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Upholding God's good design

In the absence of clear guidance for schools, pupils and teachers around the UK are under pressure to adopt radical gender ideology.

In many cases they are told to use false pronouns and accept the removal of their single-sex spaces.

No-one should be marginalised or threatened for raising concerns with such ideology – especially when it presents such a safeguarding risk to children. So we thank God that we could help a Christian mum get reinstated as a parent governor after she was dismissed for challenging her

school's pro-trans sex ed policy.

This is a great result but we still face many significant challenges.

Westminster's imposition of 'abortion rights' teaching on schools in Northern Ireland, and the demands for drug decriminalisation in Scotland also risk harming children.

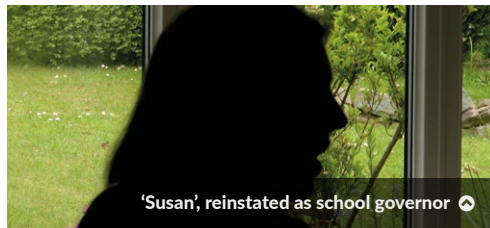
And we continue to spearhead opposition to proposals for an oppressive 'conversion therapy' Bill. There has been plenty of speculation it could be dropped. Pray that even now, it will.

Christian governor reinstated after CI intervenes on sex ed dismissal

A Christian parent governor dismissed for questioning an inappropriate sex ed policy has been reinstated following a High Court order after the CI stepped in.

'Susan', not her real name, first highlighted legal issues with the Gateshead primary school's Relationships and Sex Education policy in 2021.

Lesson plans encouraged children to question their own 'gender identity' and included the use of the discredited 'Genderbread person' resource. It claims that gender is non-binary, and determined by



'personality traits, jobs, hobbies', rather than biological sex, which itself 'exists on a continuum'.

The school's Governing Body accused the Gateshead mum of opposing its decision to use the policy, and dismissed her even though the official complaints procedure was still in progress.

But, following a legal challenge supported by The Christian Institute, she was reinstated, and the governors and Local Authority admitted the sacking was unlawful. She was also granted anonymity in order to protect her children.

Susan said: "I'm absolutely delighted that I've been vindicated. It feels

wonderful to be back and helping the school get the best outcomes for all the children there."

The CI's Ciarán Kelly commented: "This is a great result. Had this decision stood, it would have sent a terrible message.

"Parents don't want their children's education left in the hands of 'woke' teachers, or governors who are more concerned with not 'rocking the boat' than doing what is right."

WATCH: [the.ci/Susan](https://www.the.ci/Susan)

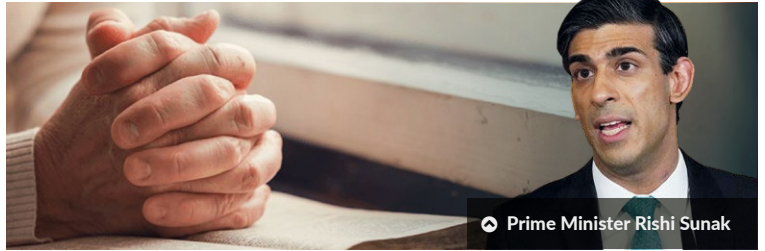
Institute warns Prime Minister against 'conversion therapy' Bill

The Institute has written to the Prime Minister to remind him of Christians' serious concerns about an LGBT 'conversion therapy' Bill.

There is widespread press speculation that the Bill, which faces major legal difficulties, could be dropped.

We sent our letter in the wake of new guidance on a ban already operating in the Australian state of Victoria.

The guidance states that Christians should only pray in a way that affirms that LGBT people are "perfect as they are". Prayers that "talk about a person's brokenness or need to



repent" are classed as 'harmful' and likely to be illegal. Christians could even be investigated for saying the Lord's Prayer with LGBT friends.

UK activists regard this law as the 'gold standard' for Britain to follow.

The CI's letter warns Rishi Sunak that any new UK legislation on 'conversion practices'

will be used by these activists to push for similar restrictions here. However, such a law would breach religious freedoms and be subject to judicial review.

