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Standing firm on Christian values

A change of Government can create uncertainty for many. We give thanks that God is sovereign – he is always in control.

The Cass Report marks a significant and welcome milestone in the battle against radical transgender ideology – a battle the Institute has been fighting for more than twenty years. There now seems to be a greater political as well as social consensus on the dangers of channelling children towards damaging 'sex-swap' drugs. The Scottish Government now needs to implement Cass's recommendations. Sadly, the governments at

Westminster and Holyrood both seem set to press ahead with a broad 'conversion therapy' ban that could criminalise loving parents and faithful Christians. If any such law tramples on religious freedom, we remain prepared to take legal action.

As the dust settles on the 2024 Election, we must remain vigilant on these issues and many more. Laws on abortion, assisted suicide, gambling could all change in the next few years. Please continue to pray for our political leaders, and urge them to pass laws that restrain evil and promote good.

CI: 'A new conversion practices law will land Scot Govt in court'

The Christian Institute has reminded the Scottish Government that it faces a tough legal battle in its controversial bid to outlaw so-called conversion practices.

Activists are campaigning for a ban to cover "casual conversations" and "gentle, non-coercive prayer". They even want children to be able to 'change gender' without their parents' consent.

The Institute said that if Holyrood passes a law trampling on basic freedom of speech and religion it is ready to take a challenge all the



way to the Supreme Court.

The SNP Government intends to pursue controversial plans to outlaw practices that seek to change, suppress or inhibit someone's sexual orientation or gender identity.

But speaking to Holyrood's Health

Committee in May, top paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass said the Scottish Government's plans put clinicians "in a difficult position".

Dr Cass also told MSPs she believed gender-confused children and young people in Scotland would benefit from a clinical approach

that does not push them into puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones.

The Institute previously took the Scottish Government to court over its unpopular Named Person law. In 2016, the UK Supreme Court ruled unanimously against the scheme.

Assisted suicide Bill implies that some Scots are 'better off dead'



◀ Nicola Sturgeon

People in Scotland with a terminal illness could feel pressured to kill themselves under Liam McArthur's assisted suicide Bill, Nicola Sturgeon has warned.

The proposals, which have been tabled in Holyrood, would remove end-of-life protections to allow vulnerable people to seek help from a doctor to kill themselves. In such cases, their death

would be recorded as 'natural' rather than suicide.

Writing in the Glasgow Times, the former First Minister said she was surprised to find herself "veering away from a vote in favour" of the legislation.

She warned that "it will be impossible to properly guarantee that no-one at the end of their life will feel a

degree of pressure, a sense that it might be better for others for them not [to] be here".

In May, the United Free Church of Scotland's Moderator, Revd Andrew Downie, and the Free Church of Scotland's Moderator, Revd Bob Akroyd, told MSPs that the Bill risks creating a society where people are valued according to their "usefulness".

They urged Holyrood to grasp the ramifications of a law that suggests "if a life does not reach a certain quality, then it loses its worth and can be ended".

Legislation to introduce assisted suicide is already being considered in the Isle of Man and Jersey, with efforts to legalise the practice also underway in England and Wales.

WATCH: 'Better Off Dead?': BBC puts spotlight on disabled opposition to assisted suicide

bit.ly/BBC-BetterOffDead



Holyrood backs abortion 'censorship zones' despite threat to religious freedom

The Scottish Parliament has imposed nationwide censorship zones that ban silent prayer within 200 metres of an abortion centre.

In June, MSPs backed the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill by 118 votes to 1.

As well as silent prayer, the Bill bans any offer of assistance to women seeking abortions within the zones. Gillian Mackay MSP, the architect of



the Bill, claimed an exemption for silent prayer would allow behaviours that are "intimidating" and projected "a sense of judgment" and risked undermining the Bill.

The Bill was passed as the number of

abortions in Scotland reached record levels.

Data published by Public Health Scotland in June revealed there were an unprecedented 18,207 abortions in 2023. Almost all were carried out for 'social reasons'.

