



CCI
Christian Council
International

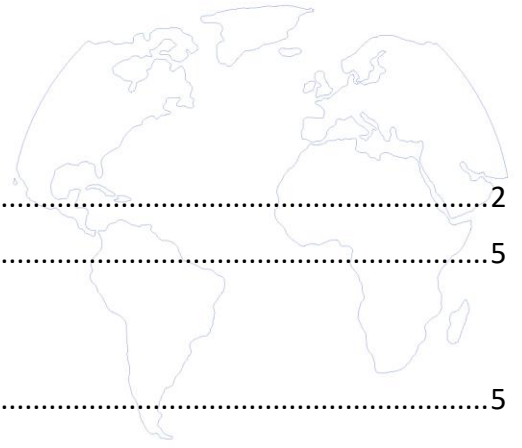


CCI Annual Report 2022

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CCI is a Section 501 (c)(3) organization
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tax-deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

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Board of Directors:

Chairman: Mr. Henk Jan van Schothorst,
CCI activities coordinator, former
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Ambassador for Hope to the Hill at
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Schothorst-Geluk, General
Administrator CCI

Management Report

2022

Purpose

Christian Council International defends and promotes, with governments and international organizations, 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 perspectives in our societies and secure good translations into public policy. Initially, that network was primarily transatlantic and composed primarily of European and American people. As the field of action expanded to global regions, such as Africa, through work at international organizations like the United Nations (UN) and member states, the foundation in the Netherlands, in 2021 changed its statutory name from Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) to Christian Council International (CCI). Under the latter name, our sister organization in the U.S. was also registered in June 2020.

CCI influences public policy primarily at the international level among international organizations from a Christian perspective. National sovereignty and the principle of 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 seeks to protect and promote classic freedoms such as freedom of religion and education and free association, 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

Accreditation with international organizations is an important tool. It gives CCI powers to effectively translate its objectives into policy or influence it where it is made. That authority includes the right to attend official meetings, to contribute 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 - primarily in New York and at the 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, CCI also has accredited access and is actively engaged at the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA - Vienna). In 2021, accreditation has been applied for with the African Union (AU). This application is ongoing.

Results

Africa

Since January 2022, our employee in Africa has been committed to CCI on a 0.6ft basis.

After the fact-finding mission regarding the expansion of the field to the African continent was completed in 2021, our Policy & Advocacy Director Africa, in close collaboration with undersigned, set to work on building a network of Christian and conservative AU and NGO actors to exclude from [the 20-year post-Cotonou / ACP-EU agreement](#) and [the 10-year Eastern and Southern African \(ESA\) Ministerial agreement](#) bad provisions on mandated abortion, LGBT policies and comprehensive sex education (CSE).

Summary of key achievements in 2022:

- CCI created awareness among various high-level decision makers and policy influencers such as: The president of Malawi, the vice president of Liberia, a dozen members of African national parliaments, ministers, AU diplomats, African ambassadors to the AU and EU, and several Caribbean ambassadors and other key allies.
- CCI supported 6 pro-life and pro-family MEPs to submit parliamentary questions to the European Commission on the dangerous provisions in the EU-ACP agreement.
- CCI currently leads the Parliamentary Outreach Action Team, a network of key policy influencers in the ACP region that meets to plan joint strategic interventions.
- CCI enabled several ACP delegations to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) to submit questions, motions and issues for key debate to ensure that the relevant provisions in the EU-ACP Agreement could be discussed at the ACP-EU JPA in Maputo, Mozambique (Oct. 25 - Nov. 2, 2022).
- CCI has established an office in Africa (Ethiopia) since Sept. 2022.
- CCI joined the ACP-EU JPA in Maputo and helped ensure that several ACP delegates spoke out against the EU's division of ACP countries and the EU's strong inclusion of SRHR (abortion), LGBT and CSE in the agreement.
- CCI joined the ACP Heads of State Summit in Luanda, Angola, from Dec. 6-10 to lobby for ACP heads of state to speak out against the dangerous provisions in the EU-ACP agreement, just as their delegates did at the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Maputo.

Read more about this in the annual report.

United Nations (UN) Geneva

Due to a lack of manpower and increased focus on the different events unfolding in the EU, AU and with the EU-ACP Agreement, less attention could be given to the meetings of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2022.

