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Speaking out loud and clear

God's good design as set out in the Bible is for everyone, not only for the Church. So it is encouraging when biblical truth is upheld by our secular society.

The clear result of the referendums on Family and Care are a welcome reminder that people still respond positively to Christian truth. We can have confidence that continuing to speak the truth on marriage, the family, religious liberty, abortion and assisted suicide, illegal drugs, and so-called conversion therapy will also make a difference.

The vague 'hate speech' Bill is of real concern. People are increasingly rejecting transgender ideology and joining Christians in speaking up for the reality of biological sex. These proposals risk muzzling them.

We could also see more cases like that of street preacher Angus Cameron, arrested in Glasgow after a flimsy complaint of 'homophobia'. We give thanks that we were able to help him win his case against Police Scotland. But we don't want to see a repeat on the streets of Ireland.

Varadkar exits in wake of failure to devalue mums and marriage

Education Minister Simon Harris has replaced Leo Varadkar as Taoiseach just weeks after voters overwhelmingly rejected the Government's controversial proposals to devalue marriage and disregard the role of stay-at-home mums.

The Family referendum on placing "other durable relationships" alongside marriage was rejected by a ratio of two-to-one. Of the 39 constituencies, only Dun Laoghaire voted 'Yes'.

The 'Care' proposal to end the State's commitment to mums who stay at home to

bring up their children was opposed even more strongly, with 73.93% of voters rejecting the amendment.

The Christian Institute's Ciarán Kelly welcomed the result, as "a resounding affirmation of marriage and motherhood".

Varadkar had described the outcome as a double "wallop" for the Government. Aontú leader Peadar Tóibín hailed it "a victory for the Irish people against the political establishment".

Prominent 'Vote No' campaigner Independent Senator Rónán Mullen called



on the Government to "stop playing ideological games" and take on board voters' overwhelming rejection of anti-marriage and anti-family measures.

The landslide victory led to calls from within the coalition to ditch

the 'hate speech' Bill and reject calls to introduce assisted suicide.

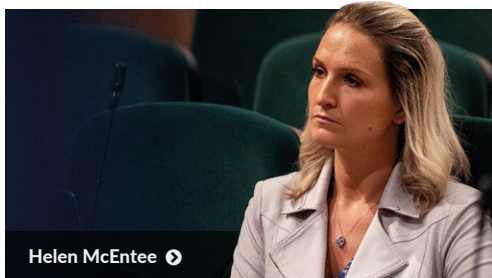
In his resignation speech, Varadkar placed 'LGBT and abortion rights' among his proudest achievements.

Govt's vague hate speech Bill 'will criminalise ordinary people'

Helen McEntee's hate crime Bill will restrict free speech and criminalise ordinary people for expressing unpopular views, Senator Rónán Mullen has warned.

The Criminal Justice (Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences) Bill is set to replace and significantly expand existing hate crime legislation. It is currently being considered by the Seanad.

The Bill includes a new offence of inciting hatred against others based on their protected characteristics, which carries a possible five-year prison sentence.



These characteristics would include genders "other than those of male and female", as well as sexual orientation. Christians, parents, and those concerned about men accessing female-only spaces, could all be caught by the vagueness of the law.

Speaking on The Tonight Show, Senator Mullen said

the legislation is far too broad and lacks clarity in key areas. He warned that this could lead to people censoring themselves for fear of prosecution.

Sen Mullen said: "People are entitled to clarity, especially in this day and age about what they can say and what they can't, because there's a great push on to curtail people's freedom of expression, particularly around controversial areas, such as gender".

Widespread opposition, including from within her own Fine Gael party, recently prompted Minister for Justice McEntee to announce the Bill will be amended.



Read our Hate crime briefing

the.ci/hatecrimeroi

10,000 abortions a 'betrayal of women'

The number of abortions in Ireland reached a record high in 2023 – almost 23 per cent more than the year before.

Data released to Carol Nolan TD (below) from the Health Service Executive revealed that



GPs made 9,218 claims for "Combined termination procedure and aftercare" between January and November 2023. The figures do not cover abortions performed in hospitals, which could take the overall number to more than 10,000.

