



Annual report 2019

Transatlantic Christian Council



Colophon

Transatlantic Christian Council

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Supervisory Board:

- Leonard van Schothorst, director of Van Schothorst Food BV
- Drs. Jan Schippers, director of the Scientific Institute SGP, former policy officer for the European Parliament
- Drs. Johannes Luiten, lecturer in general and business economics, management and organization, Driestarcollege

Board of Directors:

Executive: Drs. Henk Jan van Schothorst, TCC activities coordinator, former European Parliament policy officer

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Management Report 2019

Goal

TCC is committed to the development of a transatlantic network of mostly European and American people involved in public policy. We promote a Christian worldview and try to protect and translate that into government policy. TCC affects government policy primarily at international level at international institutions from a Christian perspective. The subsidiarity principle, whereby a higher authority should not do anything what can be decided upon by lower authorities is an important starting point. With a core task focused government TCC aims to protect and promote classical freedoms such as freedom of religion and education, freedom of entrepreneurship, pro-life, with the family as the cornerstone of the society. Protecting the position of Christian education is an important goal here.

Strategy

TCC connects Christians in a transatlantic network, reflects on government policy and uses the best applications in the public debate and during the shaping of guidelines and policies in international organizations. She develops strategic networks with partners on both sides of the ocean and build up local capacity. TCC has been working for seven years now. Important milestones on the way in the first year were the inaugural conference in Brussels on December 4, 2013, in the second year the events in the Library of Congress and in the Capitol in Washington D.C. from 10-12 September 2014, and in 2015 the acquisition of the tax-free ANBI status with retroactive effect after a process of 2.5 years.

From 2016 TCC uses its acquired Consultative Status at the United Nations and other international organizations. Accreditation with international organizations has become an important tool the last years. This gives TCC authorizations to effectively translate its objectives into policies or influence them on places where policies are made or conceptualized and regulations are negotiated. That competence includes the right to attend official meetings, introduce written positions in advance, to speech at meetings, meet official government delegations, organize parallel events during meeting sessions and participate in debates, interactive dialogues, panel discussions and informal meetings. At the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE - in Vienna and Warsaw) and at the United Nations (UN - mainly in New York, Vienna and Geneva), TCC uses these authorizations. At European institutions like the European Union (EU) in Brussels and Strasbourg, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA - Vienna) TCC also has accredited access.

Results

At the invitation and on its own initiative, TCC has actively spread its ideas mainly in Europe and North America. In Christian circles and beyond, with politicians, academics, diplomats, senior officials, businessmen, NGOs, journalists, think tanks and supporters. Issues under pressure such as freedom of education, religion, the family and safety were central. TCC turned out to be a welcome Transatlantic connection of Christians at government level and effective networks were built. With further action via media and input to politicians, public policy from a Christian Perspective was protected and encouraged. An overview of specific activities carried out, on the basis of tweets, reports and photographs, you can find in this annual report.

Evaluation

Already from the evaluation of recent years it emerged that the main focus of the activities, in addition to vision development, TCC would be more focused on advocacy and lobbying. In particular with the accreditations we have been followed up this. The processes of applications at the OSCE and the UN were started at the beginning of 2015, and positively completed, the last in July 2016. Herewith could be given a more focused interpretation of the statutory objectives and the actual work of TCC mentioned in the 2014-2016 and 2017-2019 policy plan and in particular the verbs mentioned therein: develop, promote, influence, encourage and protect. The niche area increasingly focuses towards international organizations and the focus areas on life, family and freedoms such as freedom of religion and education. At the same time we keep our eyes open for further possibilities. The fight against the strongly emerging gender ideology has become an important topic in the work of TCC.

2020 and beyond

The board agrees with the proposal and budget for a 3-year project from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022. Title is: [For Life, Family and Freedom at UN – EU – OSCE and Strengthening Transatlantic Ties \(NL\(Eur\)-US/Can\)](#).

With this, we will first of all use our consultative status with international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to strengthen the protection of classical freedoms and to reverse the attack of threatening secularism. Secondly, as indispensable allies, we will strengthen transatlantic ties in various ways. To be able to do this work properly, we want to be able to have a permanent eye at the aforementioned international organizations and member states. Substantial financial support is a precondition for this.

Bodegraven, June 2020

H.J. van Schothorst
Chairman / Director

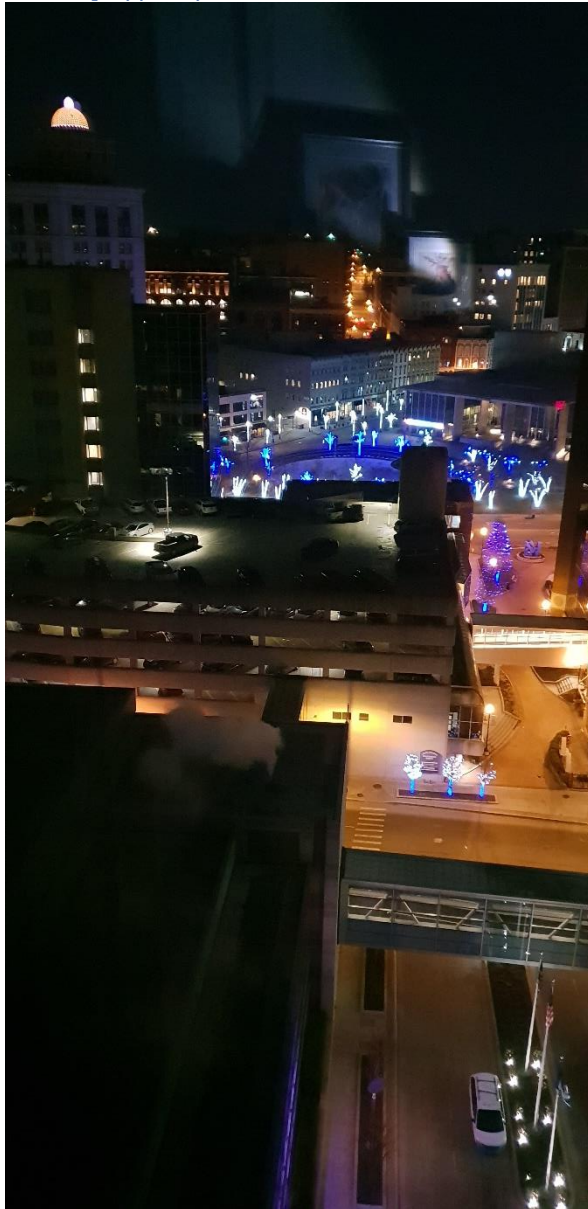
January

January 10-20 – Michigan – Ontario – Arizona

Henk Jan van Schothorst

17 Februari at 00:01 ·

Participated in meetings with partners in Arizona and gathered North American Christian schools in Michigan last month. Lectured and informed on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), driving powers for CSE at UN-level, and defence + promotion by TCC for a biblical view on sex. <https://t.co/Fm084dN6Uo>



Grand Rapids city centre



Holland – Bakery, also from Hoekstra's father



Norwich, Ontario Rehoboth Christian school



Norwich Classroom visit



Phoenix, Arizona



Oldsmobile of a Trump supporter

Januari 24 – Jewish Restaurant HaCarmel - Amsterdam :

Creation of a foundation against anti-Semitism in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador.



