





CCI Newsletter

September 2021

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Preface

Dear Reader,

Three issues primarily required our attention last quarter:

1. The passages on abortion, etc., in the EU's proposed agreement with the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (EU-ACP),
2. The input and reporting of the UN expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), and
3. The unprecedented approach by EU leaders to Hungary for its legislation to protect children from promotion of sex and gender issues away from parents.

Will we in the future be able to decide on the content of education, on life or on our freedom? For a large number of countries, this is currently an urgent question. Also for Christians in the Netherlands.

Our board member John Van Der Brink describes how society is changing in the US and how important it is that our children

continue to develop a Christian view of man and the world.

Last August, I gave a talk at the NRCEA Teachers Conference in Canada/USA/New Zealand. The theme was: Global Attacks on Christianity and Christian Education. Focus: Gender Ideology and Sexual Education. If you are interested I would be happy to come speak at your school or church on this actual topic.

Decisions from Europe and worldwide treaties force us to act to protect life, family and our freedom.

To be able to do this work thoroughly, we ask for your prayer and financial support and build an effective international network. Will you help us achieve our three-year mission?

With heartfelt greetings,

Henk Jan van Schothorst

Director (Transatlantic) Christian Council International

Fields of Work

EU-ACP

In various UN bodies, votes are not taken by head but decided by consensus. As a result, rich Western countries often cannot push their controversial agenda with abortion, gender and sexual rights in the face of poor countries. Those countries often have more conservative legislation.

Recently, a former representative to the United Nations sounded the alarm on behalf of his African country. To his horror, he had also read the fine print in the new, binding negotiating result of the European Union's partnership with the 79-country Africa-

Caribbean-Pacific (ACP).



This African was familiar with the fact that international organizations sometimes use verbose language and apparent details. He saw through this back door that the EU was imposing things like comprehensive sex education and abortion facilities. However, this goes against legislation in many nations.

We have until December to make this known to members of the European Parliament and the group of countries concerned. In the hope that there will be dissenting voices against this new, neo-colonial looking trick of the European Union.



Activities within the African Union

Our consultant in Ethiopia completed her scoping mission to the African Union (AU) in July 2021. The purpose of this scoping mission was to inform the strategic decisions of CCI with regard to kick-starting their operations with the AU. Based on these findings, it was concluded that CCI has various opportunities to work with AU organs to influence its operations and decision-making processes to ensure the promotion of life, family, and freedom. The main entry point identified is the African Commission for Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR). This has encouraged CCI to apply for an NGO observer status with the African Commission for Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR), which will hopefully be granted before the end of this year.

Immediately after the completion of the scoping mission, our consultant started engaging with a variety of Christian and conservative AU stakeholders and like-minded NGOs to halt the ratification process of the ACP-EU Agreement. This ACP-EU Agreement in its current form contains at least 10 core issues that cause harm to what CCI stands for: Life, family, and freedom. Since what CCI stands for is shared by many African governments, this Agreement in its current form goes against the laws of many African national governments. Luckily this Agreement has not been ratified yet, but since many African governments and its public are not aware of this Agreement, it is essential for CCI to help raise awareness about it. That is why, together with CCI's Headquarters in The Netherlands and Family Watch International, the consultant has developed an Africa Regional Working Group (under the Global ACP-EU Agreement Working Group) to join hands with key AU and NGO actors to raise awareness about this Agreement among parliamentarians, the media, and the public in Africa. This process is currently on-going and a detailed update with regard to the implementation of this strategic plan will be provided in the next newsletter.

SOGI



Following our input [in words](#) and [writing](#), the expert recently came out with his processing '[The Law of Inclusion and the Practice of Exclusion](#)': The first sentences read, 'There has been a steep rise in the use of platforms by extremist political leaders

and religious groups to promote bigotry, dehumanize persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI), and foster stigma and intolerance among their constituencies. This trend is generated through orchestrated and well-resourced strategies that aim at negatively impacting the progressive recognition of human rights standards relating to gender equality and sexuality.' In short: We are just continuing the normalization of SOGI, the large number of supporters of nature, biology and a marriage of man and woman that boys and girls can have are extremist, bigoted, intolerant and so on.

We will be actively following the handling of this report at the UN in New York in the coming months

CCI presents certificate of appreciation to Hungarian minister of family



CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION
 In appreciation for your untiring dedication to support life, family, and freedom and to promote Christian values in education and politics. Awarded by TCC/CCI to Prime Minister Victor Orban handed over to Minister for Families Novák Katalin at #BDSIV
 #budapestdemographicssummitiv
 #FamilyKeytoSustainability



Henk Jan van Schothorst at the [Demographic Summit in Budapest](#):

In good company here at the Demographic Summit in Budapest #BDSIV heard and reflected on the importance of the family as key to sustainability. Exchanged ideas and examples of family-friendly policies, including religious leaders, ministers from the region, leaders of NGOs and heads of state and government:

