



INSIDE

➤ CofE has chosen 'culture over Christ' in vote to bless same-sex partners

➤ Christian MP: 'Assisted suicide is a deliberate decision to end life'

➤ UK Government blocks Sturgeon's 'sex-swap' Bill

Putting Christ first

For as long as the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached it has also been opposed. Christians in the UK are called 'extremists' simply for holding to God's Word.

Proposals to ban so-called 'conversion therapy' risk criminalising parents, teachers and church leaders. Transgender ideology, the devaluing of life and the undermining of marriage present a constant challenge to putting Christ before the culture of the day.

Our nation is in desperate need of God's mercy. We must pray and take action.

Faithful believers have a vital salt and light role to play in ensuring that legislation, media opposition and hostile court rulings do not drive biblical beliefs from the public square. It makes a huge difference.

Christians have been at the forefront of those upholding the reality of biological sex, protecting children from online pornography, promoting traditional marriage and the sanctity of life, and defending free speech.

Thank you for your continued support as we contend for Christian truth and gospel freedom.

'Conversion therapy' ban could outlaw ordinary work of churches

The Westminster Government has restated its intention to ban so-called 'conversion therapy' in England and Wales.

It risks criminalising parents and church leaders by outlawing repentance, preaching, 'gentle, non-coercive prayer', pastoral advice and parenting that fails to endorse LGBT theology.

The Institute's Ciarán Kelly responded to the announcement saying: "We know what activists would like to ban – the ordinary work of churches. The Government must



know you can't do this without breaching the European Convention on Human Rights."

Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch has pledged to ensure any law would not infringe on religious freedoms. But church leaders say they "remain unconvinced" that

the Government can "avoid unintended consequences in the passage of this Bill" and have written to the Government asking it to drop the plans altogether.

The Welsh Government also recently launched its 'LGBTQ+ Action Plan',

reiterating its aim "to ban all aspects" of conversion therapy.

It claimed this would allow exceptions for "legitimate discussions and support about an individual's feelings". However, the Welsh Government is being advised by prominent pro-ban activist Jayne Ozanne, who has previously admitted wanting to ban "gentle, non-coercive prayer".

In 2021, Northern Ireland politicians passed a non-binding motion calling for a ban on 'conversion therapy' "in all its forms".

CofE has chosen 'culture over Christ' in vote to bless same-sex partners

The Church of England has voted to welcome plans to allow churches to bless those in a same-sex partnership, but claims its doctrine of marriage remains unchanged.

The General Synod supported a bishops' report recommending that "prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and for God's blessing" may be offered for those who have been through a same-sex civil ceremony. Same-sex weddings will still not be allowed in churches.

The Institute's Ciarán Kelly called it "terribly sad".

"No amount of dancing on pinheads can hide the fact that the truth of Scripture has been ditched in



favour of the culture of the day.

"Sexual relationships are only to be enjoyed within the marriage bond between one man and one woman.

"Faithful Christians inside and outside the Church of England must continue to speak the truth about God's wonderful gift of real marriage; a gift

that speaks of Christ's relationship with his Church."

After the vote, the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches (GSFA) announced that it could no longer "walk together" with the Church of England.

The GSFA claims to represent 75 per cent of Anglicans

worldwide. It stated that despite its desire for unity, it cannot remain "in communion" with those provinces that have departed from the historic faith and taken the path of false teaching".



Christian MP: 'Assisted suicide is a deliberate decision to end life'

Christian MP Danny Kruger has warned Westminster not to follow Canada's example of failing the vulnerable by pushing them into assisted suicide.

Mr Kruger told BBC Newsnight that although Canada only legalised euthanasia and assisted suicide in

2016 for a "small number of defined people," it already plans to extend it to those with mental health problems.

His remarks followed his appearance in the Channel 4 documentary Prue and Danny's Death Road Trip. In it Kruger tells his mother, euthanasia advocate Dame Prue Leith: "You can dress it up by talking about doctors and syringes, but it is a deliberate decision to end a life."

Westminster's Health and

Social Care Committee is holding an inquiry into assisted suicide, while a Bill to remove protections for the vulnerable is set to be introduced to Holyrood in the coming months.

