





for LIFE  FAMILY  FREEDOM 

CCI Newsletter

March 2022



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Preface

Dear reader,

Acquittal in Päivi Räsänen Case

March 30, Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen was acquitted of discrimination and insulting homosexuals. We were able to witness at close quarters the trial brought against Päivi Räsänen. She was accused of "hate speech" for expressing her Biblical views on marriage and human sexuality. Last February 14 was the final hearing in this case. [This day and the Sunday before, we were able to be with her in Finland and to encourage her and pray with her on your behalf.](#) We also called on you to pray for her and so far our prayer has been answered! At the same time that it was announced in a similar case in the Netherlands against Pastor Kort that he would not be prosecuted, Päivi Räsänen was acquitted March 30. With this, the freedom to openly stand up for biblical guidelines on marriage between a man and a woman has been preserved. At this time it is not known whether the prosecutor will appeal. We hope and pray for a good outcome to this case. In the video below you can see a report on the verdict in the program "Uitgelicht!" of Family7. Member of Parliament for the SGP Kees van der Staaij will also speak.

Ideological colonization EU - Africa

Much has happened in the process around the [20-year binding trade agreement](#) to be signed by the EU and the ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries. Just a few days ago we received the good news that the signing ceremony has been postponed for a few months. This gives us more time to make sure that life, family and freedom are protected.

UN New York

On behalf of CCI, Pro-Lifer Peter Smith attended a number of committee meetings at the UN in New York. Themes such as women's rights, gender equality, climate change and Covid were discussed, which he weighed in the light of life, family and freedom. Further down in the newsletter you will find links to his reports.

America

Our US Board Member John Van Der Brink shines a light on The Culture War, which continues in America.

This and more in our first newsletter of 2022.

Thanks

We have invested a lot in recent times and have received (financial) support. Many thanks for that! It is important for us to know that we are not alone. Given the many issues that require our attention, staff expansion is still very much needed. We therefore hope for your (continued) support.

We wish you God's blessing from the bottom of our hearts.

With warm regards,

Henk Jan van Schothorst

Directeur Christian Council International

[Click here for a transcript of the video](#)



Fields of Work

Paivi Räsänen has been acquitted of the discrimination and insult of homosexuals.

We are thankful that the brave Paivi Räsänen has just been acquitted of the discrimination and insult of homosexuals. With this, the freedom to openly stand up for Biblical guidelines on marriage between a man and a woman has been preserved. 🙏 Thank you for your prayers! [Read here her press release.](#)



The Culture War Continues in America

Our US Board Member John Van Der Brink shines a light on The Culture War, which continues in America.

As the war in Ukraine rages on, and people are dying every day under the aggression of a cruel dictator, so too the Cultural War in America continues unabated. The moral casualties are also tragic. After Biden took office in January 2021, many progressive policies were and are being promoted that defy generations of moral standards that are based on God's Word. The LGBTQ activists are encouraged to see their new President nominate Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, a woman, who said in a recent hearing that she cannot give a definition of "what a woman is". It is not hard to see her gender bias.

These activists are also encouraged when the Walt Disney Company recently made it

public that they will discontinue using gender specific distinctions in their company policies. Rather than welcoming boys and girls they will now welcome "friends and dreamers of all ages".

Recently, many public schools have also adopted gender diversity instruction to children as young as grade one. Children are being taught to appreciate and explore their gender potentialities, a practice which leads to moral and biological confusion.

But there is another side in this cultural warfare. Many conservatives have had enough, and they are speaking up and speaking out. Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida recently signed into law a bill that forbids educators to teach gender diversity lessons to little children. He believes that parents should have control over the content of their children's education. Many Americans appreciate his brave stance and other legislators are watching this movement. Governor Terry McAuliffe from Virginia lost his bid for reelection when he insisted that the government, and not parents, should be responsible for the content of their children's education. Many people are beginning to see the utter folly and ridiculous policy that comes from wanting to legalize and normalize a mindset and a lifestyle that is contrary to common sense, biology and Biblical precepts.

Where the future will take us of course no one knows. What we need in America is a revival, a general understanding of man's place in a fallen world, and about the only way of redemption in Christ Jesus. God's Word is still the most faithful guide for all generations and for all people. May the Lord grant leaders and concerned citizens who are given wisdom and understanding, and who are not afraid to speak against the liberal policies being promoted everywhere.



