



THE CHRISTIAN
INSTITUTE

15 years of the Legal Defence Fund

With over 300 people helped last year alone, The Christian Institute's Legal Defence Fund is needed just as much today as it was 15 years ago.

We fight cases of national importance for gospel freedom and defend Christians discriminated against because of their faith.

But court cases are just the tip of the iceberg. Most of what we do never makes the headlines. Every day we support believers across the UK facing pressure because of their stand for Christ.



Current cases



PUNISHED FOR THEIR FAITH *STIRLING FREE CHURCH*

We are supporting Stirling Free Church's religious discrimination claim against the Robertson Trust.

In November 2019, the church began hiring premises for its Sunday services from the Trust.

When the Chairwoman found out, she was reportedly infuriated, complaining that Stirling Free Church "don't believe in same-sex marriage". She repeated her objection in correspondence with trustees.

The Trust ended the contract, claiming it did not rent for activities promoting religion. In fact, no such policy existed.

This was followed by disciplinary action against Trust CEO Kenneth Ferguson, an elder of the church.



Stirling
Free Church

Despite a successful nine-year tenure and strong appraisals, in March 2020 he was dismissed for vague 'performance issues'.

UK courts have made it clear that it is unlawful to discriminate against people just for believing in traditional marriage. It is vital that we defend this important principle.



TRANSGENDER IDEOLOGY IN SCHOOLS *CHALLENGING UNLAWFUL GUIDANCE*

Last year Warwickshire County Council dropped its misleading sex education policy after the Institute threatened it with legal action for putting schools at risk of breaching their legal obligations.

Now we're helping a mother of three who is rightly concerned about her local council promoting radical gender ideology to children.

The mum is worried that her children will be

indoctrinated against her family's Christian beliefs. She also fears it will offer her autistic child a simplistic and misleading answer to his own developing sense of identity.

With our assistance she is preparing to challenge the council in the courts.

The council has repeatedly refused to withdraw the guidance. Yet it presents the law incorrectly, promotes partisan views without balance and recommends resources contrary to Department for Education guidance.



File photo



FOSTERING & ADOPTION *CORNERSTONE*

We are assisting a Christian fostering agency facing demands to stop operating according to its biblical beliefs.

The regulator, Ofsted, told Cornerstone that its policy of only recruiting evangelical Christian carers was unlawful. It said the agency discriminates on grounds of religion and sexual orientation.

We succeeded in part at an earlier High Court hearing, but a further ruling on appeal is likely to have important implications for many Christian organisations.



Pam Birtle, Founder and General Manager of Cornerstone

The Legal Defence Fund: 2006-2021

2,475 PEOPLE HELPED

9 HIGH COURT LEVEL

6 COURT OF APPEAL LEVEL

4 UK SUPREME COURT



The
Royal
Courts
of
Justice



4 SUCCESSFUL JUDICIAL REVIEWS



BILLS UP TO

£518k

PER YEAR

£312k AVERAGE 2011-2020



20 QCs
INSTRUCTED

A LEGAL OPINION CAN COST

£12,000+

BUT CAN LEAD TO A
CRUCIAL VICTORY

Landmark wins



A stand by courageous Christians can create national precedents which protect UK believers.

By June 2021, three of our leading cases had been cited in at least 47 other court judgments.



📍 Amy and Daniel McArthur

Ashers Baking Company

The 'gay cake' case considered whether a Christian business could be compelled to promote a cause with which it profoundly disagreed.

The McArthur family were sued for discrimination after refusing to decorate a cake with the campaign slogan 'Support Gay Marriage'.

We provided the family with expert help and funded

their defence. The UK Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the Christian bakers could not be forced to express a message supporting a political campaign for same-sex marriage.

This ruling stands as a hugely significant precedent on the issue of compelled speech, with implications well beyond the facts of the case.

The Named Person scheme in Scotland

In 2014 the Scottish Parliament passed a law imposing a state guardian on every child in Scotland.

The new law gave teachers and health visitors broad powers to interfere in the upbringing of children and share sensitive personal information with other state officials. Parents had no power to object.

The Institute spearheaded a two-year legal action which eventually reached the UK Supreme Court.

