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Holding out the good news

The evidence around the world makes clear that introducing euthanasia or assisted suicide has wreaked havoc on the lives of vulnerable people. Simply listening to the debate across the Irish Sea ought to be enough to persuade the Oireachtas not to go down this road.

Sadly, all too often, public policy is not evidence-based. Reasonable chastisement of a

child by their mum and dad was made a criminal offence in 2015. Our detailed analysis of the data calls this decision into question. The push to ban so-called conversion therapy continues despite the Government's own research showing it isn't happening in Ireland.

So we will continue to stand for the truth, holding out the good news of fullness of life in Christ.

Palliative care expert crystal clear: 'Assisted suicide is not healthcare'

A consultant at Dublin's Beaumont Hospital and St Francis Hospice has highlighted the damage that would be done to end-of-life care by legalising euthanasia or assisted suicide.

Dr Regina McQuillan represents the Irish Palliative Medicine Consultants' Association, which has opposed moves to introduce assisted suicide in Ireland.

Former TD Gino Kenny's 2024 Bill stalled, but advocates for a form of euthanasia in Ireland continue to campaign for a change in the law.

The palliative care expert warned that allowing doctors to help their patients kill themselves can lead



Dr Regina McQuillan



Gino Kenny, former TD

some to see 'death as a solution' in certain circumstances. She argued that assisted suicide and euthanasia should be seen as "a societal response to distress" but not a solution to terminal or life-limiting illness.

Parliamentarians in London and Edinburgh are currently scrutinising legislation to allow state-sponsored suicide across Britain.

Members of the House of Lords have tabled more than 1,000 amendments in an attempt to

address deficiencies in the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. In Scotland, a parliamentary committee has blocked a raft of amendments designed to mitigate the worst aspects of MSP Liam McArthur's Bill.

GB church leaders decry proposals for new 'conversion practices' law

More than 1,300 church leaders and pastoral workers from around Britain are urging their Government to abandon its commitment to a "full, trans-inclusive ban" on so-called conversion practices.

In an open letter organised by The Christian Institute's Let Us Pray campaign, the leaders, pastoral workers and around 5,000 other Christians are warning Equalities Minister Olivia Bailey MP about its potential impact.

They say such a law could "criminalise mainstream, historic Christian teaching on marriage and sexual ethics, and make sharing the Gospel with some people illegal".

The British Government has promised to publish its draft 'conversion practices' Bill for England and Wales "very soon". Signatories to the letter say it



will "not be possible to draft legislation in this area that does not infringe on the ordinary work of churches and family life".

The letter also raises specific concerns that a law could "prevent parents from guiding their children on matters of sexuality and gender, and from urging caution if their child says

they want to undergo gender treatment".

Under the National LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy II, the coalition promised to ensure a 'conversion practices' ban is operational before the end of 2026. The previous Government pushed back its plans for a new law, admitting that the process was fraught with legal difficulties.

Babies receiving inadequate care after late-term abortion 'failures'

Irish hospitals stand accused of failing to provide sufficient care for babies who were born alive following attempted late-term abortions, but subsequently died.

In response to a parliamentary question by Independent TD Ken O'Flynn, the Health Service Executive revealed that in 2022 twelve babies were born alive in Irish hospitals after attempted abortions but



died shortly afterwards. In 2020, ten others survived only briefly after birth. Data was not given for other years.

Following the abortion referendum

in 2018, concerned TDs were accused of using "shock tactics" for suggesting that hospitals could see unwanted babies born alive, and questioning

what care would be provided for them.

O'Flynn called for "a lot more openness surrounding the medical care given to or withheld from the babies in these appalling situations".

Eilis Mulroy from Pro Life Campaign said: "The treatment of babies in these situations is first and foremost a humanitarian issue which is why it must be brought into the light."



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Cocaine 'snorting kits' on open sale in Dublin



Cocaine 'snorting kits' are openly on sale in Dublin city centre.

The Sunday Times reported that an €18 pouch — containing a mirror, razor blade, snorting tube, vial and metal spoon — was on display in a shop window on Talbot Street. The same item was also available on multiple websites, where sellers

promoted it as their "most popular kit".

