

## INSIDE

- Govt acknowledges CI concerns over trans capture of schools
- PM urged to bin conversion practices law threatening parents and churches
- Abortion censorship zones now in force across the UK

# Made in the image of God

In recent weeks, we have been heavily focused on opposing the campaign to axe end-of-life protections for some of the most vulnerable people in society.

The recent vote in the House of Commons was very disappointing. It reflects a casual disregard for the status of human beings made in the image of God.

Pro-euthanasia activists know that if Kim Leadbeater's Bill becomes law, it will expand quickly. As has happened elsewhere, the frail, the elderly, the disabled, in fact anyone feeling they are a

burden, will be encouraged to ask for help to kill themselves. With further votes ahead in Parliament, we will continue to fight for hope and compassion against the despair of assisted suicide.

We give thanks to God that support for our challenge to Government plans for new 'conversion therapy' laws is growing.

After more than 20 years of highlighting the damage done by gambling, we also welcome the action being taken to curb this scourge on society.

# MPs back assisted suicide

MPs have voted by 330 to 275 in support of the principle of Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill intends to allow those in England and Wales deemed to be terminally ill and with less than six months to live to receive help to kill themselves.

The backbench MP's Private Member's Bill is now being considered at Committee Stage.

The Christian Institute's Director Ciarán Kelly lamented: "It's deeply disappointing that the Commons has agreed to endorse this dangerous and divisive Bill. I'm grateful to the many MPs who spoke and



voted against it. The fight is not over."

He added: "I would urge Christians to keep on praying and to be ready to approach their MPs again over the coming months. This is a life and death issue. Now is not the time to give up."

Numerous MPs spoke out against the proposals, including Mother of the House Diane Abbott who said "robust safeguards" are needed to protect the vulnerable from "predatory relatives", the State and themselves if they ever feel a burden.

Conservative MP Danny Kruger said legalisation would lead to a utilitarian world where humans are considered valuable "only for so long as we are useful – not a burden, not a cost, not making a mess".

# Govt acknowledges CI concerns over trans capture of schools

The Government has thanked The Christian Institute for raising the “important matter” of protecting pupils from radical gender ideology.

Education Minister Stephen Morgan MP welcomed a CI-coordinated letter urging the Government to introduce draft guidance that safeguards pupils from ideologically driven teaching on gender and sex.



The letter, signed by over 100 teachers, governors and others working in education, urged the Government to introduce draft guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), and Gender Questioning Children.

Mr Morgan confirmed that both drafts are still under review, but assured the Institute that Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson acknowledged that “children’s wellbeing must be at the heart of this guidance”.

He added that the Government will “discuss with stakeholders and



consider the relevant evidence, including the Cass Review” before setting out next steps.

Institute Head of Education John Denning gave a cautious welcome to the Government’s response.

He said it indicates that “the law forbids schools from having a blanket policy to

affirm children’s social transition”, but warned education policy has been shaped by ideology for too long.

“We need the Government to act soon, and to act decisively to bring an end to these damaging practices in our schools and to reject the demands of trans activism.”

# PM urged to bin conversion practices law threatening parents and churches

The Prime Minister has been warned that a ‘conversion practices’ law risks criminalising parents who object to their child taking puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones.

The UK Government is set to bring forward a “full trans-inclusive ban”, but in a letter to Sir Keir Starmer, 140 doctors, psychiatrists, politicians and other professionals warned against introducing new laws.

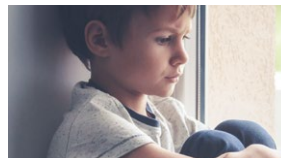
They wrote: “the real ‘conversion’ taking place is that of children who are being led to believe, in schools and

elsewhere, that it is possible to be born in the wrong body. We believe that your focus should be squarely on tackling that.”

Revd Dr Thomas Brand, Chairman of the Greater Love Declaration, said the Government’s pledge to only protect “non-directive” counselling could also criminalise

pastoral conversations.

“Christian ministry is most certainly directive. It’s the job of church leaders to urge people to follow Christ and turn away from sin. The Government’s assurances would do nothing to protect ordinary Christian ministry.”



## Police log 13k non-crime hate incidents

Police forces in Britain recorded 13,200 'non-crime hate incidents' (NCHIs) in the year to June 2024, requiring an estimated 60,000 hours of police time to investigate them.

Refusing to shake hands, an 'aggressive haircut', and running through a garden have all been logged by officers as NCHIs, prompting critics to call for them to be scrapped.



