

Content

Content	2
Colofon	4
Colofon	4
Management Report.....	5
January - March	9
Fields of activity.....	9
“No”, against sexual colonialism	9
Scoping mission to the African Union (AU)	9
Pro-life, pro-family organizations join forces	10
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	11
Media	12
Republican Votes	12
Trump acquitted of impeachment	12
Op-Ed: Biden’s Equality Act – An Act of Equality or Persecution?	12
April - June	14
Fields of activity.....	14
"Male and female created he them" - Oral Statement Geneva - 24 June on SOGI	14
TCC statement followed: no abortion and gender ideology in UN population resolution	14
Contribution in Commemoration of the UN International Day of Families – May 17, 2021.....	16
Observer Status to the African Union (AU) applied for.....	16
Media	17
April 30 2021 Online Conference “In God we Trust”	17
Featured! May 3, 2021 - Henk Jan van Schothorst on Biden's U.S. presidency.....	17
A Culture War	17
Protection of life, family and liberty requires commitment of all	20
Featured! June 23, 2021 - Henk Jan van Schothorst on Hungary's ‘anti-gay law’	22
Is Christian Education in America in Danger - The Second 100 Days.....	22
Campaign.....	24
He, she or X? - Standing up for Life, Family and Freedom worldwide right now!	24

July - September	25
Fields of Work	25
EU-ACP	25
Activities within the African Union	26
SOGI	26
CCI presents certificate of appreciation to Hungarian minister of family	27
NRCEA Teachers Conference	29
The work of CCI in a nutshell	29
Media	31
A Christian Worldview and a Christian Self-view - <i>By John Van Der Brink</i>	31
Comprehensive sexual education and abortion facilities in trade deal – podcast	32
CCI has a new website!	32
Oktober - December	33
Fields of Work	33
Respect traditional values in conservative countries	33
The United Nations - All about rights, nothing about responsibility	35
News from Africa	36
Media	38
Hungary - 'Minister for Family in Cabinet'	38
CCI business dinner on Urk	38
Project Africa	39
Portugal	40
The Hague - Hungary	40
The Hague – Armenia	40
United States	41
Build Back Better – Is It Better?	41
Family almost out of the picture in "Rutte-4"	42
Financial Report	46

Office NL:**Christian Council International**

(Former: Transatlantic Christian Council)

Krooslaan 11

2411 ZP, Bodegraven

Tel: 06 558 38 607

Email: info@tccouncil.org

RSIN Fiscaal nummer: 8524 33 979

Kamer van Koophandel: 57090181

Bankgegevens:

Bank rekening nummer:

IBAN: NL29 RABO 0135 9749 09

BIC: RABONL2U

T.n.v.

Stichting Christian Council International

Rabobank

Croeselaan 18

3521 CB Utrecht

Nederland

Website:<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/nl/>E: info@christiancouncilinternational.org**Business Network:**<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/nl/business-network>**Steun:**<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/nl/doneer>**Raad van Bestuur:**Drs. Henk Jan van Schothorst,
coördinator activiteiten TCC, voormalig
beleidsmedewerker Europees Parlement**Raad van Toezicht:***Voorzitter:* Drs. Jan Schippers, directeur
Wetenschappelijk Instituut SGP,
voormalig beleidsmedewerker Europees
Parlement*Penningmeester:* Drs. Johannes Luiten,
docent algemene en bedrijfseconomie,
management en organisatie,
Driestarcollege*Secretaris:* Leonard van Schothorst,
directeur Van Schothorst Food BV**Office USA:****Christian Council International**1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW STE 1000 -
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EIN: 85-1382246

**Donate to Christian Council
International (CCI):**Account name: Christian Council
International

Account number: 8002796875

Routing number: 221271935

[Click here for Domestic Wire Transfer instructions](#)[Click here for International Wire Transfer
instructions](#)

Checks can be sent to:

Mr. John Van Der Brink,

243 Garside Ave Wayne NJ 07470, USA

CCI is a Section 501 (c)(3) organization
under the IRS code, so contributions are
tax-deductible for U.S. taxpayers.**Website:**<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/>E: info@christiancouncilinternational.org**Board of Directors:***Chairman:* Mr. Henk Jan van Schothorst,
TCC/CCI activities coordinator, former
European Parliament policy advisor*Member:* Mr. John Van Der Brink,
Administrator at Netherlands Reformed
Christian School, New Jersey*Member:* Mr. George E. Roller,
Ambassador for Hope to the Hill at
Capitol Hill*Secretary/Treasurer:* Mrs. Jolanda van
Schothorst-Geluk, General
Administrator TCC/CCI

Management Report


Purpose

Christian Council International defends and promote life, family and freedom, such as of education and religion, worldwide. It is committed to the development of an international network of people involved in public policy to promote Christian thought in our societies and to ensure good translations in public policy. Initially, that network was primarily transatlantic and composed mainly of European and American people. Because the field of work through work at international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and member states is expanding to global regions, such as Africa, the foundation in the Netherlands changed its name at the end of 2021 by statute from Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) to Christian Council International (CCI). Under the latter name, our sister organization in the US was also registered in June 2020.

CCI influences public policy primarily at the international level in international organizations from a Christian perspective. The principle of state sovereignty and subsidiarity, whereby a higher authority should not do something that can be shaped by lower authorities, is an important starting point here. With a core mission-oriented government, it wants to protect and promote classic freedoms such as freedom of religion and education and free enterprise, pro-life, with the family as the cornerstone of society. Protection of the position and way of life of Christians is an important goal in this regard.

Strategy

Before June 2020, TCC submitted its first quadrennial report of work done at the UN from 2016-2019. This is necessary to renew its acquired consultative status at the United



Nations. The NGO committee approved the report, allowing the foundation to retain its consultative status. Currently, the name change from TCC to CCI is submitted to the UN for review.

Accreditation with international organizations is an important tool. It gives CCI powers to effectively translate its goals into policy or influence it where it is made. Such authority includes the right to attend official meetings, to submit written positions in advance, to speak at meetings, to meet with official government delegations, to organize parallel events during meeting sessions, and to 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 and at UN's subsidiary body the Human Rights Council in Geneva), CCI uses these powers. At European Institutions such as the European Union (EU) in Brussels and Strasbourg, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA - Vienna) CCI also has accredited access. In 2021, accreditation was also sought from the African Union(AU). This application is ongoing.

Results

Africa

A concrete start was made in early 2021 to expand the field of work to the African continent. Meskerem Ritmeester, living in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was commissioned by CCI to study the governmental structure of the AU, the influence of AU policy on the issues CCI advocates, and the influence of the EU and the United States on AU policy in relation to CCI issues. She also investigated the role, influence, and specific

interests of relevant AU (policy) bodies and was able to identify which stakeholder actors the CCI could potentially partner with within the AU. Furthermore, Ritmeester conducted a legal scan of the different options available for the CCI to operate in Ethiopia.

This resulted in applying for NGO observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Obtaining observer status would allow the TCC to closely monitor whether or not the AU adopts policies and strategies that underline the Christian perspective on the right to life, family and freedom. An NGO observer status also gives the CCI access to the ACHPR clusters and the NGO Forum including the recently established Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) cluster. This will help the TCC to raise issues and concerns from a human rights perspective with one of the most influential AU organs within the AU governance structure.