United Nations (UN) New York

On behalf of CCI, Peter Smith was able to attend (mainly online) several committee meetings at the UN in New York:

- February - Commission on Social Development, 60th session
- March - Commission on the Status of Women, 66th session
- April - Commission on Population and Development 55th session (CPD55)
- August/September - General Assembly
- November - 3rd Commission sessions (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)

Smith has attended UN meetings for the past 25 years to lobby pro-life/pro-family NGOs at the UN 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 in good things. In 2022, Smith watched the meetings online.

America

Our board member in the US, John Van Der Brink, kept us up to date on the political situation in the US through his articles. He gave his views on the following topics:

- The "Culture War" in the U.S.
- The abortion legislation
- Bill 24, on allowing LGBT clubs in schools
- 'Respect for Marriage Act'

- Religious freedom and the midterm elections in the U.S.

Mark Den Hollander engages with CCI in the US as a volunteer since 2022. He was instrumental in organizing the June 2022 CCI business meetings in New Jersey and Michigan. Currently, Den Hollander is studying at Hillsdale College.

Europe

Attacks on Christianity are also increasingly noticeable in Europe.

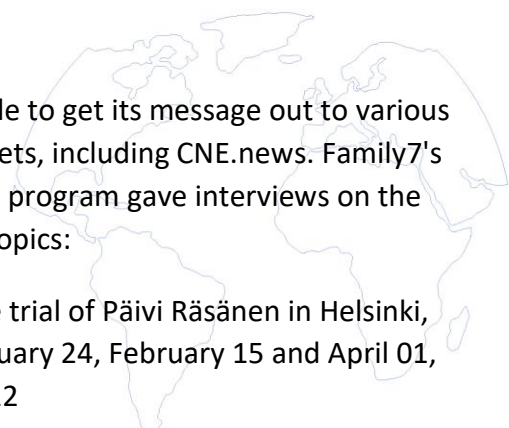
Member of Parliament Päivi Räsänen in **Finland** has been indicted for her statements on (gay) sexuality. CCI supports her in the lawsuit filed against her and attended the court hearing on Feb. 14, 2022.

Following the attacks on the so-called "anti-homosexuality law" (in reality, a law that respects parents as primarily responsible for teaching about sexuality to their children under the age of 18, prohibiting schools from promoting homosexuality and gender reassignment) in **Hungary**, CCI supported it. In September 2022, this support was reciprocated by the presentation of the Golden Cross of Merit of Hungary to undersigned. The cross was presented by the Hungarian ambassador to the Netherlands, András Kocsis.

The country of **Armenia** also came into the path of CCI through an appeal by the Armenian Ambassador to the Netherlands. In collaboration with the CCI business network, there was a visit to Armenia in May 2022 to support this (Christian) country.

In October 2022, CCI was invited to a meeting at the EP in **Strasbourg** on national sovereignty in health and education. In November, CCI participated in a strategic discussion in **Vienna**.

Media and campaign



CCI was able to get its message out to various media outlets, including CNE.news. Family7's "Featured" program gave interviews on the following topics:

- The trial of Päivi Räsänen in Helsinki, January 24, February 15 and April 01, 2022
- The Italian elections, September 26, 2022
- European Christian values under pressure, November 22, 2022
- European persecution, December 13, 2022

On November 4, 2022, CCI collaborated on a live broadcast of Studio SGP on 'Standing up for Life'

In 2022, particular efforts were made to promote the campaign "CCI-Lobby Africa for Cleaning Up Ideologically and Neocolonially Charged EU-ACP Trade Treaty." This campaign has resulted in increased awareness of the issues at stake, wider name recognition of the foundation and financial support.

Notes on Finance

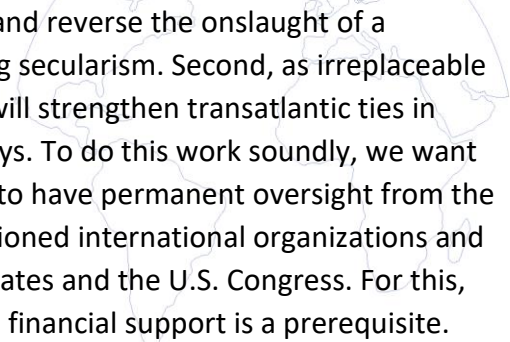
Compared to the year 2021, the foundation saw its income decrease in 2022 from €240,000 to €200,000. Besides personnel costs, investments were made mainly in the above-mentioned project.

