





CCI Newsletter

December 2021

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Preface

Dear Reader,

True hope in a dark world

Every year we are reminded of the birth of the Savior. Christ. Christmas. The European Commission tried to remove this word from its glossary in its guidelines for inclusive communication. But what would we do without the hope of Light in this dark world? Let us return to the Christian roots of Europe and not take Christ out of Christmas. Thank God the commission withdrew the language instruction after an outcry.

Grateful

It was from this hope that we were able to do our work last year as well. We are grateful that we are experiencing increasing involvement and support. Partly because of your (financial) support, CCI was able to work closely with Meskerem Ritmeester, our colleague in Africa. We have been able to create awareness, delay and stop African government leaders against bad things, such as imposed abortion facilities and comprehensive sex education outside of parents, that the EU is trying to impose. As of 2022, Meskerem can work for CCI for three days a week!

Peter Smith, a seasoned lobbyist, was able to represent CCI in New York by attending the Commission on Human Rights at the United Nations. The term "sexual orientation and gender identity" was introduced in a resolution on -note - democratization and elections. Read his report later in the newsletter.

Expansion needed

Both in the US and in the EU we see individualization increasing and the space for the natural family crumbling. The control of governments is increasing,

putting freedoms such as religion and education under pressure. Read the articles on President Biden's proposed Build Back Better law by our board member in the US, John Van Der Brink and those on family policy under 'Rutte-4' by our board member Jan Schippers and undersigned.

To turn the tide we will have to unite as Christians. CCI can represent you. Very specifically, we would like to recruit a policy officer for the work at the Human Rights Council in Geneva in the short term. Will you help make this possible?

And further

CCI has also had a number of business meetings with the Armenian Ambassador in Nieuwspoort The Hague and on Urk with the Hungarian Ambassador. Below you will find a video of the meeting in Urk with H.E. Mr. András Kocsis -Ambassador Hungary in the Netherlands.

Also in 2022 CCI hopes to organize interesting meetings in the Netherlands and in the working fields in Europe, the USA and in Africa to involve you in the work. Please keep an eye on our announcements.

God bless

We wish you God's blessing on Christmas and much happiness and blessing in the New Year!

With heartfelt greetings,

Henk Jan van Schothorst
*Director (Transatlantic) Christian Council
International*

Fields of Work

Respect traditional values in conservative countries

By: Henk Jan van Schothorst

Possessed of progressive ideas about sexual orientation and gender identity, Western powers are forcing their beliefs on conservative countries. This is ideological neocolonialism.

On the international fronts of protection of human life, marriage and family, freedom and sovereignty, things are never quiet. These weeks are also tense and important. We cite a few examples.

On Monday December 6, the so-called 'Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Ministerial Commitment' on education and health for the well-being of adolescents and young people (10-24 years) in the region was to be signed. Those who read through the proposed text quickly see that it looks more like an imposed guide to the promotion of rights-based and sexualized education than to improve the health and well-being of African teens and young adults. On Tuesday, it was not yet clear whether it had actually been signed. This commitment is made by 21 African countries for the coming ten years and affects some 600 million people. The agreement is strongly pushed with technical and financial support from the United Nations (UN) and affiliated organizations; mostly from progressive Western countries.

Role of parents

In many African countries, as well as Eastern European and other non-Western countries, the traditional concept of marriage and family, and the place and task of parents in parenting are highly valued. These are embedded in their cultures and enshrined in

international and national legislation. These values do not appear anywhere in the document. This commitment requires African countries to teach unrestricted sex or provide information about it to children and adolescents as young as 10 years old, with the only restriction of mutual consent. Sexual education manuals cover issues such as the right to sexual pleasure, masturbation, gender identity and lessons in sexual orientation. Free access for girls and women to abortion facilities are also covered.

Terms are used that sound acceptable, but they are not explained anywhere. They are open to interpretation, such as "age-appropriate," "evidence-based," and "youth-friendly." In addition, the agreement speaks of extracurricular sexual education programs, but it remains unclear who are supposed to provide these programs and who's values will be proclaimed. To mention no more, the convention speaks of "sexual and reproductive health with psychological assistance"; code language for abortion.

