



# CCI Newsletter – March 2021



**CCI**  
Christian Council  
International

Transatlantic Christian Council

Dear Reader,

**Easter and Life** - The Easter message puts human life in eternal perspective. Created in God's image as man and woman, fallen into sin, God Himself made a way to (eternal) Life again. He gave His Son for us. After Good Friday, Easter rings out to us: I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me shall live... (John 11:25).

**Gender and abortion** - It is precisely the protection of human life and the biological creation of a man or a woman that are under great pressure. There is a hardening struggle going on in the TCC/CCI's work areas at international organizations such as the UN. This confrontation escapes the notice of the ordinary man or woman. Mostly rich Western countries impose an opposite secular agenda on developing countries from a great distance. It is about whether or not extremely controversial issues should be elevated to international standards and human rights. Examples are sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) - we would say gender ideology - and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) - in short, the right to abortion. As if poorer Member States and their citizens were not free to make their own decisions on these matters.

**Permanent monitoring** - Because democratic control hardly takes place, NGOs are active players here. There is a preponderance of government-funded NGOs that are committed to SOGI and SRHR. As an officially accredited organization with, among others, the UN, TCC/CCI wants to be active on the ground with permanent supervision and to use its powers as a consultative body. That this is not a hobby but an urgent necessity is proven by the statements submitted by TCC in recent months. Please read further in the newsletter.

**Money requested** - To be able to do this work, money is desperately needed. A multi-annual plan for '[Free. Brave 2021-2023](#)' is ready with a budget. We would like to recommend our work in your generosity and prayers. To keep costs as low as possible we are also looking for [volunteers and interns](#). Read it and apply!

**From TCC to CCI** - (Transatlantic) Christian Council International is moving towards CCI for unity of name. This because of our global field of work, which is broader than just Transatlantic. At the online event on Friday 30 April from 2:00-3:30 PM we will present ourselves with a new website.

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## Fields of activity

### “No”, against sexual colonialism



TCC/CCI answered questions on the future role and organisation of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). This as input for the debate to be held in April 2021 in New York.

Issues such as (the use and liberal interpretations of) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, comprehensive sex education, marriage and other forms of non-consensual policies, which have the obsessive, almost imperative, attention of some CPD member states, essentially belong to the domain of national legislation.

However, at the UN level, instead of reaching consensus, CPD tries to get these matters done through voting. As a result, new standards on controversial, internationally non-agreed texts are being forced upon developing countries by mostly Western UN member states and liberal NGOs.

## TCC/CCI says 'no' to this sexual colonialism!

[Read more....](#)

Mrs. Meskerem Ritmeester has been asked to conduct this scoping mission on behalf of the TCC/CCI, as she is currently living and working in Addis Ababa and therefore situated closely to the AU headquarters. She has close to 10 years of extensive cross-cultural experience working in international NGOs and consultancy projects in The Netherlands, Ethiopia, and South Africa. She is also a devoted Christian herself and is therefore able to sufficiently empathize with the values promoted by the TCC/CCI. For this particular assignment to succeed, Mrs. Meskerem will conduct a desk research to obtain an insight in the current AU governance system, the AU public policies impacting the TCC/CCI topics, and the influence of the EU and the US government on these AU public policies. She will also try to identify the specific role, influence and needs of the primary target group, influential individuals / groups, and interests groups with regard to each of the TCC/CCI topics. Finally, Mrs. Meskerem will develop a legal scan that informs the TCC/CCI on the different legal options to operate in Ethiopia. Based upon all the gathered information, the TCC/CCI will be able to make an informed decision with regard to starting their operations with the AU.



**AFRICAN UNION**

### Scoping mission to the African Union (AU)

The TCC/CCI is currently engaged in a scoping mission to the African Union (AU) to assess the opportunities for the TCC to establish a local representation with the Headquarters of the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The international consultant

## Pro-life, pro-family organizations join forces

On behalf of several pro-life and natural family organizations, TCC/CCI provided input on the [report on "Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity"](#) by the Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE-SOGI):

Reading the background, the objectives of the report and the key questions and types of input sought for the report fills us with concern. From the first sentence on gender is introduced as theory, which wording contains the claim of verifiable science. It portrays gender as a social construct or socially created. We believe that gender theory is an ideology. On a scientific basis we believe that sexes are based on biology. We also believe that God created human beings male and female, according to the Bible in the book Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." That has not changed. We also acknowledge that all human beings are captive to their sinful nature in which they are fallen, and are in need of redemption. That is possible because of the coming in the world and the saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ, Son of God.

It is from this background that our response is critical and asks for a rethink and we hope that it may contribute to your report. Our input is also in the recognition of the inherent dignity of every human being as an image bearer of God, which entails a political, economic and social framework that respects the right of each individual to live, as far as feasible, in liberty.