CCI's Supervisory Board consists of Jan Schippers (chairman) and Johannes Luiten (treasurer) and Leonard van Schothorst (secretary). They perform their duties unpaid. The member of the Board of Directors and the Administrative Assistant (0.4) are salaried, considering the salary scales of the BBRA. The salary of the member of the Board of Directors deviates downward from the average salary common in small charitable organizations. As soon as income allows, new staff will be recruited. Until then, volunteers, interns and consultants will be used.

2023 and further

The board agreed to the proposal and budget for a 3-year project from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025. This consist of an [on-going program](#) and [Project EU-ACP](#) from June 2023 - September 2024

With this, first, we will use our consultative status with international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to strengthen the protection of classical



freedoms and reverse the onslaught of a threatening secularism. Second, as irreplaceable allies, we will strengthen transatlantic ties in various ways. To do this work soundly, we want to be able to have permanent oversight from the aforementioned international organizations and member states and the U.S. Congress. For this, substantial financial support is a prerequisite.

Deo Volente.

Bodegraven, June 2023

H.J. van Schothorst

Board of Directors

January – March

Fields of Work

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

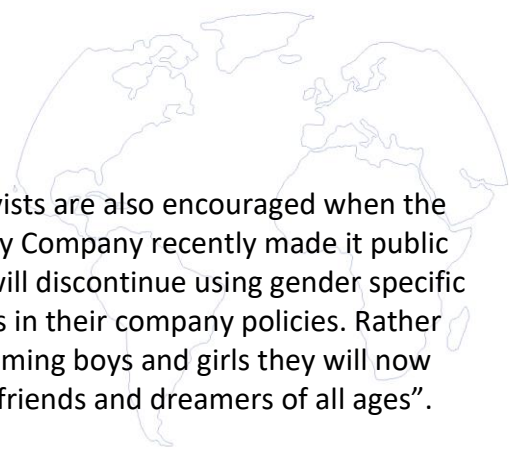
We are thankful that the brave Paivi Räsänen has just been acquitted of the discrimination and insult of homosexuals. With this, the freedom to openly stand up for Biblical guidelines on marriage between a man and a woman has been preserved. 🙏 Thank you for your prayers! [Read here her press release.](#)



The Culture War Continues in America

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

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



These activists are also encouraged when the Walt Disney Company recently made it public that they will discontinue using gender specific distinctions in their company policies. Rather than welcoming boys and girls they will now welcome “friends and dreamers of all ages”.

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

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

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



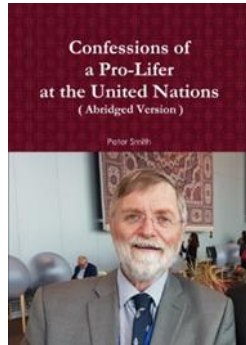
News from UN New York

Commission for Social Development, 60th Session

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

His summary:

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



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

Commission on the Status of Women, 66th session

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

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

His summary:

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

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

[Read here](#) separate articles on :

- The pay gap
- Ukraine
- Climate change
- STEM
- Biblical Creation care

Eco-feminist
Reproductive health

Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York



News from Africa

Signing binding agreement between EU and ACP countries postponed

By: our Policy & Advocacy Director Africa

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

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

In that light, CCI with the help of Family Watch International and ADF International developed 16 Parliamentary Questions for the European

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

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

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

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

Our Policy & Advocacy Director Africa represents CCI in Africa



Addis Ababa

Media

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



Thank you to host Jelle van Veen of Dayseaday Group, Municipality of Urk and Meindert Schreuders who welcomed Tigran Balayan, Davit Mirzakhanyan and us to Urk.

Standing up for unrelinquishable freedoms in Armenia and the opportunities to invest in that beautiful country came together!

[Photo/ video report](#)

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

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



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



International support for Räsänen during last day in court

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

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

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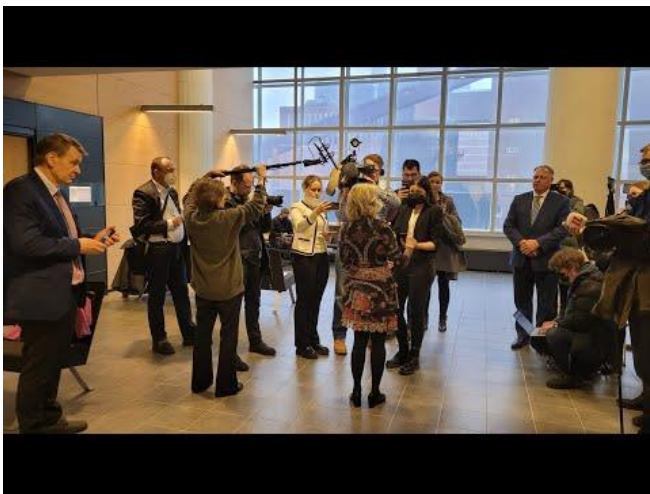
Christian Council International (CCI) came to Helsinki in the person of director Henk Jan van Schothorst.... [read more](#).