Following legal advice from leading human rights KC Jason Coppel, in 2021 the Institute announced it would take legal action against any law that

disrupts the ordinary work of churches.

A recent opinion poll of more than 2,000 UK voters commissioned by the Institute, found that 96 per cent did not regard a ban as a Government priority. It ranked 22nd out of a list of 23 possible options in the survey by pollsters Whitestone Insight.

Westminster imposes pro-abortion sex ed on Northern Ireland schools

Westminster has voted to force schools in Northern Ireland to promote girls' "legal right to an abortion", in the face of opposition from NI politicians and parents.

Conservative MP Robin Millar shared parents concerns "about the RSE their children are being taught in schools" and resigned as a Parliamentary Private Secretary to vote against the move. A consultation addressing right of withdrawal from the new Relationship and Sexuality Education

(RSE) content is open until November.

Westminster had previously imposed a radical abortion regime on the Province against

the wishes of Stormont. In March 2020, its new regulations permitted abortion on demand up to twelve weeks.

The Scottish Government has launched its own consultation on draft statutory guidance on the delivery of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHHP) education in Scottish schools, which also closes in November.

In England, the Department for Education has been collecting evidence on how RSE is taught and a separate consultation on updated guidance is expected later this year.



Help for the new school year



By John Denning,
Head of Education

The new academic year will bring opportunities and challenges for Christians. Our Education Department advises over 200 teachers, governors and parents each year, helping them to be salt and light for Christ and to protect children.

Christian web designer wins at US Supreme Court

A Christian web designer has won her US Supreme Court case against a state law which could have forced her to promote same-sex marriage.

Lorie Smith had filed a lawsuit against Colorado's Anti-Discrimination Act, which requires artists to convey messages they disagree with. The Supreme Court, which cited the Ashers case, has now overturned a ruling upholding the law.



We have helped:

- Governors have a positive impact on their school's sex ed policy, in one case bringing legal action to reinstate a governor who was wrongfully dismissed because of her courageous stand on behalf of children (front page);
- Teachers with concerns about lesson materials, in some cases leading to a complete change in the school's approach;
- Dozens more teachers to respond to pupils who identify as transgender, finding a way to act in line with their conscience and help the pupil without fear of losing their job;

- Parents protect their children and persuade schools to change their approach for all pupils. In one case, we launched legal action on the basis of parents' concerns, resulting in the whole county withdrawing its sex ed programme.

Education remains a crucial area of public life for Christians to be involved in – including taking up the role of school governor. Though success is not guaranteed, Christians can be confident that standing for our Lord will not be in vain.

Our Education Department is available to provide advice and support: info@christian.org.uk

Met and NI police end 'Pride' support from on-duty officers



Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley has warned officers they must remain impartial and not express support for political causes while on duty.

He said that, while “engaging” with activists to “understand what worries them is not ‘woke’”, starting to “align yourself to causes is not something policing should be doing”.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) also instructed uniformed officers not to march in Belfast's 'Pride' parade.

In a policy change, the PSNI said officers and staff could participate in the pro-LGBT event in a “personal capacity”, but must not “identify as members of the Police Service”.



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Costa Coffee 'glamourises' trans surgery

The UK's largest coffee chain, Costa Coffee, has come under fire for promoting double mastectomies for gender-confused women on one of its Express vans.

The cartoon image, circulated widely on social media, appears to show a topless young woman bearing the marks of breast surgery and drinking from a Costa Coffee cup.



'Dangerous' euthanasia Bill tabled in Isle of Man



A Bill to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide has been tabled in the Isle of Man.

The Assisted Dying Bill 2023 would allow people deemed to have less than six months to live to get a doctor to kill them. Similar proposals are also being pushed in Jersey and Scotland.

It comes despite campaigners

warning lawmakers that legalising assisted suicide poses a serious threat to disabled people and those deemed to be terminally ill.

