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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.

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.

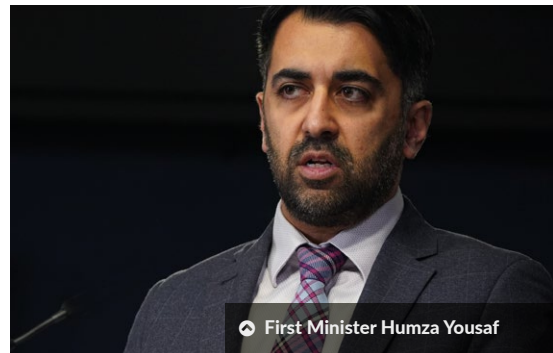
But several legal figures, including Dean of the Faculty of Advocates Roddy Dunlop KC and University of Glasgow law professor Adam Tomkins, agreed that it is likely to cost "at least hundreds of thousands of pounds".

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



▶ First Minister Humza Yousaf

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".

Scot Govt told not to criminalise Christians for upholding marriage

Twenty church leaders have warned the Scottish Government that it is at “grave risk” of criminalising pastors and parents through its ban on so-called conversion therapy.

In a letter to Scotland’s Minister for Equalities, Emma Roddick, they said a ban “would criminalise ordinary Christians and church leaders for expressing mainstream, orthodox belief”.

The Scottish Government is expected to bring forward a Bill by the end of the year. In October, an advisory group called for church ministers who uphold the Bible’s teaching on gender and sexual ethics to be re-educated by the State or removed from ministry.

Institute trustee Revd Dr William Philip of The Tron Church Glasgow, who co-signed the letter, called the proposals “alarming”.

“Threatening to punish



church leaders and churches for upholding Christian teaching; terrorising mothers and fathers with the spectre of removing their parental rights for simply trying to help their children navigate normal adolescence – are these really the marks of a free and tolerant society?”

A legal opinion for The Christian Institute by Aidan O’Neill KC indicates that the “fundamentally illiberal” proposals are “beyond the powers of the Scottish Parliament to legislate”.

The Institute has warned that it will take legal action if Edinburgh introduces a ban that catches the ordinary work of churches.



EHRC advises UK Government 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 UK Government.

The Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch (left) 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 for service providers “to make a women’s-only ward a space for biological women”

and for organisers of women’s sport to exclude men who identify as 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.



CI: 'Govt must act to tackle gambling black hole'

The Institute has criticised the UK Government's long-delayed gambling review for failing to take serious and immediate action.

The Government's White Paper on reforming Britain's Gambling Act 2005 recommends limited measures such as placing maximum stake limits of £2 or £4 on online slot machine games for under 25s and removing features which cause greater financial risk to gamblers of all ages.

But the Government has indicated that it is not aiming to implement its key measures before summer 2024.

The Institute's Ciarán Kelly said: "If the Government is really serious about stopping kids and other vulnerable people from being sucked into a gambling black hole, then it has to do more – and do it now. That includes tackling the bombardment of gambling advertising.

"Problem gambling wrecks lives. It's causing havoc in our society and the issue is not going away. The Government must act now to stem the tide."



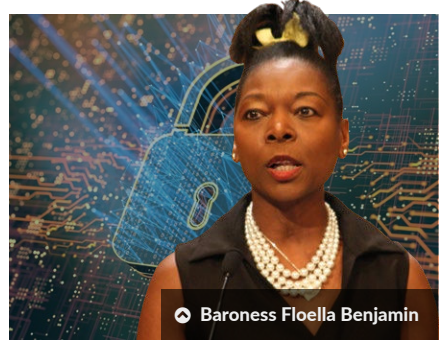
Floella: Online Safety Bill has to protect children from porn

Former children's TV star Floella Benjamin has shared that she has heard "first hand" from childhood trauma experts how early access to online pornography is a factor in the "rise in child-on-child sexual abuse".

Baroness

Benjamin is one of a number of Peers calling for the UK Government's Online Safety Bill to put an end to kids being exposed to online pornography by introducing robust age-verification measures.

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington highlighted that some girls are becoming terrified of



Baroness Floella Benjamin

growing up because they are "horrified by what they see".

She warned that this pushes some to identify as 'non-binary' or the opposite sex, with further damaging consequences.