The Institute's Dave Greatorex has warned: "People who contemplate ending their own lives are at their most vulnerable and emotional. They need a clear, firm law to protect them in their darkest moments, not easy access to lethal drugs."



UK Government's anti-terrorism unit targets C S Lewis and Orwell

The UK Government's hapless anti-radicalisation strategy, Prevent, has come under fire again after an independent review found it had blacklisted material that "falls well short of the extremism threshold".

Works by C S Lewis, J R R Tolkien and George Orwell, along with BBC Two's Great British Railway Journeys, were reportedly flagged by the Prevent programme as potentially 'radicalising' to audiences.



The highly critical review was led by William Shawcross, the former Chairman of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Since 2011, Prevent has been increasingly focused on 'non-violent extremism'. It defines extremism as "vocal or active opposition

to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs". The vague definition has

been widely criticised for endangering free speech.

In 2015, an Institute-led campaign gained a key victory when the Government ditched a section of Prevent guidance that would have forced university societies in Britain, such as Christian Unions, to hand over external speakers' talks two weeks in advance for vetting.

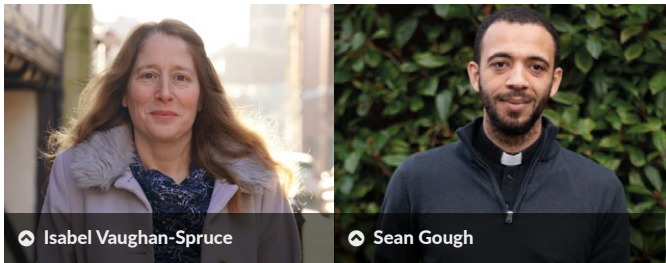
[Read: The Little Book of Non-Violent Extremists](#) | the.ci/littlebook

Census reveals LGBT figures

The number of adults identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other in England and Wales is just 3.16 per cent of the adult population, according to the 2021 census.

Only 0.5 per cent identify as transgender, 'non-binary' or 'other' in relation to their gender identity and fewer than 7,000 have legally changed sex.

'Silent prayer' pair vindicated



Pro-life campaigners arrested for praying silently near an abortion centre in Birmingham have been fully vindicated.

In February, a magistrate dismissed the cases brought against Isabel Vaughan-Spruce and Roman Catholic priest Sean Gough, after the Crown Prosecution Service offered no evidence of criminal activity and dropped the charges.

The Public Spaces Protection Order in force around the centre prohibits individuals from "engaging in any act of approval

or disapproval" in relation to abortion, including "prayer or counselling".

Christian MP Miriam Cates (below) warned that similar provisions in new Public Order legislation for England and Wales would criminalise legitimate activities. She said, "it isn't the role of the state to decide whether or not women wish to change their minds or to criminalise women who are lawfully offering help".



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Justice Secretary: 'Let's get prisoners drug-free'



Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP

Prisons need to help end inmates' heroin addiction, not accept it, the Justice Secretary has said.

In February, Dominic Raab wrote that prisons should be places where the goal is to get "totally drug-free, not just languishing indefinitely on drug substitutes".

He said abstinence-based treatment plays a critical

part in breaking the cycle of heroin addiction and methadone should only be used with the aim of breaking the habit completely, not "simply replacing one addiction for another".

Forty-five prisons across England and Wales have set up units to incentivise abstinence from drugs. The goal is to reach 100 by 2025.

Cabinet Office ditches trans group's training sessions

The Cabinet Office has ditched training sessions in gender ideology run by a group which reportedly told civil servants people who believe in biological sex are "devious".

A series of concerns were raised about the 'a:gender' group. They included complaints that a trainer stated those who disagree with radical gender ideology are "not

qualified to give an opinion".

One civil servant said the content was "scientifically so nonsensical and bizarre", while another found it "awful and upsetting".

They reported that the sessions presented claims that a person can change their biological sex "as fact", and taught that refusing to use the label "cisgender" is a "dogwhistle" for transphobia.



UK Government blocks Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID Bill

The UK Government has blocked Nicola Sturgeon's controversial 'choose your own sex' plan for being incompatible with British equality law.

