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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.

Sadly, the new Government also seems set to press ahead

with a broad 'conversion therapy' ban that could criminalise loving parents and faithful Christians. We recently exposed some of the dodgy research used by those clamouring for preaching, prayer and pastoral care to be outlawed.

As the dust settles on the 2024 Election, we must remain vigilant on these issues and many more. Laws on abortion, assisted suicide and 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.

Cass Report exposes damage to children from trans ideology

Children in the UK are set to be better protected from experimental puberty-blocking drugs and cross-sex hormones following the Cass Review's final report on gender services in England.

Top paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass concluded that the practice of giving 'sex swap' drugs to under-18s is based on "remarkably weak evidence". She urged NHS England to review its use of cross-sex hormones and ensure that gender-confused children receive a holistic assessment of all their needs.



NHS England had already stopped routinely prescribing puberty blockers, but has now also agreed to review all trans procedures for children and adults. Scotland and Wales have both paused puberty blockers for new patients, while Northern Ireland

already intended to restrict under-18s' access to the drugs.

Enraged trans activists publicly disparaged the Review, complaining that it was prejudiced for disregarding around

100 pro-trans studies. But the highly respected medic hit back, accusing them of "misinformation" as she explained that her team only used research deemed to be of moderate or high quality.

She told The Times that deliberate attempts to undermine the report were "putting children at risk". Labour has said it will work to bring in Cass's recommendations.

WATCH
the.ci/CassReview



Columnist exposes 'chilling' views of assisted suicide campaigners

Readers of The Times have reacted in disbelief to claims by one of the paper's star columnists that it would be a "good thing" if the elderly and infirm were encouraged to believe their "time is up".

One warned that Matthew Parris's argument would have "untold costs for the most vulnerable in society". Another expressed the fear

that society already pushes the view "that some people's lives are worth less than others".

The Christian Institute's Acting Director Ciarán Kelly described the column as "truly chilling", but warned that Parris was merely stating what proponents of assisted suicide really think but like to keep hidden.

Legislation to permit assisted suicide is already being considered in Scotland, the Isle of Man and Jersey. A celebrity-backed campaign to legalise the practice in England and Wales is



also underway.

In a recent BBC One documentary, disabled actress Liz Carr powerfully argued that legalising assisted suicide

threatened disabled people because of the "dangerous assumption that some of us are better off dead".



Matthew Parris

WATCH
bit.ly/BBC-BetterOffDead

'Families would benefit from tougher Sunday trading restrictions': USDAW

Restricting Sunday trading hours for online businesses and deliveries to

match those of 'bricks and mortar' traders would be better for family life, a top union

representative has said.

John Barstow of trade union USDAW

challenged calls to remove current protections for workers, saying everyone would benefit from a clearer break from trading.

The Sunday Trading Act currently prevents large stores from opening for more than six consecutive hours between 10am and 6pm on

Sundays, but this does not apply online.

Barstow said ditching the limit on shopping hours would be a "slash and burn race to the bottom", noting "it's about common sense and pacing oneself. People need a breather and chance to unwind with the family."



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.

The service was led by the Institute's Chairman, Revd Dr Richard Turnbull.

Eulogies were delivered by Revd Lyndon Bowring of CARE and the CI's Acting Director Ciarán

Kelly. Institute trustee Rupert Bentley-Taylor preached on Isaiah 32:8.



"the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands"

Isaiah 32:8



Memorial Service for
Colin Hart
Founder and Director, The Christian Institute
1963 - 2024
All Souls Langham Place
Thursday 13 June 2024

WATCH

the.ci/fullmemorialservice

Christian RE does not breach human rights



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

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

Backed by activist law firm Phoenix Law, the non-religious parents of a child in Belfast argued this breached their child's human rights. In July 2022 a High Court judge ruled in their favour.

But at the end of April, the

Court of Appeal ruled that no such breach had occurred. It highlighted that parents have the "unqualified statutory right" to withdraw their children from both RE lessons and collective worship if they choose.

Welsh schools rife with trans-affirming ideology

Welsh schools are adopting ideologically-driven policies on gender identity, a women's sex-based rights group has revealed.

Freedom of Information requests by Merched Cymru found that approaches included affirming trans identities, concealing information from parents, and allowing access to opposite sex facilities.

The requests also uncovered evidence of poor practice, with policies "based on inaccurate, discredited" and "highly ideological" guidance.

