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Pray for kings and all those in authority

Our country has seen unprecedented change of late. We must pray for our new monarch, and our new Prime Minister and Cabinet (1 Timothy 2:1-2). While this may be an unsettling time, we can take reassurance from the fact that God remains fully in control.

The Institute is active on many fronts. We are grateful for the opportunities we and our supporters have had to be a Christian influence. In particular, we continue to challenge the

possible censorship of Christian content by the Online Safety Bill, and moves in Scotland to allow children aged 16 to change legal sex almost on a whim.

We give thanks to God that the Bill of Rights Bill has been dropped – at least for now – and that 'abuse of trust' laws protecting teenagers have finally been strengthened. We first campaigned on this issue more than 20 years ago.

Please continue to pray for God's mercy on the nation.

Govt shelves Bill of Rights and is rethinking Online Safety Bill

The Government has shelved controversial plans to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 with a Bill of Rights.

In one of her first acts while Prime Minister, Liz Truss reportedly told her Cabinet there were better ways to reform human rights. The Bill in its current form is not expected to return.

The proposals could have made our landmark judgments such as Ashers Baking Co. and the Named Person scheme harder to achieve in the future.

In September, Culture Secretary

Michelle Donelan also told the BBC that controversial 'legal but harmful' wording in the Online Safety Bill would change.

The legislation forces social media companies to ensure under-18s do not view harmful content. But the Bill also gives strong incentives for them to restrict content which is deemed 'legal but harmful' for adults. It is currently set to complete its Commons stages in the autumn.

The Christian Institute has warned that YouTube videos



▶ Michelle Donelan

of sermons and expressing mainstream Christian views on Facebook and Twitter could be caught by the Bill's vague wording.

Director Colin Hart said that "it is right to

protect children, but the law also needs to have a presumption of free speech.

"Whatever you can say on the street you should be able to say online".

Ofsted must stop parroting Stonewall

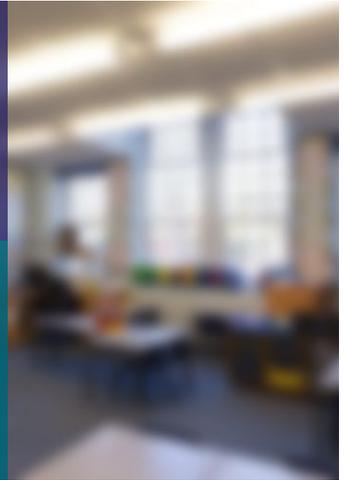
Ofsted has no right to be foisting Stonewall's skewed agenda on schools, The Christian Institute has said.

The warning follows revelations that the education watchdog has been citing a lack of teaching on "gender diversity" and "gender reassignment" among reasons for giving schools low ratings.

The Institute's Head of Education, John Denning, said refusing to promote radical transgender ideology in education should never be seen as a problem by the schools' regulator.

"Our children need education, not indoctrination. It is perfectly possible to show respect for other people without promoting the radical transgender ideology associated with Stonewall. It's about time Ofsted inspected schools' compliance with English law, not 'Stonewall Law'."

In August, the Department for Education said it will provide new guidance to



prevent such controversial views being promoted in schools. Suella Braverman KC — then serving as Attorney General for England and Wales — said schools which affirm gender-confused children in their transgender identity may be breaking the law.

Christian MP and former biology teacher Miriam Cates also called on the Government

to produce stronger guidance on which Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) materials were suitable to use in schools.

She said: "Children across the country are being exposed to a plethora of deeply inappropriate, wildly inaccurate, sexually explicit and damaging materials in the name of sex education."

'Abuse of trust' law finally strengthened

In June, it finally became illegal in England and Wales for sports coaches and religious leaders to engage in sexual activity with 16 and 17-year-olds in their care.

They are now considered to hold a 'position of trust' over teenagers who are above the age of consent but not yet adults.

The Institute began campaigning for a broader abuse of trust



offence in 2000 after undertaking a detailed analysis of the systemic abuse uncovered by the Waterhouse Inquiry into children's homes in North Wales.

Teachers, police officers and social

workers were included in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, but even as the legislation was being debated, the Institute warned this was too narrow.

Deputy Director Ciarán Kelly said the

change was "long overdue".

