

INSIDE

- TDs back end to abortion safeguard
- Online betting tops €1 billion
- Trafficked women on pimping websites

Fighting the good fight

Abortion is a major issue for Ireland, with more than 10,000 women now ending the lives of their unborn children every year. Despite this terrible rise, too many politicians are pushing to strip away the few protections the unborn have.

Another issue in the news almost every day is drug abuse. The prevalence of illicit substances are a serious problem, and much more

needs to be done to end the harm to individuals and wider society.

The recent liberalisation of gambling has resulted in the industry booming. This will undoubtedly bring with it tremendous pain and suffering, not only for gamblers themselves, but for their families too. It has opened a Pandora's Box that will be difficult to close.

Oireachtas committee pushes for heroin and cocaine decriminalisation

All drugs, including heroin and cocaine, should be decriminalised for personal use, the Joint Committee on Drugs Use has said.

In its final report, the Committee proposed total drug decriminalisation and the expansion of drug consumption rooms, where users can take illegal substances without fear of arrest. However, this was despite admitting other jurisdictions have seen drug consumption go up following decriminalisation.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin said the Government will give the report "very serious consideration", but noted that decriminalisation



"does not guarantee consumption goes down". The Government's current strategy aims to "divert those found in possession of drugs for personal use to health services".

Jim O'Callaghan TD, the Minister

for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, warned that if addicts could openly take heroin "without the Garda being able to say they cannot do that, it will have a very negative influence on people, especially children.

If they see this happening, it is going to be normalised."

Pending evaluation of Dublin's pilot drug consumption room, the Government may open additional spaces in Cork and Limerick.



Dáil backs Sinn Féin Bill to end key abortion safeguard

TDs have voted to scrap the three-day reflection period for women after requesting an abortion.

Deputies backed Sinn Féin's Bill to remove one of the few safeguards that remain for the unborn by 86 votes to 70. The proposal is being considered by an Oireachtas committee.

Fianna Fáil MEP Billy Kelleher, who was the party's health spokesman during the campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment in 2018, recently admitted that the safeguard was only added to placate those on the fence.

However, polling shows that there is public support for



📺 Dáil Éireann debate

maintaining the three-day reflection period, with 55.3 per cent of those who expressed an opinion backing the safeguard.

And according to HSE data, between 2019 and 2024, over 10,000 women who had requested an abortion did not go through with it

following the three-day reflection period.

Pro Life Campaign's Eilís Mulroy said: "We hear from women all the time about how important the reflection period was to them in providing that extra space to think through such a profound and life-altering decision.

"It is truly shocking that Sinn Féin and other backers of abolishing the three-day wait didn't even take the time to formally consult with any of these women before pressing ahead with their agenda to get rid of one of the last remaining safeguards under Ireland's abortion on demand regime."

Trafficked women on pimping websites within 24 hours of arriving in Ireland

An Garda Síochána has warned that the 'online retail' of prostitutes in Ireland is being fuelled by sex trafficking.

In 2025, the Garda National Protective Services Bureau identified at least 114 human trafficking victims. Some women

were being advertised on pimping websites and "providing sexual services within 24 hours" of arrival in Ireland.

On a typical day, 1,159 individuals are advertised for prostitution in Ireland, including 468 in Dublin, 99 in Cork and 37 in Limerick.

The Christian Institute's Jenny Olson called for more to be done to bring the facilitators of sex trafficking to justice and urged prayer for the many vulnerable women in need of support to rebuild their lives.





Full-time
discipleship for
everyone



livingchristianity.org.uk

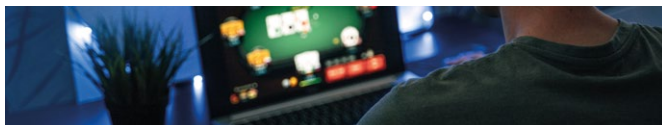


STREAMING
NOW

the.ci/faithinaction



Calls for tighter controls amid online betting rise



Regulated online betting exceeded €1.2 billion between January and March 2026, up 47 per cent on the previous quarter, Irish Tax and Customs figures have revealed.

Last year, the Central Bank of Ireland reported that gambling spending is “spiking” year-on-year by over 20 per cent.

Consultant psychiatrist and addiction specialist Professor Colin O’Gara described the headline figure as just “the tip of the iceberg” and called for tighter controls on online betting incentives. He highlighted ‘free spins’ and

‘cross-offerings’ — where gamblers are encouraged to try different products — as particularly troubling.

At the beginning of July, the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland announced the introduction of remote betting licences, covering “betting services online and by other remote means”.

Licensed operators must employ age verification checks “to prevent underage gambling”, ban credit card payments, and meet specified requirements on closing accounts when gamblers choose to leave.

NI ‘conversion therapy’ plans pass first hurdle

Controversial plans to ban so-called conversion practices have passed the first hurdle in the Northern Ireland Assembly despite serious concerns being raised.