Januari 31 - Radio Interview with RTV Bodegraven

Henk Jan van Schothorst

9 Februari at 09:31 ·

<http://www.rtvbodegraven.nl/node/27868>

In the radio program Guest of the Week, Henk Jan van Schothorst from Bodegraven is a guest on Monday 11 February from 8 pm to 9 pm Also on Tuesday 12 February at 10 pm and on Sunday 17 February at 7 pm.

To listen via:

<http://www.rtvbodegraven.nl/live>

February

February 12 - Meeting TCC NL and US and lecture for Christian school leaders Canada and US:

Meeting in Grand Rapids with TCC US director Todd Huizinga. We discussed the developments at TCC. TCC US, which will continue under the name Center for Transatlantic Renewal (CTR), will focus on the development and publication of a Journal. TCC NL will further specialize in lobbying activities, particularly at international organizations. Representation of NL-US relations also continue to hold their place in the work of TCC NL.



Februari 13- Meeting VN Commission on Social Development, New York

Henk Jan van Schothorst

17 Februari at 00:04 ·

Was at 57th Session of UN Commission for Social Development. Prime theme Feb '19: 'Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies' - Successfully lobbied against reference to 'sexual & reproductive rights' in end text <https://t.co/wzLy7smTAm>



Flyer tcc for delegates:

Commission on Social Development - 2019

Reference :

DISD inputs for the Chair's zero draft resolution

Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies (E/CN.5/2019/LX)

The above mentioned document already contains 12 references to health, in a general way, which is excellent.

Over the past 12 years there has only been one reference to **sexual & reproductive health**, that was last year.

Please produce a good clean text with **no mention** of S & RH this year.

Many thanks

Peter Smith

Transatlantic Christian Council

Februari 21 - American ambassador receives Christian entrepreneurs at residency



Video impression: <https://youtu.be/UMImvNi6fT8>

American ambassador receives Christian entrepreneurs at residency

The American ambassador Pete Hoekstra received Christian business people at his residence in The Hague on Thursday 21 February.

The meeting was organized by the American Embassy and Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC), a Christian lobby organization for life, family and freedom. More than fifty entrepreneurs attended the meeting.

TCC director Henk Jan van Schothorst opened by having a Psalm verse sing: Psalm 68:10. Ambassador Hoekstra then briefly spoke, before he took the opportunity to answer questions from the audience. At the end of the question session, a book was offered on behalf of a number of entrepreneurs: The fourfold state of Thomas Boston (1676-1732). The special edition was provided with the name of the ambassador. The entrepreneurs had taken another two copies: one for President Donald Trump, and one for Vice President Mike Pence. Later in the evening, the entrepreneurs could converse more informally with each other and with the ambassador and employees of him.



Jolanda van Schothorst-Geluk is met **Henk Jan van Schothorst**.

22 februari om 09:04 ·

Great meeting yesterday evening with US Ambassador Pete Hoekstra and his wife Diane at their residence!

#Transatlantic Christian Council



U.S. Amb to NL **verified account** @usambnl

Volg je nu Je volgt @usambnl
Meer

Happy to host networking event with members of the [@tccouncilorg](#). Great talk about investment, innovation, [@theGESummit](#), and [@SelectUSA](#)



U.S. Amb to NL **Geverifieerd account** @usambnl

Great [video of networking event](#) that I hosted with members of the [@tccouncilorg](#). Themes: investment, innovation, [@theGESummit](#), and [@SelectUSA](#)

00:37 - 7 mrt. 2019



March

TCC lobbying at the UN in New York by Peter Smith:

March 20-21 - Commision on the Status of Woman

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the meeting where the most radical pro-abortion NGOs appear. We were able to encourage the good delegates to resist a lot of bad words, and on the last day about half of the countries of the world objected to procedural abuses and inclusion in the final document of SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health) and CSE (Comprehensive Sexuality Education). All references to SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) have been removed. The result was also an improvement compared to last year. [Read more](#) on our website and find here a video report:



Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of [all] women and girls

Draft agreed conclusions (7 March 2019)

The current draft contains:

189 references to **gender**,

56 references to **sex(ual)** and

27 references to reproductive
(health, rights etc.)

**Women are more than sex
objects.**

Please have **more balance** and
improve the document.

Transatlantic Christian Council

April

April 1-5 - [Commission on Population & Development](#)

The Commission on Population and Development (CPD), now dominated by UNFPA, tried to push their pro-abortion agenda a little too far. Over the past four years, they have been unable to agree on a final document. This year there was a one-page political declaration without the aforementioned language, such as SRH, CSE and SOGI. This has been a great result.

Smith about his contribution to the UN:

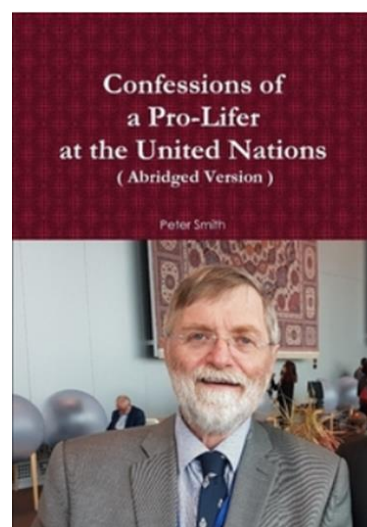
We're having a very positive effect at the UN, but I can't measure my own personal contribution because only the Lord knows. I cannot see into the hearts and minds of those who oppose the culture of death, only God sees those things and He gives them courage. Many delegates who meet me as they leave say, "Seeing you here gave me courage."

The delegates change every 2 to 4 years. So there is a constant need to get to know the new delegates.

