



INSIDE

- 'Conversion therapy' law concern
- New transgender guidance for schools
- Street Preacher's Charter launched

Holding out the good news

A year has passed since MPs at Westminster first gave their backing to Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill. A good number of them will now be regretting their rashness. But since then, in Scotland, Liam McArthur's Bill has sadly also made a lot of progress.

We will continue to stand for hope against the despair of assisted suicide, holding out

the good news of fullness of life in Christ.

Our Street Preacher's Charter will help protect the freedom to preach this Gospel. A version for Scotland will be published in due course. But with the threats of a new 'conversion practices' law, non-crime hate incidents and continued pressure from trans activists, there is still much to do to uphold gospel freedom.

Holyrood Committee turns deaf ear to dangers of assisted suicide



A raft of amendments designed to mitigate some of the worst aspects of Liam McArthur's dangerous assisted suicide Bill have been blocked by the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Amendments to record the cause of death as assisted suicide, allow families to request a review, and allow hospices and care homes to

opt out were among those rejected. However, one to allow doctors to raise the subject unprompted with patients was approved.

MSPs warned that the rushed Bill's failure to address life expectancy would allow people with many years to live to access assisted suicide. They added that it offers no protection for people

"disregard for the plight of those at risk of coercion"

with conditions such as anorexia nervosa and Down's syndrome, and that it lacks safeguards against coercion.

The Institute's Nigel Kenny expressed disbelief at the Committee's

readiness to "prioritise suicide ahead of care". He called on MSPs to "guard the lives of the vulnerable".

The controversial Bill will now progress to Stage 3, which is expected early in the new year.

During this time, further amendments can be debated before the chamber holds a final vote on whether to pass the measures into law.

Church leaders criticise proposals for new 'conversion practices' law

More than 1,300 church leaders and pastoral workers across Britain are urging the UK 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 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".



Despite public opposition, the Scottish Government plans to push ahead with its own ban should Westminster's approach not go far enough.

Of 5,811 responses to a consultation on 'ending conversion practices', 54 per cent opposed a ban which

focuses on "behaviour motivated by the intention to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity". Less than half (45 per cent) were in favour, with one per cent unsure. This split in opinion was repeated across a number of the questions.

Poll: Majority of people in Scotland support prostitution crackdown

A clear majority of Scots support Ash Regan MSP's proposal to criminalise the purchase of sex, a poll has found.

Of 1,423 adults interviewed by Find Out Now, 67 per cent of those who expressed a view supported the approach, with 33 per cent opposed. Nearly three-quarters (74 per cent)

said that prostitution makes women "less safe" in society, with only six per cent claiming the opposite.

Trafficking survivor Diana Martin CBE, who has been helping women exit prostitution for 30 years, told Holyrood that prostitution is "completely dangerous".

Martin emphasised that legislation needs to be based on the swathes of women "exploited through prostitution", highlighting that she had seen 961 women advertised "for sale" on a pimping website earlier that morning.

Speaking to The Scotsman, she explained: "We need to look at the vast, overwhelming majority of women who are trafficked in from other countries and those from the UK who have been chewed up and spat out by a number of different systems."

The Institute has welcomed Ash Regan's aims to criminalise the purchase of sex and help women leave prostitution, but opposes the Bill's legalisation of the sale of sex.



Scot Greens push drugs free-for-all

At the Scottish Greens autumn conference, delegates voted to back the legalisation of all drugs in Scotland.

The party claims that providing dangerous drugs such as heroin and cocaine to addicts on the NHS demonstrates a "compassionate approach" to drug use. Addiction recovery expert Annemarie Ward slammed the idea of handing out "the very substance that's destroying lives".

handing out "the very substance that's destroying lives"

The decision was made despite Dumfries and Galloway councillors recently revealing that ten-year-olds in their region are using cocaine.

Dr Lade Smith CBE, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, also recently warned teenagers smoking high-strength cannabis that they are 'growing their brains in a cannabis soup'. Dr Smith called on authorities to get "the public health message right", that "cannabis is not a safe option".



Scot Govt cedes to Court rulings on sex and gender

After a lengthy delay, the Scottish Government has now informed schools they are legally required to provide separate toilet facilities for boys and girls "on the basis of biological sex".

Changes to the 'Supporting Transgender Pupils in Schools' guidance come months after the UK Supreme Court ruling that the definition of 'man' and 'woman' is determined by biology for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010. The Court of Session has also stated that state schools must provide

single-sex toilets for pupils.

In an interview with BBC Scotland, Education Secretary Jenny Gilruth suggested the guidance was not mandatory and local authorities were free to decide on appropriate toilet arrangements for gender-confused children "based on individual circumstances".

Despite the influential Cass Review expressing significant caution over social transition, especially before puberty, the guidance maintains a 'trans-affirming' approach to gender confusion.



CI Chairman Revd Dr Richard Turnbull promoted to glory

On 26 November, The Christian Institute's Chairman, Revd Dr Richard Turnbull, died of cancer aged 65.

Institute Director Ciarán Kelly said: "Richard's testimony was that of full assurance in the great and precious promises of God in Christ. The reality of his relationship with our risen Saviour has shone through."

His friend and fellow Trustee, Revd James Leggett, added: "We will miss his wisdom, insight, humour and love. Our loss is heaven's gain."

Richard is survived by his wife Caroline, their four adult children and his father, Alan.