Furthermore, recommendations have been made to also engage with the Women and Gender Department, as this department works directly on issues around abortion, gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). In addition, it is important for CCI to build a strong united religious force that can function as a push back to the big international players such as the EU, the US, and multilateral organizations such as UNFPA. The CCI cannot fight these powerful players alone. The CCI could link up with like-minded pan-African faith based organizations to jointly influence decision-making processes within the AU on areas relevant to the CCI.

The legal form for CCI to establish in Africa would be a 'foreign NGO'. However, this would require a constant flow of funds. For the time being, it was decided to continue working with a consultant until a network was built and the necessary

funding was generated to run an office in Ethiopia.

Immediately after the fact-finding mission was completed Meskerem Ritmeester, in close collaboration with undersigned, started building a network of Christian and conservative AU and NGO actors to annul bad provisions on imposed abortion, LGBT policies and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) [the 20-year post-Cotonou / ACP-EU agreement](#) and stop [the 10-year Eastern and Southern Africa \(ESA\) Ministerial Agreement](#). Read more about this in the annual report.

Sufficient funds have become available from the CCI business network to expand the work for our employee in Africa from 1 day to 3 days a week by 2022.

United Nations (UN) Geneva

On behalf of several Dutch pro-life and pro-family organizations, CCI provided input regarding [the report on "Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity"](#) by the Independent Expert on Protection from Violence and Discrimination on grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE-SOGI). This was followed up by an oral statement addressed to this IE-SOGI at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Further input was provided to commemorate the UN's International Day of the Family.

United Nations (UN) New York

On behalf of CCI, Peter Smith was able to follow several committees at the UN in New York: the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW - March), the Commission on Population and Development (CPD54 - April), and the resolutions of the Third Committee (October/November). Smith has attended UN meetings to lobby pro-life/pro-family NGOs at the UN for the past 25 years and has now attended about 150 meetings. He normally found himself in the corridors

encouraging diplomats to remove references to bad language from resolutions and put good things in them. In 2021, the year that was still entirely dominated by strict Covid measures, the meetings took place online.

America

Due to strict Covid measures, it was not possible to physically travel to the US again until the end of 2021. Thus, at the end of April, an online conference was organized on the new wind blowing with President Joe Biden from Washington DC - What does his agenda mean for us and our children in the Netherlands, the US and worldwide, with additional focus on freedom of education. Undersigned participated as a keynote speaker in August online at the Netherlands Reformed Christian Educators Association (NRCEA) Teachers Conference, theme: Global Attacks on Christianity and Christian Education - Focus: Gender Ideology and Sexual Education.

Our board member in the US, John Van Der Brink, has kept us informed of the political situation in the US through his articles and, with undersigned, has given interpretation to the Equal Treatment Act as Biden sought to introduce it when he took office.

Europe

The attacks on Christianity are also increasingly noticeable in Europe. In response to the attacks on the so-called "anti-gay law" (in reality a law that respects parents as the primary guardians of sexuality education for their children under 18, whereby schools may not promote homosexuality and sex change) in Hungary, CCI supported this country by presenting a certificate of appreciation to the Hungarian Ambassador to the Netherlands, as well as to the Hungarian Minister for Families.

The country of Armenia also came on CCI's path through an appeal by the Armenian Ambassador in the Netherlands. In cooperation with the CCI business network, activities were developed to support this (Christian) country.

Media and campaign

CCI was able to get its message across to various media. In the program 'Uitgelicht' of Family7 interviews were given about Trump and the Republican votes, the presidency of Biden and the 'anti-gay law' in Hungary. There was a talk in a podcast by Brussels Sources with MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen about comprehensive sexuality education and abortion facilities in the EU-ACP trade treaty. In the Reformatorisch Dagblad a number of opinion articles were published with the titles: 'Bidens law on equal treatment brings unfairness', 'Protection of life, family and freedom demands all our commitment', 'Respect traditional values in conservative countries' and 'Family out of the picture in "Rutte-4"'; the last title in cooperation with our NL board member Jan Schippers.

We invested heavily in communicating with our supporters by means of the campaign 'He, she or X - Right now standing up for Life, Family and Freedom worldwide'. This campaign has resulted in more awareness of the issues at stake, broader name recognition of the foundation and financial support.

Notes on the Finances

Compared to the year 2020, the foundation saw its income rise from €160,000 to over €240,000 in 2021. This was a result of substantial investment in communication with the supporters. The website was also completely renewed. In addition, it was again possible to organize business meetings. One of these meetings resulted in our employee in Africa being hired for three days a week as of 2022. Furthermore, it was

possible for our colleague in New York to follow various committees at the UN.

The Supervisory Board of CCI consists of Jan Schippers (chairman) and Johannes Luiten (treasurer) and Leonard van Schothorst (secretary). They perform their duties without remuneration. The member of the Board of Directors and the Administrative Assistant (0.4) are paid in salaries, taking into account the salary scales of the BBRA. The salary of the Executive Board member deviates downwards from the average salary that is usual for small charitable organizations. As soon as income allows, new staff will be recruited. Until then we work with volunteers, interns and consultants.

2022 and beyond

The board agrees with the proposal and budget for a 3-year project from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024. Title is: [Before Life, Family and Freedom Worldwide at the UN-EU-AU-OVSE-](#)

[US and Member States, with the motto: 'Free Brave'.](#)

In doing so, we will, first, use our consultative status with international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to strengthen the protection of classical freedoms and to counter the onslaught of a threatening secularism. Second, as irreplaceable allies, we will strengthen transatlantic ties in a variety of ways. In order to do this work thoroughly, we want to be able to have permanent oversight with mentioned international organizations and member states and the US Congress. Substantial financial support is a prerequisite for this.

Deo Volente.

Bodegraven, May 2022

H.J. van Schothorst

Board of Directors

January – March

Fields of activity

“No”, against sexual colonialism



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

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

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

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

Scoping mission to the African Union (AU)

The TCC/CCI is currently engaged in a scoping mission to the African Union (AU) to assess the opportunities for the TCC to establish a local

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



AFRICAN UNION

Pro-life, pro-family organizations join forces

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

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

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

Far from claiming to be complete, but in this spirit, we provide you with the following input, starting with an introduction, followed by some points on policy, gender ideology, women

protection, comprehensive sexuality education and concluding remarks.