The Lord has called us to be a salty salt and a shining light at the UN. I have been doing that for the past 24 years, longer than anyone else in the coalition. If TCC can fund me, I am willing to continue to do this work while the Lord gives me strength. The struggle for life and family at the UN is in many ways a spiritual struggle, and that struggle belongs to the Lord. He is ultimately the one who "holds the nations in the palm of his hands". We are just His servants. We go there to talk to delegates, give language suggestions, encourage delegates, but the final outcome is very much in the Lord's hands. I am blessed to be able to network with many people. I get along pretty well with almost all of the NGOs in our coalition. I know many delegates, including people who work in the UN. Even people who oppose what I stand for have some respect for me. A few years ago I was told by a colleague that the pro-abortion NGOs called me 'Mr Pro-Life'. I'm glad I hold that title at the UN.

[Biography Peter Smith](#)

At the beginning of this year, Peter Smith published a biography of his 24 years as a lobbyist at the UN in New York: ['Confessions of a Pro lifer at the United Nations'](#). For an impression, [click here](#) for a chapter of the book. (For a translation in Dutch, [click here](#)).



April 4 - Ambassador Hoekstra appointed Honorary “Waegmeester” of Gouda



[HenkJanvanSchothorst @tccouncilorg](#)

US Ambassador Pete Hoekstra appointed Honorary “Waegmeester” of Gouda. Certainly as the son of a cheese trader I feel honoured that I was able to attend. 14:50 - 4 apr. 2019 from [Bodegraven-Reeuwijk, Nederland](#)



April 11 - TCC with ECPM active in the European Parliament in Brussels, 1 of TCC's fields of work



April 18 - Last meeting before EP elections with MEP Bas Belder during Strasbourg week

[HenkJanvanSchothorst @tccouncilorg](#)

Last meeting in office this morning at the EP in Strasbourg. It's been a pleasure working for and with you, [@BasBelderMEP](#). Thank you very much for your always thoughtful contributions and your tireless efforts. [@hjaruissen](#) as the intended successor also wishes salvation and blessing!



April 24 - Guided tour of the European district of Driestar class A2Btto (VWO)



May

May 31 - Launch of Family Platform: <https://www.gezinsplatform.nl/>



June

June 3 - In studio Family7 – Featured! - about transatlantic relations



[Family7 @Fam7](#)

Trump visits Great Britain and Pompeo (Minister of Foreign Affairs) visits the Netherlands. Henk Jan van Schothorst [@tccouncilorg](#) about the influence of these visits on the relationship between America and Europe. 8:30 pm Featured!

08:04 - 3 jun. 2019



[Riekelt Pasterkamp @TekstPast](#)

"When I see this [#Defense](#) budget, [@realDonaldTrump](#) will think: first deliver, then I'll come" - [@tccouncilorg](#) at [@Fam7](#) about visit [@POTUS](#) to the Netherlands [#Trump #75jaervrijheid](#) [@usambnl](#)

11:55 - 3 jun. 2019



Announcement: Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2019 – June 4-5, The Hague, the Netherlands

ges2019.org #GES2019 [@theGESsummit](https://twitter.com/theGESsummit) [/theGESsummit](https://www.facebook.com/theGESsummit) [theGESsummit](https://www.instagram.com/theGESsummit)



GES 2019: innovation meets investment, powered by policy

The Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) uniquely gathers governments, the private sector and a powerful partner network to turn challenges into business opportunities worldwide.

Incorporating policy support, GES is unparalleled in accelerating growth and ensuring tech creates good for all of us.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Hosted by two of the world's most innovative countries, the United States and the Netherlands, GES 2019 will focus on global opportunities for **the next wave of entrepreneur-led innovation in scalable tech**, from artificial intelligence and robotics to blockchain, big data, new science and more.

On the agenda: facilitating growth and disruptions for tech scale-ups in all industry sectors, including five *Future Now* sectors, **Agriculture/Food, Connectivity, Energy, Health, and Water**.

Attracting 2,000 industry-leading participants from 120+ countries to The Hague, June 4-5, this year's Summit offers unmatched opportunities for businesses looking to scale up.

1,200 hand-picked entrepreneurs will engage with 300+ investors representing 100s of billions of dollars, as well as top policymakers, corporate partners and thought leaders to accelerate solutions. With an inspiring program, GES 2019 aims to be a game changer for all attendees, empowering them to start building the Future Now. The two-day summit will forge new connections and inspire surprising partnerships, with curated matchmaking and global networking, top speakers, discussions, workshops, and hands-on advice.

June 3-5 - TCC at Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in The Hague.



[HenkJanvanSchothorst](#) @tccouncilorg

At the international entrepreneurial summit [#GES2019](#) in World Forum The Hague, organized by the Netherlands and the US. [@IvankaTrump](#) has just been welcomed by [@SigridKaag](#) and [@usambnl](#) [@usembthehague](#) [@petehoekstra](#).





07:48 - 5 jun. 2019

June 8-10 - Visit at Netherlands Christian Reformed School in New Jersey

[HenkJanvanSchothorst](#) @tccouncilorg

From June 8-10: Visited church and school community with Dutch origins in New Jersey. We talked about ways how the freedom of Christian Education could be best preserved in the light of a number of legislative initiatives about sexuality and equality that gives serious concerns.



June 10-12 - TCC invited to SelectUSA Investment Summit, Washington DC, with Ivanka Trump



[HenkJanvanSchothorst @tccouncilorg](#)

Was inspiring to listen to [@IvankaTrump](#) twice in one week: last week at [@theGESummit](#) in the Hague and this week at [@SelectUSA](#) (June10-12) in Washington DC with [@SecretaryRoss](#) of [@CommerceGov](#).



For short video impression:

<https://twitter.com/tccouncilorg/status/1139929040549228546>



[HenkJanvanSchothorst @tccouncilorg](#)

[@tccouncilorg](#) represented at [@SelectUSA](#) for networking and strengthening Transatlantic ties in Policy and Business.



June 12-13 - Various meetings in and around the Congress

09:20 - 15 jun. 2019 vanuit [Washington, DC](#)



[HenkJanvanSchothorst](#) [@tccouncilorg](#)

Meetings at and around Capitol Hill on June 12-13. Last speaker of the session at the [@HouseFloor](#) [@replouiegohmert](#) (R) from Texas had a speech worth listening to and a useful call: to pray again together as [@HouseGOP](#) and [@HouseDemocrats](#). May God guide and bless them and the USA.



Meeting at U.S. Department of Education



Meeting at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



June 21-22 - On a trip to meeting Moldavia an unexpected fellow traveller: MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen



July

June 24 - July 12 - 41st session of the Human Rights Council Geneva - Extension Mandate SOGI

[HenkJanvanSchothorst @tccouncilorg](#)

Result of the vote on the renewal of the 3-year mandate of Expert on SOGI: Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity at the UN Human Rights Council Geneva yesterday. This after hours of praising human rights and putting SOGI people in the role of victim. Fight continues at UN-New York+ member states.