FULL OBITUARY the.ci/Richard



**Full-time
discipleship for
everyone**



livingchristianity.org.uk

Stay informed

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

 the.ci/sign-up

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

Sign up

'Islamophobia' won't restrict free speech, Govt pledges

The UK Communities Secretary has pledged to stop any Islamophobia definition that threatens free speech.

A working group was set up to agree suitable wording for the definition, but has been widely criticised. Steve Reed MP stated he was prepared to overrule any definition proposed by the group if he found it amounted to "blasphemy laws by the backdoor".

The Institute warned the Government that defining 'Islamophobia' risked undermining healthy debate and democratic discussion. We emphasised that the

"blasphemy laws by the backdoor"

law already protects people of all faiths and none from discrimination, hatred and violence.

The Labour Party's current definition, which has been slammed for being too vague, claims: "Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."



King Charles joins Pope in 'celebration of ecumenism'

A British monarch and Roman Catholic pontiff have shared in prayer and worship for the first time since the Reformation – an event billed by Buckingham Palace as "a celebration of ecumenism".

King Charles III, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, joined Pope Leo XIV

in a Sistine Chapel service that included Bible readings, English prayers and Latin chants.

Editor of the Evangelical Times and Institute Trustee Mike Judge branded the act: "a public denial of the Reformation truths for which men and women shed their blood".



Give to the work of the CI

None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our supporters.


Give regularly

 the.ci/donate

Leave a legacy

 the.ci/legacy

Or call

 **0191 281 5664**




We'd love to meet you

We have over 60,000 supporters around the UK and visit over 300 churches a year to talk 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 our Street Preacher's Charters to embolden Christians to share the Gospel.

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

PRAY Giving thanks that society is turning against gender ideology.

WEDNESDAY

PRAY That leaders would do more to tackle Scotland's drug problem.

THURSDAY

PRAY Against a 'conversion practices' ban that would outlaw ordinary church activity.

FRIDAY

PRAY That extreme abortion proposals will be emphatically rejected.

SATURDAY

PRAY That the Lord would continue to bless the work of The Christian Institute.

Institute slams report peddling 'reckless abortionist wish list'

The Institute has urged the Scottish Government to reject an official report peddling an extreme abortion agenda.

The Abortion Law Review Expert Group called for abortion to be allowed beyond 24 weeks' gestation for almost any reason. The NHS considers babies viable at 24 weeks.

The Group is also seeking to further decriminalise abortion and for it to be recognised as a right for what the report called, "all pregnant people" in Scotland.

Among other controversial recommendations, the group opposed mandatory counselling,



stronger protections against coercion, and a prohibition on sex-selective abortion.

The Institute's Senior Public Affairs Officer, Joanna Timm, described the proposals as "reckless" and said the report read more like "an abortion activist's

"an abortion activist's wish list"

wish list" than the work of a panel of experts.

The review, she argued, had failed to engage with a wide

range of stakeholders and its demands were "totally out of kilter with the Scottish public".

Health Minister Jenni Minto said the Government "will take time to carefully consider" the report's findings "and respond in due course".

Whistle blown on BBC trans bias

Evidence that LGBT activists within the BBC censored news coverage critical of transgender ideology has been made public.

Leaked documents reveal that an advisor on the Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee had warned

executives of fears that LGBT "staffers" were "keeping other perspectives off-air".

According to The Daily Telegraph, Michael Prescott heard reports of "what sounded like effective censorship by the specialist LGBTQ desk within

News" soon after starting his advisory role.

His 19-page document also refers to findings of "unintended editorial bias", an absence of "significant voices", "little or no coverage" questioning the quality of care given to gender-confused children, and disproportionate coverage of drag queen stories.

The leaked memo also said beliefs on gender identity were often reported as "established fact rather than contested". Too many staff, it argued, "have never considered the idea of 'gender identity' to be either spurious or offensive to many people".



Street Preacher's Charter: 'A timely shield for those who dare to speak'

The Street Preacher's Charter is our new resource for evangelists in England and Wales, outlining key legal principles as well as good practice.

The Charter, endorsed by Open Air Campaigners GB and Open-Air Mission, seeks to help preachers to engage with the public and the police with confidence.

Using key extracts from the law combined with



real-life scenarios, it sets out how the law operates, and the rights and responsibilities of police and street preachers alike.

a “very useful tool for the police”

At its launch in Central London, politicians and church leaders commended the resource.

Baroness Foster thought it would prove a “very useful tool for the police”. Mike Judge, pastor and editor of Evangelical Times, called it “a timely shield for those who dare to speak — and a timely corrective for a society tempted to silence them”.

Work is underway on a similar Charter for Scotland.

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.

Scotland outlawed reasonable

chastisement in 2020, but the publication of the review raises serious questions about the evidential basis for such bans, and backs investment in parental support, family stability and further research.

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.

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.”



THE LATEST NEWS AND RESOURCES: **CHRISTIAN.ORG.UK**



CHRISTIANINSTITUTE



CHRISTIANORGUK

Registered office: The Christian Institute, Wilberforce House, 4 Park Road, Gosforth Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8DG

Tel: 0191 281 5664 | Email: info@christian.org.uk | Web: christian.org.uk | Published in December 2025

Registered in England as a charity Charity No. 100 4774 Company No. 263 4440. A charity registered in Scotland Charity No. SC039220