Alliance MLA Eóin Tennyson’s Member’s Bill would make it a criminal offence to provide “conversion therapy” and engage in “coercive conversion behaviour”. Under the proposals, any person found guilty

of an offence could face up to two years in prison.

While claiming to target abuse, the proposals could actually see parents, professionals and pastors having to answer to the police for innocent conversations.

This could include refusing a child’s request for puberty blockers.

Last year, the Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael coalition promised to ensure a ‘conversion practices’ ban is operational in Ireland before the end of 2026.



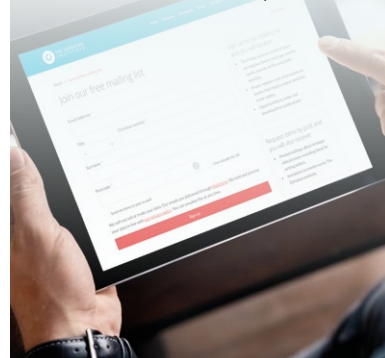
For the latest news, see: the.ci/tennyson

Stay informed

Sign up to receive the latest news, urgent matters for prayer and free copies of our latest publications.

the.ci/signup

To benefit from our full range of resources, choose email **and** post.

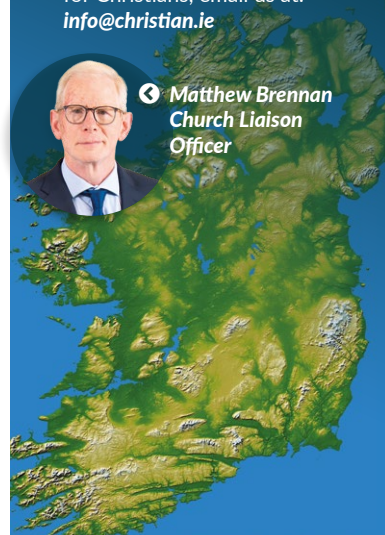


We’d love to meet you

If you would like us to speak at your church on key issues for Christians, email us at: info@christian.ie



Matthew Brennan
Church Liaison
Officer



Pray continually

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SUNDAY

PRAY That society would treasure the lives of the unborn.

MONDAY

PRAY That God will bless all those seeking to have a Christian influence in schools.

TUESDAY

PRAY For quick government action to end prostitution and trafficking in Ireland.

WEDNESDAY

PRAY That the Government would reject attempts to legalise dangerous drugs.

THURSDAY

PRAY With thanksgiving that Christians are free to proclaim the Gospel in Ireland.

FRIDAY

PRAY That children will be protected from harmful transgender ideology.

SATURDAY

PRAY For the CI as we seek to influence secular society for Christ.

Charity Commission told it needs to reaffirm value of faith-based groups

Amnesty International UK has apologised after branding The Christian Institute — along with a host of pro-life, gender-critical, and Christian groups — an ‘anti-rights’ organisation.

In its briefing ‘A growing threat’, Amnesty claimed it had identified a network of groups targeting “the rights of women and LGBT+ people”, and it accused the Institute and other groups of “fostering moral panic” and posing a threat to “human rights protections”.

The charity’s report recommended greater scrutiny of

groups that oppose the Government’s draft Conversion Practices Bill and for the NHS to investigate the activities of crisis pregnancy centres.

It even called on the Charity Commission to review the charitable status of those listed that it said “promote social and legal frameworks” based on traditional beliefs about gender, sexual ethics and family life.

Following widespread criticism, it removed the report from its website and apologised.

In a letter to the Charity Commission,



the Institute and ten other organisations named in the report set the record straight on its inaccuracies.

The letter asked the regulator to reaffirm that “the advancement

of religion” is a legitimate charitable aim, that Christian charities make a valued contribution to society, and are entitled to speak into contested areas of moral debate.

‘Carrying a Bible may be illegal in NI hospitals’

Routine hospital pastoral ministry may fall foul of abortion buffer zone laws, according to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Following the conviction of retired pastor Clive Johnston for preaching the Gospel within one such zone, Chief Constable Jon Boutcher indicated that prayer, Scripture reading and carrying a Bible may also be illegal in censorship zones.

He said that the legislation was not designed to prohibit

such behaviour, but that “an offence may be committed” if someone believes it may ‘influence’ someone there for the purposes of abortion.

Our Director, Ciarán Kelly, said: “The very suggestion that consensual prayer or Bible reading could ever become a criminal matter should concern everyone who values basic freedom.”

Mr Johnston, who is being supported by The Christian Institute, is appealing his

conviction for holding an open-air service on the fringes of the buffer zone around Coleraine’s Causeway Hospital.



FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND RESOURCES GO TO OUR WEBSITE: [THE.CI/IRELAND](https://www.the.ci/ireland)



CHRISTIANINSTITUTEIRELAND



THECI_IRELAND