L.10/Rev.1 - Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

NO	AFGHANISTAN	YES	CZECH REPUBLIC	YES	PERU
ABST	ANGOLA	ABST	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	YES	PHILIPPINES
YES	ARGENTINA	YES	DENMARK	NO	QATAR
YES	AUSTRALIA	NO	EGYPT	YES	RWANDA
YES	AUSTRIA	NO	ERITREA	NO	SAUDI ARABIA
YES	BAHAMAS	YES	FUJI	ABST	SENEGAL
NO	BAHRAIN	ABST	HUNGARY	YES	SLOVAKIA
NO	BANGLADESH	YES	ICELAND	NO	SOMALIA
YES	BRAZIL	ABST	INDIA	YES	SOUTH AFRICA
YES	BULGARIA	NO	IRAQ	YES	SPAIN
ABST	BURKINA FASO	YES	ITALY	ABST	TOGO
	CAMEROON	YES	JAPAN	YES	TUNISIA
YES	CHILE	YES	MEXICO	YES	UKRAINE
NO	CHINA	YES	NEPAL	YES	UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
YES	CROATIA	NO	NIGERIA	YES	URUGUAY
YES	CUBA	NO	PAKISTAN		
YES 27		ABST 7		NO 12	

14:00 - 13 jul. 2019 vanuit Genève, Suisse

Theme: The international (LGBT) Pride Agenda broadened from politics to multinationals and sports umbrella organisations:



August

August 31 - A worthy and festive Start celebration of 75 years of freedom in Terneuzen

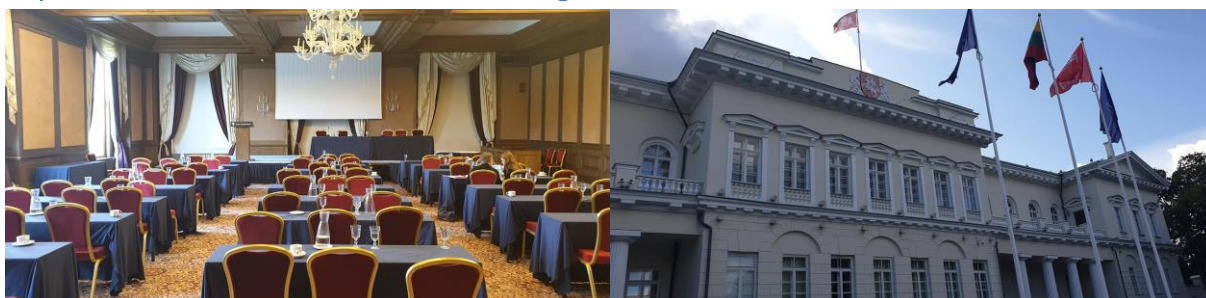


September

September 9-11 - At the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council



September 20 - fruitful network meetings in Lithuania



September 24 - Featured! September 24, 2019 - Henk Jan van Schothorst (TCC) about lobbying

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKev-vyLZo>



410 weergaven

Family7

24 september ·

Does the coalition still have a majority now that the VVD Wybren of Haga has been removed from the group? And the tobacco industry tried to recruit a member of the Green Left. Henk Jan van Schothorst of the Transatlantic Christian Council on the influence of lobbyists on political policy. 8:30 pm Highlighted!

September 27-October 9 - Photo impression Exchange trip NL - Ontario, Michigan, Washington DC and New York

Members of Congress Moolenaar, Huizenga + Amb Hoekstra - Rehoboth Christian School Norwich, Ontario



Building factory Falk building systems in Grand Rapids - Meeting NL Amb Haspel AmbassadeWDC



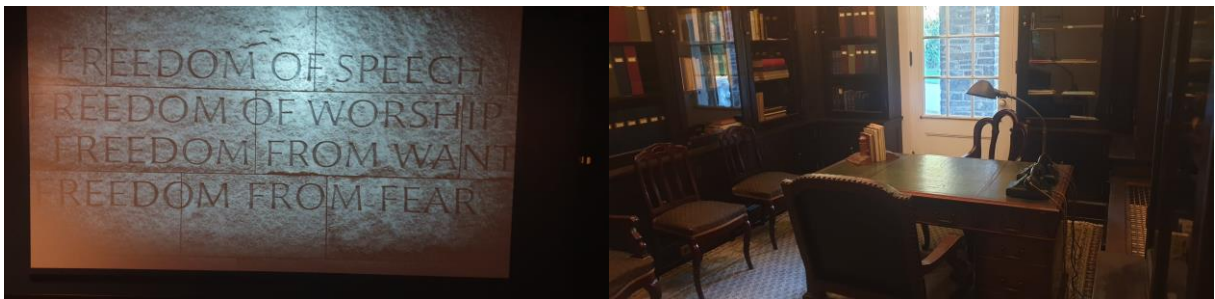
The White House at night



The Washington Mall



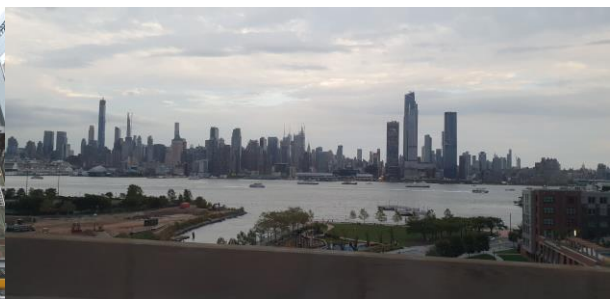
The four freedoms of President Roosevelt and a room at home where he and Churchill deployed WWII



New York Times office



On Manhattan



Meeting room UN Third Committee (Soc, Human, Cultural) General meeting room / General Assembly



October

28 October-2 November - Christian Education visit Washington/ New York

Washington D.C. Report

In our last newsletter, we published an article about School Choice. This is an initiative promoted by our current Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos who is very concerned about the dismal academic performance of many of our nation's public schools. School Choice offers a financial and philosophical opportunity for parents to choose from charter schools, faith-based schools, vocational schools etc so their children get an education of their choice. Secretary DeVos is particularly interested in the Dutch form of education which has good quality and is free for all students.

Recently, James Bazen and I had an opportunity to join a group of educators from the Netherlands and the United States to visit and speak with Secretary DeVos about her initiatives. We also had an opportunity to speak with her about the current threats to Christian education in America – the growing influence of the LGBTQ community.