Behind these veiled words is the ideal of Western loose sexual morality. The goal is to entice African children to follow it.

However, such type of sex education is not a government task, and certainly not of Western governments and the agencies and international organizations they subsidize. Because let's face it: is the superior West really the right example today to show what the Biblical way of dealing with each other is; both relationally and sexually?

Discomfort

"Young People Today" is a subsidized platform that promotes the implementation of the ESA Commitment, and thus the promoter of progressive sexuality education, among African youth. We found out that an online meeting was convened by this platform with permanent secretariats of ESA

countries with the support of the UN. They came up with a recommendation for the adoption of this commitment. Many representatives from Eastern and Southern Africa had at least comments, came up with amendments or did not want to take a position. Some were not present simply because they were unaware that this was to be signed. The discomfort of the representatives dripped off.

And what of all the ordinary African people, unaware of this commitment? In the vast majority of ESA countries, they have opted for prolife and profamily laws. With this commitment, their children are taken away from their parents, exposed and handed over to these morally destructive ideologies and practices coming from outside Africa.

Undermine sovereignty

A similar tactic is being employed by the European Union (EU). A proposed partnership agreement with 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries has cleverly inserted similar and deeply troubling issues. In this 20-year binding agreement, there is imposed introduction of abortion facilities and comprehensive sexuality education out of parents' sight.

Apart from the fact that these issues are outside the competence of the EU, they go against national laws of these countries and undermine their sovereignty. Nice 'partnership'.

The agreement still has to be ratified by parliaments and therein lays the space to indicate that national sovereignty and democratically created regulations in countries should be respected by the EU. That is why our foundation draws the attention of governments to the scope of the provisions brought in according to the leading European progressive interpretation.



At the global level, the UN is implementing a gender ideology agenda. In a committee resolution on strengthening the role of the UN in promoting elections and, note, democratization, crafty Western negotiators managed to insert the internationally non-legal and controversial terms "sexual orientation and gender identity." An amendment against this inclusion was defeated by 58 votes in favor, 13 abstentions and 90 votes against. Surely it is difficult to discern consensus from this. Under Western pressure, none of the countries had the courage to put the final result to a final vote. If it is not put to a vote in the UN General Assembly in the near future, this terminology will, for the first time, be considered consensual language within the UN and the floodgates will open for use in numerous other resolutions and policies. So, lots of work to be done.

Discrimination

Aside from all this, in November 2021, a UN expert on sexual orientation and gender identity released a controversial report on gender reassignment. Gender should no longer be based on biological sex characteristics, but on a self-chosen gender identity. Any country or organization that does not accept this radical gender ideology as a scientific theory should be placed on a "black" list and charged with discrimination and hate speech.

The West, using the United Nations, seems to be engaged in a coordinated, frontal attack on life, family and freedoms, especially those of religion and education. It imposes values on conservative people and countries in an imperialist, neo-colonial

way. Traditional and democratically established values are under pressure in these countries because of this Western agenda. These goals and practices need to be critically examined and stopped. Nothing less than our civilization is at stake.

7 December 2021

The author is President and Executive Director of Christian Council International

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[A National Daily Newspaper in the Netherlands](#)

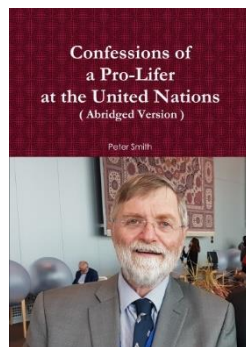
The United Nations - All about rights, nothing about responsibility

By: Peter Smith

For the past 27 years I have attended meetings at the UN, the last time I was physically there was January 2020. This year I monitored two meetings in March and April. Then in November I monitored the Third Committee resolutions that are to do with human rights and many other things.

There were 65 resolutions this year. I thought 47 were reasonable, 7 not so good and 11 were terrible.