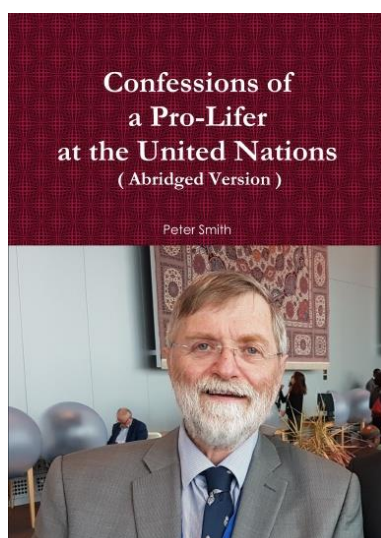
[Read the full input submitted by TCC/CCI here.](#)



Co-signed by:

- 1 Christian Council International, CCI (USA)
- 2 European Educators' Christian Association, EurECA (Swiss)
- 3 Vereniging Gereformeerd Schoolonderwijs, VGS (NL)
- 4 Zorg voor het Leven, NPV (NL)
- 5 Gezinsplatform (NL)
- 6 Bijbels Beraad M/V (NL)
- 7 Reformatorische Oudervereniging Nederland, ROV (NL)
- 8 Reformatorisch Maatschappelijke Unie Nederland, RMU (NL)
- 9 Wilberforce Foundation, WI (Albania)
- 10 Kenya Christian Professionals Forum (KCPF) (Kenya)

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)



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

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

The United Nations was founded in 1945 in the ashes of WWII and was meant to prevent a third world war. After the end of the Cold War certain people decided to use the UN as a place to introduce a new world order, by the production of documents, non-binding, but by their endless repetition make them hard international law. By this process the world would be changed into a very politically correct place. The most radical of ideas contrary to the Word of God are promoted. Chief among these is making abortion a universal human rights. Our responses to this is that a wrong should not be made a right. The other big effort is to promote LGBTQI issues and to denigrate the traditional family. The UN is

committed to individual human rights with no reference to the responsibility of individuals. All sorts of sin are being claimed as human rights.

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

Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

Small summary

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

[Click here for the full report](#)

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

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

Peter Smith

Representing at the UN

Transatlantic Christian Council

Media

Republican Votes

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



Trump acquitted of impeachment

Uitgelicht! 15 February 2021 - Henk-Jan van Schothorst on the acquittal of Trump impeachment proceedings. Former president Donald Trump has been acquitted of his second impeachment procedure. Will he have another shot at the presidency?



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

Authors: John Van Der Brink and Henk Jan van Schothorst



Under the election header 'Bold Ideas - The Biden Plan to Advance LGBTQ+ Equality in America and Around the World' stands in bold: 'Biden

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

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

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

But there is nothing fair about it. The results of passing the Equality Act will impose restrictions and cancel freedoms that have been part of our

nation since its founding. Here are some its potential results.

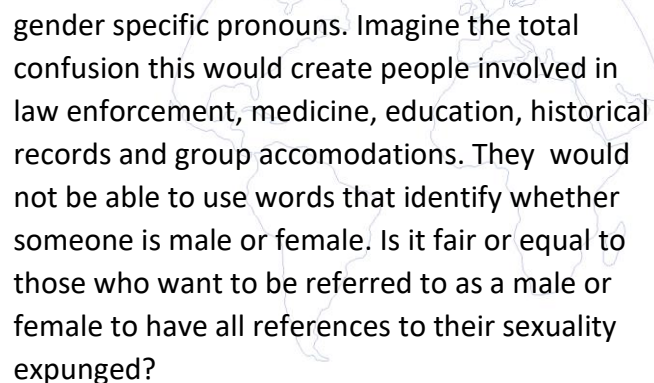
Anyone who voices opposition to the LGBTQ lifestyle would be guilty of hate speech and could be prosecuted for a civil violation. Think of what that means for Christian churches and schools who teach a Biblical view of sexuality! You would be free to speak about and promote the LGBTQ lifestyle, but you would not be free to speak about and promote a Christian lifestyle. Is that fair and equal?

Christian owners and operators of businesses and institutions such as adoption agencies, banquet halls, cake producers, and rental facilities would be forced to modify their policies of operation or face fines or business closure. Is that fair or equal?

Hiring practices which currently require a distinction between male and female would need to be abolished. For example, for a business to insist on hiring a locker room or dressing room attendant who is of the same biological sex would be forbidden. Boys would be allowed to use girls bathrooms and showers, participate in girls sports if they identified themselves as a female. Is that fair or equal to all the biological females (and their husbands) who feel unsafe, humiliated, ashamed, hurt and offended by such intolerable behavior?

“Safe schools” would be established that would guarantee that children are taught to explore their sexuality as young as kindergarten. They would be taught they do not need to accept the way they were born, and that they can change that if they want. They may receive “sexual therapy” at school without even the consent of their own parents. However, therapy to help children identify with the way they were born would be forbidden. Is this fair or equal?

The use of traditional pronouns would change. There are already proposals to replace gender words such as he, him, she, her, etc. with non-



gender specific pronouns. Imagine the total confusion this would create people involved in law enforcement, medicine, education, historical records and group accommodations. They would not be able to use words that identify whether someone is male or female. Is it fair or equal to those who want to be referred to as a male or female to have all references to their sexuality expunged?

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

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

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

and director of TCC and CCI. In Dutch
Reformatorisch Dagblad:

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

who are involved in the issues we defend: Life,
Family and Freedom.

Reserve this afternoon/evening in your agenda!

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

April – June

Fields of activity

"Male and female created he them" - Oral
Statement Geneva - 24 June on SOGI



Dear Mr. Madrigal-Borloz,

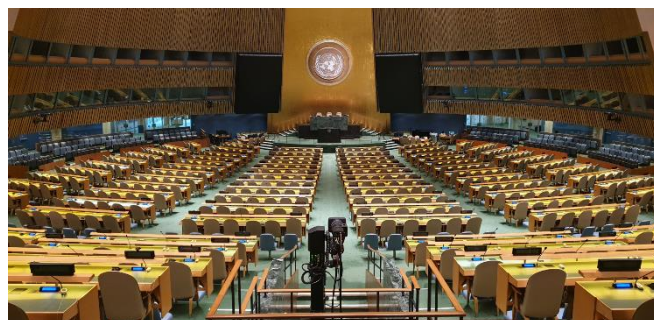
As director of Transatlantic Christian Council, an
ECOSOC-accredited ngo, I thank you for the
opportunity to provide input relative to your
report on "Gender, sexual orientation and gender
identity".

As your report is not available yet, we refer to
your call for input. From the first sentence on
gender is introduced as theory, which wording
contains the claim of verifiable science. It
portrays gender as a social construct or socially
created. We believe that gender theory is an
ideology. On a scientific basis we believe that
sexes are based on biology. We also believe that

God created human beings male and female,
according to the Bible in the book Genesis 1:27:
[Quote]"So God created man in his own image, in
the image of God created he him; male and
female created he them." [Unquote]. That has not
changed. We also acknowledge that all human
beings are captive to their sinful nature in which
they are fallen, and are in need of redemption.
That is possible because of the coming in the
world and the saving grace and sacrifice of Jesus
Christ, Son of God.

Our critical input asks for a rethink, but is also in
the recognition of the inherent dignity of every
human being as an image bearer of God, that
respects the right of each individual to live, as far
as feasible, in liberty. - Thank you.

TCC statement followed: no abortion and
gender ideology in UN population
resolution



CPD 54 - end of April 2021, New York
Peter Smith - Representing at the UN

[TCC provided excellent input into a consultation held by the UN in February this year](#), as to why consensus could not be reached at CPD meetings recently. The intervention can be viewed [here](#).