## Commission raps LGBT group for multiple failings



Controversial pro-trans group Mermaids has been found guilty of significant failings by the Charity Commission.

The Commission found that the charity had been promoting inaccurate guidance on puberty-blocking drugs and supplying teenage girls with chest binders without parental consent.

The regulator also criticised Mermaids for appointing a trustee who had previously sought to normalise sexual activity between adults and children.

## Govt: 'Islamophobia' definition 'not in line' with equality laws

Faith Minister Lord Khan has admitted that the controversial Labour-backed definition of Islamophobia is "not in line" with equality laws.

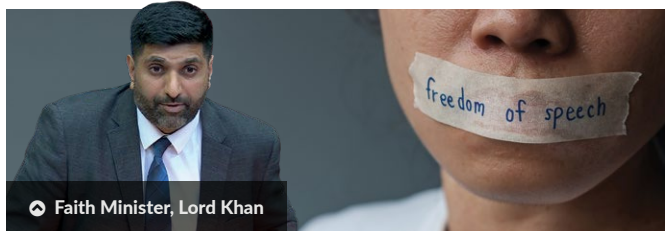
The definition, adopted by the Party in 2019, claims Islamophobia is "rooted in racism" and "targets expressions of Muslimness".

Former UK counter-terror chief Neil Basu warned it "risks shutting down debate" and

could be used to undermine counter-terror laws.

Christian Institute Director Ciarán Kelly noted that Christians who say "Islam is false" or that "Jesus is the only way to God" could be caught by the broad definition.

Amid such concerns, Lord Khan pledged the Government would "never inhibit the lawful right to freedom of expression" when tackling 'religious hatred'.



## Govt review puts Welsh churches at risk of bureaucratic burden

The Institute has been helping churches in Wales respond to a Welsh Government review of regulatory requirements for childcare.

Most churches are covered by current exemptions for those working with children for up to two hours a day, or no more than five days a year.

If those exemptions are narrowed, churches risk being landed with a huge bureaucratic burden and subjected to

state inspections.

Holiday clubs, church weekends and even Sunday Schools face intrusive regulation if the current exceptions are tightened or removed. Safeguarding checks still apply

and are not directly covered by the review.

The stakeholder survey of 'childcare, play and activities for children in Wales' closed in November.

A full public consultation is expected in 2025.



Would you like us to visit your church?



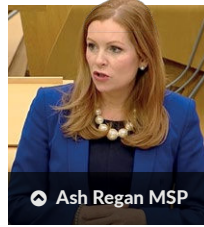
We have over 60,000 supporters and visit over 300 churches a year to talk about key issues for Christians.

If you would like your church to be one of them, email us at: [info@christian.org.uk](mailto:info@christian.org.uk)

## Fresh push to help women exit prostitution in Scotland

Former SNP minister Ash Regan is seeking to better protect vulnerable women and girls by overhauling Scotland's prostitution laws.

Now an Alba MSP, Regan has proposed a Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill to criminalise the purchase of sex, while providing support for women to exit prostitution.



She stated: "Prostitution is inherently unsafe. There is no way to make being raped as a job safe and then put a veneer on it by calling it sex work."

The so-called

Nordic Model aims to reduce demand for prostitution, but has been criticised for encouraging sex trafficking by decriminalising the 'supply' of women.

Christian Institute Policy Researcher Jenny Olson thanked Regan for tackling "this dark form of exploitation" but called for "a rethink of the proposal to make it legal to solicit for sex".



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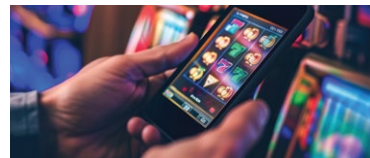
## New restrictions on online gambling 'a positive step'

Online slots stakes are to be limited and a £100 million statutory levy placed on the gambling industry in new measures to tackle the damage caused by gambling.

Highly addictive online slots will have their maximum stake limited to £2 for 18 to 24-year-olds and £5 for over-25s.

Institute Director Ciarán Kelly, who wrote to Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy in July asking for a strict limit on online stakes, called the news "a positive step".

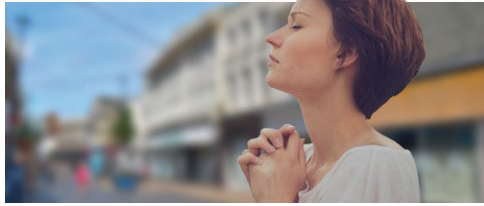
The new levy will fund industry research, prevention and treatment for those experiencing gambling-related harm. However, it is dwarfed by the enormous cost to society from gambling – estimated to be between 1 and 1.8 billion pounds per year.



