

## INSIDE

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- Supreme Court upholds definition of 'woman'
- Parents withdraw kids from 'inappropriate' sex ed classes

## Sanctity of life under attack

The past few months have been among the busiest we have seen at the CI in a decade.

Much of our focus has been on the assisted suicide Bills being debated and voted on in Holyrood and Westminster, with Liam McArthur's Bill advancing and Kim Leadbeater's plans passing the House of Commons by a slim margin.

Scotland is pushing ahead with its drug consumption rooms – though these appear to be exacerbating, rather than solving, Glasgow's substance abuse problem.

Elsewhere, there was good news as the Supreme Court sided with For Women Scotland and backed the reality of biological sex over gender identity.

But despite this progress, education has remained a battleground. Swathes of parents in Scotland have been withdrawing their children from RSHP lessons, often citing the teaching of gender ideology among their reasons.

And the UK's Culture Secretary is being advised to do more to combat the harmful effects of gambling.

## MSPs back further consideration of dangerous assisted suicide Bill

Following a debate that lasted less than five hours, MSPs voted 70 to 56 in favour of Liam McArthur's assisted suicide Bill.

The highly contentious legislation, which would enable adults deemed to be terminally ill to get help to kill themselves, will now progress to Stage 2 for further consideration.

Several MSPs spoke powerfully against the Bill, including Labour's Pam Duncan-Glancy, who warned Holyrood that if it passes "there is a risk that it will be easier to access help to die than help to live".

Sue Webber feared the scope of the Bill was too wide and its definition of terminal illness too vague, while John Mason expressed concern that the 'eligibility' criteria would expand



over time, as has happened overseas.

A number of members said they only voted in favour in order to give the Bill extra time for debate. Only eight would need to change their vote at Stage 3 to prevent the Bill becoming law.

In June, the House of Commons voted by 314 to 291 to advance Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill for England and Wales to the House of Lords.

Despite passionate opposition, the House rejected amendments to protect those struggling with mental illness, financial pressure, or concerns about being a burden from undergoing assisted suicide.

The Christian Institute's Director Ciarán Kelly said: "Christians will feel grieved that MPs have shown so little regard for the dignity of human life", and urged churches to keep praying for the Bill to fail.

# Parents increasingly withdraw kids from 'inappropriate' sex ed classes

More than 2,500 children have been removed from Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) lessons by their parents over the last five years, freedom of information requests obtained by The Scotsman have revealed.

Parents cited the use of images of "real-life" body parts, the promotion of transgender ideology, and the use of inappropriate language among their reasons for withdrawing their children.

The number of primary school children being removed



from RSHP classes quadrupled from 204 in 2021-2022 to 908 in 2023-24.

The Scottish Conservatives backed the right of parents to decide whether any material being used is age-appropriate for their child. Meanwhile,

Alba attributed the rise to the Government's controversial sex-swap policy for over-16s and its unpopular school 'sex survey'.

The Scottish Government's guidance states that schools must accommodate a parent who wishes to

withdraw their child from sexual health education lessons. High school children may, if deemed to be capable of making the decision for themselves, also choose to opt out of the sexual health education component of RSHP.

## MPs vote to liberalise abortion law

The House of Commons has voted to allow women in England and Wales to kill their unborn babies at any stage of pregnancy without sanction.

MPs approved Tonia Antoniazzi's amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill by 379 votes to 137, despite pleas to protect unborn children and their mothers.

A number of MPs spoke against the move.

Labour's Rachael Maskell urged colleagues to "consider the baby's safety as much as the woman's safety", while the DUP's Carla Lockhart told the House: "I believe that both lives matter".

In Great Britain, abortion is already permitted for most



reasons up to 24 weeks, and up to birth if the unborn child is deemed to have a disability.

If the backbencher's amendment becomes law, inducing a miscarriage outside of these exemptions will no longer be a crime for the mother. Doctors could still face criminal charges if they perform an abortion after 24 weeks.

The Institute's Director, Ciarán Kelly, called Parliament's decision "deplorable".

"This is set to be the most seismic change to abortion law since the Abortion Act 1967.

"An unbearably large number of babies — more than ten million — have been killed in Britain since it passed. And now MPs have put expectant mothers at increased risk too.

"Easy, unrestricted access to abortion pills dramatically increases the likelihood of complications endangering women's health."

