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Fighting the good fight

A key part of the Institute's work is equipping Christians to identify and challenge destructive ideologies. Sadly, many people in positions of power have been doing their best to promote anti-Christian values in recent months.

Just take the push to restrict religious freedom by introducing a ban on so-called 'conversion practices'. This would impact the ordinary work of churches and

loving parents. This is despite evidence indicating that it is not taking place in Scotland.

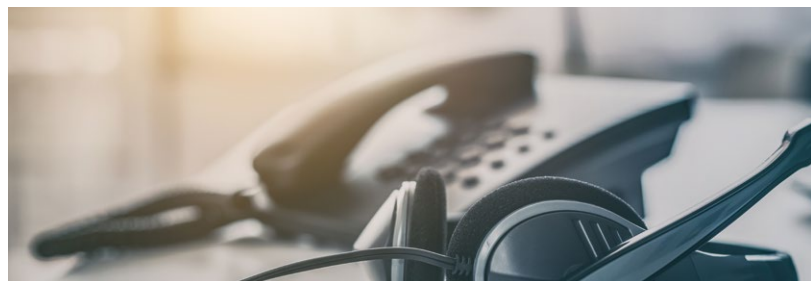
Then there are those who brand the Institute 'anti-rights' for the stand we take on certain issues, such as advocating for the unborn. Those who promote evil, rather than good, will always seek to discredit those doing God's work. We will continue to fight the good fight.

'Conversion therapy' helpline takes just four calls in three months

Figures obtained by The Christian Institute reveal that the Scottish Government paid tens of thousands of pounds of taxpayer's money for a 'conversion therapy' hotline that was almost never used.

LGBT Health and Wellbeing was given around £72,000 in 2025 to operate the helpline, but we found that between October and December, the service was contacted only four times.

The helpline's guidance suggests that ordinary parental conversations about a child's gender may amount to so-called conversion therapy, including a parent telling a child: "You're too young, you're confused, we need to



get you help." Another example lists "being prayed over" and "pastoral counselling" as examples of conversion practices.

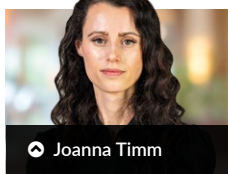
The CI's Joanna Timm told The Sunday Times that the

figures exposed "an extraordinary misuse of public money" and that Scottish taxpayers had been funding "what may well be the nation's most expensive helpline".

LGBT Health and Wellbeing has been lobbying the Scottish Government to introduce wide-ranging 'conversion therapy' legislation. In a letter to Scottish Ministers in July, it argued

that Westminster's recently published draft proposals do not go far enough, and that Scotland should introduce its own, more "comprehensive" ban.

The same group sparked outrage over the summer for running a support group for biological men who identify as women and want to 'chestfeed' babies by taking cross-sex hormones to mimic breastfeeding.



▶ Joanna Timm

'Not fit for purpose': MPs reject Westminster assisted suicide Bill

MPs have voted to reject Lauren Edwards' assisted suicide Bill by 286 votes to 270.

Near identical legislation had been narrowly approved in the House of Commons last year, but failed to progress in the House of Lords due to an unprecedented number of amendments tabled in response to its many flaws.

Supporters of that Bill claimed it was unfairly blocked, and had intended to use the Parliament Acts to force through the legislation, had it received support in the Commons again.

But MPs, recognising the dangers that legalisation would bring, rejected it, with Conservative Mims Davies calling it "not fit for purpose".



Lauren Edwards MP

And Labour's Sarah Smith noted that, for the less privileged or vulnerable in society, "the suggestion made by a doctor" to consider assisted suicide, "may easily sound like a decision for what is best for them".

Our Director Ciarán Kelly gave thanks to God for the result. He said: "It was a decisive

"It was a decisive shift"

shift in view from the Kim Leadbeater Bill through to this Lauren Edwards Bill. And we can be thankful that MPs have been persuaded by the arguments that have

been put forward as to why this Bill should not be brought into law."