Far from claiming to be complete, but in this spirit, we provide you with the following input, starting with an introduction, followed by some points on policy, gender ideology, women protection, comprehensive sexuality education and concluding remarks.

[Read the full input submitted by TCC/CCI here.](#)

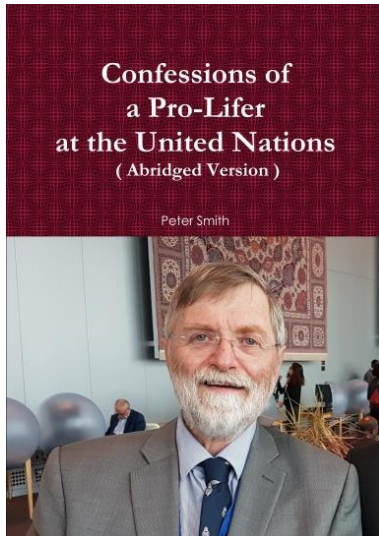


### Co-signed by:

- 1 Christian Council International, CCI (USA)
- 2 European Educators' Christian Association, EurECA (Swiss)
- 3 Vereniging Gereformeerd Schoolonderwijs, VGS (NL)
- 4 Zorg voor het Leven, NPV (NL)
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- 9 Wilberforce Foundation, WI (Albania)
- 10 Kenya Christian Professionals Forum (KCPF) (Kenya)



## Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)



### Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain ? Psalm 2:1

For the past 25 years I have attended UN meetings to lobby with the pro-life/ pro-family NGOs at the UN and would have attended around 150 meetings. Because of the COVID pandemic this year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is being held over the internet. Last year CSW was cancelled. I normally hang out where the document is being negotiated and encourage the diplomats, I know, to delete references to bad language and put in good stuff.

The United Nations was founded in 1945 in the ashes of WWII and was meant to prevent a third world war. After the end of the Cold War certain people decided to use the UN as a place to introduce a new world order, by the production of documents, non-binding, but by their endless repetition make them hard international law. By this process the world would be changed into a very politically correct place. The most radical of ideas contrary to the Word of God are promoted. Chief among these is making abortion a universal human rights. Our responses to this is that a wrong should not be made a right. The other big effort is to promote LGBTQI issues and to denigrate the traditional family. The UN is committed to individual human rights with no reference to the responsibility of individuals. All sorts of sin are being claimed as human rights.

The theme of this year's CSW is as follows:

**Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the**

**elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**

### Small summary

It is especially important to not just look at what is in the document but also to what is NOT in it. There is no mention explicitly of abortion. Also the term sexual and reproductive health rights ( SRHR ) is absent. Sexual orientation and gender identity were deleted from the second draft. We do not have, "various form of the family exist." Women and girls in all their diversity is not mentioned. In fact, there is no really radical stuff in this document. Also, the United States new Biden appointed people were most unhappy with the outcome document. A sure sign that they did not get their evil way this year. However, the battle will continue until the Lord return.

[Click here for the full report](https://www.lulu.com/en/us/shop/peter-smith/confessions-of-a-pro-lifer-at-the-united-nations-abridged-version/paperback/product-1g2rm8e9.html?page=)

**I have recently published a book on my experiences at the United Nations. This is available at :**

<https://www.lulu.com/en/us/shop/peter-smith/confessions-of-a-pro-lifer-at-the-united-nations-abridged-version/paperback/product-1g2rm8e9.html?page=>

*Peter Smith*

*Representing at the UN*

*Transatlantic Christian Council*

## Media

### Republican Votes

Contribution to Uitgelicht! 4 January 2021 - Henk Jan van Schothorst on the news that President Trump pressured a Georgia executive to find more votes.... [Click here to watch](#) (Dutch spoken)

### Trump acquitted of impeachment

Uitgelicht! 15 February 2021 - Henk-Jan van Schothorst on the acquittal of Trump impeachment proceedings.

Former president Donald Trump has been acquitted of his second impeachment procedure.

Will he have another shot at the presidency?



## Op-Ed: Biden's Equality Act – An Act of Equality or Persecution?

Authors: John Van Der Brink and Henk Jan van Schothorst



Under the election header 'Bold Ideas - The Biden Plan to Advance LGBTQ+ Equality in America and Around the World' stands in bold: 'Biden will make enactment of the Equality Act during his first 100 days as President a top legislative priority.' Today ten weeks at the helm, he is already well on his way. HR 5 was introduced and was passed with 224 to 206 votes by the House of Representatives with all but three Republicans voting against it and all Democrats voting in favor of it. The bill is now before the 100-seat Senate, where the vice president can break the tie. But passage there is expected to be more difficult because a 60-votes majority is required to avoid a filibuster (vote suppression due to endless verbiage), and currently there are only about 50 who favor it. Many Democrats have threatened to change the rules requiring a majority of 60, but Republicans are vehemently opposed to doing so. Making this rule change removes the stabilizing effect of a bipartisan majority support when bills are passed.