# MSP unfairly treated by police over 'non-binary' non-crime hate incident

Murdo Fraser MSP 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 the MSP when it logged an NCHI against him for ridiculing the Scottish Government's 'non-binary' action plan. Following a review by the Police Investigation and Review Commissioner, it has now been

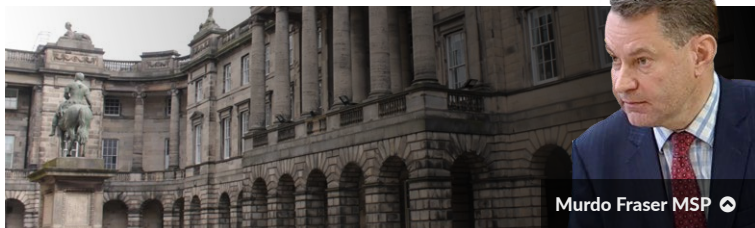
ordered to reconsider.

Fraser stated: "It has always been clear to me that the police have been operating a policy which is unlawful and a breach of human rights in that it stifles free speech."

In 2023, the MSP was reported for tweeting that the choice "to identify as 'non-binary' is as valid as choosing to identify as a cat". He continued: "I'm not sure Governments should

be spending time on action plans for either."

According to freedom of information responses, police forces in Britain recorded 13,200 NCHIs in the year to June 2024.



## 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.

## Film lauds missionary Scot as heroine of the Holocaust

The life of Scottish missionary Jane Mathison Haining is to be honoured in a film for high school students.

Commissioned by Unison, the documentary tells the story of the matron of a girls' home in Hungary, who refused to stop caring for Jewish girls as World War II broke out.

Rejecting the chance to return home in 1939, she told the Church of Scotland: "If these children need me in days of sunshine, how much more

do they need me in days of darkness?"

Shortly after the invasion of Hungary by Hitler's army in 1944, Haining was betrayed, arrested and transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she died three months later, at the age of 47.

Haining was declared a British Hero of the Holocaust by the UK Government in 2010.

Unison plans to formally launch the high school resource across Renfrewshire in January 2026. If successful it will distribute the film more widely.

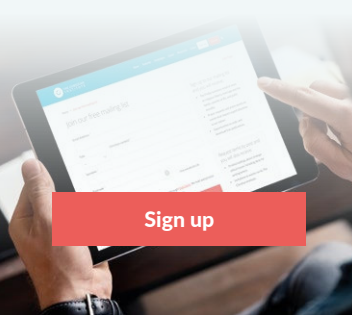


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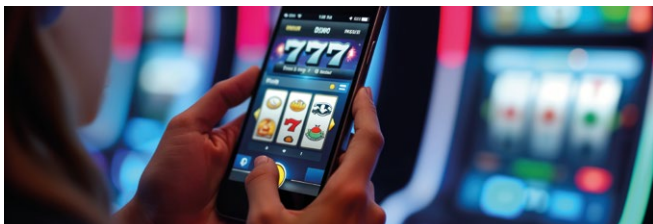
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## UK Govt receives 'wake-up call' over problem gambling



MPs have urged the Government to crack down on gambling amid the 'serious financial, physical and mental harm' it can cause, including suicide in some cases.

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee noted that although 80 per cent of the population are exposed to gambling advertising each week, it has still not been banned before the watershed, and problem gamblers feel "there is no escape".

According to The Guardian, Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy paused plans to allow the proliferation of high-stakes gambling machines on the high street over "concerns about the strength of protections for vulnerable people".

More than 30 council leaders told Nandy that some communities were witnessing "a groundswell" of gambling operators "seemingly targeting areas of higher deprivation in a bid to maximise profits".

## Online Safety Act cracks down on illegal content

Social media platforms are now required to take "robust action against illegal content and activity", including child sexual abuse, extreme pornography and the sale of illegal drugs.

Under the UK-wide Online Safety Act, Ofcom can fine companies in breach of their duties up to £18 million or 10 per cent of their qualifying

worldwide revenue, whichever is greater.

Westminster Technology Secretary Peter Kyle said: "In recent years, tech companies have treated safety as an afterthought. That

changes today."

He added that "where new threats emerge, we will act decisively. The Online Safety Act is not the end of the conversation, it's the foundation."

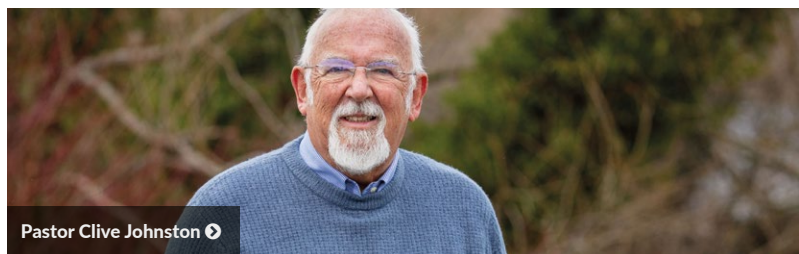




# Pastor's 'buffer zone' prosecution raises key constitutional matters

Pastor Clive Johnston has instructed Northern Ireland's former Attorney General John Larkin KC to lead his defence team in seeking a High Court ruling on whether laws on abortion censorship zones also ban acts of worship.