Merched Cymru believes its research "shows how schools in Wales are



compromising children's safety and wellbeing", and called on the Welsh Government to "publish

draft guidance that is in accordance with extant law and not political aspirations".



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Report: 'Children lured into gambling by ads'

Many children see gambling as a normal part of everyday life, according to research commissioned by the charity GambleAware.

The study found children were introduced to gambling through

advertisements, online games and family members and friends.

Based on the research, it concluded: "the current way in which gambling is portrayed in everyday life, in culture, and in advertising, is failing

to communicate the risks to children".

The charity has recommended a number of measures, including "a stronger degree of regulation on online gambling advertising, so that it is clear that the products are not for children".



DfE rejects new calls for England smacking ban

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that a ban on smacking in England is unnecessary.

In April, The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health published a report urging Ministers in both England and Northern Ireland to change the law.

But a DfE spokesperson said: "Any form of violence towards a child is completely unacceptable and we have clear laws in place to prevent it."

They added that the safeguarding framework for children in England "makes clear what organisations should do to

keep children safe".

However, the new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has previously called for England and Northern Ireland to follow Wales and Scotland by criminalising parents who reasonably chastise their children.



Our new Government

The UK now has a Labour Government. What might this mean for key areas of the Institute's work?



Dave Greatorex,
Head of
Research



Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister

Conversion therapy law

Labour's manifesto promised to introduce "a full trans-inclusive ban on conversion practices" but claimed it will still protect people's freedom "to explore their sexual orientation and gender identity".

Gender recognition reform

The manifesto pledged to "modernise, simplify, and reform the intrusive and outdated gender recognition law". It said it will do this while continuing to uphold the single-sex exceptions under the Equality Act 2010.

Cass Review

The Labour manifesto promised to implement the Cass Review "to ensure that young people presenting

to the NHS with gender dysphoria are receiving appropriate and high-quality care". The Party welcomed the decision by NHS England in March to stop the routine prescription of puberty blockers to under-18s.

Trans and RSE guidance for schools*

It will be up to Labour whether or not to move ahead with the helpful draft guidance published under the previous government. It has said it agrees with the principle that "parents should have an explicit right to know what their children are being taught". However, it also suggested caution over promoting gender ideology could 'prejudice children's views'.

*Devolved to Wales

Abortion

Labour has pledged to provide parliamentary time for free votes on 'modernising' abortion law.

Assisted suicide

Keir Starmer voted in favour of legalising assisted suicide when it was last debated in 2015. He still supports changing the law to

remove end of life protections and has committed to allowing parliamentary time to debate the issue.

Gambling

Labour's manifesto said it is "committed to reducing gambling-related harm" and "will reform gambling regulation, strengthening protections".



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CI blasts taxpayer-funded research on conversion practices as 'useless'

An activist-led study documenting the allegations of just ten people was used by Northern Ireland MLAs to demand that the Executive ban "conversion practices in all forms".

The taxpayer-funded study was led by LGBT lobby group The Rainbow Project. Its researchers 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".

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

He said: "This is nothing more than the work of activists, branded with the campaign colours of a lobby group yet paid for by Northern Ireland's hardworking taxpayers."

The Institute has warned the NI Executive it will take

legal action if proposals for a new law interfere with the ordinary work of churches.

The motion passed by 41 votes to 25 but does not force the Communities Minister, Gordon Lyons, to bring in new legislation.

Responding, Mr Lyons said: "While it is important that we have protections against coercive, abusive and unsafe practices, it is vital that rights, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion, are protected."



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Majority of public oppose decriminalising abortion

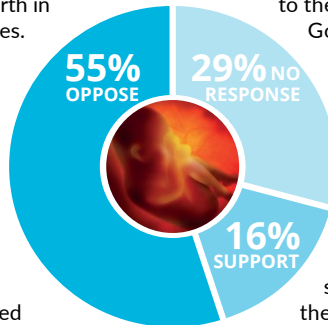
The majority of the public oppose decriminalising abortion up to birth in England and Wales.

Of 2,011 adults surveyed by Whitestone Insight, 55 per cent agreed that abortion should remain generally illegal after 24 weeks. Only 16 per cent supported decriminalisation, while

29 per cent did not answer.

Backbench amendments to the previous

Government's Criminal Justice Bill would have allowed a woman to take abortion pills up to birth, for any reason, without risk of sanction. Due to the election, the Bill did not proceed.



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