But before we look at these resolutions, I would like to say that the whole approach of the UN since the late 1940s is wrong. They just push all this human rights approach to almost everything and never talk about human responsibility. If you look in the Bible its 99% about responsibility. I have been watching a very famous Canadian, Jordan Peterson , who has the same view. He has written a book called 12 rules for life .



For a summary,

see: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApCofaRYabI

He is very opposed to just this rights idea with no mention of responsibility, which has produced a disaster in the Western World. Just ask yourself, when you last challenged a teenager about their bad behaviour and they said, "But it's my right to so that."

One resolution was on: **The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation**

You would think what could be wrong with this. Well here is what was snuck in :

*"Deeply concerned also that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic perpetuates and exacerbates existing inequalities, and that those disproportionately at risk are women, girls and persons in vulnerable situations, recognizing the need to expand as a matter of utmost urgency access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual health and hygiene management, and to ensure continued access to existing services in this regard, **including sexual and reproductive healthcare services**, and gravely concerned that 2.3 billion people worldwide lack basic hand-washing facilities at home, which is urgently needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases,"*

The wording above in bold type is considered by many countries to include a right to abortion.

The UN conducts all its negotiations on a system called consensus. If you look up a dictionary it says consensus is " the conclusion of a decision based on collective agreement".

Before 1994 if three delegations disagreed with any term or phrase in a UN document they could object during negotiations and the offensive wording was removed. That all changed at the Cairo Population conference (1994) and the Beijing Women's conference

(1995). At both these meetings some 25 countries objected to the term “reproductive health” and were told to just post a reservation. This was under a Clinton/Gore White House.

Another resolution was on: Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine **elections** and the promotion of **democratization**

Into this resolution was introduced the term, sexual orientation and gender identity,” There was a call for a vote .to remove “sexual orientation & gender identity” from one paragraph. The result was : For 58 , Against 90 , Abstain 13.

Another paragraph had the phrase “women in all their diversity” , this is transgenderism (Men pretending to be women) There was a call for a vote to remove “women in all their diversity” from this paragraph, The result was : For 56 , Against 89 , Abstain 12

After the vote to remove non-agreed language was lost, the chair called for acceptance of the original document and no countries were brave enough to object. Silence means agreement at the UN. So, 58 countries can now object out of 152 countries and the UN claims this is a consensus document. It would be very hard for a country to object to a whole resolution on voting & democracy.

I would like to quote from the parable of the shrewd manager. Lk16:8 “.... *For the people of this world are shrewder in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.*” A Democrat held White House is much more ruthless and effective than one held by the Republicans. The EU is just awful all the time, especially promoting sexual depravity and gender confusion.

The Netherlands made an intervention at that time bragging about how they co-chair,

with Argentina , a group of countries promoting LGBTQI+ “rights”.

6 December 2021

The author represents CCI at the UN in New York



News from Africa

Our Ethiopia-based CCI consultant has been actively protecting life, family, and freedom from being violated on the African Continent.

This was mainly done by closely following and attempting to block the ratification process of [the 20-year post-Cotonou / ACP-EU agreement](#) and [the 10-year Eastern and Southern Africa \(ESA\) Ministerial Agreement](#) that largely violate life, family, and freedom of religion and education in Africa; These two international agreements [aggressively push for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education \(CSE\)](#) based on a liberal sexual morality, and controversial sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) which includes the promotion of abortion.

CCI has intensively raised awareness among strategic partners and a variety of diplomats, Ambassadors and other delegates from different African countries about the negative impact of these two international public policies. This has been done through the organization of high-level virtual and face-to-face information briefing, an

African Ambassadors' dinner, and by flying to Kigali, Rwanda, to personally speak with Foreign Ministers and Ambassadors from different African countries that were attending the AU – EU Meeting. Based on these activities by CCI and its partners, some initial successes were booked. One example is that after the African Ambassadors' dinner where the dangers of the ACP-EU agreement had been explained, the African Ambassadors came together internally to discuss the need to take out any notions of SRHR from the agreement that violates their national laws. This was then presented by their Foreign Ministers during the AU – EU Meeting, which was a disappointment to the EU.