What is the Equality Act and why is it so dangerous to the moral future of America?

The roots of the Equality Act stem back to the Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in which same sex marriage was legalized. Ever since, and even before then, activists have been busy across the US to completely normalize the LGBTQ lifestyle. Their goal is to amend several sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to make sexual orientation and gender identity a protected class along with race, color, national origin etc. Proponents see this as being "fair" and treating all citizens equally.

But there is nothing fair about it. The results of passing the Equality Act will impose restrictions and cancel freedoms that have been part of our nation since its founding. Here are some its potential results.

- a. Anyone who voices opposition to the LGBTQ lifestyle would be guilty of hate speech and could be prosecuted for a civil violation. Think of what that means for Christian churches and schools who teach a Biblical view of sexuality! You would be free to speak about and promote the LGBTQ lifestyle, but you would not be free to speak about and promote a Christian lifestyle. Is that fair and equal?
- b. Christian owners and operators of businesses and institutions such as adoption agencies, banquet halls, cake producers, and rental facilities would be forced to modify their policies of operation or face fines or business closure. Is that fair or equal?
- c. Hiring practices which currently require a distinction between male and female would need to be abolished. For example, for a business to insist on hiring a locker room or dressing room attendant who is of the same biological sex would be forbidden. Boys would be allowed to use girls bathrooms and showers, participate in girls sports if they identified themselves as a female. Is that fair or equal to all the biological females (and their husbands) who feel unsafe, humiliated, ashamed, hurt and offended by such intolerable behavior?
- d. "Safe schools" would be established that would guarantee that children are taught to explore their sexuality as young as kindergarten. They would be taught they do not need to accept the way they were born, and that they can change that if they want. They may receive "sexual therapy" at school without even the consent of

their own parents. However, therapy to help children identify with the way they were born would be forbidden. Is this fair or equal?

- e. The use of traditional pronouns would change. There are already proposals to replace gender words such as he, him, she, her, etc. with non-gender specific pronouns. Imagine the total confusion this would create people involved in law enforcement, medicine, education, historical records and group accommodations. They would not be able to use words that identify whether someone is male or female. Is it fair or equal to those who want to be referred to as a male or female to have all references to their sexuality expunged?

The Equality Act is everything but fair and equal. Even worse, it tramples on the principles of God's Word and His created order of life, family and freedom. It is a systematic determined rejection of the basic tenets of Christianity. We are living in troublesome days, and our children are growing up in this troubled world, target of spreading this ideology. More than ever, we need biblically normed policies, shaped in free states governed by the rule of law. (Transatlantic) Christian Council International is actively working for that. In America and also in international organizations such as the UN and its member states. After all, righteousness exalts the nations?

The days ahead for America are filled with concern. Still, there is some reason to be hopeful. We change, but God does not change. Does He still have 7000 in America who have not bowed their knees to this spirit of our time? Are there those who are active at the throne of grace begging the Lord for mercy and grace? Are there leaders, and do we support those, who want to lead us according to the principles of God's Word? Nineveh was spared when it repented and cried to God for mercy. America must get on its knees and do the same.

*John Van Der Brink is director of the Netherlands Reformed Christian School in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, and a member of the Board of Directors of Christian Council International (CCI), based in Washington DC, sister organization of Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC), based in the Netherlands. Henk Jan van Schothorst is founder and director of TCC and CCI. In Dutch Reformatorisch Dagblad:*

<https://www.rd.nl/artikel/921421-bidens-wet-op-gelijke-behandeling-brengt-oneerlijkheid>

**SAVE THE DATE**

30 April

**Save the date: April 30 2021 Online Conference "In God we Trust"**

- First 100 days Biden Presidency

Online – 2:00 – 3:30 PM

What does this mean for the topics Life, Family and Freedom in the Netherlands, the US and Worldwide?

DV 30 April 2021, the day Biden will be in power for 100 days, TCC/CCI wants to hold an online conference with a number of people from the Netherlands and America who are involved in the issues we defend: Life, Family and Freedom.

Reserve this afternoon/evening in your agenda!

The evening will be easy to follow for both Dutch and English speakers.

## CCI/TCC Research Internship:



Do you support the objectives of TCC? And are you looking for an interesting research internship? Then TCC might have an opportunity for you. [View the job description here.](#)

## Colofon



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### Raad van Bestuur:

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## Colofon



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## Support us

TCC/CCI is a non-profit organisation. It develops an international network of Christians involved in public policy and influences policy from a Christian perspective. TCC/CCI speaks at international organisations such as the UN, EU and OSCE to stand up for a Christian voice with an extra focus on themes such as life, family and freedom.

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