- Aleksandar Vučić
 President, Republic of Serbia

- Mike Pence

The 48th Vice President of the United States of America

- Janez Janša

Prime Minister, Republic of Slovenia

- Andrej Babiš

Prime Minister, Czech Republic
 – Milorad Dodik
 Serbian Member of the Presidency of Bosnia
 and Herzegovina
 – Viktor Orbán
 Prime Minister, Hungary

And they came to this statement:
 'The European continent is facing a serious
 demographic crisis, which is one of the most
 pressing current challenges in our region.
 Each member state must pursue its own
 family policy, in accordance with its own
 constitution, traditions and customs.
 We, the signatory Heads of State and
 Government, commit ourselves to using all
 available means to enable married couples,
 and in particular young couples, to achieve
 their family planning goals.' So: many
 supporters for the family, also in Europe,
 that we can take an example from!
[Click here for the social media post with
 more photos.](#)

Mike Pence and Karen Pence and at the
 left **Novák Katalin** Hungarian Minister of
 Family. I shook Mike's hand, gave my
 business card and said I was from Holland
 and had prayed for him. He said: 'Thank you
 Henk, thank you for your prayers.'
[#BudapestDemographicSummitIV](#)
[#FamilyKeytoSustainability](#)



NRCEA Teachers Conference

On August 5, Henk Jan van Schothorst
 delivered a lecture at the NRCEA Teachers
 Conference in Canada/USA/New Zealand.
 The theme was: Global Assaults on
 Christianity and Christian Education
 Focus: Gender Ideology and Sexual
 Education

Mr. van Schothorst is a member of the Gereformeerde
 Gemeente in the Netherlands and serves as the Executive
 Director of the Transatlantic Christian Council, an
 organization which tries to influence public policy on both
 sides of the Atlantic from a Christian and politically
 conservative perspective. In his role, Mr. van Schothorst is
 familiar with international organizations such as the United
 Nations and the European Union. During the past years, he
 has been in North America (Washington, New York, etc.)

numerous times and has also presented in several of our
 school and church communities.



The work of CCI in a nutshell

Life

The source of human life and its dignity is the fact that God created us in His image created as man and woman.

This dignity respects the right of everyone to life and to be born and to, as much as possible, to live in freedom together with others.

What's at stake:

In a sneaky way the EU has brought in extremely worrying issues in a proposed trade agreement with 79 ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries.

Consider imposed abortion and introduction of comprehensive education on sexuality, without parent notice/consent. These issues fall outside the competence of the EU. It also goes against national laws of ACP countries and undermines their sovereignty.

What we do:

Together with political and societal key figures from ACP and EU member states, we create awareness and with a concrete roadmap we motivate to action.

Family

The traditional family is the cornerstone of society.

It is a natural unity that arises from a marriage of love and fidelity between a man and a woman. From this, boys and girls can be born who grow up in security and safety to adulthood under parental guidance.

What's at stake:

One example is the recent and controversial institution of an expert at the UN on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Assigned sex at conception should be exchanged for a chosen gender identity, biology for feelings. Gender ideology, presented as a scientifically based theory, turns creation, nature and biology upside down.

What we do:

In an oral and extended written statement before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva we put forward Biblical guidelines and recommendation for marriage and family and we are lobbying for its global respect, honor and promotion.

Freedom

Freedom and human dignity are bonded together, but affected by sin.

The protection of freedom of religion and education is non-negotiable. The powers of states are therefore limited. They are accountable to their citizens.

What's at stake:

Hungary recently passed a law that respects parents as primarily responsible for education about sexuality to children under the age of 18. Schools are not allowed to promote homosexuality and sex change. The frontal attack by EU leaders on these policies went beyond all limits.

What we do:

We support this exemplary Hungarian policy. We have handed over a Certificate of Appreciation in Budapest and at the Embassy in The Hague to Hungarian government representatives and Parliament for their untiring dedication to support the cause of life, family and freedom and to promote Christian values in education and politics. And we are keeping the EU on its toes.

Media

A Christian Worldview and a Christian Self-view - By John Van Der Brink



Fundamental changes are taking place in America. We are fast losing a “sense of God” – the inner conviction that God is a Supreme Being, that he reveals Himself in His Word and in creation, that we are accountable to Him, and that His laws should influence our personal and social life. For many generations, this sense of God was taught in our nation’s schools. Even in public schools, children were taught to pray and to pay regard to God’s Word. In the 1950’s that began to change. Bible reading and prayer was removed from the school day, religious instruction faded, and many banned God from public institutions.

Without the Bible as the standard of authority, things changed very rapidly. Science changed from the study of God’s world to the study of an evolutionary world. History lessons changed from support for our national values to criticism of them. The moral standards that controlled student reading selections were discarded in favor of permissiveness, exploration, and carnality. Health classes began to include sex education that condoned homosexuality, contraceptives, abortion, and distortions about sexual identity. We could go through just about every major academic discipline and trace the changes of instruction that occurred due to the removal of God and the Bible from the classroom. All this has contributed to the demise of Christian education in America.