Mr. Henk Van Schothorst, the President of Transatlantic Christian Council has contacts with leaders at the government level in several countries. He is the one who initiated and organized the meetings we had with Secretary DeVos and several other leaders in Washington. We had a very busy 2 ½ day visit, but were able to meet with several leaders who were very receptive and sympathetic to our concerns. The following is a report of our visit.

Delegation Our delegation consisted of the following:

- 1) Bazen, James – Principal of Plymouth Christian High School
- 2) De Kloe, Wim – Member of the Board of Driestar (Secondary School with 4000 students, 400 staff).
- 3) Moens, Pieter – President of the Executive Board of VGS (Policy advisor for 170 primary and 7 secondary school in the Netherlands. 70,000 students) His main work is representing denominational schools in the Dutch government.
- 4) Sloof, Gijs – Managing Business Director of TCC
- 5) Van Der Brink, John – Principal of NRCEA school in New Jersey
- 6) Van Meeuwen, Dick – Board President of Van Lodenstein (Secondary School with a total of 4,000 students) and on the board of Hoornbeek (Secondary Vocational Schools with 6 locations and 7,000 students)
- 7) Van Schothorst, Henk – Executive Director of TCC who worked and built a relationship with the NRCEA over the past 1.5 years. He is the one who organized this trip through his many contacts and connections in Washington.
- 8) Verwijs, Andre – Board President of VCPOZ (Christian Primary Education in Zeeland with 11 primary schools and 2,150 students)



Monday Evening (10/28/19): We had a working meeting over dinner. We each had a focus on what we would bring to the table with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and the order in which we would bring things up. It was divided up:

- 1) Dutch Delegation – Each took a different aspect of the Dutch educational system since their government supports Christian Education.
- 2) J. Bazen – School Vouchers and school choice and how this could work within the framework of freedom of religion .
- 3) J. Van Der Brink – The LGBTQ community, civil rights, and the threats to Christian education in America.



Tuesday Morning (10/29/19): We went to the Education Building in Washington D.C. to meet with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. She came with Assistant Secretary of Education Frank Brogan and several of her staff including Maureen Dowling with whom we had an initial contact back in November 2018. Brogan was the Education Secretary of Florida under Governor Jeb Bush. Secretary DeVos carried with her a book she said was “hot off the press” called *On Education* by Abraham Kuiper. We were received very graciously and were welcomed to participate in a discussion about the Dutch education system, School Choice, and the threats to Christian education.



The Dutch Educational system is different than U.S. education in that:

- The new curriculum is bottom up instead of top down (like Common Core)
 - 70% of the curriculum comes from instructions from the government.
 - 30% is free for each school to decide such as Religious Studies. (For this, the philosophy can be your own). For example, a school may have to teach evolution, but in this 30% you can spend time apologetically (Christian perspective) refuting the evolutionistic philosophy.
 - Note: The Dutch government just shut down an Islamic school for straying too far from the norm.
- At 15 years of age a student makes a choice in secondary education to:
 - Vocational education that leads to a job after secondary school.
 - College Prep education that leads to a university education.
- There is freedom of education to go wherever you wish
 - 20% of NL schools are public
 - 80% of NL schools are private

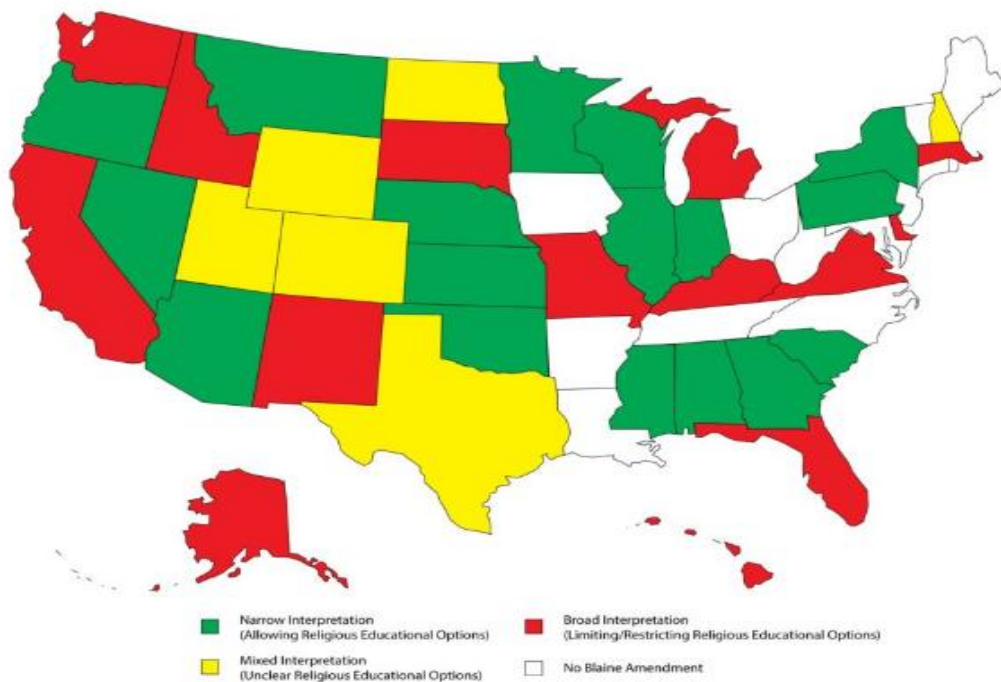
Currently, schools in the U.S. must sign a document that the school:

- Admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and that these students have all the rights and privileges of the other students.
- Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

What will happen when the state or the federal government adds transgender, homosexual, or other sinful practices to this list? Many of the democratic candidates promise to remove our 501c3 tax exempt status for not endorsing and promoting these sinful practices. Given the current trends in America, that inclusion seems not very far away.

Some states and provincial governments support the rights of the child over the parents when it comes transgender, homosexual, other LGBTQ ideas. Secretary DeVos promised to fight for parental rights and freedom of religion in education.

Secretary DeVos is optimistic in the fight. She is pushing for vouchers nation wide with religious freedom intact. This road is currently blocked. The alternative is with EFS (Educational Freedom Scholarships). With EFS's companies can donate and receive federal tax credit for donating into a scholarship fund which empowers elementary and secondary students and families to choose the right educational options for them, regardless of where they live, etc. Though EFS's are gaining traction, the Blaine Amendment stands in the way. The Blaine Amendment sought to amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit state governments from, among other things, fund religious schools with public money. It was really aimed at Catholic schools. This amendment eventually failed, but many states have added provisions to their constitutions that accomplish what Congressman Blaine could not. The following map show which states have the Blaine amendment in their state constitution in some form.