"We're glad that action has finally been taken. It is a hugely important step in protecting young people from exploitation".

MPs stress assisted suicide dangers

MPs have warned against legalising assisted suicide, in response to a petition calling for existing safeguards to be removed.

Labour's Sir Stephen Timms said it "would impose an awful moral dilemma on every conscientious frail elderly person nearing the end of their life".

Conservative Danny Kruger warned against forcing doctors "to make utilitarian decisions about the best use of resources".

thecritic.co.uk/suicide-is-suicide

Tribunal upholds beliefs on biological sex

An Employment Tribunal has found that Maya Forstater suffered "direct discrimination" and "victimisation" by her employer for defending the reality of biological sex.

Last year, Forstater's beliefs were declared to be protected under the Equality Act 2010. Now her complaints of mistreatment have been determined to be "well-founded".

She said: "We are all free to believe whatever we wish. What we are not free to do is compel others to believe the same thing".



Children's Commissioner ducks benefits of the married family

The Children's Commissioner for England has called on the Government to do more to help families stay together, but failed to acknowledge that traditional marriage is best for family stability.



Dame Rachel de Souza

Data collected by Dame Rachel de Souza showed that children fare much better in stable families, which she said provide the "most powerful foundation for the future" and offer "universal values and provable protections".

However, despite recognising the problem of family breakdown, Dame Rachel went on to claim that family structure was less important than 'relational quality'.

The Institute called her remarks a "missed opportunity". A spokesman highlighted that: "Research consistently shows that children do best when they grow up with their married, biological mum and dad."

College of Policing instructs officers to protect free speech

The professional body for the police service in England and Wales has published new interim guidance on how officers should respond to claims of 'hate speech'.

Last year, the Court of Appeal ruled that the College of Policing's previous guidance on recording 'non-crime hate incidents' unlawfully interfered with free speech.

The new guidance states that complaints should be dismissed

if there is no basis to conclude they were "motivated by hostility". It also clarifies that "individuals who are commenting in a legitimate debate

– for example, on political or social issues

– should not be stigmatised because someone is offended".

The Institute's Deputy Director Ciarán Kelly said:

"For too long, so called non-crime hate incidents have been used as a weapon to shut down legitimate debate on issues such as transgender ideology and sexual orientation. It's not the job of officers to police perceived offence".

The guidance will remain active until the Government approves a new code of practice, expected to be released early 2023.



OCT-NOV

Scotland Tour: Fighting for the family

Join us at venues around
Scotland for the latest
updates on:

- Sex swaps for 16-year-olds
- 'Conversion therapy'
- Assisted suicide
- Education

the.ci/scotlandtour



NEW VIDEO SERIES

In conversation with...

In the first three of this
new series of interviews,
we spoke to Calvin
Robinson, Baroness Fox
and Toby Young about free
speech, religious freedom,
'woke intolerance' and the
freedom to disagree.



Watch the series:
the.ci/ICW



Abortion: 'We must be a voice for the voiceless'



Ciarán Kelly

In September, the
Institute's Ciarán
Kelly spoke to a
gathering of pro-
lifers in central
London ahead of
the annual March
for Life UK.

The march to
Parliament Square
united under the
theme '10 Million
Too Many' – a
reference to the
approximate
number of
abortions in the UK
since the Abortion
Act was passed
in 1967.

Mr Kelly said:
"These are lives
that could have
been lived but were
never given the
chance. Whether
able-bodied or
disabled, they
would have been
born into a life.

"The Bible says:
'Speak up for those
who cannot speak
for themselves'.
Well, the unborn
have no voice. So
we must be that
voice. We must be
the voice for the
voiceless."

Police estimated
the event attracted
around 7,000
people – a record
number according
to organisers.

It was held only
a few days after
unsupervised 'DIY'
home abortions
became available
to women in
England on a
permanent basis.

'Emergency'
rules introduced
at the beginning
of the coronavirus
pandemic became
law on 30 August.