Additionally, CCI's consultant went to South Africa in November 2021, to present and raise awareness on the ACP-EU Agreement and was one of the guest speakers during the Partnership for Religion and sustainable Development (PaRD) Annual Forum. This is an Annual Forum in which between 150 -200 faith-based organizations around the world come together to network and promote their causes. Making use of the opportunity to connect with more like-minded organizations and high-level institutions in South Africa, CCI met with the only Christian political party in South Africa, called the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), which is active in campaigning against comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). CCI also met with the Secretariat of the AU Pan-African Parliament (PAP) to find ways in which CCI can strategically collaborate with the PAP to raise awareness about the ACP-EU agreement (and any other upcoming dangerous international policy) among the 235 PAP MPs that come from all the African Union member states.

Towards the end of November and the beginning of December, much awareness creation and advocacy was done by CCI and its partners against the signing of the ESA

Ministerial Commitment. Due to the hideous nature in pushing this international policy onto the Eastern and Southern African countries, CCI and its partners only heard about this Commitment about 2 weeks before the planned signing ceremony on 6 December 2021. CCI then started to work intensively with its partners in those weeks to reach the relevant government ministries that needed to sign this Commitment in order to raise awareness of the hidden violations of this Commitment to the protection of the unborn, protection of a healthy and biblical form of sexual interactions, and protecting the parental consent rights that parents should have over their adolescents and young people (at least until they are 18 years old).

Although the ESA Ministerial Commitment has been signed in secrecy by some countries (although exact information is not provided to the public), the activities in which CCI has engaged itself over last couple of months, shows that there is a strong and growing alliance across Africa that is able to reach and influence the highest levels of government in Africa to ensure a certain level of protection of Life, Family and Freedom across Africa.

As explained in the September edition of the CCI newsletter, CCI has applied for an NGO observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) in June 2021 and we are still waiting for this application to be granted.



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

Hungary - 'Minister for Family in Cabinet'
 October 9, 2021 in [Reformatorisch Dagblad](#),
 pag. 8 by [Riekelt Pasterkamp](#)



Budapest (RD = Dutch Reformed Daily). Henk Jan van Schothorst of the Christian Council International calls on the forming parties in the Netherlands to include in the coming cabinet a minister for Family or Family Affairs, following Hungary's example. He did this Friday at the National Prayer Breakfast in Budapest. Van Schothorst offered Minister [Novák Katalin](#) for Family Affairs a certificate of appreciation for the work and promotion of Christian values in education and politics. [Read more](#)

CCI business dinner on Urk

Review of the CCI business dinner on Urk last October 13 in picture and sound!
 Featuring: [Embassy of Hungary in the Netherlands](#), [Henk Jan van Schothorst](#), Riekelt Pasterkamp, Jelle van Veen.



Photos:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/2WSBYfVBDYkEhah39>

By: Cees van der Wal

Project Africa



[Henk Jan van Schothorst](#)

October 19, 2021

Back from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where we were able to convene productive meetings around the African Union's 2-year Executive Council with assembled representatives of African countries and organizations on

issues of concern from the draft 20 yr EU-ACP Partnership Agreement.



Safely arrived at Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda, for being around/ attending the EU - African Union Senior Officials Meeting of 25 and the Ministerial Meeting of 26 October in defence of national sovereignty in areas of life, family and freedoms. <https://t.co/keGvgcnvtE>

— in [Kigali](#).



Successfully supported African pro-life/family/sovereignty positions at 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting 25/26 Oct Kigali, Rwanda against efforts from European side to normalize/impose lgbt, abortion and child sexualizing education. Unified in saying No to Ideological Neocolonialism.

— in [Kigali](#).

Portugal



October 30, 2021

Good to meet up again today with our former Board Member [Miriam M. Lexmann](#) from Slovakia, currently serving as highly valued Member of the [European Parliament](#) for causes of Life, Family and Freedom during the informative one day networking [Oneofuseu](#) Forum in Lisbon, Portugal.

