosexual pressure groups plan to use the Human Rights Act to challenge existing laws¹.

The Liberal Democrats are committed to legalising homosexual 'civil partnerships'.

The introduction of the London Partnerships Register has led to calls for further 'equality' measures.

There has also been a Ten Minute Rule Bill calling for gay marriage. At the time this *Update* went to press, the Bill was due to be debated in the Commons.

Marriage enjoys a privileged status in law because of the unique social benefits it offers. It is based on the different but complementary natures of men and women.

To equate homosexual

partnerships and heterosexual marriage is ridiculous because they are simply not the same.

Project SIGMA, the leading pro-gay research group in the UK, stated that: "There is a widespread expectation among gay men that relationships will not be monogamous since this is widely seen as a means of combining the security of a long term commitment with the excitement of new encounters."²

Gay marriage equates homosexual liaisons with holy matrimony.

Homosexual partnership rights do not extend the benefit of marriage; they demolish a principle at the heart of family life.

All of the world's major religions have consistently viewed homosexual practice as morally wrong.³

The Bible is clear that heterosexual marriage is the only context for sexual relationships.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament view adultery, sex before marriage and homosexual activity as morally wrong. (E.g. 1 Corinthians 6:9).

It is vital that Christians oppose the move towards 'gay marriage'. We must speak up for what is right in order to protect the vital role of marriage in our society.

¹ *The Sunday Telegraph*, 24 September 2000

² Weatherburn, P et al *The Sexual Lifestyles of gay and bisexual men in England and Wales*, HMSO, 1992, Page 12

³ See Morgan, P and Lawton, C (eds), *Ethical Issues in Six Religious Traditions*, Edinburgh University Press, 1996

London's partnership register

Since September it has been possible for homosexual couples in London to register their relationships in Ken Livingstone's 'London Partnerships Register'.

The Greater London Authority described it as 'a

step towards avoiding problems arising over housing, taxation, inheritance rights and family law.'¹

Although it is openly admitted that registration does not give couples the same rights as marriage

does, gay rights groups see it as major progress in their campaign for full 'gay marriage'.

Other towns have now announced plans to run similar schemes, and the pressure on society to accept homosexual

relationships as equal to marriage is growing.

¹ 'London Partnerships Register, Introduction. Can be viewed at <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/partnerships/introduction.htm>

Care homes must help children develop their "sexual orientation" ...see next page

Children aren't trophies: Gay rights groups may hijack adoption Bill Institute set to publish new book as pressure mounts for gay adoption

Children could be legally adopted by unmarried homosexual and heterosexual couples if British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) and gay rights campaigners succeed in changing the law.

A new adoption Bill is expected to come before Parliament this year. The Government has said that it has no plans to introduce unmarried couple adoption into the Bill, but back-benchers could have other ideas.

Gay rights campaigners hope that changing the law in this way will 'normalise' homosexual relationships.

The Christian Institute will shortly be publishing a book showing homosexual adoption would harm children.

The book has been written by Patricia Morgan, a prominent social science author.

As far as is known, this is the only work of its kind to be published outside the United States.

Supporters of gay adoption rely on social science studies which claim homosexual parenting does children no harm.

But Patricia Morgan's book will expose the massive flaws in these studies. Some common findings are that the 'pro-gay' studies:

- Are purely anecdotal, using personal testimonies from just a handful of people.
- Are based on small sample groups that can not provide statistically significant results.
- Have homosexual participants who were not chosen at random but were volunteers. They were self-selected and therefore were more likely to have a vested interest in ensuring that the studies had a good outcome.
- Either have no 'control' group at all or fail to compare homosexual parenting with

parenting by a married couple.

- Are used over and over again, published in different forms, and presented as 'new research'.
- Focus on lesbians. Studies of the parenting by gay men are conspicuous by their absence. There are so few male homosexual parents that it is virtually impossible to find enough who are willing to take part in research.

Despite the fatal flaws, many sociologists have accepted these studies because of the pressure to be politically correct.

Patricia Morgan's book also highlights the many properly conducted studies that consistently find that children who are brought up by married parents do better emotionally, socially and academically than those brought up in any other type of family.

Gay rights campaigners hope that changing the law in this way will 'normalise' homosexual relationships.

Children must develop their "sexual orientation," says care home guidelines

Children in care homes will be encouraged to develop their "sexual orientation" under proposed new guidelines.

The proposed National Minimum Standards in Children's Homes also says that professional services are to be provided on the basis of sexual orientation, giving homosexual youth workers right of access.¹

And homes must also prepare children to meet their "continuing needs" to establish sexual relationships.²

The Christian Institute responded by sending a full submission to the public consultation.

The Institute argued that while children are rightly discouraged from smoking, getting drunk and taking drugs they should also be discouraged from under-age sexual activity and promiscuity.

It was also pointed out that these proposed minimum standards would conflict with the ethos of Christian care homes.

¹ *Children's Homes: National Minimum Standards Children's Homes Regulations: Consultation Document* Department of Health, 2001, standard 7.6, page 15

² *Ibid* standard 6.6, page 14

Copies of our submission on standards in care homes are available from The Christian Institute.

General Teaching Council for England surprised by the size of response

Gay rights teachers' code delayed after Institute campaign

The implementation of a proposed gay-rights code for teachers has been delayed following the action of a large number of Christian Institute supporters.

In May 2001 the newly established General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) began consulting on a "Professional Code for Teachers".

This draft code requires teachers to "fully respect" differences of "sexual orientation". The draft code intends to define teacher professionalism.

The Christian Institute produced a briefing, *Cut the Clause*, which showed that this would require teachers to promote gay rights.

The Institute said Christians respect *people* as people regardless of their way of life, but no Christian teacher can sign up to a professional code that requires them to respect *behaviour* which conflicts with morality.

The GTCE's consultation ended on 20th July with the intention of introducing the Code on 1st October 2001. However, many Christian Institute supporters, outraged by

the proposals and helped by our booklet, took part in the consultation.

The huge number of responses surprised the GTCE. The final version of the Code will not now be put to the Council for approval until February 2002 after which it will be introduced for all teachers within the state sector.

The Christian Institute is also campaigning against a similar code in Wales.

The huge number of responses surprised the GTCE

Update on *Cut the Clause*
For the latest news request our **new** briefings on the GTCs in England and Wales

Legal Opinion: Expert says code could result in disciplinary action against Christian teachers

A legal opinion has confirmed fears that a draft gay-rights teachers' code could lead to Christian teachers being disciplined because of their biblical beliefs about sexual morality.

The draft teachers' code says teachers must "fully respect" differences of sexual orientation.

John Bowers, an eminent QC and author of *Employment Law*, said that the code could be used by schools, local authorities and employment tribunals to punish legitimate expression of religious belief.

Although he believes that the higher courts may secure Christian teachers' rights, this would mean lengthy and costly legal proceedings for Christian teachers.