



for LIFE  FAMILY  FREEDOM 

# CCI Newsletter

## September 2022



**CCI**  
Christian Council  
International

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## Preface

Dear reader,

### Faith

"I believe in a God who lives, who can give a return to His commandments and who is a hearer of prayer," is how I ended an interview on Family7 in Featured! following the results of the Italian elections. And this faith puts our work 100 percent in perspective. We do not have to stand in our own strength when we stand up for life, the traditional family and freedoms such as of religion and education. The results of the Italian elections, won with the motto 'God, land, family', indicate that the people want to change course. My hope is that countries like Poland and Hungary, which often stand alone in their pro-family policies, will have their support.

### Golden Cross

That Hungary greatly values such support is evidenced by the award we received last month. Accompanied by a letter from Victor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, and a statement from President Katalin Novák, I received the Golden Cross of Merit of Hungary from the hands of the Hungarian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Andras Kocsis, last September 6.

### Concerns and calls for support

We can be concerned when we follow the debate on the [Transgender Act](#) being held in the Netherlands. Or when we take note of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a Jewish university must allow LGBTQ clubs to be established at their school, as our board member in the U.S. describes. Or when we see evil things, like mandating abortion or having to provide comprehensive sexuality education in schools, being imposed on developing countries from the West. Recently Pieter Beens wrote an article about the latter [on CNE.news](#). With the resources given to us, we try to do everything possible to

turn these things around. Your (financial) support is indispensable in this!

### Pray and work

Together with our Africa consultant, we have again done a lot of work on the EU-ACP agreement, the proposed 20-year binding trade treaty between the EU and the 79 ACP countries. Furthermore, we were able [to strengthen ties in the US](#). Our representative to the UN in New York followed some meetings. We underline his appeal: Please pray against the UN's relentless pressure to make abortion a human right.

Please read about all this further in this newsletter.

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

With warm regards,

**Henk Jan van Schothorst**

*Directeur Christian Council International*

## Fields of Work

The Gold Cross of Merit from Hungary for CCI director Henk Jan van Schothorst



*Foto: CNE.news, Evert van Vlastuin*

Henk Jan van Schothorst, executive director of the Christian Council International, received at September 6, 2022 the Gold Cross of Merit of Hungary, in recognition of his support for Hungary, as well as his untiring work to promote Hungarian family policy in the Netherlands and protect Europe's Judeo-Christian heritage. The cross was handed over by the Hungarian ambassador to the Netherlands, András Kocsis.

[Click here for a \(photo/video\) report](#)



*Golden Cross of Merit from Hungary.*

## Network strengthened in the US

Immediately after receiving the Golden Cross of Merit of Hungary on Sept. 6, Van Schothorst traveled on to New York to the United Nations. With several appointments along the way, he then drove to Washington DC with Mark den Hollander, who represents CCI in the US.



There they had appointments at the U.S. Congress, the Heritage Foundation and the branch of Hillsdale College Graduate School of Government. There was also a good reunion with CCI board member George Roller, who is a missionary in Congress.



At a church service at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in West Palm Beach the attacks of 9/11, 2001 were commemorated. Van Schothorst attended the very informative National Conservatism conference in Miami from Sept. 11 - 13. Well-known names among the more than 100 speakers included Albert Mohler, President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the popular Governor of Florida: Ron DeSantis.





Finally, he attended the more action oriented Pray-Vote-Stand Summit from Sept. 14-16 in Atlanta, Georgia. Again, he expanded his knowledge and broadened his network and had personal conversations with Albert Mohler, also present here, and Tony Perkins, President of the Family Research Council (FRC) and FRC Action.



News from UN New York  
 Its my RIGHT

By: Peter Smith

I am currently sitting in my office in the UK , feeling very sad about loosing a great monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.

I have been asked to write a small article on one of the most contentious issues at the UN. For over 25 years I have been involved with this battle.

After searching through hundreds of UN documents I have never seen even one reference to obligations, just rights, rights and more rights. I have sat through many boring meetings at the UN



where rights are front and centre. In the Bible I see obligations at the fore-front not much mention of rights.