It comes just six months after the Scottish Parliament rejected Liam McArthur's assisted suicide Bill by 69 votes to 57 – the third time in sixteen years it has refused to endorse state-sponsored suicide.

Kate Forbes: 'Will you defend truth?'



Kate Forbes has defended her decision to resist the intense pressure she faced to deny her Christian beliefs during her SNP leadership bid.

Forbes was publicly ostracised for affirming biblical sexual ethics, and eventually lost the leadership contest to Humza Yousaf. But she told the Alliance for Responsible Citizenship conference it "felt like a victory" that she had "not given in".

The former Deputy First Minister said: "The question

for us is not whether conflict will come.

"The question is whether men and women will rise up like they did of old, standing firm on conviction, shaped by confidence, with the courage to defend truth or as Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it, 'daring to do what is right, not what fancy may tell you'."

She encouraged others to defend "the biblical concepts of freedom, liberty, human dignity, the worth of life, and flourishing for all".



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Almost £1 million spent in defence of trans policies

The Scottish Government has spent almost one million pounds of taxpayers' money on legal battles to defend its pro-trans agenda.

A Freedom of Information request by the Sunday Mail found that John Swinney's Government spent significant sums across three high-profile cases. These included its claim that men should be permitted to take women-only positions on company boards, and its support of Scottish Prison Service guidance that allowed gender-confused men to be housed in women's prisons.



John Swinney

Now the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), a government-funded public body, faces legal action over allegations that it discriminated against one of its executives because of her gender-critical views.

The Institute's Angus Saul said: "The Scottish Government has been captured by this warped ideology, which claims men can become women just by saying so. Now the chickens are coming home to roost, but ministers continue to champion delusion over women's safety and dignity. This must end."

Civil servants face investigation for 'misgendering' colleagues

Civil servants who 'misgender' or 'deadname' colleagues will be investigated for misconduct, if a leaked draft proposal comes into effect.

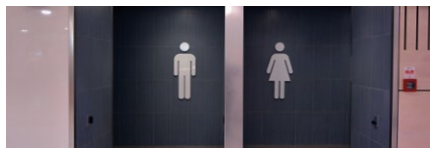
The Whitehall policy, which covers civil servants in Scotland, said that invalidating a person's "trans identity" is "unacceptable". It does, however, concede that single-

sex facilities must be used on the basis of biological sex and not on the basis of "affirmed gender".

The Institute continues to oppose the promotion of LGBT ideology within the Civil Service, in particular the

official participation of civil servants at 'Pride' marches. Such behaviour breaches their duty of impartiality and undermines public trust.

Our legal action against the Civil Service is ongoing.

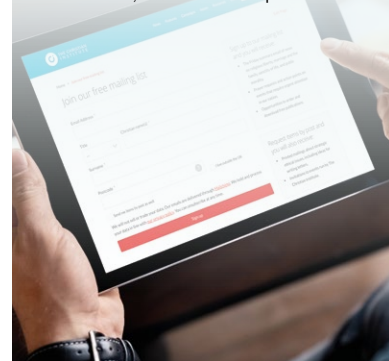


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We'd love to meet you

Nigel visits around 100 churches a year in Scotland, with 4,000 people hearing about key issues for Christians.

If you would like your church to be one of them, email us at: scotland@christian.org.uk



Nigel Kenny, Scotland Officer

Pray continually

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SUNDAY

PRAY For church leaders to faithfully and boldly preach the Gospel.

MONDAY

PRAY Giving thanks that MPs rejected Westminster's assisted suicide Bill.

TUESDAY

PRAY For greater awareness of the devastation gambling can cause.

WEDNESDAY

PRAY That MSPs would not curtail religious freedom by seeking a broad 'conversion practices' ban.

THURSDAY

PRAY For our education and legal teams as they help believers faithfully stand for Christ.

FRIDAY

PRAY Giving thanks for the freedoms we have to share the Gospel in the UK.

SATURDAY

PRAY For the CI team as we seek to equip believers 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, and 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.



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