



INSIDE

- ▶ Oireachtas committee pushes Govt to legalise assisted suicide
- ▶ Safeguards rejected as abortion censorship zones pushed through
- ▶ Cass Report exposes damage to children from trans ideology

Standing firm on Christian values

Talk is already turning to the next General Election. The next few months could see a flurry of new laws of concern to Christians.

The vague 'hate speech' Bill remains a serious threat to free speech and religious liberty. This dangerously flawed piece of legislation risks stifling legitimate debate on controversial issues such as same-sex marriage.

Plans to introduce euthanasia would remove end-of-life protections from vulnerable people when they need it most. This is not a mark of a caring society.

The UK's Cass Review marks a significant and welcome milestone in the international battle against radical transgender ideology – a battle the Institute has been fighting for more than twenty years. Dublin needs to act on the clear warnings of this landmark report and end the practice of channelling children towards damaging 'sex swap' drugs.

Christians must remain vigilant on these issues and many more.

Please continue to pray for our political leaders, and urge them to pass laws which restrain evil and promote good.

'Hate speech' Bill to be pushed through before next election

Taoiseach Simon Harris has pledged to pass the Government's controversial 'hate speech' Bill before the next General Election, which must be held by 22 March 2025.

The Criminal Justice (Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences) Bill is set to significantly expand and replace existing hate-crime legislation in Ireland. It includes a new offence of inciting hatred against others based on their protected characteristics, which carries a possible five-year prison sentence.



But following criticism over the Bill's impact on free speech, the Taoiseach promised the Bill would be amended to "address significant concerns".

Harris acknowledged that politicians need to be "a bit more humble" when concerns are raised, an issue highlighted following the landslide defeats of the coalition's

plans to change the Irish Constitution to downgrade marriage and motherhood.

A new hate-crime law was first proposed by former Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan. But he now calls the present version of the Bill a "runaway train" that requires "radical surgery" to make it fit for purpose.

The TD criticised Scotland's recently

enacted Hate Crime and Public Order Act, which sparked more than 7,000 complaints in its first week. A poll in May found nearly half of Scots over 16 want to ditch the law.

Flanagan said: "An Garda Síochána have enough to be dealing with, without dealing with thousands of complaints. We have to learn from the Scottish debacle."

Oireachtas committee pushes Govt to legalise assisted suicide

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Assisted Dying has recommended that the Government allows terminally ill adults to get help to kill themselves.

The Committee suggested that end-of-life protections should be removed in “certain restricted circumstances”, despite some members calling the case against any change “overwhelming”.

The proposals would apply to adult Irish citizens deemed to be suffering ‘intolerably’ from a terminal illness and with less than six months to live – or



twelve months for neurodegenerative conditions.

Irish Times columnist Breda O'Brien highlighted that several countries have seen “expansion after expansion of the grounds for assisted

suicide and euthanasia”.

“Yet we retain the fond delusion that there is something about the Irish that means we will not slither down any slippery slopes”.

Consultant geriatrician Professor Desmond O'Neill also

warned that such laws imply that “some lives are not worth living”, which will increase “prejudice against life with disability or conditions such as dementia”.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has maintained its opposition to assisted suicide. Revd Daniel Kane said it was not “the hallmark of a mature, caring and compassionate society.”

In June, Gino Kenny TD tabled his latest attempt to remove end-of-life protections for vulnerable people resident on the island of Ireland.

Safeguards rejected as abortion censorship zones pushed through

The President has signed a Bill banning pro-life witness outside abortion centres into law after it was pushed through the Seanad.

The Health (Termination of Pregnancy) (Safe Access Zones)

Act bans any pro-life presence within 100 metres of facilities where abortions are carried out. This includes abortion centres, women's health clinics, and GP surgeries.

It was opposed in the Seanad by Senator Rónán Mullen, who said it “interferes with normal freedom of expression”.

He warned that “solid and responsible citizens” risked public harassment by the Gardaí, for “objecting to something they regard as a breach of fundamental authentic human rights”.