A bit of History on the Blaine Amendment: In 2015, the state legislature in Montana passed the Montana Tax Credit Scholarship Program, which allows Montanans a tax credit for \$150 of their contributions to a privately-run scholarship program. However, the Montana Department of Revenue refused to implement the program citing the state's Blaine Amendment, an archaic anti-religious law that forbids tax credits going to schools owned or operated by a "church, sect, or denomination." The Department then created its own rule that limits the use of scholarship funds to children that attend non-religious private schools, leaving religious schools out in the cold. By denying religious schools the ability to participate in a widely available public program, the Montana Department of Revenue stands in defiance of the Supreme Court's June 2017 decision in *Trinity Lutheran v. Comer* that ruled religious groups cannot be barred from participation in widely available public programs simply because they are religious.

The U.S. Supreme Court voted to hear *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*. With a conservative majority on the court, the outcome poses the likely rescission of all 38 Blaine amendments by means of a precedent-setting ruling. If that happens, DeVos believes a world of options will open for children nationwide. A decision is expected in June of 2020.

The best way to get lower income students out of failing school is by School-Choice. This should be put back into the hands of parents. It should not be that this house with this particular zip-code must go to a particular school. If you don't like it you can send your kids to a private school. But what if you can't afford to? You are stuck. Parents need to



get organized. Teacher unions are already organized against these changes. In gender issues, the parent's rights are stripped of any control. The rights of the child trump that of the parents. It was noted that public schools are mis-named, they are really government schools. Pieter Moens recommended that we promote the formation of parent groups so that a stronger collective voice can be heard.

Pieter Moens promised to send her a book entitled: *The Dutch Way in Education* by Gert Biesta. We shook hands wishing her God's blessing in her important work.

Tuesday Afternoon (10/29/19): We went to New Jersey Congressman Christopher Smith's office. We discussed the same issues. Congressman Smith is a Christian man and the only Republican Congressman in all of New Jersey. His two main issues of focus are anti-abortion and anti-trafficking. He is also concerned about religious persecution in China and feels that the United States is hindered in doing something about it because of Trump's potential trade deals with them. Regarding the pressures on Christian education, he stated that if the Democrats regain the Senate and the White House in the next election, a wave of gender identity issues would be faced by the schools. He encouraged us to caucus at the local level about these things.



Tuesday Evening (10/29/19): We had dinner at George Roller's home. George is the ambassador of H.O.P.E to the Hill (Helping Others Prepare for Eternity). George's mission is to speak to any and all Congressmen about the mostly Biblical matters. His goal is not to get them to change their vote, but rather by preaching, praying and pointing them to the only hope that their lives would be transformed. Then all their votes would be in accordance with the Scriptures. He is an amazing man who helped unlock many doors for us, to get us into places that we could not otherwise come. He and his wife are friends of Mike and Karen Pence. Mr. Roller also took us to the Bible Museum. He may prove a valuable contact for future trips of our grade 12 class.



Wednesday Morning (10/30/19):

We went to see Dr. Barry Black. Dr. Black is the Chaplain of the Senate. He leads a prayer-meeting one day per week. He also leads a Bible study one day per week with several congressmen. Whenever Vice-President Pence (president of the Senate) comes to the Hill, he seeks out Dr. Black to first pray with him.

Dr. Black is the product of Christian Education and has the ear of most of the senators. He admonished us on the following:

- Christian Education must include: Physical, mental, Spiritual, and Social learning -- holistic (Luke 2: 52). Students must be fashioned into life-long learners. Many Christian schools today

are not really teaching the whole child. They are actually not much different than public schools.

- Christian Education must seek to impart what is taught in 2 Peter 3: 18.
- Christian Education which does not focus on eternity is not Christian. e.g Daniel 5: 17-28 – “Let thy gifts be to yourself.” You are going to die.
- Christian Education has nothing to fear if it is like Daniel 1: 20. Others will find us 10 times better than the best that the worldly kingdom has to offer. Christian Educators must seek accountability in all because if you can’t measure it, you cannot manage it.
- Don’t seek to use carnal weapons against the foe. Jesus said that the disciples could not cast out the devil because it will not go out but by fasting and prayer (Matthew 17: 21). We were admonished not to forget prayer, specifically James 1: 5. “If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God.”
- As Educators we need to draw a line in the sand. When it comes to bow or burn (Daniel 3: 17-18), it is not time to negotiate. We need courage to stand firm and not give an inch. Jesus said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and earth”...do you believe it? Daniel’s three friends experienced it. Nebuchadnezzar said that he threw three men in the fire, but there are four, and the fourth is like the Son of God (Daniel 3: 25).
- David served God in his generation (Acts 13:36). This is what we are called to do in our generation....a different time in history. Wherever God puts us, we need to serve him in our generation.
- We need to stop and listen (1 Sam. 3: 9). We cannot always be talking. Let us ask God to speak, and then let us listen!
- Pray every day James 1: 5 and God will keep you from doing long-term unwise things. Prayer is the force multiplier. This is how we can receive wisdom for our life.



Wednesday Afternoon (10/30/19): We met with Bill Huizenga, the congressman from Michigan. We talked about similar things that we did with Betsy DeVos and Christopher Smith. Bill is not very optimistic that anything will get done via the legislature. He believes it will be done in the courts. We also briefly visited a building near the Capitol which was formerly used by Hope on the Hill, but is no longer available. The Dutch entrepreneur was interested in making it available for the work of Transatlantic Christian Council.



Thursday Morning (10/31/19): On the way home, we were hosted at Dave den Hollander for dinner. He hosted the Dutch group at a local hotel for the night. The Dutch delegation toured his greenhouse the next morning before coming to school.



After touring the school, we had lunch together with the group and with Rev. Vogelaar, Rev, de Leeuw, Elder Mol and Tim Mol. During that time, we reviewed the events of the trip. The value of this trip was acknowledged, and it was pointed out that it was good that we could do what we were given to do. It was stated that relationships had been established that could be for the benefit of our schools in the future. After lunch, the Dutch

delegation departed for Newark and New York City. Some of them returned to the Netherlands that evening. Henk Jan Van Schothorst and two of them attended a United Nations meeting on Friday, and returned to the Netherlands on Friday night.

Action Items

We hope to follow up this event with the following Action Items.