With over 25 years' experience of attending UN meetings I am still shocked when I listen to the rubbish propagated by so many countries. I am reminded of Romans 1:24 where "God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts....."

In summary the meeting last week in New York, which I followed on the internet was the Commission on Population & Development, CPD54. The subject was :

Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development.

You would think this would be just about food production etc, but you would be wrong. There was a great push on abortion and sexual rights by Finland with 81 countries supporting this. There would have been much threatening and intimidation to get so many countries I imagine.

While I was attending the Food Summit negotiations in Rome in 1996, a lady in my Church here in Scotland said to my wife, "Why is Peter at a Food Summit, isn't he just anti-abortion." My wife had to explain that hunger and food shortage can be remedied, according to the UN by aborting away all these poor children. The UN does not say these things so bluntly, but here is a sample from Finland from their statement mentioned above.

"Nutrition, food security, sustainable development and sexual and reproductive health and rights are closely related and mutually reinforcing..... Because of these interconnections, an intersectional approach is required to leave no one behind."

To interpret the above statement let me restate it in my words. To get enough food you need sexual immorality and abortion on demand. Too little food is because there are too many poor people.

Because all these issues are related to each other sexual and abortion rights are essential for getting enough food. This is a lie as population growth and economic growth are not related.

There was no outcome document last year due to COVID. The three years prior to that there was also no document as the Trump appointed people on the US delegation ensured that abortion promotion and other nasty ideas were suppressed. So the UN Secretariat, the Population Division, UNFPA and the rich countries were desperate to get a document, to make "progress".

[The final document](#) was not too bad, only four references to sexual and reproductive health, ten references to gender, and five references to the family. The sovereignty paragraph was good :

OP2. Also reaffirms the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights.

After the adoption of a "consensus" document at the UN different delegations make reservation and interpretive statements. The statement by the Holy See was excellent as usual. They lamented no reference to family sensitive policies. Then went on to mention that sexual and reproductive health care etc, does not include abortion of abortifacient products Also gender was just biology, only male and female.

I have often wondered why the rich countries, at the UN, are so negative about the family. I remember one African delegate saying to me, "You Europeans must hate your parents." Now

during the recent lock down, I have been watching some good people on YouTube. One of these is Dr. Thomas Sowell. He is an African American conservative, with a Ph D in economics. In one of his quotes, he said that ultra-left-wing politicians despise the nuclear family, especially the law abiding, God fearing ones who work hard, and do not rely on government assistance. If everyone was like this, we would not need all those left-wing extremist politician who want to interfere in our lives. I thought this was a very perceptive observation by Dr. Sowell, I would recommend you watch some of his interviews.

For a more detailed report, [click here](#).

Contribution in Commemoration of the UN International Day of Families – May 17, 2021



We assume a worldview in which a human being on the one hand has inviolable dignity, with an equal claim to fundamental rights for everyone. On the other hand, there is the recognition that man is imperfect, and prone to evil and abuse of power. This inconvenient truth is also the reason for the introduction of "checks and balances" through the separation of powers: executive, legislative and judiciary.

As a people split into identity groups our opponents seem to reject, exchange, or redefine these core truths in such a way that each group and each individual has the right to decide for himself what his truth is. These claimed or

experienced truths must then be accepted by everyone. Those who do not go along with this identity politics, leading to political correctness, are dismissed as xenophobic, racist, homophobic, etcetera. Thus, under the cover of inclusivity, diversity and social justice, unfreedom is imposed 'for all'. A cancel culture of the deemed wrong past, in which the whole system must be dismantled and reformed, and supposed 'white domination' must come to an end. However, the problem is not in the system, but in the human being. Denial of this truth is the source of all problems. Only united we stand, diversified we fall.



AFRICAN UNION

Observer Status to the African Union (AU) applied for

Our consultant in Addis Ababa prepared the application to obtain de observer status with the African Union.

Its receipt has since been formally acknowledged by the AU Secretariat.

We hope and pray that we can soon make our impact here as well.

Media

April 30 2021 Online Conference “In God we Trust”

- First 100 days Biden Presidency

(Transatlantic) Christian Council International organizes an afternoon (evening) about the new wind that blows from Washington DC with President Joe Biden. What does his agenda mean for us and our children in the Netherlands, the US and worldwide, with extra focus on freedom of education. Here you can watch the live stream back. The program starts at min. 7:06.



Featured! May 3, 2021 - Henk Jan van Schothorst on Biden's U.S. presidency

For more than 100 days, Joe Biden has been the American president. Is he succeeding in being a president for all Americans and how do American Christians view him? (Dutch spoken)



A Culture War

By: John Van Der Brink



There is a cultural war going on in America and it is getting worse every day. Like all wars, it affects not only the “soldiers” on the front lines, but the outcome also affects every man, woman, and child who they represent. Like all wars, it is made up of a series of battles, some here and some there, but collectively there is an “army” which is moving the life in America from one mode of existence to something quite different. The effects will likely reach into every home, school, business and possibly church in America. There is a movement to change the very way we think and live our daily lives.

Changes are happening so fast; it is hard to keep track of all of them. But in one sense, we should not be surprised at what we see happening today, because we have been gradually approaching for many years to the fall we see happening today. The decisions being made in the halls of Congress today reflect the values of Americans who have grown up in homes and schools where the Word of God has been largely absent. That results in a worldview and a way of

thinking which is completely foreign to Biblical traditional Christianity. So, what is “good” and what is “bad” is based, not on the Bible, but on what depraved humanity considers good for society. This leads to the inevitable conflict we see all around us today.

There are several “battles” in this cultural warfare that are raging today. Below are listed a brief description of some of them.

a. Battle of Gender Identity- One of the biggest battles being fought in this cultural War is about gender definition and equality. The Bible clearly speaks about two genders – male and female. That is clearly demonstrated also in our biological composition. We either have XX chromosomes or we have an XY chromosome. But if we feel we have the right to reject Biblical precepts, then it is ok for us to think we can change that or behave in ways inconsistent with our creation. So, there are two worldviews in competition here. Either the Bible is our guide or depraved man is our guide. Are we a nation under God or are we ruled by the principles of men?