The majority took place at home following just a phone or video consultation.

The figures include 285 babies aborted because they were deemed to have a disability, including 48 with Down's syndrome.

Colin Hart remembered

On 13 June, a memorial service was held at All Souls, Langham Place to give thanks for the life of The Christian Institute's Founder and Director, Colin Hart, who died suddenly on 13 March 2024.

WATCH

the.ci/fullmemorialservice



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Scots schools 'breaking law' on single-sex toilets

Most Scottish secondary schools are unlawfully forcing boys and girls to share mixed-sex toilets, campaign group For Women Scotland has found.

According to Freedom of Information requests, only 13 of the 243 secondary schools surveyed comply with equality law on the provision of separate toilets for boys and girls. The requests also revealed that almost all operate a gender self-ID policy, and over half allow boys to participate in girls' PE lessons.

For Women Scotland attributed the increase in mixed-sex toilets to the "introduction of gender ideology, which is now deeply embedded in schools and oblivious to the harms it causes children, particularly girls".

One school in Edinburgh for children with autism has been found to be 'championing' trans



ideology to obtain accreditation from controversial charity LGBT Youth Scotland (LGBTYS).

The Daily Telegraph revealed that notice boards display slogans such as "come out for LGBT" and "trans women are real women".

In April, LGBTYS demanded that Glasgow's Sandford gender clinic reverse its decision to pause the prescription of puberty-blockers and cross-sex hormones to new patients, despite evidence they are unsafe.

Online gambling crackdown looks to tackle 'worst features'

Online betting firms will be banned from giving gamblers an "illusion of control" under a raft of new measures.

The Gambling Commission will also prohibit features that "deliberately speed up play", or allow multiple games to be played at once. In addition, websites will no longer be able to use audio visuals to celebrate returns less than or equal to a stake.

Former Scotland manager Craig Levein recently opened up about his gambling habit, saying his problems "changed

enormously" with the growth of online gambling. He revealed that the shame of his lies eventually led him to quit.



Scottish Govt under pressure to adopt Cass recommendations



The Scottish Government has been told the findings of the Cass Report should be heeded if vulnerable children are to be protected from radical gender ideology.

Giving evidence to Holyrood's Health Committee in May, Dr Hilary Cass said gender-

confused children and young people in Scotland should not be pushed into taking puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones.

Later, in a motion on implementing the Cass Review in Scotland, Meghan Gallacher MSP called on colleagues to endorse the report

as "a valid scientific document".

Alba's Ash Regan agreed, arguing that "drastic change is urgently needed" to protect children in Scotland from "a medical scandal".

Responding, Health Minister Jenni Minto committed the Government to a 'careful examination' of the report followed by an update to Parliament "before the summer recess". However, no update was given

before Holyrood rose on 27 June.

The Telegraph reported that the medical directors of Glasgow and Lothian, Scotland's two largest health boards, have also urged Scotland's Chief Medical Officer to adopt Cass's findings.



WATCH
[the.ci/CassReview](https://www.theci.org.uk/CassReview)

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Almost half of Scots want to ditch new hate-crime law

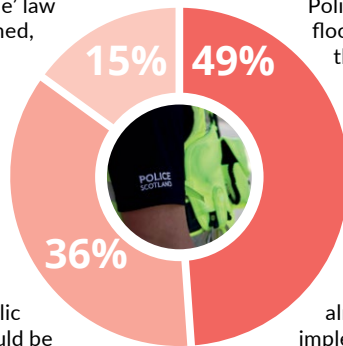
Nearly half of Scots agree that the Scottish Government's new 'hate-crime' law should be ditched, according to recent polling.

Of the 1,080 people aged 16 and over questioned by Savanta, 49 per cent said the Hate Crime and Public Order Act should be repealed. Only 36 per cent

wanted to keep the law, with 15 per cent undecided.

Police Scotland was flooded with more than 10,000 hate-crime allegations when the new law came into force. Eleven percent were recorded as crimes.

The force has already spent almost £500,000 implementing the controversial Act.



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