Manx Duty of Care – a group of healthcare professionals opposed to euthanasia on the Island – argued that the plans should be “dropped completely”.

Abortion censorship zones restrict help for women

Censorship zones banning prayer and offers of help to pregnant women have come into force in Northern Ireland.

The Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Act criminalises anyone who hands out pro-life literature or speaks to anyone about abortion within a 100-250m radius of an abortion clinic.

A Bill to impose similar zones around abortion centres



in Scotland has also been submitted to Holyrood with the backing of First Minister Humza Yousaf.

A law for censorship zones across England and Wales was passed in May,

but is not yet fully operational.

The number of abortions rose by 17 per cent in England and Wales in the first six months of 2022, compared to the same period in 2021.

Westminster Govt rejects push for weaker Scottish drug laws



The UK Government has rejected demands from the SNP-Green coalition to decriminalise all drugs for personal use.

Under the proposals, addicts would no longer be criminalised for possessing Class A drugs, such as cocaine

or heroin, unless they intend to supply it to others.

Drug 'shooting galleries', where addicts could inject themselves without fear of arrest, would also be introduced country-wide. A £2.3 million pilot scheme has

already been approved for Glasgow.

Scotland's Lord Advocate has indicated that she will not prosecute those possessing or using hard drugs in an approved shooting gallery.

The demands came despite Scotland having

the worst rate of drug-related deaths in Europe – exceeding one thousand deaths for the fifth year in a row.

However, the Prime Minister's official spokesman made clear that Downing Street had no plans to alter its "tough stance" on drugs.

The UK Government also rejected a recent recommendation from Westminster's Home Affairs Committee to pilot UK-wide heroin shooting galleries, responding: "There is no safe way to take illegal drugs".

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Institute tackles Govt over trans guidance delay

The Westminster Government has delayed releasing updated guidance on transgender pupils for schools in England.

The Prime Minister had promised the new guidance would be available for the summer term.

Despite claims from trans activists, the law does not require schools to affirm children's gender confusion.

The Institute has called for the guidance to make clear schools' safeguarding responsibilities, and that pupils and teachers will not be compelled to use false pronouns, or otherwise affirm radical gender ideology.



The Institute's Head of Education John Denning said: "While the Government vacillates, children are left at the mercy of a wild west in schools, where misunderstandings of the law and disinformation in 'advice' from groups with their own agenda advance to fill the vacuum."

'A narrow escape for free speech' as Online Safety Bill passes Lords

The Online Safety Bill is set to become law after passing its final parliamentary hurdle in the House of Lords.

Following a lengthy campaign by The Christian Institute, last November the Government axed the Bill's dangerous provisions restricting 'legal but harmful' content for adults. These threatened to restrict Christians' freedom of speech online.

Institute Director Colin Hart called it "a



narrow escape", and warned, "even now there are some MPs who want to bring it back".

The Bill requires social media and pornography websites to implement age-verification measures

that are "highly effective at correctly determining whether or not a particular user is a child".

The Institute's Ciarán Kelly welcomed the Bill's "much-needed protections for children online", but cautioned:

"There is a difference between a Bill being passed and its measures being enforced.

"Ofcom has a key role in protecting children and free speech. We'll be watching to see it carries out that role effectively."

In a statement, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Michelle Donelan said the new law would make sure "that what is illegal offline is illegal online".

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Diolch yn fawr Gareth (Thank you Gareth)

Revd Dr Gareth Edwards has retired after five years as the Institute's first Wales Officer.

He had previously spent nearly 30 years as a pastor, and had also been General Manager for the Evangelical Movement of Wales.

In his time with the CI, Gareth has spoken, in English or Welsh, at over 330 meetings – travelling tens of thousands of miles around Wales and the rest of the UK.

Finding a suitable successor to Gareth is going to be very

difficult, but that process is underway. And we are delighted that he will continue to serve in a voluntary capacity for the foreseeable future.

If you're able to preach/teach, apply a biblical perspective to public policy developments in Wales, and encourage Christian involvement in public life, get in touch.

 the.ci/jobs



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