The Equality Act is a manifestation of this conflict. It is new legislation which basically says the Christian worldview must be set aside and the unchristian worldview followed. Is that equal? Is that fair?

b. Battle of Women’s Rights- Another battle in the Culture War is the place of women in society and in the church. This battle has been waging for a longtime already, but it has reached a feverish pitch at the present time. The idea of the woman’s primary role as a mother in the family is a Biblical precept which many Americans still adhere to. But there is a growing population in America who want to emancipate the woman from that Biblical role. Women should be “free” in every way. This thought has even entered the church where there are women elders and deacons and even ministers. This battle is

designed by Satan to remove Biblical thinking and living from our society.

c. Battle for Respect and Authority- Respect for authority is another area of society where a battle is waging. The Bible tells us that God instituted authority in the home, in school, in church and in society and is intended as a blessing. Human beings need structure and authority in order to survive and thrive. But there is a whole generation who have been taught to question, to dispute, to challenge, and even to resist and to reject authority if they do not like the rules. The Bible teaches that, unless those in authority ask us to do something against God’s Word, we are to obey. The disregard for authority has resulted in chaos and destruction in many American cities and many communities are increasingly unsafe.

d. Battle for the Borders- America has long been considered the land of opportunity and people from all over the world would like to come here and be a part of it. We have a legal system of immigration which is governed by law and order. But, beneath that system that is an illegal system which is controlled by political interests, financial intrigue and crime and it operates by lies and deceit. God is a God of order and He requires that all things be done decently and in order. Those who follow proper immigration procedures are disheartened by others who are not required to follow the rules.

e. Battle for Unborn Life- This battle has already been going on for decades and it is still raging to the present day. It is also rooted in two completely different world views. One view recognizes that God is the giver of life, that we are created in the image of God, and that God only determines when life should end. The other view considers man as a mere collection of matter, without a soul, and that we should choose ourselves when to begin and end life. Those who hold this view often hide the murderous act of abortion with nice sounding

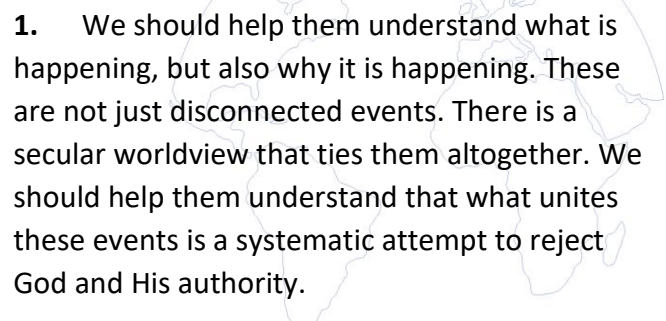
words like “right to choose” but the resulting death of the unborn remains the same.

f. Battle of the Races- Finally, we are witnessing today a very abstract form of prejudice that is re-dividing the races in our country. There are forces who are fanning the flames of suspicion and separation. We hear more and more of White Supremacy, Cancel Culture and Black Lives Matter, Antifa, supposed racial injustices, racial equality, and equity. Where is all this unrest coming from? Unfortunately, some of our leaders profit politically during times of racial unrest, and rather than working to solve these problems they allow them to fester and grow for personal gain.

g. Battle for the Coveted Dollar- The prosperity we experience in America has led many to become materialistic. Honesty, compassion, giving, sharing, love for my neighbor, are all Christian principles. Greed, selfishness, hoarding, and love of temporary possessions stands on the other side. Corporate profit often gets in the way of care for the poor and the oppressed of the world. Even the Christian segment of our society has become so secular and thus-worldly minded.

These things are fundamentally changing America. If it continues, we will soon not recognize a nation that was founded on the principles of God’s Word. And that is exactly the goal. Many leaders in our country seem to want to remove all Biblical authority and the influences of a Christian worldview. They want a secular society instead of “one nation under God”.

There are probably more “battles” that could be listed that are part of this cultural war. There is so much unrest and turmoil in this broken world. Dear parents and friends, this is the world our children are growing up in. Soon they will take their place as an adult in this divided country. What can we do to help them in their growing up years?

- 
1. We should help them understand what is happening, but also why it is happening. These are not just disconnected events. There is a secular worldview that ties them altogether. We should help them understand that what unites these events is a systematic attempt to reject God and His authority.
 2. We should also show them where this turmoil and confusion started. In Paradise we choose to establish our own reign. We rebelled against God, and the rebellion we see happening today is only an extension of the same.
 3. We should help them develop a Christian worldview. That means to show them to view life in all of its changes from the light of Scripture. What we see happening should not be a surprise. It is explainable. When much of our adult population has grown up without a church or Christian school, their conscience, their sense of right and wrong is very distorted. Many times, they do not even know that actions can be sinful.
 4. We should point to the seeds of rebellion that are manifest in our own lives. It is easy to see the faults in society around us, but that should serve as a mirror to see our own faults. If we see that, we will not be haughty in condemning others, but there will be a certain compassion and pity for others as well as ourselves.
 5. We should point them to the only hope there is for us in our day. That is by grace to learn to bow before our offended Maker. That is exactly what we do not really want to do even if we are Reformed and church going people. The time of grace is given to us and to our children for that very purpose. Oh, that the Lord would pour out His Spirit upon us and our children, that we may learn to bow before it is too late.
 6. Finally, we may speak of the comfort and security of those who have learned to flee for refuge to the Ark of Safety, the Lord Jesus Christ. There is One who has ascended on high in might to reign Who has promised to never leave

or forsake His needy ones. He can give courage and strength for the day. He can give wisdom and discretion, faithfulness, and perseverance. In Him there is rest and safety for all the oppressed.

The Psalmist said, "Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a light upon my pathway". There is no teacher or parent who can provide adequate direction for what seems to be on the horizon, but there is a throne of grace. There the weary may find rest. May each of us find that rest, for ourselves, for our dear children and grandchildren, for our students, and for a coming generation. He has never turned a beggar away.

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

Protection of life, family and liberty requires commitment of all

By: Henk Jan van Schothorst

[Op-Ed Reformatorisch Dagblad, Dutch national Daily, about 50k subscribers, 23 June, 2021 \(PDF\)](#)



INTRO:

A new attempt at international standard-setting threatens around the introduction of a so-called "gender theory" and abortion as a human right. Therefore, unborn life, the natural family, and religious and educational freedom must be defended tooth and nail.

This month, Europe is once again the center of ethical and moral lows. Consider the report of Socialist origin that is up for a vote in the European Parliament (EP) this week. The title sounds very compassionate: "the situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the EU from the perspective of women's

health." However, it masks a life-threatening content and calls for a multitude of horrors.

A single point in the resolution of some forty pages is about introducing comprehensive sexuality education in schools, supposedly in line with science, age appropriate and non-judgmental, without prior parental consent. The resolution then says to act in line with standards of international organizations such as the World Health Organization and commitments made at the United Nations (UN) International Conference on Population Development. It further calls for free contraception, the abolition of the right to conscientious objection to abortion, and reimbursement for gender reassignment surgery, including on minors.

Most far-reaching, the resolution seeks to establish abortion as an enforceable human right. This deliberately goes against international agreements, treaties and legislation in member states. Not to mention the fact that abortion is not a health issue, and that this subject does not fall within the EP's jurisdiction at all. With united forces we are therefore making efforts with various concerned organizations and MEPs to get rid of this report.

"Divided Nations"

Another concerning report is on the agenda at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on June 24. The so-called UN Independent Expert will then present its "Report on protection against violence and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity." This expert is in fact supposed to investigate this in member states and report on it.

In late 2016, this highly controversial post (with 84 member states in favor, 77 against and 16 abstentions) was added to the UN system. At the first consultation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Geneva, we contributed, "A majority of UN member states did not vote in favor of your mandate. This is due to conflicting

world views and religious principles. To our Council it seems that the initiators of this mandate are creating a community of Divided Nations, instead of United Nations. How do you experience this reality and how do you deal with the conflicting visions related to your mandate?"

