



INSIDE

- Government promises to enact LGBT 'conversion practices' ban
- Gambling in Ireland 'ten times worse than previously thought'
- Simon Harris pledges online age-verification systems

Sanctity of life under attack

Concerns are growing around the impact of abortion. Recent revelations involving the number of women suffering complications, and other tragic cases, have confirmed the need for more restrictions.

The issue of assisted suicide has been discussed little in Ireland in the last couple of years, but in the UK there has been talk of little else, and it seems only a matter of time before discussions return to the Dáil.

Conversion therapy is another matter on our radar, with the Government

recommitting to bringing forward a ban that could impact both prayer and parenting.

This is despite the previous Government admitting the process was "proving tricky".

Online safety continues to be an issue, but the Tánaiste has promised to introduce proper restrictions on harmful material and hold operators to account.

We can give thanks too that the enormous scale of gambling harms in Ireland is being recognised, and that the industry watchdog is making moves to limit the impact on young people.

Slew of complications following abortion pills, Cork study reveals

Almost one in three Irish women experienced complications following a chemical abortion, with some even needing emergency care, new research has shown.

A four-year study by researchers at University College Cork — the first recorded review since abortion was legalised in 2018 — found that 46 out of the 149 cases examined involved complications.

The researchers found that one in six suffered a botched abortion, eight women experienced significant blood loss, and two were admitted to a high



dependency unit.

Over a quarter required follow-up care, some at an emergency department.

Despite the findings, the study claimed that hospital abortions carried out prior to twelve weeks

"are both efficient and safe", and called for them to be made more widely available.

The Health Service Executive told TD Carol Nolan that from 2019 to 2024, a total of 50 women had suffered complications as

a result of taking abortion pills, 58 per cent of these were categorised as causing 'moderate harm'.

➤ **OVERLEAF**
*Abortion
misdiagnosis*

Government promises to enact LGBT 'conversion practices' ban

The Government has recommitted to outlawing so-called conversion therapy under its National LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy II.

In pursuit of its pro-LGBT agenda, the Coalition has declared it will ensure legislation "to ban conversion practices is enacted and commenced" before the end of 2026. The previous version of the Strategy



also supported a ban.

Language in a 2018 Bill sought to ban any practice seeking to 'change or suppress' a person's 'sexual orientation or gender identity'. This could have criminalised

Christians who encourage believers to live in accordance with the Bible's teaching on sexual ethics.

The Bill was rejected, but despite attempts to revive it, the previous

Government last year delayed its plans for a new law, with then Equalities Minister Roderic O'Gorman admitting that the process was fraught with legal difficulties.

In 2023, an official study found that there was little or no evidence of 'conversion therapy' in Ireland.

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Young adults fuel growing demand for Bibles

Bible sales are booming, seemingly thanks to increased interest among Gen Z.

Christian publisher SPCK reported an increase of 87 per cent between 2019 and 2024, and identified it as a generational culture shift.

The Bible Society said sales of its youth edition of the Good News Bible have almost doubled since 2021.



Two unborn babies aborted after disability misdiagnosis

In response to a question from Aontú leader Peadar Táobín, the Government has revealed that there are two claimants "alleging that their unborn baby was wrongfully diagnosed with a condition" which resulted in an abortion.

Under Irish law, an unborn child can be aborted beyond twelve weeks if two medics deem that they have a condition that will lead to their death before birth, or a maximum of 28 days later.

Independent TD Carol Nolan commented:

"This is the terrifying and heartbreaking reality of abortion. The innocent will always suffer. But where is the outrage? Where is the compassion from Government as its barbaric regime of abortion is exposed yet again."



In a separate Dáil debate, Independent Senator Rónán Mullen said efforts need to be made to reduce abortion, "specifically the dangers of basing abortion on a telemedicine model when the HSE has acknowledged that meeting a woman in person increases the likelihood of the provider identifying any coercion or domestic abuse".

In June, British MPs passed a proposal to allow women in England and Wales to kill their unborn babies at any stage of pregnancy without sanction.



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MSP unfairly treated over 'non-binary' hate incident

A member of the Scottish Parliament has welcomed a "devastating rebuff to Police Scotland" after it failed to properly handle a non-crime hate incident (NCHI) on his record.

The force did not inform Murdo Fraser (below) when it recorded an NCHI against him for ridiculing the Scottish Government's 'non-binary' action plan.

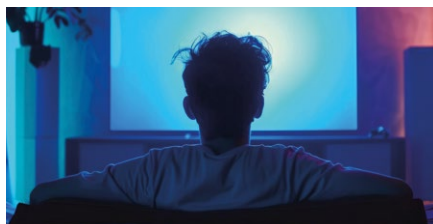
He had tweeted that the choice "to identify as 'non-binary' is as valid as choosing to identify as a cat".