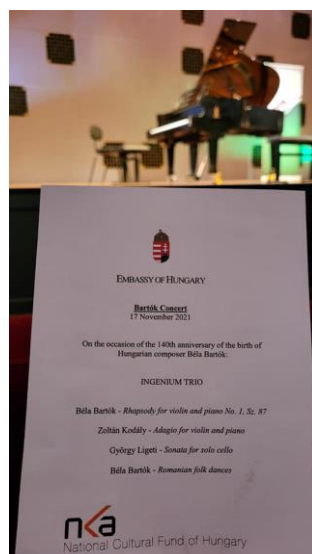
— in [Lissabon, Portugal](#).

The Hague - Hungary

[Henk Jan van Schothorst](#) is with [Jolanda van Schothorst-Geluk](#) at [Diligentia](#).

November 17, 2021 · [Den Haag](#) ·

On invitation of the Hungarian Ambassador to NL Andras Kocsis we just enjoyed a beautiful concert on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of Béla Bartók. Thanks!



The Hague – Armenia [Christian Council International](#)

November 29, 2021

We had a great CCI business lunch at [@nieuwspoort](#) with [@tbalayan](#) and Gijs Willem Sloof. Standing up for freedoms in Armenia and the opportunities to invest in that beautiful country came together. Interested in the upcoming business trip to Armenia? Please, reach out.

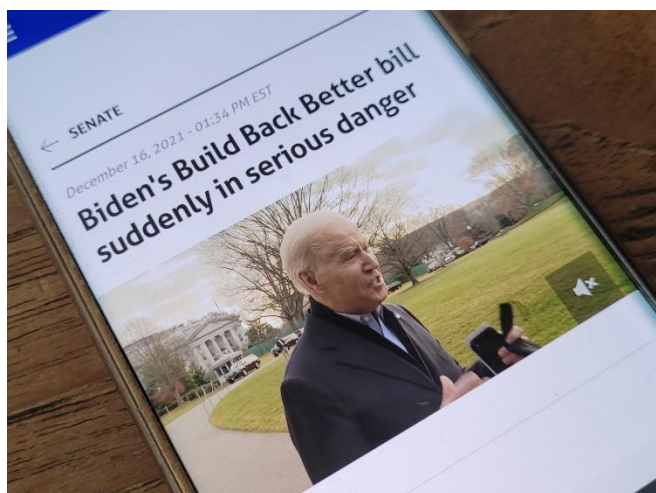


[For more photos and videos, click here](#)

United States
December 4, 2021

Had, after visiting [United Nations Headquarters New York](#) in New York, fantastic meetings with Members of [#USCongress](#), among those with [Rep. Virginia Foxx](#), a monument and living example in promoting and defending life, family and freedom of religion + education, with an excellent proposed Parents Bill of Rights Act.





Build Back Better – Is It Better?

By: John Van Der Brink

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin is resisting the Build Back Better bill. He wants to protect the rights of religious institutions to participate without violating their Biblical convictions. Democrats are furious! They need his vote to pass this bill, and he is not ready to provide it!

By now, most of us know something about the massive spending bill which has been promoted by the Biden administration as a “solution” to our country’s post-Trump woes. Democrats on Capital Hill would like to reverse many of the policies put in place by former President Donald Trump. They see this bill as the most promising opportunity to fundamentally change the way we live and think in America. This bill seems to pave the way to economic and social prosperity, but hidden in it are provisions to change the moral landscape of America. Here are some facts about the bill which would result if it were passed.

The bill includes massive spending for government sponsored social programs including free universal PreK for 3- and 4-year-olds as well as more support for federal student aid programs at American colleges and universities. What many people do not know is how these programs will be funded. They will not be provided through “block grants” which are administered by the local

state according to state policies, but instead will be directed by the federal government itself. **And the federal government intends to administer these programs according to strict federal so-called non-discrimination policies. Therefore, Christian day care centers, pre-schools, colleges, and other related institutions will be denied funding if they adhere to a Biblical understanding of LGBTQ issues.** Some of these institutions depend on federal funding in order to survive. So, the danger this bill poses to their existence is very real.