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



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

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



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



EU-AU Summit of Heads of State in Brussels



February 17, 2022

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



Visit to the OSCE in Vienna



March 28, 2022

For the first time since 2019, it is again possible to participate in an OSCE meeting in Vienna: Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting: International co-operation to address violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law

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

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



Business meeting with Jan Peter Balkenende

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



April – June

Fields of Work

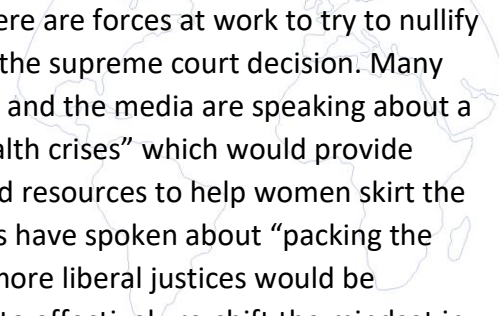
A Nation Divided, on Abortion

By: John Van Der Brink

In the coming months, activists on both sides of the debate will do their utmost to try to convince lawmakers and the American public to restrict, or to legalize abortion. Time will tell the outcome of such action.



Meanwhile leaders of many foreign nations are weighing in on the Supreme Court decision. Predictably, most are claiming that the decision takes away women's rights, that it is unfair to minorities and the poor, and that 50 years of "progress" is being reversed. They are astonished that our supreme court had the courage to follow the constitutional law rather than to cave to pressure from the left to invent constitutional law. They are apparently surprised that the law did not have and still does not have the authority to justify the killing of the innocent life of a baby in a mother's womb. Perhaps they know that abortion laws are to be decided by the states, by elected officials, and that the American people in general are not as ready to destroy human life as they apparently seem to be. But fortunately, the opinions of foreign leaders do not overrule the majority of judges on our Supreme Court. Simply stated the United States Constitution does not identify a right to an abortion, and no amount of outrage or opposition will change that fundamental fact. Laws about abortion are to be legislated at the state level. That is where it should be, and that is where this Supreme Court decision has returned it.



Already there are forces at work to try to nullify or reverse the supreme court decision. Many Democrats and the media are speaking about a "public health crises" which would provide funding and resources to help women skirt the law. Others have spoken about "packing the court" so more liberal justices would be appointed to effectively re-shift the mindset in favor of *Roe v Wade*. Thousands and millions have come out and publicly stated that they will not stand for this ruling and are even calling for the impeachment of the supreme court justices. Anything and everything is being done to try to restore a national right to an abortion. But the Supreme Court has rightly ruled that the Constitution does not guarantee the right to an abortion, and for now at least, that ruling will stand.

But there is another very important consideration here that we do not hear very much about today. But it should be heard. That is the silent behind-the-scenes efforts that has been at work already for many decades to try to normalize abortion on an international level. State representatives and Human Rights Groups regularly meet in places like United Nations, the European Union, African Union, Human Rights Council, and the World Health Organization. Especially under Western pressure they are working hard to make abortion a "human right" worldwide. As these organizations gain power and influence, they place pressure on developing nations, in particular, to advocate for agreed-upon policies. For example, the World Health Organization is a group that warrants special scrutiny. This organization is growing in power, and if it gains additional control, they could make it difficult for the US and other nations to make their own laws on such issues as abortion. When that happens, it would not matter what the Supreme Court or what congress would say about it. And that is what must be avoided at all costs. The World

Health Organization should never be allowed to control the laws of individual nations.

That is why a Biblical voice must be heard when policy issues are discussed at these international levels. The work that Christian Council International and others do is to participate in policy development, document reviews, and oral discussion in the United Nations, WHO and other places. In this work, they try to promote Family, Life, and Religious Freedoms. This is important because often policies are promoted that are destructive to these blessings. Please try to remember and support the work of those who try to bring a Biblical influence in these meetings. The work is difficult, and often hard to quantify. But with the Lord's blessing, it can be fruitful. May the Lord remember our leaders and grant them a desire to lead according to the morals and principles of His Holy Word. Then we with our children may lead a quiet and peaceable life in a culture where He may be honored and glorified.