Their favourite right is the right to health. This makes me think about what this means. Perhaps no-one should get sick. Then I think no, it means they expect me to pay for their health care. After this is the notion that reproductive health is also a right. Now the latest one at the UN is the right to access safe abortion. So, what the USA and the EU want is the right to have unborn children killed in their mother's wombs at some abortion mill. These countries want to force all the countries in the world into this culture of death. Abortion is a human wrong not a human right.

Nigeria is a champion at defending unborn children, along with most of the rest of Africa and the Muslim countries. These brave counties resist the pressure of the so called developed nations. The Biden administration is very pro-abortion. They do not think any abortion is wrong or bad. Their own Supreme Court recently denied that there was any right to abortion when it over-turned Roe v. Wade. This was thanks to President Trump appointing three pro-life justices.

Please pray against the UN's relentless push to make abortion a human right. Every child in the womb is loved by Christ and wanted by Him.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022 the General Assembly of the United Nations passed the following resolution:

**International cooperation for access to justice, remedies and assistance for survivors of sexual violence**

I have copied Operative paragraph 6 below and would like to make a few comments on it. The wording in bold script is problematic.

6. Urges States to ensure the promotion and protection of the **human rights** of all women and their **sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights** in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International

Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, **safe abortion** where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

The above paragraph is dangerous as the term human rights is included along with the term “safe abortion”. This can be construed as some right to abortion. More specifically where pregnancy occurs due to rape. Even though abortion due to rape is about 1 in a thousand of all abortions, it is used as a hard case to justify some abortion which is then used to justify all abortion.

Now there is some good qualifying language, with a reference to the “International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action”. This could have been better by referencing the Report of these conferences rather than the Platform for action. The former includes reservations the latter does not. However the reference includes wording that “abortion laws should be decided at the national level.”

On the safe abortion wording is included, “where such services are permitted by national law”. This also works counter to abortion as a human right. However this is the second time this term “safe abortion” is in a co called consensus document.

Pro-abortion people will claim these terms add to customary international law and are a step along the road to abortion as a human right, As seen above there is qualifying language to counter this idea of a right to abortion. The bad thing here is that pro-abortion countries will claim “safe abortion” is agreed wording and they will conveniently forget to quote the qualifying language.

Sadly there are three other references to : *“including sexual and reproductive health-care services,”* in the document. This is a loaded term that has been fought over for a quarter of a century at the UN. It should be deleted, or at least have qualifying language next to it to prevent a supposed right to abortion.

Also this resolution is non-binding, it is only a voluntary code of practice for countries. It is not a treaty or convention. However poor countries only find out later when pressured by rich countries that non-binding can become conditional on economic aid.

*Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York*



## News from Africa

ACS agreement signing postponed (!) and CCI office in Africa

*By: Meskerem Ritmeester*

Due to the postponement of the signing of the new EU-ACP Agreement to 2023, CCI had more time last quarter to think and strategize on a proper advocacy campaign with its close allies. A special action team was established for this purpose and CCI is currently leading this global group of influential MPs, government officials, CSO, and religious leaders. This resulted in the planning of a series of events where CCI aims to be engaged in to maximize its advocacy impact regarding the EU-ACP Agreement.



*CCI meets with H.E. President of Malawi*

The first strategic event CCI joined in August 2022 was the African Bar Association Annual Conference in Malawi where CCI was able to raise awareness on the dangerous provisions inside the new EU-ACP Agreement among various high-level decision makers and policy influencers, such as: The President of Malawi, Malawian MPs and Ministers, the Vice-President of Liberia, Malawian religious leaders and hundreds of senior legal experts from across Africa who also attended the Conference in Malawi. Some of the policy influencers started to actively be engaged in CCI's

advocacy campaign and support the upcoming events planned for the last quarter of 2022 that are critical in deepening the awareness on the dangerous provisions inside the new EU-ACP Agreement.



*CCI meets with H.E. Vice President of Liberia*

Another milestone achieved by CCI this quarter was the establishment of its office in Africa (Ethiopia) in the form of a hosting arrangement. The main reason for this major step in CCI's expansion is to obtain a consultative status for CCI with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), one of the main African Union Organs. CCI expects to obtain its observer status this October 2022.