Some will argue that this is not a direct attack on their own educational institutions. But what we need to realize is that control over the Christian colleges and preschools is a first step and it is achievable by this bill. And that control would extend the moral revolution that is already sweeping across our nation. The LGBTQ agenda is already dominant in our nation’s elementary and secondary public schools. Therefore if this bill takes effect, there will be hardly any educational institutions left that can hold to Biblical morals and values. Money in this bill is used to force moral changes.

This is one of the reasons West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin is resisting this bill. He wants to protect the rights of religious institutions to participate without violating their Biblical convictions. Democrats are furious! They need his vote to pass this bill, and he is not ready to provide it!

Other favorite Democrat policies are part of this bill. They include massive spending on green energy, climate change, and Obamacare health insurance. Each of these policies are part of a governmental overreach that results in more and more individual control of individual citizens. Also, the cost of these programs is overwhelming and leaves a financial burden on our children and on generations to come.

There are other problems with this bill. One is its massive overreach. Ultimately, it makes Americans more dependent on government handouts, and that translates into government control. This bill would result in more Americans looking to the government for solution to their needs. That is socialism, and conservative Americans do not want socialism.

Please note what happens in the lives of individuals when government reaches and controls more and more policies. It may seem good on the surface, but we should look beneath the surface. There we will see the true result of these changes.

In conclusion, this bill is a massive spending which we cannot afford, and it includes insidious controls which fundamentally transform America. The Build Back Better bill is not better of America.

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 CCI



Family almost out of the picture in "Rutte-4"

By: Henk Jan van Schothorst and Jan Schippers

15 december 2021 in the Netherlands, the coalition agreement of the new to come Rutte-4 cabinet was presented. Four

parties, two liberal (VVD and D66) and two Christian (CDA and CU), support this agreement.

The document's title reads, "Looking after each other; looking forward to the future." But unfortunately, the document mainly has a liberal and individualistic tone. The family gets hardly any attention and stands at the back of the queue. The last sentence is illustrative. It's a promise for a targeted reduction in taxes for low- and middle-income earners, for working people and families. In that order.

Many plans and measures have yet to be worked out into a concrete proposal for legislation. That makes it a bit difficult to assess precisely the impact on families. But the direction is clear. When it comes to families, further undermining by 'Rutte-4' can be expected. The emphasis is on individual autonomy, combating discrimination and promoting labour participation.

Individuals instead of families first

The coalition agreement presented this week refers explicitly to the so-called *Rainbow Agreement* that three of the four coalition parties signed before the elections in March of this year. According to this Rainbow Agreement, the interests of the individual are, by definition, placed above those of the community. Whereas it is customary to weigh the different interests in each situation carefully.

This already pre-empts the idea that individual freedom takes precedence over the identity of a community or organisation. This puts pressure on 'watching after for each other', not to mention important classical fundamental rights such as freedom of association, freedom of religion and freedom of conscience.

After all, identity is not only a matter of free individual choice, since identity is (by

definition) connected to your past, the family you grew up in, the place you live in, and so on. The uniqueness of identity is precisely the fact that you experience it and give it substance together with others. And you also develop it further together with others.

Identity is not a static given, but it changes gradually based on a shared past, philosophy of life, belief, source of inspiration and vision of the future. We, therefore, advocate a respectful interaction of individuals and community, in which freedom and responsibility go hand in hand.

Childcare allowance

One issue that has been causing a stir in Dutch politics recently is the childcare allowance affair. This complicated scheme was abused, and strict measures were taken to tackle the problem. Too strict because many parents who did not comply with all the accountability requirements had to pay back the money they had received. As a result, they got into financial difficulties.