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



[HenkJanvanSchothorst](#)

[@tccouncilorg](#)

ROE OVERTURNED: The US Supreme Court just overruled Roe v. Wade in its entirety, finding there is no right to abortion in the Constitution.

ROE TERUGGEDRAAID: Het VS Hoogerechtshof heeft zojuist Roe v. Wade in zijn geheel verworpen: er staat geen recht op abortus in de grondwet.



International struggle over unborn life: where woke wrecks, pro-life awakens

By: our Policy & Advocacy Director Africa and Henk Jan van Schothorst

That every child formed in the mother's womb has the right to live sounds like a logical standpoint from a Biblical point of view. But in today's society this point of view is under fire in the Netherlands and internationally. Especially Western countries, driven by woke elites, want the woman's right to life and her choice to be of decisive importance here. Supporters of the 'pro-life' ideology (mostly conservatives and Christians) and supporters of the 'pro-abortion' ideology (mostly left-wing progressives) are diametrically opposed to each other.

As Christian Council International (CCI), formerly called Transatlantic Christian Council, we try to make the Dutch public and beyond aware of the international threat to Christian values in the areas of Life, Family, and Freedom of Religion and Education. You may think: "But I live in the Netherlands, why is it important for me to know what is happening internationally?" Because in today's globalizing world everything is connected. Therefore, international developments and policies have a direct and often negative impact on the right and freedom to design your family life based on biblical moral values.

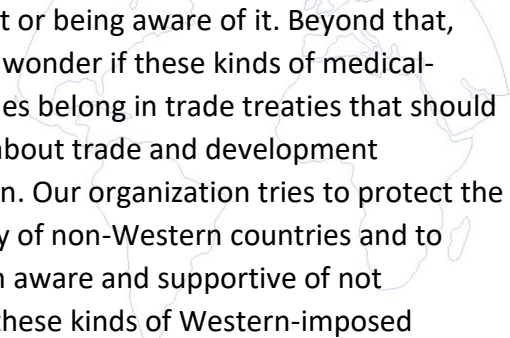
These international developments are heavily influenced by international institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU). For years they have been injecting billions into spreading their progressive ideology that not only promotes abortion, but also LGBT+, and free sexual rights as a human right and in the name of individual freedom. In this article, two concrete examples in our field of work show how this progressive ideology is rolled out: 1) progressive imagery fed by the "woke" movement, and 2) the unsolicited enshrinement of abortion rights, among others, in international treaties with non-Western countries.

The "woke" movement as a dominant imaging factor within our Western society

The "woke" movement has rapidly developed itself from a critical voice against exploitation in society to an extreme form of political correctness of progressive politicians, academics and media actors. Within the prevailing idea of the Western "woke" movement, anyone with conservative and/or Christian values is a threat to their progressive agenda. Even in the Netherlands, anyone who publicly stands for pro-life issues can expect to be harshly attacked by the "woke" activists. For example, CCI was recently accused [in the NRC](#) newspaper by the pro-abortion movement "Baas in Eigen Buik (*literally translated: Boss in Own Stomach*)" of running a hate campaign because we stand up for the rights of the unborn child. These kinds of attacks make any kind of discussion on pro-life issues impossible, while the progressive "woke" movement has a free pass and can often use lots of money to push their progressive ideology deep inside the blood veins of Western society. The media (which especially values progressive perspectives on abortion rights, among other things), public education (steeped in progressive ideology), and health care (which promotes abortion as a quick and easy procedure) are the most obvious channels used to slowly change the perception of our children and teenagers.

Progressive ideology enshrined in international trade agreements with non-Western countries

But with the spreading of a progressive image within the Western world, the progressive wind of the "woke" movement does not stop. In our work as lobbyist and observer at the UN and EU institutions, we see more and more international trade agreements erupting between, for example, the EU and non-Western countries whereby issues such as abortion, sexual orientation and gender identity are added as human rights without the often much more conservative and religious non-Western countries



asking for it or being aware of it. Beyond that, one has to wonder if these kinds of medical-ethical issues belong in trade treaties that should be purely about trade and development cooperation. Our organization tries to protect the sovereignty of non-Western countries and to make them aware and supportive of not accepting these kinds of Western-imposed medical-ethical topics; especially if it is not in line with their national legislation. Unfortunately, these trade agreements are accompanied by large flows of money from the EU and every time it appears to be a serious challenge, especially for developing countries in e.g. Africa or South America, to stand strong against the coercive nature of the EU.