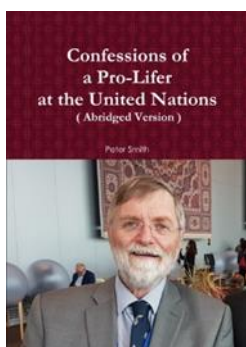
News from UN New York

Commission for Social Development, 60th Session

Peter Smith attended the 60th Session of the Commission for Social Development on behalf of CCI. This meeting was to discuss how the world is to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

His summary:

No-one mentioned that the cost of lock-down may have been greater than the benefit. There were many good references to the family, and the LGBTI agenda was not advanced at all at this meeting. Also, there was no abortion wording. There was the usual feminist perspective in the outcome document, no mention of men at all. Feminism is not Biblical complimentary between men and women. There was the usual grumbling about inequality, which is difficult to remedy. Climate change was mentioned as the greatest threat to the planet which is absurd. The Earth is the Lord's, and He has given us a very resilient planet.



[Click here](#) for the following nine small stories that I wrote about this meeting.

Commission on the Status of Women, 66th session

Criticism on the theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs

Peter Smith followed on behalf of CCI the Commission on the Status of Women, 66th session.

His summary:

This was the usual nonsense that the UN produces each year. It was very unbalanced, 68 references to rights and only 4 references to responsibilities. The Bible gives the reverse. We got 116 references to gender. There were 5 good references to families. Reproductive health / rights had 10 references, but no "progress" for 27 years. A mother was mentioned 3 times and a father once. Husband and wife had no mention. Sexual orientation and gender identity did not get into the final document.

For the first time I got to listen to a trans woman who spoke for Costa Rica. There was much mention of LGBTI etc, in the general discussion, but none of this got into the document.

[Read here](#) separate articles on :

- The pay gap
- Ukraine
- Climate change

STEM
 Biblical Creation care
 Eco-feminist
 Reproductive health

Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York



News from Africa

Signing binding agreement between EU and ACP countries postponed

By: Meskerem Ritmeester

Just a few days ago, we have obtained great news that the signing ceremony has been postponed for a few months. This gives us more time to ensure that Life, Family, and Freedom are protected in the soon-to-be signed EU - ACP 20-years binding Agreement.

The almost exclusive focus of CCI in Africa in the first quarter of this year has been on awareness raising regarding certain concerning provisions inside the [20-year binding EU - ACP Agreement](#) a.k.a. Post-Cotonou Agreement. The reason is that France, holding the European Council Presidency from January - June 2022, expressed its aim to have the Agreement signed by April 2022. However, there are still a lot of questions unanswered about the implications of this binding Agreement on the national sovereignty of the ACP countries, especially when it comes to sensitive ethical issues regarding human rights, social and human development (e.g in areas like sexual and reproductive health and sexual orientation).

In that light, CCI with the help of Family Watch International and ADF International developed 16 Parliamentary Questions for the European Commission. After a consultation meeting with 6 Pro-Life Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on 11 January 2022 in the European Parliament in Brussels, the 6 MEPs divided the pre-developed 16 Parliamentary Questions and tabled them to the European Commission. As of today, all Parliamentary Questions are tabled and will be published [here](#).

Further, CCI's Executive Director Henk Jan van Schothorst went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2-7 February 2022 at the moment that the AU Executive Council and the AU Heads of State meetings were held. CCI teamed up with Family Watch International colleagues in awareness raising among high-level African decision makers from e.g. DRC, Malawi, Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, etc. on the concerning provisions inside the EU - ACP Agreement.

Thereafter, CCI also visited Brussels in relation to the AU-EU Summit in Brussels on 17-18 February. CCI was able to share its advocacy materials regarding the concerning provisions inside the Agreement and obtained the contact details of a variety of African delegations, such as Nigeria, Angola, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.

Just a few days ago, we have obtained great news that the signing ceremony has been postponed for a few months. This gives us more time to ensure that Life, Family, and Freedom are protected in the soon-to-be signed EU - ACP 20-years binding Agreement.

Meskerem Ritmeester represents CCI in Africa



Addis Ababa

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 20-year binding trade deal with 79 poor countries, the EU is cunningly threatening to introduce abortion laws and sex education. The EU is not at all authorized in the field of education and health care, thus undermining their (and our) sovereignty.

What we do:

Together with key figures from these poor countries and the EU, we will ensure that this is known and countered and freedom to legislate is preserved.

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:

With EU and US in the lead attempts are made to impose the controversial term "sexual orientation and gender identity" as a new universal non-discrimination category through UN. Gender is a feeling, not biology but self-chosen identity. Gender ideology turns creation, nature and biology upside down.

What we do:

Through participation, we expose this overbearing ideology at the UN and lobby for global respect for Biblical standards for marriage and family.

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:

Finnish Christian politician Päivi Räsänen is on trial for incitement to hatred because of her expressed views on homosexuality and marriage of one man and one woman. Räsänen, on the other hand, defends freedom of religion and expression and bears witness to the gospel of reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

What we do:

We support this courageous woman with prayer, personal encouragement and our presence in the courtroom in Helsinki and as co-commentators in the media.