At the Committee Stage, Senator Sharon Keogan, who

has lost two children through miscarriage, said: “To bring this draconian legislation in is a sad day for free speech in this country, and a sad day for the unborn.”

According to HSE data, the number of abortions in Ireland reached a record high in 2023. GPs made 9,218 claims for “Combined termination procedure and aftercare” between January and November, a rise of 23 per cent.

The figures do not cover abortions performed in hospitals, which could take the overall number to more than 10,000.



President Michael D. Higgins

Join our free mailing list

Stay informed with the latest news, and receive urgent matters for prayer and free copies of our latest resources.

 the.ci/sign-up



Sign up

Ask us to visit your church


If you would like us to speak at your church on key issues for Christians, email us at:


roi@christian.org.uk

Give to the work of the CI

None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our supporters.

Give regularly
 the.ci/donate

Leave a legacy
 the.ci/legacy

Or call
 0044 191 2815664



CI blasts taxpayer-funded NI 'conversion practices' study

The Christian Institute has slammed a taxpayer-funded study pushing Northern Ireland to impose a new 'conversion practices' law based on the allegations of just ten people.

Led by LGBT lobby group The Rainbow Project, it interviewed people who claimed they were offered or experienced conversion practices in the last decade.

The authors allege that seven participants encountered conversion practices through "faith groups", and listed "prayer" as one of the "frameworks and techniques involved in conversion practices".

The Institute's Acting Director Ciarán Kelly called the study "useless", noting its own admission that it is unrepresentative of the public.



But in June, a motion relying on the study called for the NI Communities Minister to bring forward legislation for "a ban on conversion practices in all forms".

The motion passed the Stormont Assembly but does not force the NI Executive to bring in new legislation.

NI Appeal Court: Christian RE does not breach human rights

Exclusively-Christian religious education in Northern Irish primary schools is legal, Belfast's Court of Appeal has confirmed.

Currently, RE lessons and daily collective worship such as assemblies must focus on Christianity.

The non-religious parents of a child in Belfast argued that excluding other worldviews breached their child's human rights and in July 2022 a

High Court judge ruled in their favour.

But at the end of April, the Court of Appeal ruled that there was no breach of human rights. It highlighted

that parents have the "unqualified statutory right" to withdraw their children from both RE lessons and collective worship if they choose.



Cass Report exposes damage to children from trans ideology

A leading clinician has called on the Government to adopt the Cass Report recommendations for the care of gender-confused children.

Writing in The Journal, Dr Paul Moran, a doctor at Ireland's National Gender Service, described the landmark report as "the most comprehensive review of available evidence, experience and expertise ever conducted".

Top paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass concluded that the practice of giving 'sex-swap' drugs to under-18s is based on "remarkably weak evidence". As a result, steps are being taken to better protect UK children from experimental puberty-blocking drugs and cross-sex hormones.

Dr Moran had first raised clinical concerns with the Health Service Executive over its use of NHS England's gender services for



children in 2019.

The expert, who served on the Cass Review's Clinical Expert Group, urged the Irish Government to heed the report's warnings and "immediately" stop the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for children.

He also called on politicians to ditch controversial guidelines produced by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health from the nation's health programme and put a brake on social transitioning in schools.

A woman with long blonde hair and glasses is sitting at a desk, reading an open book. She is wearing a patterned sweater. The background is a blurred bookshelf.

Employment opportunities

Candidates will be graduates, highly accurate, numerate and with good communication skills. They must be able to analyse, evaluate and summarise information from a biblical perspective. 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.

0044 191 281 5664 judi.coulson@christian.org.uk

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND RESOURCES GO TO OUR WEBSITE: **THE.CI**



CHRISTIANINSTITUTE



THECI_IRELAND

Registered office: The Christian Institute, Wilberforce House, 4 Park Road, Gosforth Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8DG, UK
Tel: 0044 191 281 5664 | Email: roi@christian.org.uk | Web: the.ci | Published in July 2024
Registered as a company in England (Company No. 263 4440). Registered as a charity in England (Charity No. 100 4774)
and in Scotland (Charity No. SC039220). An application for registration in Ireland is intended in due course.