The above examples show that protecting Christian values internationally is more needed than ever. Fortunately, in our work we may experience God's guidance and support and also be hopeful by the sometimes small but important victories. A great example is that the U.S. Senate was able to stop the introduction of the Federal Pro-Abortion law in America. We also hope that the Supreme Court will end the nationwide right to abortion in the US. This has given the pro-life movement in both the US and the EU a boost to reopen the public discussion and continue the fight for the rights of the unborn child. In our work, we also try to make an important contribution to these discussions by identifying threats around international regulations on Life, Family, and Freedom and protecting our Christian values.

Policy & Advocacy Director Africa and Henk Jan van Schothorst, Executive Director Christian Council International

NEW 20 Year BINDING ACP EU Partnership Agreement includes deceptive provisions



The new, 20 Year BINDING ACP EU Partnership Agreement is highly promising regarding aid and trade, but....

includes deceptive provisions bringing in LGBTI issues, abortion, CSE and other violations to national sovereignty that need revision!

Henk Jan van Schothorst talks more about this in the video below.



[Click here for the PowerPoint presentation](#)

Abortion is not a human right

We felt compelled to respond to a number of falsehoods and allegations in the unfortunately framed contribution to the address of (Transatlantic) Christian Council International CCI (formerly TCC) by Annemieke van Straalen (NRC, May 14 & 15) 'Abortion also under fire in the Netherlands'.

[Read more](#)

ABORTUS

Geen mensenrecht

In de brief *Abortus ook onder vuur in Nederland* (14/5) staat dat de (Transatlantic) Christian Council International CCI (voorheen TCC) „het mensenrecht op abortus” meedogenloos afwijst. Maar in geen enkel internationaal verdrag of VN-document is abortus als mensenrecht opgenomen. Daarentegen staat het recht op leven wel genoemd in de Universele Verklaring van de Rechten van de Mens uit 1948. Ook staat daarin het gezin genoemd als fundamentele eenheid van de samenleving. Aan deze verdragsbepalingen zouden wij niet willen tornen. Wij zien de ‘pro-choice’-beweging met neokoloniaal aandoende ijver en enorme „strijdbaarheid” op de „barricades” om

het internationale recht precies op deze punten fundamenteel te wijzigen. De beschuldigingen dat CCI naar (bezoekers van) abortusklinieken „haatcampagnes” aansticht, „vermogend” is en „de spreekbuis van de Amerikaanse anti-abortusbeweging” zou zijn, verbaast ons. Met geen woord rept de auteur over de nood van vaak kwetsbare vrouwen en het kind dat ze dragen. CCI wordt als ngo louter en op bescheiden wijze gesteund door (Nederlandse!) particulieren en is dus geen VS-spreekbuis. Pro-abortusorganisaties daarentegen ontvangen bakken met overheidssubsidie of geld van internationale organisaties, waaronder de EU en de VN, voor hun activiteiten. Wat ons betreft stopt de overheid daar met een mee, zodat er een gelijk speelveld ontstaat.

Henk Jan van Schothorst en **Jan Schippers** RvB en voorzitter RvT van de Stichting CCI

Let's introduce

Mark Den Hollander



Mark den Hollander is a North American (US/CAN) representative for Christian Council International (CCI). He currently resides in New Jersey, being relatively close to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the US Congress in Washington DC. Part of his assignment involves reaching out to politicians and public policymakers within the US Congress and its Member States to join hands with like-minded CSOs and religious organizations to advocate for Life, Family and Freedom. An important part of this work also involves developing a support base in the US and Canada and to build up the American part of the business network. <https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/business-network>.

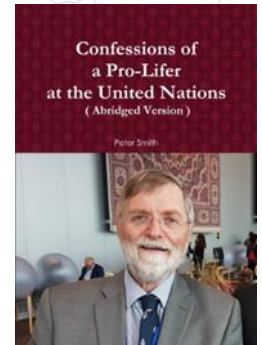
As a future educator, he also has an interest in literary classics and seeks to use traditional viewpoints that are founded on fundamental principles of law and philosophy to guide an analytical and critical approach to modern education. In addition, he understands the interconnectedness of education and politics and sees that the greatest impact will be had on our upcoming generation when combining the two,

to both affect culture and promote meaningful change.

News from UN New York

Commission on Population & Development 55th session (CPD55)

Peter Smith followed the Commission on Population & Development 55th session. "This is another dangerous and useless meeting at UN headquarters. It is based upon the false premise that for a country to develop economically you must have a small number of children. The UK , USA , the Netherlands all became developed countries with high population growth and no modern contraceptives".