*Meskerem Ritmeester is CCI Policy & Advocacy Director Africa*



## Media

New trade agreement forces African countries to follow European ideas



CNE.news - Pieter Beens: A new trade agreement with the European Union should bring African countries welfare and security. But in return, these countries must prioritise abortion and sexual diversity on their agenda....[Read more](#)

## Sad Supreme Court Ruling

By: John Van Der Brink

Many of you will remember what happened to the Christian schools in Alberta, Canada a couple of years ago when Bill 24 was passed which mandated the formulation of gay and lesbian clubs in schools if students wanted them. This led to a huge reaction in many school communities which threatened the funding and even the existence of several Christian schools, also of our own NRCEA school there. Providentially, the Christian schools escaped the pressure and effect of this law by a change in government following an election. But the line of thinking that produced the original legislation is still alive and well, and only awaiting another opportunity to resurface.

Unfortunately, but very predictably, that line of thinking did not stay north of the American/Canadian border. This year, Yeshiva University in New York City was also targeted for the same thing. Yeshiva is a Jewish University founded in 1886 as an all-boys school designed to provide vigorous instruction in the study of the Old Testament Torah or what we would call the first five books of the Bible. Yeshiva has since expanded into a modern research facility, but it



still is the leading institution of modern Jewish orthodoxy. However, a state judge ruled in June that there was nothing in the identity of Yeshiva University that would exempt them from human rights laws that govern public educational institutions. Yeshiva appealed this ruling and asked for a stay on this order, and the case went to the Supreme Court. The request for a stay was denied by the Supreme Court, which means that until Yeshiva exhausts their case through the appeal process, they must allow LGBTQ clubs to form in their school.

The ruling at both the lower and the higher court is dangerous and precedent setting. It basically says that unless a religious school clearly shows, in its religious traditions and documentation, that LGBTQ ideology is a violation of the Scriptural standards to which it adheres, and from which it daily teaches, they may be forced to allow an unbiblical practice to flourish on their school grounds. It will be important to watch what is the final outcome of this case.

It is alarming also to see the inroads being made by the LGBTQ community in American educational institutions. First, it was the public schools that, under the guise of forbidding discrimination, were required to allow and even promote LGBTQ activity. Today every public school is a breeding ground to help normalize this lifestyle. But what is happening at Yeshiva is proof that religious schools also are not exempt. If a school is not religious enough, it is subject to the same regulations.

Currently, in America, religious schools are allowed to teach their understanding of the Bible and what it says about how we should live. Freedom of religion still guarantees that right. But the challenge to that right seems to be standing at our very door. We wonder how long this freedom will stand when we are accused of discriminating against those who disagree with our teaching. May the Lord remember our nation and our schools in mercy and raise up leaders who desire to maintain a society base on the



morals and principals of God's Word. The future of our children and grandchildren are at stake.

This is a developing story and one which bears watching by all those who are concerned about the future of religious liberty in America. The latest step is that Yeshiva University has decided to discontinue ALL clubs until these matters can be settled in the courts. Clearly, they see their religious rights as being violated and are willing to go to great sacrifices to try to regain them.

*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)*

Featured! Sept. 26, 2022 - Henk Jan van Schothorst on the Italian elections

The conservative right-wing Fratelli d'Italia party has won the elections in Italy. Party leader Giorgia Meloni thus becomes Italy's first female prime minister. This is fantastic news. The intended prime minister said, I may not describe myself as an Italian, Christian, wife and mother. I must be citizen X, gender X, parent 1, parent 2. I must be a number, but she won with the motto: God, country and family.





*English subtitles can be turned on and off with the button at the bottom of the video.*



## Urgent financial support needed for CCI

In order for CCI's work to continue and expand, a steady flow of funds is necessary. To get an idea of what the project plan looks like for the next three years, see the picture below or [click here](#). It is an ambitious plan, but every contribution helps us!