Mrs Nolan said: "This is now an epidemic of loss. Thousands of women are being betrayed by the over promotion of abortion as the only possible response to pregnancy in certain circumstances and the cruel under promotion of life

affirming alternatives."

In 2018, Ireland opted to repeal the Eighth Amendment and make abortion available on demand up to twelve weeks. At the time Taoiseach Leo Varadkar pledged abortions would be "safe, legal and rare", but since then more than 37,000 abortions have been carried out.

Activists are already attempting to scrap the three-day reflection period, even though data shows almost 2,000 women did not return for an abortion after their first consultation.

Ireland considers axing end-of-life protections for vulnerable patients

An Oireachtas committee has recommended that Ireland introduces assisted suicide.

End-of-life protections could be removed for those deemed to have six months left to live – or twelve months for neurodegenerative conditions.

It comes despite strong opposition from palliative care doctors and disability campaigners.

Speaking to the Oireachtas assisted suicide committee, Peter Kearns of the Independent Living Movement Ireland said disabled people



are concerned about state-backed assisted suicide.

He warned that in other parts of the world where it has been legalised, “disabled people frequently speak about feeling hopeless, ‘having nothing to live for’ or feeling they would be ‘better off dead’”.

Ministers from the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland all urged the Committee to strengthen end-of-life care and mental health services instead.

The Irish Medical Council also came under fire for removing safeguards for patients

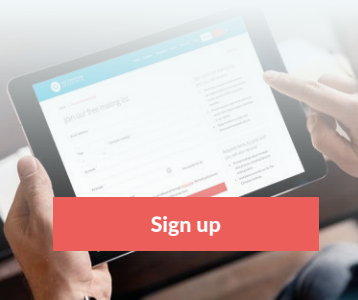
in its new guidance for medics.

The Council removed the statement: “You must not take part in the deliberate killing of a patient” from the 9th edition of its Guide to Professional Conduct & Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners. In response, a reported 300 doctors signed a letter of protest.

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Oireachtas pushed to decriminalise hard drugs

The Government will consider a call from the Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use for it to decriminalise the possession of all hard drugs for personal use.

If implemented, the recommendation could minimise or remove the possibility of criminal conviction and prison sentences for possession of drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine.

Following the publication of the Assembly's report, Cabinet approved a nine-month delay to TD Gino Kenny's Misuse of Drugs (Cannabis Regulation) Bill 2022, which aims to legalise the possession of cannabis for personal use.

The proposal has been tabled despite warnings that the trend of people being arrested for driving after taking illegal drugs shows no sign of abating.

Last year, the Garda arrested 3,130 people for drug driving.





5 studies about God's calling for his people in the world

Examining the implications of what it means to live as a Christian in today's world.

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Colin Hart, 1963-2024



On 13 March, our founder and Director Colin Hart passed into glory.

Colin devoted his life to encouraging Christians to grasp that following Jesus transforms all aspects of our lives. He wanted to equip believers to live out their faith in public as well as in private.

It was this sense of calling that led to the founding of The Christian Institute, and over the last 35 years helped shape the UK's legal, political and cultural landscape.

Colin's unflinching trust in God's sovereignty was his source of comfort for every campaign

and legal battle. He would say that, win or lose, it was important to stand up for the truth.

But he always placed greatest value on his role instructing other Christians to 'think Christianly'.

It is a priority to which the Institute remains committed today.

Experts spotlight dangerous care of gender-confused kids



Expert clinicians have filed a formal complaint against the Health Service Executive for referring gender-confused children to 'trans-affirming' clinics overseas.

Prof Donal O'Shea and Dr Paul Moran of the National Gender Service highlighted a series of cases as "examples of harm and risk caused to Irish children by these services".

Dr Moran said if a gender clinic does not address a child's

other issues, then problems such as "social avoidance" and "functional impairment" can increase.

Ireland does not have specialist psychological services for gender-confused children. They were previously referred to the notorious NHS Tavistock clinic in London, which closed in early April. However, the referral policy is set to continue with the regional hubs that will replace it.