Lady Jenkin said it was up to Parliament to take responsibility for 'sorting it out'.

Research by the Children's Commissioner for England found that half of 379 interview transcripts relating to child-on-child sexual abuse cases from 2012 to 2022 contained at least one reference to violent acts common in pornography.

Civil servant dismissed for 'belief that biological sex matters'

A former civil servant is taking the Scottish Government to an employment tribunal alleging that he was dismissed from Transport Scotland because of his views on biological sex.

Kenny McBride claims he was fired after asking on an internal social networking site if there were plans for a staff network for civil servants who defend biological reality.

McBride said: "My goal is to force the Scottish government to end its hostility to civil servants who believe that sex matters".



At Westminster, the Sex Equality and Equity Network was launched last year. It aims to help civil servants exercise their freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

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Addicts overdosing on NHS heroin

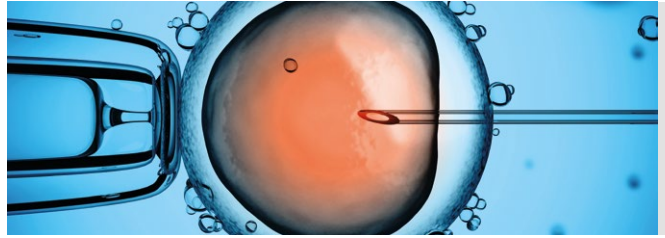
Drug addicts have been overdosing on heroin supplied by NHS Scotland as part of a so-called harm reduction scheme.

Since 2019, Glasgow's Enhanced Drug Treatment Service has recorded 26 overdoses among its 24 clients.

The NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Trust said that it had spent almost four million pounds on the scheme from start-up to December 2022.



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.

Faith groups team up to warn against assisted suicide plans

In May, the Church of Scotland joined Roman Catholic and Muslim leaders in warning the Scottish Government against legalising assisted suicide.

The Kirk's former Moderator the Rt Revd Dr Iain Greenshields, Roman Catholic Bishop John Keenan and Imam Shaykh Khandwalla signed a joint statement opposing Liam McArthur MSP's proposed Bill.

The Assisted Dying (Scotland) Bill is expected to be drafted by the end of the year.



If passed it will allow residents aged 16 or over and deemed to be terminally ill to be prescribed drugs to kill themselves.

The joint statement warned: "There is a very real danger that once legalised, these

practices could put pressure on vulnerable individuals to opt for assisted suicide.

"The ways in which similar laws in other countries are being applied, and the effect that its introduction would

have on some of the most vulnerable in our society, including the disabled and the elderly, would be extremely detrimental. We are called to care for those who are suffering, not to end their lives."

A 2022 poll found that 95 per cent of palliative care doctors in Scotland would not prescribe drugs for an assisted suicide.

More than seven in ten said they would consider resigning if their organisation implemented such programmes.

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Pupils snub Scot Govt sex survey

Tens of thousands of pupils have refused to complete an intrusive nationwide survey on their personal lives.

Conducted in schools between October 2021 and June 2022, the Scottish Government's 'Health and Wellbeing Census' asked teens in years S4 to S6 shocking sexual questions, and quizzed primary school children about their home lives.

Following its release, The Christian Institute urged parents to write to their local councillors to express their opposition to the use of



the survey in their own area.

It has now been revealed that only half of Scotland's 32 local authorities participated in the initiative – many considering the questionnaire unsuitable for distribution.

Across all age groups

researchers found that the response rate for the 16 councils which collected data was 58.3 per cent, representing 134,044 pupils. But more than half of the teenagers in S4 – aged 14-15 at the start of the school year – ignored the survey.

Students in their final year of secondary education were even less inclined to answer the Government's questions, with more than two-thirds of teens in S6 choosing not to take part.

Campaigners accused the Scottish Government of wasting children's time and taxpayers' money, while the Scottish Conservatives argued that the lack of engagement showed pupils were "uncomfortable" answering such inappropriate and intrusive questions.

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Video of MP sharing Gospel in UK Parliament goes viral

Christian MP Nick Fletcher (pictured) has used a Westminster debate 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 Christian Institute supporters "from the bottom of my heart" for their support and prayers.



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