Media

Visit to Dayseaday and Municipality of Urk by Mr. H.E. Tigran Balayan - Amb. Armenia in the Netherlands



Thank you to host Jelle van Veen of Dayseaday Group, Municipality of Urk and Meindert Schreuders who welcomed Tigran Balayan, Davit Mirzakhanyan and us to Urk. Standing up for unrelinquishable freedoms in Armenia and the opportunities to invest in that beautiful country came together!

[Photo/ video report](#)

Family7 about the lawsuit against Päivi Räsänen in Helsinki, January 24, 2022

On January 24, Finnish Christian politician Päivi Räsänen stood trial in Helsinki. She had to answer for her expressed views on homosexuality and marriage of one man and one woman. The Attorney General is prosecuting her for this and accusing her of inciting hatred. In turn, the politician is fighting for freedom of religion and speech. She took the opportunity to actually preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in court. The judges had so many questions that the hearing will continue on February 14. The verdict must be delivered by mid-March at the latest.



[For transcript of the video, click here](#)



International support for Räsänen during last day in court

[15-02-2022 Northern Europe Evert van Vlastuin, CNE.news](#)

On the second (and last) day of the case against Päivi Räsänen, the lawyers presented their arguments. For the prosecutor, this is a clear-cut case of discrimination against homosexuals. For the defendants, it is not understandable that a lawyer can present these arguments.

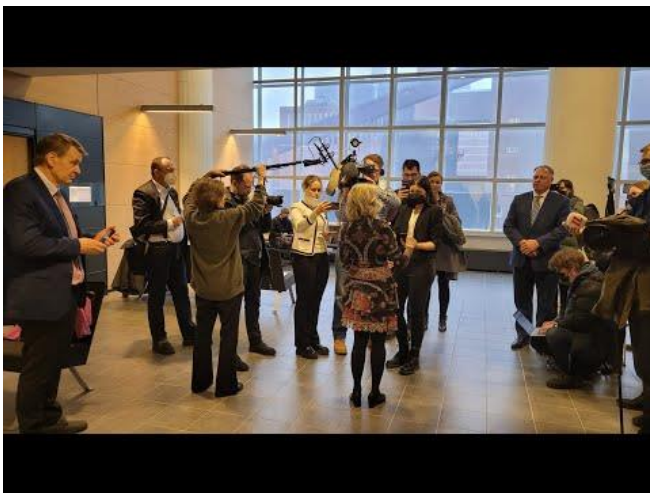
.....

Christian Council International (CCI) came to Helsinki in the person of director Henk Jan van Schothorst.... [read more](#).

[Liveblog \(closed\): Second day of hearing in case against Finnish MP Päivi Räsänen](#)

Family7 about the lawsuit against Päivi Räsänen in Helsinki, Februari 15, 2022

Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen stood trial for the second time on February 14 in connection with her Biblical views on marriage and human sexuality. Henk Jan van Schothorst of CCI was in attendance.



[For transcript of the video, click here](#)

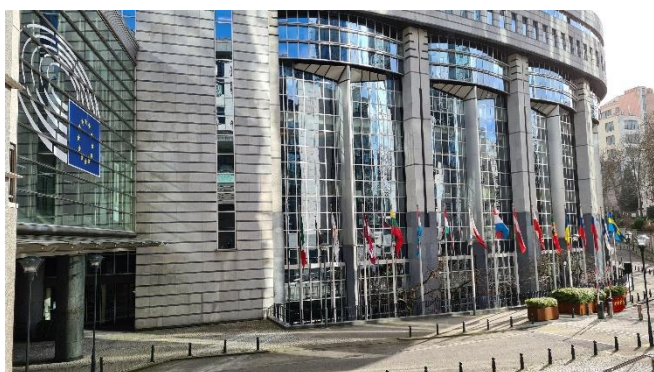


EU-AU Summit of Heads of State in Brussels



February 17, 2022

#EUAUsummit of Heads of State now in Brussels. Alertness AU states advised before signing the 20-year binding post-Cotonou agreement: Respect Africa's national sovereignty, don't impose SRHR/LGBTI rights and Comprehensive Sexuality Education and no SRHR conditions on trading and aid.



Visit to the OSCE in Vienna



March 28, 2022

For the first time since 2019, it is again possible to participate in an OSCE meeting in Vienna:

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting: International co-operation to address violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law

https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_1_2022

Of great importance how human rights are defined and how far a particular interpretation extends and has validity.



Business meeting with Jan Peter Balkenende **March 29, 2022** at table with former Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende. Good speech on sustainability and stewardship.



Colofon



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Wetenschappelijk Instituut SGP,
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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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