Full-time discipleship for 11 to 16-year-olds

The animated series exploring God's calling for young people in the world.

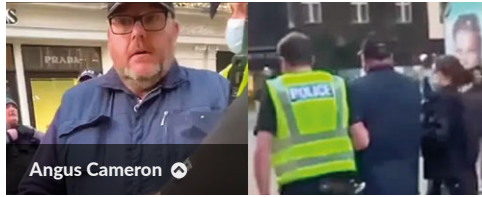
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Glasgow street preacher wins £15,000 after wrongful arrest

A street preacher in Scotland has won substantial damages from the police after he was wrongfully arrested over a 'hate-crime' accusation.

Angus Cameron had been preaching in Glasgow city centre when a police officer told him there had been complaints of 'homophobic language'.

Bystanders refuted the allegation, but the former pastor was arrested and handcuffed for 'breach of the peace with homophobic aggravation' and put in the back of a police van



for over an hour. He was eventually released and later told he would not be prosecuted. However, a 'non-crime hate incident report' was still logged.

Following legal action supported by The Christian Institute, the police removed all reference to the incident from its records. It agreed

to pay Mr Cameron £5,500 in damages for unlawful detention, and £9,400 in legal costs. He donated all of his compensation to the Institute.

The Institute's Simon Calvert said:

"Police Scotland is reviewing its policy and looking at the College of Policing's guidance on non-crime hate incidents.

"From our experience in this and many other similar cases, we believe we can contribute constructively to this review. We can act as a bridge between the police and street preachers in this vexed area."

WATCH

[the.ci/AngusCameron](https://www.the.ci/AngusCameron)



Strong opposition to vague UK 'conversion therapy' plans

Attempts to bring in new broad laws against so-called conversion therapy in the UK have been strongly opposed.

LGBT campaigners want to prohibit actions – including repentance and prayer – that seek to change, suppress

or inhibit someone's sexual orientation or gender identity. Parents' responsibility to prevent their children from accessing puberty blockers is also at risk of being criminalised.

At Westminster, a Labour MP's Private Member's Bill on

'conversion therapy' failed to progress in the Commons, after more than a dozen MPs spoke against it. A similar Bill in the House of Lords was opposed by a ratio of almost two-to-one.

The Scottish Government's plans were branded "ill-thought out" and "fundamentally illiberal" by leading human rights lawyer Aidan O'Neill SC in a withering legal opinion for The Christian Institute.

Equalities Minister Roderic O'Gorman says a new law is "a priority" for Ireland. However, polling for The Christian Institute found his view is not shared by 94 per cent of voters.



Employment opportunities

Candidates will be graduates, highly accurate, numerate and with good communication skills.


They must be able, from a biblical perspective, to analyse, evaluate and summarise information.

An understanding of law and public policy in the Republic of Ireland

will be a significant advantage. Full and part-time applications will be considered.

Candidates for the posts will be Evangelical Christians who are highly motivated to apply biblical principles to the family, education, the world of work and public policy.

Please contact our head office for more details.

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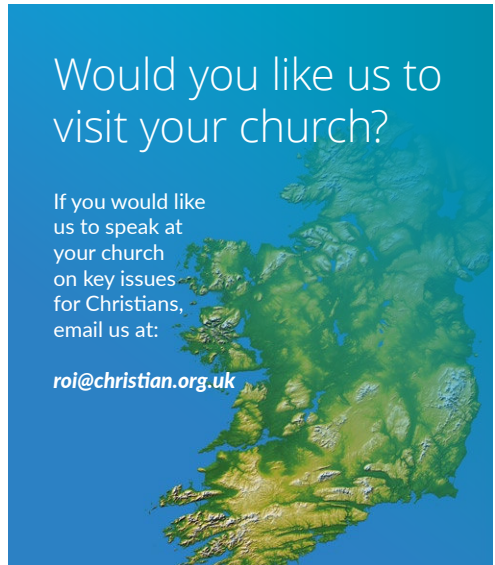
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