Initially these meeting were held by the Population Division, who are just a group of demographers who produced reports on demography. Then in 1994 there was the International Conference on Population & Development (IPCD) in Cairo. This was when the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) got involved with their pro-abortion , anti-natalist , anti-family policies. They also pushed the line that development only comes with low fertility.

This meeting got so radical that they could not agree on a document for three years prior to 2020. Pro-lifers considered this a good thing, but UN officials were scandalized. This year and last year they got a document, unfortunately.

This year there were just two references to families and six references to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. There were also eighteen references to gender. The good news is that there were no mentions of " women in all their diversity", a cunning way of saying transgender. There was no mention of sexual orientation & gender identity , nor LGBTQI etc etc. Also no mention of Comprehensive

Sexuality Education (CSE), that is lessons in depravity.

There was a good paragraph on national sovereignty, see below :

OP2. *Reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 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.

[Read additional stories on the theme above, from a Christian perspective](#)

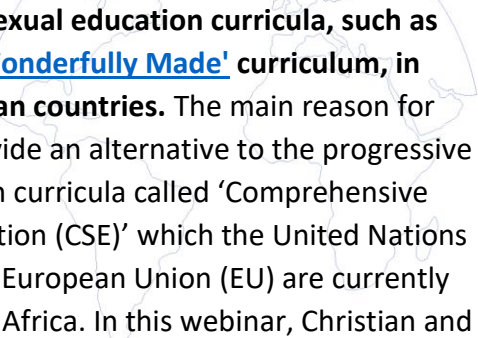
Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York

News from Africa

By: our Policy & Advocacy Director Africa

In the second quarter of 2022, CCI has focused almost exclusively on raising awareness of certain provisions in the **20-year binding EU-ACP agreement**, also known as the post-Cotonou agreement. Fortunately, the signing ceremony was postponed indefinitely in April due to the many uncertainties surrounding the national sovereignty of the ACP countries; especially when it comes to sensitive ethical issues related to human rights, social and human development (e.g. in areas such as sexual and reproductive health and sexual orientation). CCI, together with its American partner organization Family Watch International (FWI), has set up several campaign groups to further influence the policy makers from the ACP countries to avoid signing this agreement as long as it contains these concerning provisions.

In addition, CCI in collaboration with Driestar Christian University (DCU) organized a webinar on 15 June about the possibility of introducing



alternative sexual education curricula, such as the DCU's 'Wonderfully Made' curriculum, in various African countries. The main reason for this is to provide an alternative to the progressive sex education curricula called 'Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE)' which the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) are currently promoting in Africa. In this webinar, Christian and conservative partner organizations from different parts of the world (e.g. France, The US, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Haiti, etc.) were able to provide their own expertise. This webinar is a first step towards establishing an influential network of like-minded organizations to jointly promote alternative sex education curricula that are both based on healthy (sexual) relationships with fellow human beings and adaptable to the context of the often deeply religious and conservative African countries.

Finally, CCI Africa closely watches the worrying developments around the **new pandemic treaty of the World Health Organization (WHO)**. This treaty was introduced in 2022 and is currently being formulated under the leadership of the WHO to prevent new health pandemics and ensure a global health approach. It is expected that this treaty will not be signed anytime soon, but the content is nevertheless disturbing. There is a fear that once the WHO declares a pandemic, all governments that sign this treaty will be forced to take even more drastic measures than we have seen in the past two years related to COVID-19. National sovereignty and the freedom to organize healthcare at national level is threatened in this way. In addition, there is a risk that this treaty will enable the WHO to force countries to introduce sensitive topics in health care; think of e.g. sexual health care and rights (SRHR) including abortion and sexual orientation.

In the second half of this year, CCI Africa will continue to focus on raising awareness on the above topics among policy makers and policy influencers in Africa.

Media

Uitgelicht! April 1, 2022 Henk Jan van Schothorst and Kees v.d. Staij about the case Päivi Räsänen

March 30 the Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen has been acquitted of the discrimination and insult of homosexuals. Van Schothorst about this in Uitgelicht!



English subtitles available. Turn subtitles on (or off) by clicking the button at the bottom of the video.