Gambling in Ireland 'ten times worse than previously thought'

The Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland has revealed that problem gambling is "ten times higher than had been previously thought".

CEO Anne Marie Caulfield said the Economic and Social Research Institute's (ESRI) findings only emphasised the urgency of increased regulation. ESRI found that over three per cent of people demonstrated "significant harm from gambling", while a further seven per cent exhibited "moderate levels".



Once fully enacted, the Gambling Regulation Act 2024 will create a social impact fund to address problem gambling, and ban advertising across on-demand services, television and radio between 5:30am and 9pm.

Speaking to The Irish Sun, Caulfield

said the data "really focuses the mind on the fallout for the people involved, but also family or friends".

"What this act is very much involved in is making sure that children are protected and that those who are suffering from gambling harms are protected."

Peers promise better scrutiny for 'rushed' assisted suicide Bill

Members of the UK's House of Lords have pledged to oppose Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill, after MPs in the House of Commons voted to back the dangerous proposals.

Former TV personality Dame Esther Rantzen, now the face of the assisted suicide campaign, claimed that it was the duty of the Upper House "to scrutinise, to ask questions, but not to oppose".

But Lord Jackson of Peterborough said it was right

for Peers to amend or delay such a "poorly drafted, rushed and barely scrutinised" piece of legislation.

The Christian Institute's Director, Ciarán Kelly, urged churches to keep praying against the Bill: "Christians will feel grieved that MPs have shown so little regard for the dignity of human life. But we must not give up. We must pray that those in the House of Lords will give this dangerous Bill better scrutiny."



Simon Harris pledges to enforce online age-verification systems

Tánaiste Simon Harris has committed to enforcing age verification online.

Writing for the Irish Examiner, Harris explained that as a father, he was deeply moved by the Netflix drama *Adolescence*, which prompted debate about how easily children can access harmful material online.

He explained the response to the programme had made him "more determined than ever to address an issue that requires an all-of-Government and all-of-society response".

"The era of self-regulation is over and in this vein I am committed to examining ways to enforce age verification obligations on online service providers and hold them to account if they fail to do so."

He added that the Government is taking steps to regulate social media and is "committed to supporting and funding Coimisiún na Meán to enforce the online safety code".

In the UK, social media platforms are now required to take "robust action against illegal content and activity", including

child sexual abuse and extreme pornography.

Companies in breach of their duties can be fined up to £18 million or 10 per cent of their qualifying worldwide revenue, whichever is greater.



Pastor's 'buffer zone' prosecution raises devolution matters for NI

Pastor Clive Johnston has instructed Northern Ireland's former Attorney General to lead his defence team in seeking a High Court ruling on whether buffer zone laws really do ban acts of worship that have nothing to do with abortion.

At Coleraine Magistrates' Court in March, Mr Johnston pleaded not guilty to charges under the



Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Act for holding an open-air Sunday service on the fringes

of a zone around the town's Causeway Hospital last year.

The retired pastor, who is being

supported by The Christian Institute, was preaching from John 3:16 and did not mention abortion.

His lawyer told the judge that the case involves 'crucially important devolution and constitutional matters' and may involve consideration by a higher court.

Similar buffer zone laws have been in place in Ireland since October last year.

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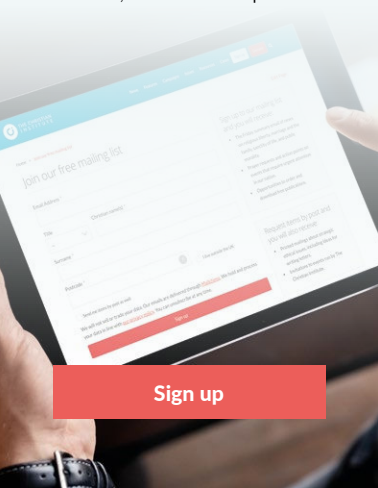
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THE CHRISTIAN
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Tear off and keep

Pray continually

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SUNDAY

PRAY With thanksgiving for all of God's blessings on Ireland.

MONDAY

PRAY Asking God that TDs and Senators would speak out against and ultimately repeal abortion laws.

TUESDAY

PRAY Praising God that more young people are seeking him through his word.

WEDNESDAY

PRAY Pray that politicians across Ireland and Britain would protect the vulnerable from assisted suicide.

THURSDAY

PRAY That plans to restrict preaching and prayer through a new 'conversion therapy' law would be dropped.

FRIDAY

PRAY Thanking God for moves to curb the harmful impact of gambling.

SATURDAY

PRAY That the Lord will bless the Institute's plans to develop its work in Ireland.