The experience of the Expert's energetic work and drive to introduce gender as a theory rather than an ideology does not bode well. In line with the 16-page input we have provided, we will also be introducing these concerns in an oral statement at the June 24 hearing.

G7

Earlier this month, President Biden came to Europe. His election and the resulting Democratic majority in the U.S. were a sledgehammer blow to pro-life, pro-family, and pro-religious and pro-educational freedoms, inside and outside the U.S. One of the many examples that illustrate this is the final communiqué of the annual meeting of the Group of Seven (G7, forum of seven rich industrial nations), which took place in the United Kingdom: "A Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better". One goes full on gender equality and SRHR, including abortion, something President Trump prevented.

Furthermore, French President Macron called for close cooperation with the so-called Generation Equality Forum (June 30-July 2 in Paris), which emanates from feminist activists, Mexico, France and the UN Women. They are fighting for accelerated progress on women's rights and gender equality in the run-up to 2030. Our registration and participation in this forum has been confirmed, but we searched the option menu of action coalitions in vain for a group of prolife and family representatives.

Neo-colonial

Finally, this: In various UN germs, voting is not done by head, but decided by consensus. This often prevents rich Western countries from pushing their controversial agenda with abortion,

gender and sexual rights in the face of poor countries. Those countries often have more conservative legislation.

Recently, a former representative to the UN sounded the alarm on behalf of his African country. To his horror, he had also read the fine print in the new, binding negotiating result of the EU's Partnership with the 79-country Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP). This result, agreed on April 15, runs to a whopping 187 pages. If the EU member states approve it unanimously, and so do the EP and individual ACP countries, it will go into effect at the end of 2021 for a new 20-year period.

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

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

Not neutral

Much more could be said about how it came about that these kinds of issues dominate the international agendas. And why not states, but pressure groups and (subsidized) progressive NGOs are the actual drivers of change.

It was only very late that Christian-oriented NGOs understood that goals pursued by or through the UN and the EU such as human rights and "global governance" (regulation of problems that extend across national borders) were anything but neutral and that taking a seat at the table was not a luxury but a necessity. Therefore, all hands on deck in defense of unborn life, the natural family, and religious and educational freedom.

The author is founder-director of Transatlantic Christian Council (International) (TCC in the Netherlands, CCI in USA).

Featured! June 23, 2021 - Henk Jan van Schothorst on Hungary's 'anti-gay law'

Hungary is under a lot of fire because of their anti-gay law. The European commission wants to send a warning letter to the Hungarian government. To what extent does Europe have the right to interfere Hungarian legislation? (Dutch spoken)



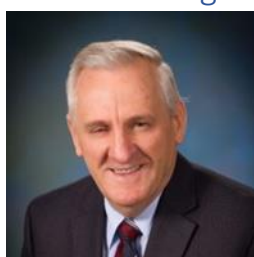
Is Christian Education in America in Danger - The Second 100 Days
 By: John Van Der Brink

By the time you read this, the new administration will have held office for more than 200 days. The new administration has already introduced new policies and the radical cultural changes, and more changes are well on their way.

In the last issue, we briefly considered the following Biden/Harris efforts:

Promotion of LGBTQ policies

Promotion of radical sex education policies.



Promotion of state approved textbooks that rewrite our nation's history.

Promotion of a new world view that leaves out Christian values.

Promotion of the Equality Act.

Those policies, if left unchecked, will soon reach into almost every area of life in our country. The foundation has already been laid for more laws and policies which directly affect our religious liberties. The freedom that we currently enjoy in our Christian schools will not be protected from their impact. Here are four more issues of concern.

New Education Secretary Education Secretary Betsy de Vos HAS been replaced by Dr. Miguel Cardona, the first Latino to hold that office as part of the Biden's efforts to diversify his administration. He promises to return to the Obama-era educational policies which promote "equality" measures that penalize parents who cannot afford to opt out of their local public schools, and which ignore Biblical distinctions about sex in the use of public bathrooms, promote immoral sex education in health classes, and push unfair policies in competitions. Basic common sense seems to have escaped many of our leaders.

Gay Pride Promoted Around the World American Ambassador Peter Hoekstra is being replaced by a new ambassador. Meanwhile, the US Embassy in the Netherland is already proudly displaying the rainbow colors of the sexual revolution and celebrating and promoting gay pride in it policies and on its website. What is remarkable here and in other venues is the forcefulness with which this revolution is being pushed by the Biden administration. Biden has promised to be the most aggressive LGBTQ promoter of all presidents, and he is living up to this promise. Everyone you turn, this agenda is "pushed in your face". Business corporations, political thinktanks, even many religious organizations have become

vehicles to make this movement present into everyone everywhere.

Promoting Unchristian Ideology Before the election, groups like Black Lives Matter, Antifa etc. attracted a lot of attention for their riotous destruction of American cities and opposition to the police force, etc. These groups blamed President Trump and his policies for instigating their actions. But Americans opposed this senseless destruction, and much of this rioting has stopped. But what has not stopped is the promotion of the principles and ideologies of these unchristian groups. The principles of these radical groups emerge in all the daily public discourse and proposed legislation every day in the new Biden administration.

Changed Immigration Policies Finally, the immigration policies of the new administration have resulted in the biggest border crises in our nation's history. Illegal immigration from our southern border has run rampant. Waves of people, expecting to be able to cross have so flooded the borders, that officials do not know what to do. Busloads of people who are smuggled across, are literally transported across America to sanctuary cities, and left to melt into society. Some politicians are arguing that these people should be given working papers, medical attention, and even voting rights. It is likely that this influx of people will eventually change the voting demographics of our nation and turn it to a more Democratic leaning. Is this the ultimate purpose of these reckless policies?

Dear parents and friends, this is the world our children are growing up in. Soon they will take their place as an adult in this divided country. What can we do to help them in their growing up years?

1. We should help them understand not only what is happening, but also why it is happening. These are not just disconnected events. There is a secular worldview that ties them altogether. We

should help them understand that what unites these events is a systematic effort to reject God and His authority.

2. We should also show them where this turmoil and confusion started. In Paradise we choose to establish our own reign. We rebelled against God, and the rebellion we see happening today is only an extension of the same. The root of what is happening all around us is within us.

3. We should help them develop a Christian worldview. That means to show them to view life in all of its movements and changes from the light of Scripture. What we see happening should not be a surprise. It is explainable. When much of our adult population has grown up outside a church or Christian school, their conscience, their sense of right and wrong is very distorted. Many times, they do not even know that actions can be sinful. There is no concept of a divine law.

4. We should point to the seeds of rebellion that are manifest in our own lives. It is easy to see the faults in society around us, but that should serve as a mirror to see our own faults. If we see that, we will not be haughty in condemning others, but there will be a certain compassion and pity for others as well as for ourselves. Our society needs to repent, but we also need to repent.

5. We should point them to the only hope there is for us in our day. That is by grace to learn to bow before our offended Maker. That is exactly what we do not really want to do even if we are Reformed and church-going people. The time of grace is given to us and to our children for that very purpose. Oh, that the Lord would pour out His Spirit upon us and our children, that we may learn to bow before it is too late.