### SPONSORSHIP PLAN

**CCI Program January 2023 - December 2025**


Ambitious three-year program aiming to return Christian perspectives to the very center of public debate in North America, Europe and worldwide. The Program "For Life, Family and Freedom at UN, EU, AU, and its Member States and Strengthening Transatlantic Ties" protects Christian values and freedoms at a time when the Christian basis for these achievements is crumbling.

*How? By using CCI's consultative status at the UN, EU, AU, and OSCE, to strengthen the protection of Christian values and freedoms and national sovereignty.*

*How? By mobilizing like-minded decision makers, parliamentarians, CSOs, and media to jointly raise awareness and influence the policy makers to protect Life, Family and Freedom.*

**1. Project United States**


- Location: Washington DC
- 1 policy officer who monitors the day-to-day affairs in US politics and US Congress.



150,000 USD per year

**2. Project United Nations**


- Locations: New York, Geneva
- 1 policy officer who monitors the day-to-day affairs at the UN Headquarters, the UN Human Rights Council, and WHO Office.



150,000 USD per year

**3. Project Europe**


- Locations: Brussels, Strasbourg, Warsaw, Vienna
- 1 policy officer who monitors the day-to-day affairs at the EU Parliament and at the EU-FRA and OSCE.



150,000 USD per year

**4. Project ACP**

- Location: Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
- 1 policy officer who monitors the day-to-day affairs at the African Union (AU) and its member states, and the Caribbean and Pacific countries (with voting rights at the UN).



250,000 USD per year

**CCI's main activities across the four different project locations**

- Write oral and written statements to influence strategic policy- and decision-making meetings that threaten national sovereignty and Christian values and freedoms regarding life, family and freedom.
- Organize strategic side-events and awareness raising conferences.
- Maintain strong partnership relations with like-minded policy influencers.
- Organize regular online planning sessions to develop joint intervention strategies with key allies.
- Conduct research, gather and share information on concerning international policies / treaties, and write policy briefs and media articles.

**Key policy focus areas**

- Dangerous policy key words threatening life, family and freedom:  
 Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)  
 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)  
 Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI)  
 Safe Abortion (in relation to the rights of women)
- Current international policies that contain the above-stated dangerous key words:  
 The new 20-year binding EU - ACP Agreement  
 Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment  
 AU Safety and Social Security Protocol  
 WHO Treaty

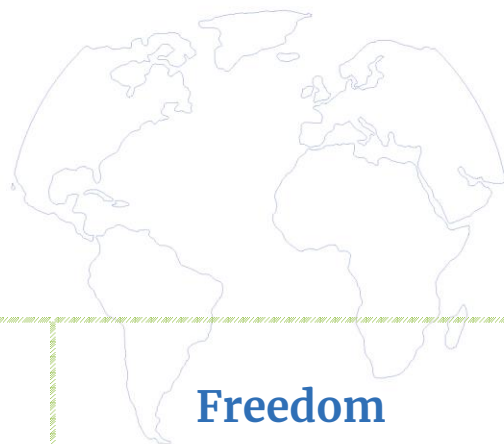
*and more is likely to come....*

### Expected Results

- **At least two policies / treaties amended.**
- **A high-level international policy network established and effective in influencing policy at the US, UN, EU, and ACP level.**

**Use this sponsorship opportunity to showcase your stand for our Christian values and freedoms!**

## The work of CCI in a nutshell



### Life

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

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

#### What's at stake:

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

#### What we do:

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

### Family

**The traditional family is the cornerstone of society.**

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

#### What's at stake:

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

#### What we do:

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

### Freedom

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

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

#### What's at stake:

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

#### What we do:

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

## Colofon



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(Former: Transatlantic Christian Council)

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## Colofon

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CCI is a Section 501 (c)(3) organization  
under the IRS code, so contributions are  
tax-deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

### Website:

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### Support:

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

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**CCI**  
Christian Council  
International

## Support us

CCI is a non-profit organisation. It develops an international network of Christians and conservatives involved in public policy and influences policy from a Christian perspective. CCI speaks at international organisations such as the UN, EU and the Human Rights Council to stand up for a Christian voice with an extra focus on themes such as life, family and freedom.

If you want to support the work of CCI you can transfer a donation via:  
<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/donate>

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.

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