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## Be a Christian influence

We are thankful for more of a genuine debate around transgender ideology. There is growing recognition of the harm being done, particularly to young people, by promoting the idea that it is possible to change sex or be 'gender-fluid'. It is no longer just Christians who are speaking out.

Threats to religious liberty, marriage and the family, and the sanctity of life are constant and varied. We must remain alert.

This year has seen major challenges to the rights of

churches to preach standard Christian doctrine on marriage and sexual ethics. We continue to make the case for traditional marriage and are spearheading opposition to the proposed 'conversion therapy' bans. Our central concern is that activists want the law to ban preaching repentance. The heart of the Gospel is at stake.

Thank you for supporting our work. We all have a part to play in ensuring that Christian beliefs continue to be presented clearly and faithfully in the public square.

# UK Government reviews RSE in England but imposes it on NI

The UK Government has formed an expert advisory panel to help reassure parents in England that "there is no room for disturbing or inappropriate content to be taught in schools".

It follows Rishi Sunak's pledge to review statutory guidance on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) after he was challenged by Christian MP Miriam Cates.

She told the House of Commons that children are being "subjected to lessons that are age-inappropriate,



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

extreme, sexualising and inaccurate, often using resources from unregulated organisations that are actively campaigning to undermine parents".

However in June, Westminster opted to impose a similar compulsory RSE framework on

secondary schools in Northern Ireland.

NI Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris said he had a statutory duty to implement the changes.

Currently, all grant-aided schools must develop their own RSE policy, but can provide content in keeping with their own ethos.

The Institute's Callum Webster called the move "shocking", adding: "The classroom ought not to be hijacked as a place to undermine the values and religious ethos of parents."

The Prime Minister also promised new transgender guidance for schools in England. A draft for consultation is expected in this summer term.

In May, a report by the influential think tank Civitas revealed that one in ten teenagers aged 16 to 18 want to 'change their gender' or have already done so.

# MP says that same-sex marriage should be imposed on CofE

Ben Bradshaw MP wants Church of England clergy to be allowed to conduct same-sex weddings and has launched a Bill to "draw attention" to the issue.

The CofE's General Synod voted in February to "welcome" plans for churches to bless same-sex partnerships, but churches do not have the authority to conduct same-sex weddings.

Bradshaw tabled a Ten Minute Rule Bill in March to put pressure on Bishops to go even further in abandoning biblical teaching. Such Bills rarely become law, but the Exeter MP expressed his hope it would be "a



precursor to actual legislation".

Currently, the 2013 same-sex marriage legislation contains four legal safeguards to ensure that no church can be forced to conduct same-sex weddings. Maria Miller, the Minister originally responsible for the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act, said at the time that protections afforded to churches by the legislation were



Colin Hart

"iron clad".

The Institute's Director Colin Hart called Bradshaw's Bill a "brazen attack on religious liberty". Were it successful, he warned it "could

ultimately wreck the whole package of protections for churches".

"Attempts like this to change the law flagrantly interfere with Church doctrine and must be decisively rejected. Though this is framed as 'enabling', it would actually mean the Church of England being coerced into allowing same-sex marriages, contrary to its official teaching."

# Police told not to patrol hurt feelings

Suella Braverman has said that police officers must "focus on fighting crime" rather than interfering in lawful debate on controversial issues.

In a speech to The Public Safety Foundation, the Home Secretary argued that the public wanted to see forces tackling violence, drugs and antisocial behaviour, not policing "bad jokes on Twitter".



She added that the policing she believes in "isn't riven with political correctness" and pursues "criminal justice rather than social justice".

Earlier this year, the Government introduced a new code of practice on non-crime hate incidents (NCHI). It makes clear that airing "strongly held views" does not "amount to

a criminal offence" or warrant including someone's personal details in an NCHI.

The code also states that consideration must be given to the legitimate boundaries of debate on "important social or political issues where there is likely to be strong differences of opinion".

These include the expression of opinions on same-sex marriage and religion, which have specific legal protections campaigned for by The Christian Institute.





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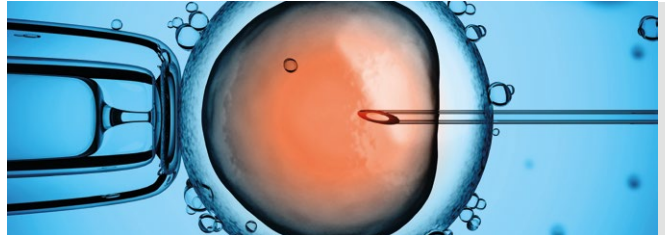
## Tiny minority of NI identify as LGB+

Barely two per cent of the population in Northern Ireland identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or 'other'.