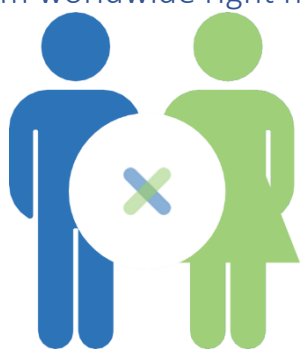
6. Finally, we may speak of the comfort and security of those who have learned to flee for refuge to the Ark of Safety, the Lord Jesus Christ. There is One who has ascended on high in might to reign. He has promised to never leave or forsake His needy ones. He can give courage and

strength for the day. He can give wisdom and discretion, faithfulness, and perseverance. In Him there is rest and safety for all the oppressed.

The Psalmist said, “Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a light upon my path”. There is no teacher or parent or church leader who can provide adequate direction for what seems to be on the horizon, but there is a throne of grace. There is a throne of grace – there the weary may find rest. May each of us beg and find that rest, for ourselves, for our dear children and grandchildren, for our students, and for a coming generation. He has never turned a beggar away.

Campaign

He, she or X? - Standing up for Life, Family and Freedom worldwide right now!



Is your child a boy or girl at birth? That is not clear according to radical forces at the United Nations. They believe that it is not your biological anatomy that determines one's sex – instead it is how you feel. According to them, everyone should be taught that there is a wide variety of sexual orientations and gender identities to choose from. This is the focus of the Human Rights Council which will meet soon in Geneva and later New York.

Watch the video ["The War on Children"](https://familywatch.org/) here, which reveals the most controversial and harmful components of comprehensive sex education (CSE) programs. (With permission from

<https://familywatch.org/>, TCC/CCI has subtitled the film in Dutch).



Whoever dares to speak against this distortion of the Creation is called a perpetrator of hate and their opponents are considered victims. Speaking up will result in being placed on a “black” list.

Anti-discrimination must reign worldwide as a super fundamental right over religious and educational freedom. If that succeeds, our freedom is over and parental authority is in serious danger. We must stand up against this, at the source! (Transatlantic) Christian Council International (TCC-NL and sister CCI-USA) is doing just that. Will you join us?

With your gift we can:

Defend and promote our input in Geneva and in New York.

Respect every life and stop gender ideology worldwide.

Be your voice for life, family and freedom with international organizations and member states.

Our input lies in the recognition of the inherent dignity of every human being as an image-bearer of God that respects the right of every individual to live in freedom, as far as practicable.

Worldwide, Biblical standards for life, family and freedoms are under intense pressure. Mostly rich ‘Western’ countries and organizations try to impose acceptance of highly controversial issues

such as abortion, gender and sexual rights. They see this as an enforceable human right and treat poorer member countries as if they are not free to decide for themselves. Hidden from view, this bitter struggle is taking place in our work fields. We have a voice there!

TCC/CCI, as a non-subsidized non-profit, has already succeeded several times in excluding these matters from final resolutions, such as in March and April in New York and with our consultant to the African Union. But more people

and resources are absolutely needed to fight this fight and leverage our expanded capabilities.

Therefore, we ask for your prayers and financial support as we launch the 3-year TCC/CCI project 2021-2023:

['Free, Brave'](#)

For permanent monitoring, control and participation in international organizations, as a competent and officially accredited NGO with the UN, EU, AU, OSCE and with member states such as the US and worldwide.

July – September

Fields of Work

EU-ACP

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

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

the 79-country Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP).



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

We have until December to make this known to members of the European Parliament and the group of countries concerned. In the hope that

there will be dissenting voices against this new, neo-colonial looking trick of the European Union.



Activities within the African Union

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



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

SOGI



Following our input [in words](#) and [writing](#), the expert recently came out with his processing '[The Law of Inclusion and the Practice of Exclusion](#)': The first sentences read, 'There has been a steep rise in the use of platforms by extremist political leaders and religious groups to promote bigotry, dehumanize persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI), and foster stigma and intolerance among their constituencies. This trend is generated through orchestrated and well-resourced strategies that aim at negatively impacting the progressive

CCI presents certificate of appreciation to Hungarian minister of family



CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION

In appreciation for your untiring dedication to support life, family, and freedom and to promote Christian values in education and politics. Awarded by TCC/CCI to Prime Minister Victor Orban handed over to Minister for Families

Novák Katalin at #BDSIV

#budapestdemographicsummitiv

#FamilyKeytoSustainability

recognition of human rights standards relating to gender equality and sexuality.' In short: We are just continuing the normalization of SOGI, the large number of supporters of nature, biology and a marriage of man and woman that boys and girls can have are extremist, bigoted, intolerant and so on.

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



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

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

- Aleksandar Vučić

President, Republic of Serbia

- Mike Pence

The 48th Vice President of the United States of America

- Janez Janša

Prime Minister, Republic of Slovenia

- Andrej Babiš

Prime Minister, Czech Republic

- Milorad Dodik

Serbian Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Viktor Orbán

Prime Minister, Hungary

And they came to this statement:

'The European continent is facing a serious



demographic crisis, which is one of the most pressing current challenges in our region.

Each member state must pursue its own family policy, in accordance with its own constitution, traditions and customs.

We, the signatory Heads of State and Government, commit ourselves to using all available means to enable married couples, and

in particular young couples, to achieve their family planning goals.' So: many supporters for the family, also in Europe, that we can take an example from!

[Click here for the social media post with more photos.](#)

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

[#BudapestDemographicSummitIV](#)
[#FamilyKeytoSustainability](#)



NRCEA Teachers Conference

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

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



The work of CCI in a nutshell

Life

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

This dignity respects the right of everyone to life and

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

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

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.

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.

of states are therefore limited.
They are accountable to their
citizens.

What's at stake:

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

What we do:

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

Media

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

Fundamental changes are taking place in America. We are fast losing a “sense of God” – the inner conviction that God is a



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

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

Is it really any wonder that society is in such mess as it is today? Many children and young people were never taught a Christian Worldview and are

now grown up and becoming the leaders in our society. They promote laws and policies which are far away from the principles of God’s Word, and that is why we have what is so totally strange today.

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

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

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

hopelessly lost ones to be restored into favor and fellowship with Him.

What can we say to all these things? We live in troubling times. Our nation is crumbling under the weight of its own immorality. That is what we need to see, and our children need to learn. May the Lord yet raise up a seed and give us leaders that desire to lead us according to the principles of His Word. May He also work in the hearts of boys and girls, young people and adults so that there may also be a complete inner renewal. A Christian Worldview and a Christian Self-view is what is needed today. May the Lord bless the instruction given in home church and school to the glory of His Name and the salvation of many souls.