The new cabinet plans to simplify the regulation significantly by not paying out the subsidy to the parents but to the childcare institution itself. The parents have to contribute only 5 per cent. This meets with several objections. First of all, because it puts lower incomes at a disadvantage compared to higher incomes with more financial capacity. A more considerable objection is that a generous 95 per cent subsidy is hardly effective. It is not expected to lead to much higher labour participation. Many women in the Netherlands like to (largely) take care of their children themselves or prefer to solve this informally, i.e. within the family circle. The scheme costs over 2 billion euros yearly.

Households that do not (or do not wish to) use childcare facilities must even pay for them through taxation. This is contrary to the profit principle. Moreover, it is short

term politics. We all know that relatively few children are born in the Netherlands. For instance, in 2019, an average of only 1.6 children per woman. That is far too low to have sufficient future personnel available, for example, care and education. And to have enough taxpayers at all. Therefore, the system that this coalition wants to introduce is not future-proof and certainly does not bear witness to foresight. On this point, the Netherlands would do better to consult countries such as France and Germany.

Hungary: an inspiring example?

Even better, the Netherlands should take an example from Hungary. In the person of Katalin Novák, they have an excellent minister for families. The Hungarian government supports families in having children. Having more children means paying less tax per capita in the future. To encourage pregnancies, there is a subsidy of 30,000 euros. Mothers with four children do not have to pay taxes for the rest of their lives and waive any study debts.

Because the traditional, biological and Christian view on marriage, family and life has come under heavy pressure in Europe. Hungary has enshrined in the constitution that the father is a man and the mother is a woman. Marriage is a bond between one man and one woman. While everywhere in European countries the number of marriages is declining, it has increased by 25 per cent in recent years in Hungary. The number of divorces decreases, perhaps partly because otherwise previously waived loans have to be paid back.

Hungary has a population of 9.8 million, almost 1 million less than 40 years ago. This year the government puts €7.25 billion into supporting families, with €10 billion earmarked for 2022, over 6 per cent of the gross national product. By the way, the Dutch government pays only 1.8 per cent of

gross national income to schemes that financially support families.

Hungary recently passed a law respecting parents as first responsible for teaching sexuality to children under 18. Schools are not allowed to promote homosexuality and sex change. The unauthorised frontal attack by EU leaders on this policy, with Prime Minister Rutte in the lead, went beyond all limits. We support this exemplary Hungarian family policy and have handed this courageous minister a Certificate of Appreciation.

Surrogacy

Another point of principle concern is the pursuit of “a good regulation for surrogacy”. It is a mystery to us what this liberal & Christian coalition means by “good regulation”. Commercial surrogacy should be prohibited, without question. But also, other voluntary forms of surrogacy are controversial because they are not compatible with the principle of human dignity. A child is not available on order. Surrogacy does not offer – to put it mildly – the best starting point for a child to grow up to be a stable adult. For that, it generally needs its own father and mother.

To conclude, we do not envy the position of the CDA and the ChristenUnie. Undoubtedly, the negotiators have done their best to get the best compromise possible with two bigger liberal parties. But the leading tone of the agreement is set by striving for an even stricter anti-discrimination policy to realise the ideal of equality for all people.

Liberal and left-wing parties want to liberate the individual even more radically by dissolving the community ties of family, school, neighbourhood, and church step by step. To this end, a diversity of family forms is recommended. There is also a risk that schools in the Netherlands cannot use teaching methods in which classical

Christian morality is normative for living together.

Truth and subjective opinion

We live in times when truth degenerates into subjective opinion, and identity is a matter of individual agency. We will find out soon enough what this means for the freedom to orientate yourself entirely to Christ to be a true Christian.

Jan Schippers is director of the [Scientific Department](#) for the Dutch Reformed SGP party.

Henk Jan van Schothorst is executive director of [Christian Council International](#).



Colofon

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Christian Council

Rabobank Rijn en Veenstroom

Postbus: 2035

Postcode: 3440 DA

Locatie: Woerden, Nederland

Website:

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

Business Network:

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coördinator activiteiten TCC,
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