Before resigning in February, Scotland's First Minister accused critics of her Gender Recognition Reform Bill of being "transphobic", "deeply misogynist, often homophobic, possibly some of them racist as well".

At the end of last year, MSPs voted in favour of the 'sex-swap' Bill which would allow 16-year-olds to change their legal sex by self-



declaration without a medical diagnosis.

Within weeks of the vote, Scotland Secretary Alister Jack MP made an order prohibiting the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament from submitting the Bill for Royal Assent. Jack was exercising powers

under the Scotland Act 1998.

In the wake of his announcement, angry trans activists were seen brandishing signs at a protest in Glasgow threatening to "decapitate" women who uphold the reality of biological sex.

During a debate in

Westminster following the intervention, Christian MPs Miriam Cates and Nick Fletcher were among those who spoke out against the Bill. They said it did not create "sufficient safeguards" to protect women and children from predatory men.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer told the BBC that although he backed making it easier to change legal sex, he felt 16 was not old enough to make the decision. But Shadow Cabinet member Lisa Nandy claimed children as young as 13 should be allowed to choose their legal sex.

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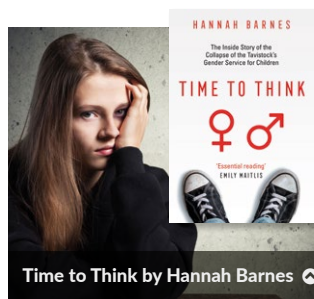
Evidence of NHS 'sex swap' pathway mounts

A new book by senior BBC journalist Hannah Barnes on NHS England's controversial Gender Identity Development Service reveals how vulnerable youngsters were routinely set on the 'sex-swap' conveyor belt.

In 'Time to Think: The Inside Story of the Collapse of the Tavistock's Gender Service for Children', Barnes claims more than 1,000 children were referred for puberty blockers. She also accuses the clinic of ignoring evidence that 97.5 per cent of the children seeking sex changes had autism, depression or other problems.

Last year, NHS England

announced that England's flagship transgender clinic for children would close, after an independent report by Dr Hilary Cass found it was not a "safe or viable long-term option".



Support grows for tougher Online Safety Bill clampdown on porn

Peers have been urging the Government to deal more effectively with the problem of children accessing online pornography in its Online Safety Bill.

A recent survey of 16 to 21-year-olds in England found that one in ten had watched pornography before the age of nine and 50 per cent by the age of 13. Current proposals would force pornographic websites and social media channels to apply age-verification checks, but Peers have urged the Government to ensure the new protections are robust.

Lord Bethell and Baroness Bertin argued that the Bill's definition of age verification is too weak and loopholes would allow websites to claim it is too difficult to enforce checks.

Lord Curry likened giving pornography websites the power to apply their own systems to "letting a burglar install the locks on your home".

Miriam Cates MP echoed the calls. She told BBC Radio 4 the Government has to "create a definition of pornography that applies across the internet, and in fact, corresponds with what's legal and illegal offline as well".

At the end of last year, pressure from Christian Institute supporters and others saw the Government drop provisions censoring 'legal but harmful' content.

But the climbdown risked being undone in January when Conservative backbencher Alicia Kearns MP attempted to hijack the Bill to introduce an online ban on so-called conversion therapy.

The vaguely worded proposal threatened Christians' freedom to share the Gospel online but the amendment was withdrawn when the Government announced its own timeline for a ban.

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Parents still in the dark over sex ed resources

Parents are still being prevented from viewing sex ed materials used by their children's schools, despite the Government's promise to make the curriculum more transparent.

At the end of January, Nick Fletcher MP said he believed that most teachers and parents want guidance from the DfE on how to counter the influence of gender ideology in schools.

He said: "Schools across the country are wrestling with the issue of 'gender identity' – the idea that we all have an 'inner gender' independent from our biological sex" and that sex

ed materials endorsing such concepts were being promoted to schools by activist groups.

A DfE spokesperson said: "Parents should be aware of what their children are being taught, especially relating to the teaching of sensitive topics.

"We will write to all schools this term to emphasise this and to make it clear that if a parent requests to see teaching materials, copyright law does not prevent a school from sharing them with parents in person on the school premises."



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