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

Comprehensive sexual education and abortion facilities in trade deal – podcast

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



BRUSSELSE BRONNEN
Over de VS, Afrika en abortuskwestie

SPECIALE GAST

HENK-JAN VAN SCHOTHORST
DIRECTEUR TCC

BERT-JAN RUISSSEN
EUROPARLEMENTSLID

FLORIAN PRONK
PRESENTATOR

PODCAST

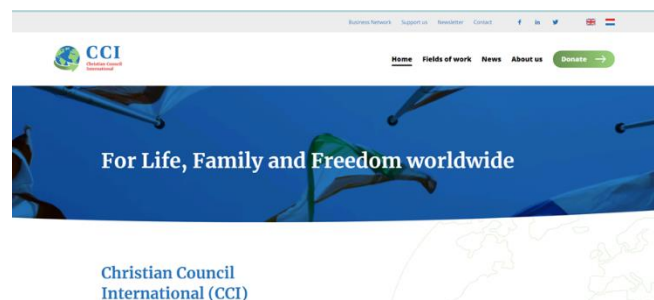
ECR
FRACTIE

SGP
Eurofractie

LUISTER NAAR DE PODCAST VIA:
WWW.BRUSSELSEBRONNEN.NL

CCI has a new website!

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



Oktober – December

Fields of Work

Respect traditional values in conservative countries

By: Henk Jan van Schothorst

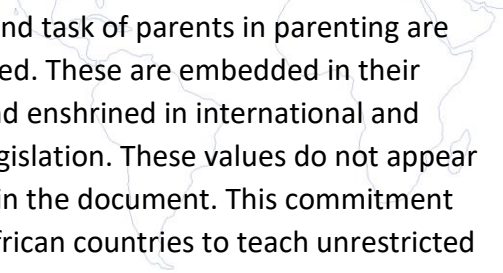
Possessed of progressive ideas about sexual orientation and gender identity, Western powers are forcing their beliefs on conservative countries. This is ideological neocolonialism.

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

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

The United Nations - All about rights, nothing about responsibility

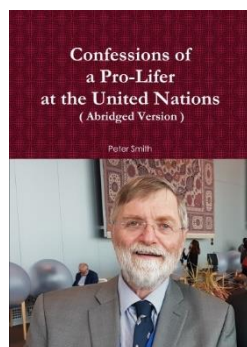
By: Peter Smith

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=ApC0faRYabl



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 counties 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.



Media

Hungary - 'Minister for Family in Cabinet'
October 9, 2021 in [Reformatorsch 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](#)

„Minister voor Gezin in kabinet”

BOEDAPEST (RD). Henk Jan van Schothorst van de Christian Council International roept de formerende partijen in Nederland op om in het komende kabinet een minister voor Gezin of Familiezaken op te nemen, naar voorbeeld van Hongarije. Hij deed dat vrijdag bij de National Prayer Breakfast in Boedapest. Van Schothorst bood minister Katalin Novák voor Familiezaken een certificaat van waardering aan voor haar werk en het promoten van christelijke waarden in onderwijs en politiek.

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](#).



Succesfully 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!



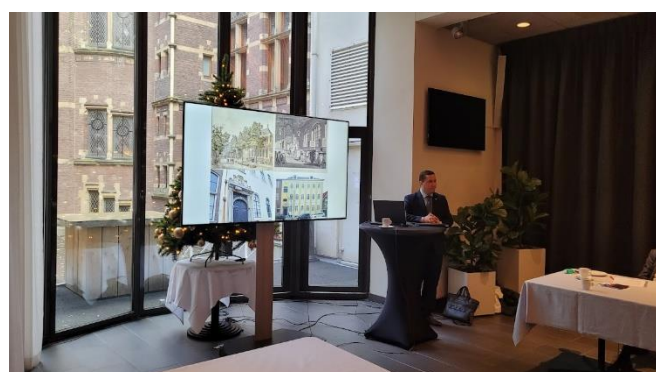
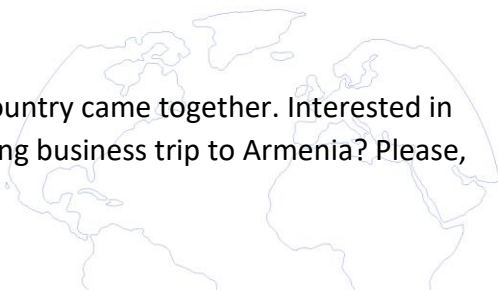
The Hague – Armenia

[Christian Council International](#)

November 29, 2021

We had a great CCI business lunch at [@nieuwsport](#) 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.

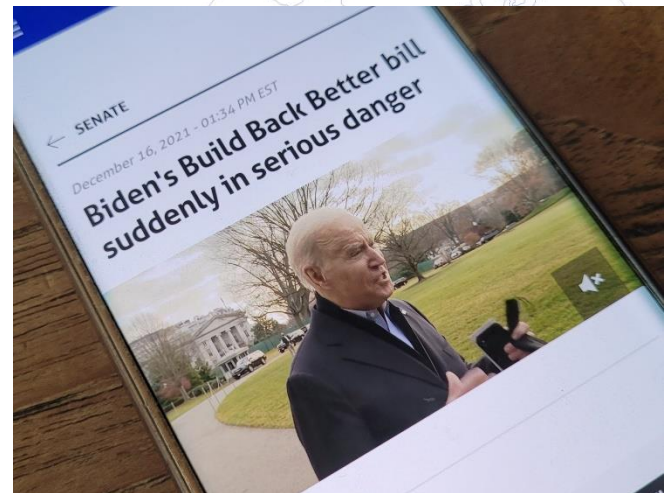


[For more photos and videos, click here](#)

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.

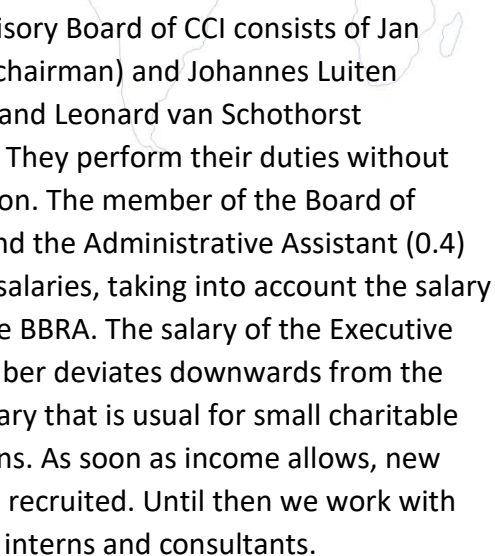
Henk Jan van Schothorst is executive director of [Christian Council International](#).



Financial Report

[For the financial report, click here](#)

Compared to the year 2020, the foundation saw its income rise from €160,000 to over €240,000 in 2021. This was a result of substantial investment in communication with the supporters. The website was also completely renewed. In addition, it was again possible to organize business meetings. One of these meetings resulted in our employee in Africa being hired for three days a week as of 2022. Furthermore, it was possible for our colleague in New York to follow various committees at the UN.



The Supervisory Board of CCI consists of Jan Schippers (chairman) and Johannes Luiten (treasurer) and Leonard van Schothorst (secretary). They perform their duties without remuneration. The member of the Board of Directors and the Administrative Assistant (0.4) are paid in salaries, taking into account the salary scales of the BBRA. The salary of the Executive Board member deviates downwards from the average salary that is usual for small charitable organizations. As soon as income allows, new staff will be recruited. Until then we work with volunteers, interns and consultants.