Scots censorship zones risk infringing human rights

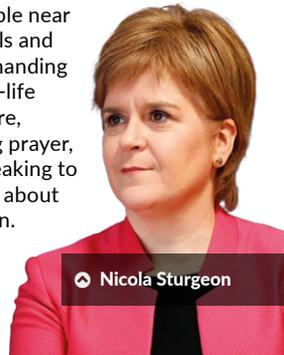
Scotland's First Minister Nicola
Sturgeon has backed proposals
to censor free speech around
abortion centres, despite
acknowledging that such a law
in Scotland could be subject to
legal challenge.

Leading human rights
lawyer Aidan O'Neill KC
said such censorship zones
may breach the European
Convention on Human Rights.

But City Councils in
Glasgow, Edinburgh and

Aberdeen are now seeking to
implement trial bans
on people near
hospitals and
clinics handing
out pro-life
literature,
offering prayer,
and speaking to
women about
abortion.

Nicola Sturgeon



Scottish gender clinic under scrutiny as 'unsafe' London centre set to close

A former Scottish Greens leader is among those calling for NHS Scotland's gender clinic for children to be shut down. It follows the announcement that NHS England's Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) will close by next spring.

The Sandyford clinic in Glasgow follows the same 'affirmative' model of practice as GIDS, based at the Tavistock in London. A major independent review recently found this to be 'unsafe and unviable'.

SNP MP Joanna Cherry KC and former

Greens leader Robin Harper urged Scotland to learn from the Cass Review's findings and close Sandyford. A planned review of the Glasgow clinic is not expected to be completed before the end of next year. They warned the delay would continue to put young people "at significant risk".

Detransitioner Sinead Watson said: "This should have happened years ago." Her gender confusion was affirmed by Sandyford but she now accepts her biological sex. "There is absolutely no excuse why we



▲ Former MSP Robin Harper and MP Joanna Cherry

have been offering cross-sex hormones to women with a history of depression and anxiety and eating disorders."

It has been claimed that at least 1,000 families could join a legal action against the Tavistock clinic for rushing gender-confused children onto a medical pathway with life-altering effects. But the

Scottish Government is pushing ahead with plans to lower the minimum age for changing legal sex from 18 to 16.

If passed, the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill would also remove the existing need for medical evidence and reduce the two-year waiting period for registration to three months.

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We have over 60,000 supporters and visit over 300 churches a year to talk about our work.

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

NI court: 'Christian-focused religious education unlawful'

A judge has ruled that it is unlawful for Northern Irish primary schools to focus on Christianity in RE lessons and daily collective worship.

The legal challenge brought on behalf of a seven-year-old

girl and her father claimed that the required focus on Christianity could lead the girl to adopt that worldview.

Institute Director Colin Hart said: "The law protects human rights, it doesn't set them aside.

The judge seems to have completely dismissed the crucial right of withdrawal available to this girl's father and indeed all parents."

The NI Department of Education is considering an appeal.



We thank God for the Queen's life of faith

The Christian Institute's Director and senior Trustees paid tribute to the faith and devotion to duty of Her Majesty The Queen following her unexpected death on 8 September, aged 96.

Colin Hart said: "In 1952, in her first Christmas broadcast, she asked the nation to pray 'that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life'. God answered that prayer."



Chairman Richard Turnbull added: "Elizabeth's character was shaped by the Bible and her relationship with Jesus Christ, whose own life of sacrifice, service, and compassion formed the model and inspiration for her own.

Throughout her life, the Queen consistently proclaimed the Christian Gospel, which gave her strength, comfort, and peace."

John Burn, Chairman of the Institute until 2021, met the Queen in 1993 to receive his OBE for services to

Education.

He reflected: "We should thank God for her, for her extraordinary life and for her example of simple Christian faith. We pray that the King may have that wisdom, that he would uphold righteousness in our nation."

In July, King Charles III, then Prince of Wales, said that religious freedom "must be embedded in government, education, business, the media, and social media, and right across our communities."

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Or call

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CI launches Living Christianity Youth

The Christian Institute's popular Bible study series, Living Christianity, is now available as a free, all-new version for 11 to 16-year-olds.

Adapted from the original series, it uses animated graphics and clear narration to provide engaging and biblically faithful content to help young

Christians engage with our rapidly changing world.

Five 45-minute sessions provide a biblical worldview to help them recognise that following Christ transforms all aspects of our lives, whether at home, school or in wider society.

Get the series for free now at livingchristianity.org.uk/youth



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