# Abortion censorship zones now in force across the UK

Censorship zones banning offers of help to pregnant women near abortion centres are now in force across the UK.

New rules came into effect in England and Wales on 31 October. They include unlimited fines for “anything that intentionally or recklessly influences someone’s decision to use abortion services, obstructs them, or causes harassment or distress” within 150m of buildings where abortions are carried out.



The Westminster Government said its rules “could also cover prayer”, including “silent prayer”.

Similar zones came into force in Scotland in September, and pro-life witness is also banned near abortion centres in Northern Ireland.

The Institute’s Head of Policy and Research, David Greatorex, branded the regulations “an attack on free speech and religious liberty”.

“There are people who are only alive today because their mothers met someone ready to give them

an alternative to abortion.”

Earlier this year, pro-life campaigner Isabel Vaughan-Spruce received £13,000 and an apology from police after being wrongfully arrested for silently praying outside an abortion clinic in Birmingham.

But only months later, Adam Smith-Connor was found guilty for bowing his head and clasping his hands near an abortion centre in Bournemouth.

# Stormont sex ed consultation amended after CI intervention

The Christian Institute has secured important amendments to a Stormont consultation on Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE).

The online survey was launched to gauge public opinion on RSE and inform potential changes.

But the Institute identified multiple flaws, including providing only ‘Yes/No’ tick boxes to most questions, which left respondents unable to give fuller, qualified answers.

One question meant parents were required to agree that ‘LGBTQIA+’ issues should be taught in primary schools. Another asked whether

teaching on certain issues should be ‘age-appropriate’, but gave no opportunity for respondents to indicate what they felt would be age-appropriate or not.

The Assembly’s Committee for Education acknowledged the Institute’s concerns and agreed to change the survey,

including the addition of comment boxes to enable participants to provide meaningful feedback.

It has also agreed to extend the consultation period until 8 January 2025 and for previous participants to be allowed to resubmit their responses.



# John Burn OBE 1938-2024

The Christian Institute's founder and first Chairman, John Burn OBE, died in October aged 86.

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne in March 1938, John was a committed believer who sought to be a Christian influence in wider society, especially in the world of education.

A science teacher, in 1979 John became headmaster of Longbenton High School in North Tyneside. He attached great importance to daily Christian worship and Christian religious

education. It was during this time he received his OBE for services to education.

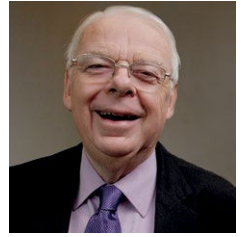
John met a young Colin Hart in the late 1980s, and together they set up The Christian Institute, with Colin as Director. John himself served as Chairman until 2021.

Their vision for a Christian-ethos state school also resulted in the formation of Emmanuel College in Gateshead. John became Principal in 1993, establishing its reputation as an outstanding school

with a clear Christian ethos and excellent academic results.

He left no surviving family, but will be greatly missed by his many friends, including Institute staff – some of whom worked alongside him for years.

Current Chairman Revd Dr Richard Turnbull, who took up the role when John retired, said: "With John, one always felt you were in the presence of a Christian



disciple, to whom the Lord would one day say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant'.

"The pain, suffering and grief are now over for John. We thank God for his life and vision."

READ A tribute to a friend, Stephen Grant [the.ci/JBtribute](https://the.ci/JBtribute)



## How to give to the work of the CI

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## Archbishop Welby resigns over child abuse report

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has resigned following the publication of the Makin Report into historic child sex abuse.

The report concluded that the Church of England had covered up the abuse of an estimated 130 boys in the 1970s and 1980s.

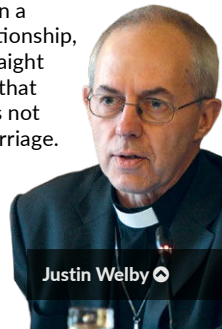
The Archbishop stepped down, accepting "personal and institutional responsibility" for the safeguarding failures.

It came just weeks after he ignored calls to resign for

publicly abandoning the Church's teaching on sexual ethics.

During an interview, Welby said that "all sexual activity should be within a committed relationship, whether it's straight or gay", adding that 'commitment' is not exclusive to marriage.

The process to appoint the next Archbishop could take several months.



Justin Welby

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