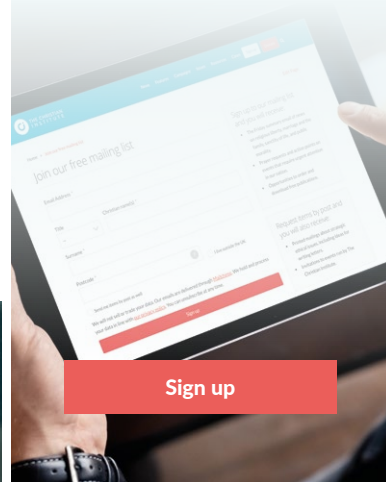
Possessing cocaine can carry a penalty of up to twelve months in prison and/or a €2,500 fine, but it is legal to sell such kits. Addiction counsellor Austin Prior lamented that the occurrence "shows how cocaine has become so socially accepted in Ireland".

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25,000 March for Jesus

Dublin's March for Jesus saw an estimated 25,000 people take to the streets to proclaim Jesus as King.

Organiser Pastor John Ahern from All Nations Church, described it as "an evangelical initiative, not an ecumenical one", aiming to proclaim the love of Christ through public witness, worship, and prayer.

March for Jesus described it as "an extravagant worship celebration for Jesus in full public view".

The CI's guide to SPHE and RSE

We have had excellent feedback on this booklet. It explains why parents should be worried about changes to Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE).

DOWNLOAD:
the.ci/SPHEbooklet

ORDER: info@christian.ie

*'I commend
your balanced
and helpful
approach.'*

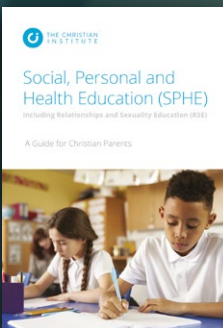
**CORK
SUPPORTER**

*'I've recommended it to
parents in our congregation.'*

COLIN, WATERFORD

*'The questions to
ask were excellent.'*

JOHN, CLARE



North of the border



The Institute has urged the NI Executive to encourage marriage, rather than accelerate family breakdown. Responding to a government consultation, we argued that removing fault-based grounds and reducing separation periods would shift the focus from reconciliation to 'a society of disposable marriage'.

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



Pray continually

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SUNDAY

PRAY That our SPHE guide would encourage Christian parents to engage positively with schools on RSE.

MONDAY

PRAY Giving thanks for the success of evangelistic events like March for Jesus.

TUESDAY

PRAY For wisdom for leaders in tackling Ireland's drug problem.

WEDNESDAY

PRAY That society would recognise the evil of abortion and seek to repeal the law.

THURSDAY

PRAY That God would protect Ireland from the dangers of assisted suicide.

FRIDAY

PRAY For Catherine Connolly in her new role as President. Pray she would promote laws which honour God.

SATURDAY

PRAY That the Lord would continue to bless our work in Ireland.

CI study shows evidence doesn't back 'mild smacking causes harm' claim

New research from The Christian Institute has debunked the oft-cited claim that mild smacking is abusive and harms children.

The 'Does Smacking Contribute to Negative Outcomes for Children?' report analysed 37 peer-reviewed studies on reasonable chastisement's association with issues such as aggression and low self-esteem.

It found that it is "impossible" to conclude that a mild, loving smack harms children.



READ  the.ci/smackingreview

The research notes that any negative correlations are often inconsistent and small, and could well be explained by factors such as family instability, socio-economic status

and pre-existing temperament.

The publication of the review raises serious questions about the evidential basis for the smacking ban enacted in Ireland in 2015 and backs investment in

parental support, family stability and further research.

In a recent YouGov survey of 3,692 parents in England and Northern Ireland, 43 per cent said reasonable chastisement should remain legal, outnumbering those in favour of a ban.

Speaking for the Institute-backed Be Reasonable campaign, Director Ciarán Kelly told Sky News: "To put loving parents into the same camp as abusers is going to make it harder for the genuine victims to be helped."

'Inclusive' Connolly installed as President

Catherine Connolly, Ireland's tenth President, has pledged to promote 'inclusivity and tolerance' in her inaugural address at Dublin Castle.

Connolly, an Independent, was endorsed by Sinn Féin, the Irish Labour Party and the Social Democrats. She secured 914,143 first preference votes in the October election where an unprecedented 213,738 ballot papers were spoiled.

The former Labour party member campaigned for the legalisation of same-sex marriage in the 2015 Marriage

Equality referendum.

She recently defended the Gender Recognition Act, which allows people to change their legal sex, and is in favour of a ban on so-called conversion therapy, despite an official study in 2023 finding there was little or no evidence of it taking place in Ireland.

In 2018, Connolly voted to repeal the Constitution's Eighth Amendment, which was a key legal protection for unborn children against abortion. As TD for her former Galway West constituency, she backed a



report of the Joint Committee on Assisted Dying that recommended the Government should allow terminally ill adults to get help to kill themselves.

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