1. Try to keep an open line of communication with Secretary De Vos, and with Congressmen Chris Smith and Rich Huizenga.
2. The Dutch delegates look forward to working with Secretary DeVos to further her efforts for Freedom of Education.
3. Henk Van Schothorst is willing to host an Information Evening here in New Jersey to inform parents about the work of Transatlantic Christian Council. We would like that to happen in January or February. He is willing to host similar evenings in other NRCEA localities to which he is invited. Hopefully this will generate some financial support for TCC.
4. Pieter Moens suggested that we start some type of Parent Group in our locality that has a voice to political leaders.
5. Investigate and research the pros and cons of Education Foundation Scholarships and the influence of the Blaine Amendment. Are there opportunities to receive some unfettered financial support for Christian education?
6. Pursue an approach that seems the most feasible to defend the Christian liberties of our nation's Christian schools. What is the best approach from preventing civil rights (gender ideology) from gaining control over freedom of religion? If freedom of religion in Christian schools is secured by School Choice and Educational Foundation Scholarships, perhaps that would be the best bulwark against the efforts of the left to promote gender issues in all schools.
7. There are probably other people in influential positions with whom it may be worthwhile trying to establish connections. Attorney General William Barr recently gave a very encouraging speech at Notre Dame which outlines precisely the kind of concerns we share. It would be worth exploring which other political leaders could help and guide us in these concerns.

James Bazen

John Van Der Brink

November

November 12-14, 2019 - Nairobi Summit - ICPD25

TCC (as Pro-Life/Family and UN accredited organization) was not welcome at the Nairobi Summit (<http://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/>) #ICPD25. Like-minded countries, organizations and individuals were, outside official UN-structures, together from 12-14 November to accelerate their wishes/demands to get pro-abortion and pro-comprehensive sexuality education regulations internationally implemented. Therefore we organized a counter conference opposite their place, had a prayer meeting with Kenyan MP's in their Parliament and [a great US-led Joint Statement](#) with other like-minded countries, see video and here:



[In Wall Street Journal](#)

[Also in Dutch press:](#)

Criticism of pro-abortion agenda at Nairobi summit

An international summit on population and development in the Kenyan capital Nairobi is causing turmoil among local churches and pro-life groups. They blame the organizers for having a compelling pro-abortion agenda.

It is 25 years ago that a first conference took place in Cairo, Egypt, on the relationship between population growth and development. Themes included immigration, family planning, access to contraception and the position of women. At the summit, some delegates defended the view that access to safe abortion belongs to so-called "reproductive health," but there was no consensus on that. The closing text of "Cairo" spoke of the importance of preventing abortion.

The theme of abortion is fully restored a quarter of a century later during a summit in Nairobi, which is held from Tuesday to Thursday. Draft declarations aim to label abortion as a right. Critics accuse the organizers that they have now done everything possible to keep dissenting voices as much as possible away from the top. Christian and proliferation organizations were denied access. Criticism in advance on the agenda, including from the US government, was also discarded.

The American Republican Congressman Chris Smith called the summit Monday in [the Wall Street Journal](#) "[a meeting of like-minded individuals and organizations ... promoting a pro-abortion agenda.](#)" Convinced by Smith, who attended the 1994 Cairo summit, they abuse the 'name and reputation' of that meeting for a different agenda.

The Vatican announced last week that it would not attend the summit because of this agenda. The Church of Rome criticizes, among other things, the fact that the summit, organized by Denmark and Kenya, takes place outside the framework of the United Nations. This would guarantee transparent consultation between nations. In addition to promoting abortion, the Vatican is opposed to a plan for comprehensive sexuality education in schools.

Local Kenyan churches were equally critical. The Roman Catholic bishop Alfred Rotich wondered why the Kenyan president "opened his country as a market where the pro-choice agenda can be sold. (...) Are we aware of the enemy that is constantly attacking our tradition and culture to protect life?"

Churches and Christian organizations in Kenya, including the Evangelical Alliance and the National Council of Churches, held a counter conference on Tuesday. "Many Kenyans do not realize what is going on," says Henk-Jan van Schothorst of the Transatlantic Christian Council who attended this meeting. "But the protest is growing." Van Schothorst was also not welcome at the official summit.

[\(Reformatorsch Dagblad, 13 november 2019\)](#)



Prayer service with Kenyan parliamentarians in Parliament in Nairobi

November 20, 2019 - TCC at SGP Zuidplas, theme: Gender identity

Is there a difference between man and woman, boy or girl? Not essential, says the gender (equality) ideology. Your gender is not biologically determined, it is just how you feel at a certain moment, male or female. A head-on collision with: "And God created man in His image, He created them male and female." This intense battle is being waged at the international level, including at the UN. Our families, schools and companies will not be safeguarded from the consequences. Transatlantic Christian Council has started a targeted counter-movement.

With these catchy words, Mr. Henk Jan van Schothorst introduced the theme for the evening of electoral association Zuidplas. He took us on to the more and more pressing issue of gender identity and how this and similar sensitive issues increasingly adorn the agendas of international organizations. An example is the recently established UN SOGI expert. This person is mandated with supervision of "violence and discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Never before has the UN stated in such strong terms that investigations into alleged violations of LGBT rights by governments, individuals or institutions fall under compliance with international human rights. All in all, this kind of democratically barely controlled organizations do not follow trends, but increasingly set trends and set standards.

[An impressive video](#) was shown about comprehensive education about sexuality and how it is propagated by all kinds of international bodies and organizations. For example, at the recently held Nairobi Summit of like-minded countries, organizations and individuals, billions of dollars were pledged to get this type of education and abortion generally accepted and imposed. TCC opposed this and participated in a counter-conference in Nairobi with Kenyan MPs and a US-led group of other-minded countries, who came together with [a powerful pro-life / family counter-declaration](#). The recent TCC visit by NL Christian reformed schools to the US minister of education, Mrs. DeVos, was also discussed.

All in all it was an educational evening. Sitting still and waiting is not an option, Ora et Labora is the motto!

From: December 2019 newsletter SGP Zuidplas



December

December 3, 2019 - US Ambassador receives Bible in old Reformed congregation The Hague



The old Reformed congregation in The Hague on Gaslaan received high visitors on Tuesday evening. The American ambassador Pete Hoekstra received an English Bible there. Rev. C. L. Onderdelinden spoke to him: "We are both ambassadors." See further (in Dutch): [Reformatisch Dagblad, 4 december 2019](#)

December 3-4 - Brussels in contrasts

After a network meeting in the EU Commission building and the prayer breakfast (<https://prayerbreakfast.eu/>) in the EU Parliament with keynote speech from Dutch SGP political party leader Kees van der Staaij, Henk Jan van Schothorst attended a hearing of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality for input EU Strategy for Gender Equality - From hot bath to cold shower.



December 4, London - Celebration 70 years of NATO – NATO wants to improve political cooperation within the alliance. Gossip from Rutte then do no good.