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.



Pastor Clive Johnston

The retired pastor, who is being supported by The Christian Institute, was preaching from John 3:16, and did not mention abortion.

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

In Scotland,

people risk an unlimited fine for handing out pro-life literature within 200m of a centre, speaking to anyone about abortion, or praying silently.

But following legal advice, Police Scotland has confirmed that prosecutions will not be brought under buffer zone legislation for incidents that take

place while an abortion centre is closed.

In an email exchange between an MSP and a Police Scotland inspector, the officer explained that "enforcement would have no lawful basis" when centres are closed as "there is no prospect" of anyone being influenced or harassed by a protester.

## Glasgow 'shooting gallery' The Thistle branded 'harm maintenance service'

A drug consumption pilot project in Scotland has been branded 'harm maintenance' for failing to refer users to recovery services.

Scottish Government statistics revealed that The Thistle, which opened in Glasgow in January, has referred just one-in-seven users to support services such as treatment programmes, benefits and housing schemes. The centre is already seeking approval to expand by building an 'inhalation room' for crack cocaine users.

Health Secretary Neil Gray favours a roll-out of

the experimental facilities nationwide, but Annemarie Ward, of addiction recovery charity FAVOR UK, said "the data speaks for itself: with

just 1.8 per cent of visits leading to any kind of referral, the promise of meaningful engagement simply hasn't materialised".



# Supreme Court upholds definition of 'woman' in landmark judgment

The terms 'woman', 'man' and 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological sex, the Supreme Court has ruled.

In a unanimous decision, the UK's highest court ruled in favour of For Women Scotland's appeal against Scottish Government guidance that allowed men who identify as female to take women-only positions on company boards.

In a statement to Holyrood, Social Justice Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said the Government "fully accept the Supreme Court's judgment" and had "no plans" to bring back its controversial Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.

Following outrage among LGBT activists over the ruling, the Westminster Government has promised it will publish its



draft conversion practices Bill for England and Wales "very soon".

Last September, the Scottish Government shelved its plans for a new ban in favour of "complementary approaches across the UK". The Labour Government has since been in talks with the SNP about its own proposed legislation to ban 'trans-inclusive' conversion therapy.

There was also a related judgment impacting schools, with Court of Session judge

Lady Ross KC issuing a court order reminding them of their legal duties. She said that under the law, schools must ensure that there are an equal number of toilet facilities for girls and boys.

The order follows the successful outcome of a judicial review launched by parents Leigh Hurley and Sean Stratford, who challenged the decision of Scottish Borders Council to only install 'gender-neutral' facilities at their son's primary school.

## Bible verse bus hits Glasgow streets

A bus with John 3:16 emblazoned across the back is spreading the Good News around Glasgow, a gospel outreach organisation has announced.

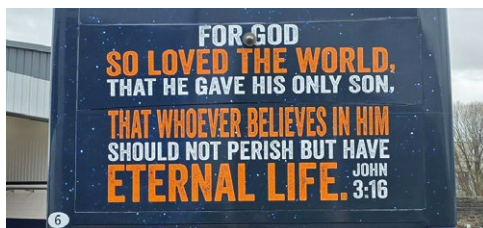
Hope by The Roadside announced the bus project, which will be the first of its kind in Glasgow city centre and will travel

across the greater Glasgow area carrying God's life-changing message with it.

The organisation plans to have an additional 15 buses featuring Bible verses

on the roads by the summer.

Organiser Paul Jenkinson said:



***"We're thrilled to announce that this is the first bus showcasing God's word in Glasgow city centre for the next year."***

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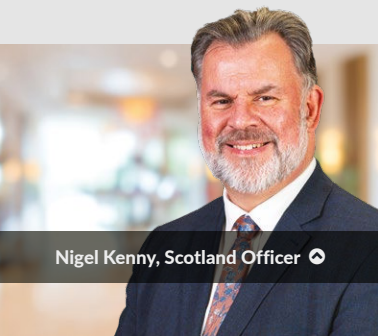



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**[scotland@christian.org.uk](mailto:scotland@christian.org.uk)**



Nigel Kenny, Scotland Officer 



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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 Scotland.

## MONDAY

**PRAY** For Liam McArthur's dangerous legislation on assisted suicide to be rejected.

## TUESDAY

**PRAY** That the reality of biological sex would be recognised across our society.

## WEDNESDAY

**PRAY** That Westminster would introduce greater restrictions on gambling.

## THURSDAY

**PRAY** For schools to reject harmful secularism and instead promote biblical morality.

## FRIDAY

**PRAY** That MSPs would recognise the harmful impact of drugs on the lives of so many.

## SATURDAY

**PRAY** That the Lord will bless the staff and work of The Christian Institute.