Is it really any wonder that society is in such mess as it is today? Many children and young people were never taught a Christian Worldview and are now grown up and becoming the leaders in our society. They promote laws and policies which are far away from the principles of God’s Word,

and that is why we have what is so totally strange today.

Children in Christian schools are still being taught a Christian worldview. Daily at home church and school they are taught that they live under the authority of God’s Word. They are taught Christian moral values. That does not mean they are all Christians or that they will even follow Christian morals in the future. But they will have a Christian conscience, a sense of Biblical right and wrong, and that will more or less stay with them their entire lives. When they make decisions or enter the voting booth, that conscience will go with them. And we may hope it to sometimes influence them and guide them in their line of thinking.

It is important that our children not only develop a Christian worldview themselves but that they also understand why a Christian worldview is fading in our society today. This will enable them to converse with others intelligibly. They should ask for grace to be a salting influence in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. They should know why things are the way they are today and point their fellow man to the solution that can be found in Christian principles.

Finally, it is important that our children are taught a Christ “self-view”. Just as the Bible provides a proper view of the world around us and how we are expected to live in society, it also teaches us who we are before God. Like the world around us, the heart of man is also a disaster. Everything is out of place. Self is on the throne, enmity against God shows itself in so many ways, lusts for the things of time and sense fills every heart by nature. What we need is a complete renewal, a rebirth, new laws and new desires wrought by God’s holy Spirit. The wonder is that that renewal is possible because God has devised a way for hopelessly lost ones to be restored into favor and fellowship with Him.

What can we say to all these things? We live in troubling times. Our nation is crumbling under the weight of its own immorality. That is what we need to see, and our children need to learn. May the Lord yet

raise up a seed and give us leaders that desire to lead us according to the principles of His Word. May He also work in the hearts of boys and girls, young people and adults so that there may also be a complete inner renewal. A Christian Worldview and a Christian Self-view is what is needed today. May the Lord bless the instruction given in home church and school to the glory of His Name and the salvation of many souls.

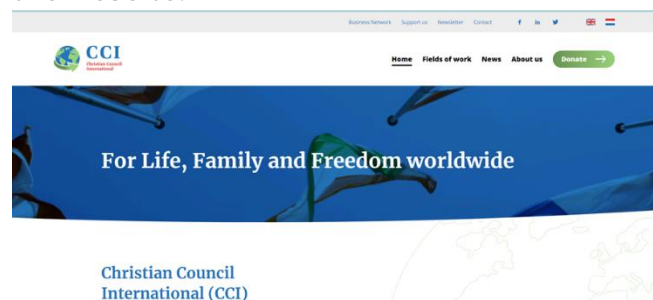
John Van Der Brink is director of the Netherlands Reformed Christian School in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, and a member of the Board of Directors of Christian Council International (CCI), based in Washington DC, sister organization of Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC), based in the Netherlands.

Comprehensive sexual education and abortion facilities in trade deal – podcast

A trade treaty from the EU with Africa has fine print. Curious how that works? [Listen to the podcast](#) with MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen (on behalf of the SGP in the ECR Group) and Henk-Jan van Schothorst on behalf of the Transatlantic Christian Council. (Dutch spoken).

CCI has a new website!

In terms of design and technical requirements, our website was in need of a thorough overhaul. We are happy to announce that since September 18, 2021 our new website is online! We thank the web designer and web developer for the wonderful result! Click on the image to view the website:



BRUSSELE BRONNEN

Over de VS, Afrika en abortuskwestie



HENK-JAN VAN SCHOTHORST
DIRECTEUR TCC



BERT-JAN RUISSSEN
EUROPARLEMENTSLID



FLORIAN PRONK
PRESENTATOR

SPECIALE
GAST



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Colofon

Office NL:

Christian Council International
(Transatlantic Christian Council)

Krooslaan 11

2411 ZP, Bodegraven

Tel: 06 558 38 607

Email: info@tccouncil.org

RSIN Fiscaal nummer: 8524 33 979

Kamer van Koophandel:
57090181

Bankgegevens:

Bank rekening nummer:

IBAN: NL29 RABO 0135 9749 09

BIC: RABONL2U

T.n.v.

Stichting Transatlantic
Christian Council

Rabobank Rijn en Veenstroom

Postbus: 2035

Postcode: 3440 DA

Locatie: Woerden, Nederland

Website:

<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/nl>

Business Network:

<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/nl/business-network>

Steun:

<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/nl/doneer>

Raad van Bestuur:

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coördinator activiteiten TCC,
voormalig beleidsmedewerker
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en organisatie, Driestarcollege

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Office USA:

Christian Council International

1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW

STE 1000 – WASHINGTON, DC

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Mr. John Van Der Brink,
243 Garside Ave Wayne NJ
07470, USA

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Website:

<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/>

E:

info@christiancouncilinternational.org

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Support us

CCI is a non-profit organisation. It develops an international network of Christians involved in public policy and influences policy from a Christian perspective. 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.

If you want to support the work of CCI you can transfer a donation to:

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