US President Donald Trump suddenly canceled his announced press conference "after he had talked enough" after the NATO anniversary summit in England on December 4. But from his entourage came the story that Trump left home angry because a number of colleagues, including Prime Minister Rutte, made a fool of him the night before. Rutte and his counterparts Trudeau (Canada), Macron (France) and Johnson (Great Britain) gossiped about Trump at the drink in Buckingham Palace. The conversation was picked up by cameras and went around the world.

When Johnson was asked about it, he talked about the "rock-solid bond" within 70-year-old NATO. Rutte responded in his characteristic laconic way: "You stand for hours at those receptions where everything and everyone is talked about." Nothing wrong with people, keep walking, the prime minister seems to want to radiate. But this mouse could still get a tail.

The summit lasted less than 3 hours, cost the British taxpayer several million pounds and yielded little to nothing. "We contact each other more often about the operational and political aspects of NATO," said Rutte afterwards. "This way we avoid surprises within NATO." Note, as if the alliance does not have an army of diplomats and soldiers in Brussels at work. Rutte referred to the statements by French President Macron about the brain-dead alliance and the sentences of Turkish President Erdogan towards neighboring Syria and the Kurds. Agreements were made behind closed doors to consult more often.

And the higher defense spending where Trump insists on? "With no word" talked about, says Rutte. Trump is apparently satisfied with what has been achieved so far. Nine of the 29 member states meet the NATO standard of 2 percent of the gross national product. A few years ago there were only three. Together the allies spend 130 billion more on defense than in 2016. In 2024, the year in which at the NATO Wales Summit of 2014 the NATO member states agreed to aim to meet the 2% standard within 10 years, that must have risen to 400 billion.

(https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/events_112136.htm)

The Netherlands dangles somewhere at the bottom with 1.3 percent. From 2021, the Netherlands will allocate more than 5 million euros per year to cover the costs of the NATO headquarters in Brussels. "Small beer," says Rutte. Annually, the Netherlands pays 73 million euros to the operational costs of NATO, out of a total of 2.37 billion.

Riekelt Pasterkamp

Original in Dutch, [click here](#).



December 9, 2019 - Business Week event NL - North America

Participated in Business Week event NL - North America, the 21st Century Economic Powerhouse, powered by Trade and Innovate with the Dutch. Great performance of @DutchMFA, @RVO_Nederland, @usambnl, @CanAmbNL and @EmbaMexNL. @realDonaldTrump @ChuckGrassley. <https://t.co/FCBPe993bu>



Proposed support 3-year project

Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC)

FOR LIFE, FAMILY AND FREEDOM AT VN - EU - OVSE

and

STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC BOND (NL-USA)

Proposal Support 3-year Project

January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021

‘Vrij onverveerd, Uw dienaar ’t allen stond’

(English: free and fearless, Your servant for always)

To you

Proposed by



Transatlantic Christian Council
Building Bridges between Europe and America

Henk Jan van Schothorst

Founder and director of TCC

With an Office for NL/Europe/(North)Amerika/(Africa/Asia/Australia):

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Through the TCC business Network, we can look back on a unique meeting on February 21 this year at the residence of US Ambassador Pete Hoekstra in NL. At the same time it indicates the level TCC has input and wants to be active.

Organizing such a networking event is one of the means that TCC uses to further interest business people in achieving the goals of TCC.

What TCC does: Networks and policy influencing on an international level

From the Netherlands and the USA, TCC defends Christian standards at the UN, EU and OSCE (and in member states), such as the SGP does at national level. Extra focus is on themes such as the protection of Life, the natural Family and Freedom (of religion, education, market, etc.). TCC can do this because it has acquired the authority to speak and lobby with at organizations.

This is very current and urgent. With extremely limited resources, we try to reverse a frontal attack of progressively colored agenda items such as non-discrimination, tolerance, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, children's rights, women's rights, LGBT, etc. Example: We want to prevent that you are required to create gender neutral toilets in your company and that you retain freedom in the policy at your company and in hiring of staff of your choice and belief.

Specifically, we try to influence international directional or normative resolutions / decisions at the source by talking to decision-makers personally and making them make the right choices.

What TCC wants: Permanent supervision at international organizations and strengthening the NL-US bond

To be able to do this work properly, we want to be able to have permanent supervision of the before mentioned international organizations and member states. Substantial financial support is a precondition for this.

Needed: In concrete terms, this means that, under the coordination of the founder-director of policy officers, they monitor daily affairs at the UN (New York and Geneva), EU (Brussels and Strasbourg), OSCE/FRA (Warsaw and Vienna) and alert on time, record and come up with change proposals. It is necessary to bond with delegates from member states and to be present on location when the deals are made. One of them is more specifically concerned with current affairs, news, education and the improvement of the indispensable important NL-US relationship. A secretary for good administration and a fundraiser / communication expert for input from the ground and sharing what is achieved completing the team. In addition, we continue to respond to opportunities that may arise.

What the costs are and how you can contribute to this

To achieve this, a **three-year project** has been started:

"For Life, Family and Freedom at the UN - EU - OSCE and Strengthening the Transatlantic Bond" with the motto: **Motto: 'Vrij onverveerd, Uw dienaar 't allen stond'**. (English: free and fearless, Your servant for always)

This requires a total of € 1.2 million: € 300,000 in 2019, € 400,000 in 2020 and € 500,000 in 2021.

After the 6 year Pro Deo set-up phase and successful acquirement of accreditations at the UN, EU and OSCE, we are now ready for the leap to adulthood. **To become a permanent player, serious and**

joint financial input is needed. *A start can be to sign up for the [http://www.tccouncil.org/business-](http://www.tccouncil.org/business-network)*

network. We would be delighted to welcome your support for our effort and to discuss the project.

For this you can contact us on 06 558 38 607 or hjvanschothorst@tccouncil.org. Within a few weeks I will also contact you myself.

Financial Report [click here](#)

Explanation of finance and change of governance model

With gratitude, we can once again report an upward trend in donations, now over €150,000 in 2019. Costs incurred as part of the objectives are mainly travel and accommodation expenses to be able to participate in meetings on location abroad. At board level, the planned change towards a so-called 'two-tier board' has been implemented. Two board members of the 'old' board, Jan Schippers and Johannes Luiten, now form the Supervisory Board, supplemented by Leonard van Schothorst as the third member. I, the undersigned, founder and former chairman of the board, now form the salaried Board, administratively supported by 0.4 FTEs. Our lobbyist in New York retired on 1 July. New staff will be recruited as soon as income permits.

Bodegraven, June 2020

H.J. van Schothorst Chairman / Director