Our challenge raised fundamental questions

about state interference in ordinary family life where there were no child protection concerns.

Agreeing with us, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the scheme was incompatible with the right to a family life and that the Scottish Parliament had acted outside its powers.

The judgment in *The Christian Institute and others v The Lord Advocate* contains a powerful warning about the tendency of 'totalitarian regimes' to separate children from their parents' influence.



Adrian Smith

Adrian Smith was demoted by Trafford Housing Trust with a 40% pay cut for a private Facebook post saying that same-sex marriage in churches was 'an equality too far'.

Our most cited case, it raised important issues about the extent to which employees may be disciplined for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, particularly outside the workplace.

The High Court ruled that Mr Smith had done nothing wrong and that the employer had acted unlawfully.

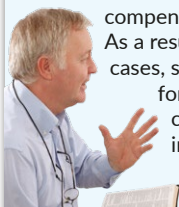


Behind the scenes

Evangelism

We've helped hundreds of Christians with advice on open-air evangelism and the law. We succeeded in each of the six wrongful arrest claims pursued on behalf of street preachers, securing more than £34,000 in compensation.

As a result of our cases, several police forces have committed to improve officer training.



Free speech

Nearly a dozen Christians facing disciplinary action for expressing their beliefs on social media have needed our help. In one case, we successfully defended a teacher before the General Teaching Council for Wales. In another, the General Teaching Council for Scotland discontinued a case after we got involved.

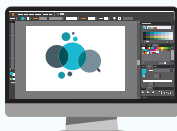


Help not to compromise

A Christian residential centre needed our help after a visiting group wanted transgender youngsters to share toilets and sleeping facilities with the opposite sex. We obtained a QC's opinion and helped the centre draft policies to accommodate transgender guests without compromising its beliefs. We have since helped several similar charities.

Creative Christians

We have advised 45 graphic designers, printers or other creative workers who were asked to promote unbiblical lifestyles in their work. We helped them to adjust their business offer to avoid issues arising under the Equality Act.



Here to help: Sam Webster, our Solicitor Advocate.

Endorsing 'LGBT pride'

We have helped over 30 employees who faced pressure to endorse their employer's LGBT Pride celebration. We have guided them with arguments to resist requests to wear rainbow lanyards, send emails using Pride straplines or simply put their names to a corporate statement of support.



Pronoun pressure

We have assisted nearly 40 Christians who faced pressure to use 'preferred pronouns' for transgender clients. In each case, we have helped to ensure they are not compelled to say things they don't believe.



'Diversity' and 'equality'

When churches and Christian charities are involved in providing facilities or services in partnership with public bodies, they often need written diversity and equality policies. We ensure that the wording does not cut across the charity's beliefs or the exceptions in equality law.



Fostering and adoption

We have advised more than 30 Christian couples whose applications to foster or adopt were delayed or blocked when social workers questioned aspects of their Christian faith. In most cases we have been able to guide the couple through the process or help them draft appropriate appeal correspondence.

Can we help you?

If you, or any Christian you know, experience difficulty because of your stand on any issue of biblical concern, please contact us. We may be able to provide legal help.

Our legal support is always free to you. We are eager to serve the Church in this way and are thankful for God's provision through the support of many Christians.

Are you:

- ▶ A church leader needing advice?
- ▶ An employee feeling pressured to back LGBT campaigns?
- ▶ A street preacher told that quoting the Bible is a 'hate crime'?
- ▶ A parent or teacher concerned about the promotion of radical transgender ideology in school?
- ▶ Having difficulties with fostering or adoption because of your Christian beliefs on marriage or biological sex?

CONTACT US | ☎ 0191 281 5664 | @ LDF@christian.org.uk



⬆ Our legal team, supported by the rest of The Christian Institute, may be able to help you.

Support our legal work



GIVE REGULARLY



christian.org.uk/LDFgive



0191 281 5664

Or make a **one-off** donation



LEAVE A LEGACY



the.ci/LDFlegacy

Please state in your will that it is being left for the Legal Defence Fund.

Giving to the Legal Defence Fund helps with the costs of legal action and the associated campaign work in cases of national significance for religious liberty.