Official 2021 census figures show that fewer than 18,000 people, or 1.2 per cent of the population, identified as gay or lesbian. Just over 11,000 said they were bisexual, and fewer than 2,600 opted for "other sexual orientation".



# UK scientists have created three-parent GM babies



In May, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) admitted that scientists in the UK have created genetically modified babies.

In response, the Institute's Deputy Director Ciarán Kelly said: "As well as the clear moral problems associated with these techniques, practical concerns may only arise years from now, as the genetic modifications are passed down from one generation to the next."

Since 2015, HFEA regulations have allowed the creation of three or four-parent children in cases involving mitochondrial

disease using a technique known as 'mitochondrial donation'.

The Newcastle Fertility Centre is the only clinic in the UK approved by the HFEA to carry out 'three-person IVF', which creates a child from three different 'parents' – a chromosomal mother, an egg mother and a sperm father.

Mr Kelly argued: "We should be putting our resources into adult stem cell treatment, which offers hope to those living with mitochondrial disease, rather than subjecting them to the genetic equivalent of Russian roulette."

## Pray for those in authority

On 6 May, millions watched the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. It was a momentous occasion in this nation's history.

King Charles's reign is an earthly one only. He himself is "a man under authority" – that of the King of kings. But the coronation reminded us of the biblical call to pray for "kings and all



King Charles III and Queen Camilla

those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

As the grandeur

of the occasion itself fades, let us remember the newly crowned King in our prayers, that as he reigns he will do so humbly and wisely.

# EHRC advises Govt to adopt biological definition of sex

'Sex' should be clearly defined as biological sex under the Equality Act 2010, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has told the Government.

The Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch asked for the watchdog's "considered advice" on amending the current definition of 'sex' in the Act in light of the "increasing contestation of how the term sex is understood".

The EHRC's Chairwoman, Baroness



Falkner of Margravine, told the Minister that defining 'sex' in the Act to mean biological sex would create "clarity and/or reductions of risk" in a number of areas of legal dispute.

These include making it simpler "to make a women's-only ward a space for biological women" and

to protect women's sport from men who identify as women.

Lady Falkner added that it would also enable single-sex groups to restrict membership to biological women, and allow employers to ensure certain permitted roles, such as a warden in a girls' hostel, are only carried

out by biological women.

After publishing the letter, she was accused of being a Nazi and branded a "bigot", "fascist" and "transphobic scum".

But she said that she remains determined not to let the criticism distract her, no matter how hard it might be.

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# Yousaf scrambles to save sex-swap Bill with expensive legal challenge

The Scottish Government's "weak" legal challenge to Westminster's decision to block its controversial 'sex-swap' Bill could cost the taxpayer £500,000. A judicial review hearing has been set for September.

But several legal figures, including Dean of the Faculty of Advocates Roddy Dunlop KC and University of Glasgow law professor Adam Tomkins, agreed that it is likely to cost "at least hundreds of thousands of pounds".

The Bill seeks to allow residents aged 16 and over to change their legal sex merely by self-declaration. In January,

the UK Government vetoed the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill on constitutional grounds, given its impact on UK-wide equalities legislation.

First Minister Humza Yousaf branded the decision a "power grab". He claimed Whitehall had no right to use its powers under Section 35 of the Scotland Act after a majority of MSPs backed the Bill.

But Rishi Sunak defended the Government's position, saying "it was a decision that we made after taking very careful and considered advice".

Former Advocate General for Scotland the Rt Hon the Lord Keen of Elie KC PC had



urged Downing Street to block the gender self-ID Bill. He said the legislation cut across the Equality Act 2010 and "clearly addresses issues reserved to the UK Government".

Former Supreme Court judge Lord Sumption said the Scottish Government's case was "weak".

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## Video of MP sharing Gospel in UK Parliament goes viral

Christian MP Nick Fletcher (pictured) has used a debate in Westminster Hall to share the Gospel with fellow Parliamentarians. A recording of his speech on the Institute's website has already been watched nearly 200,000 times.

In the debate on the importance of Christianity in society,

he reminded colleagues that "so many of the laws and values we now take for granted have their roots firmly in the Christian faith".

He told them that the Bible is "shockingly plain" that no one can make themselves good enough for God

because salvation is given to us by God "by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone".

Mr Fletcher later thanked CI supporters "from the bottom of my heart" for their support and prayers.



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