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

CCI present at a conference of [Ordo Iuris](#) in Brussels - April 20, 2022

At the conference in the European Parliament "Regulation of the EU: concern for democracy or an assault on sovereignty? "



Visit to [Drents Museum](#) for the opening of the Ararat Exhibition – May 10, 2022



Business Breakfast Armenian Embassy – May 11, 2022

Together with businessmen Sloof and Jelle van Veen invited to Business Breakfast with Prime Minister [Nikol Pashinyan / Նիկոլ Փաշինյան](#) and 4 Ministers and Tigran Balayan of [#Armenië](#) at [#VNONCW](#), followed by inauguration gift Armenia at the #Peace Palace, received by Piet Hein Donner: a [#khachkar](#): a Cross stone.



Business trip to Armenia – May 17-21, 2022

As part of its support for the endangered Christian country of Armenia, CCI organized a business trip in cooperation with the Armenian government.



[See more photos of the Armenia events on our website.](#)

Transatlantic Summit IV of the Political Network for Values – May 27, 2022

Attending the Transatlantic Summit IV of the Political Network for Values in [#BudapestValues2022](#), defending and promoting Life, Family and Freedom and building and strengthening a pro-freedom agenda globally. Because: Freedom is at stake.



CCI business network meeting on Urk - June 8, 2022 - with Pete Hoekstra

Canal cruise in US style

Pete Hoekstra, former ambassador of the United States to the Netherlands, visited Urk. After a tour of the Neerlandia fishing company, Hoekstra boarded De Zuiderzee for a cruise on the

IJsselmeer. On board were entrepreneurs, politicians and other interested parties. Hoekstra and Henk Jan van Schothorst, director of the Christian Council International Foundation, spoke about current themes in the USA.

Message from "Het Urkerland" and photos by Riekelt Pasterkamp



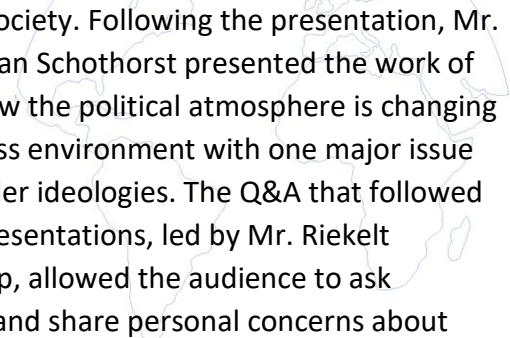
Report on June events in the US

By: Mark den Hollander

The month of June has been eventful for the work of CCI as we were able to hold two events in the time that Henk Jan van Schothorst visited the United States. Both meetings turned out to be a great success as they brought awareness to the changing political environment we see evolving around us. The issues that many individuals are facing in the secular workplace can be viewed as an agenda being pushed on employees to conform and accept non-traditional values.

The first meeting was held on June 17 at the Smoke Rise Inn in Kinnelon, New Jersey. A board of panelists, including Mr. Len Deo, Mrs. Aida Wahba, and Mr. David Berkenbush addressed specific questions provided by Mr. Riekelt Pasterkamp on the topic, “Business Relations in a Secular and Increasingly Sexualized world – from a Christian Perspective.” The panelists shared some of their personal experiences about how they have been dealing with numerous issues in their current workplace environment. Each panelist had a chance to respond to the questions that were asked. While many concerns were shared, there was a positive takeaway that many of the issues that are faced can be tackled from a legislative perspective to ensure that individual rights to freedom of speech and opinion are not lost.

Our second meeting, on June 20 at Falk Panel in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was titled “War on Talent.” Mr. Pete Hoekstra, the former ambassador to the Netherlands, joined us for the evening as our keynote speaker and spoke about some of his experiences as being a conservative in the current political environment. One very interesting comment that he made was about how Europe and America are trying to get rid of Christianity and faith. He noted that the struggles we are facing as a society are a result of getting rid of Christianity because there is nothing else that can replace the traditional values that



maintain society. Following the presentation, Mr. Henk Jan van Schothorst presented the work of CCI and how the political atmosphere is changing the business environment with one major issue being gender ideologies. The Q&A that followed the two presentations, led by Mr. Riekelt Pasterkamp, allowed the audience to ask questions and share personal concerns about how these issues are directly impacting individual lives on a daily basis.

These meetings have shown that the issues we face as a society are becoming an increasing reality. Large corporations, small businesses, and employees are being forced to conform to values that go against their personal beliefs. Many of the individuals that attended these meetings shared personal stories about how the current workplace environment is causing them to feel uneasy about conforming to secular values. From the LGBT movement to gender ideologies, increasing pressure is placed on Christians to give up their personal beliefs for the sake of unity.

[Fotoverslag van het event in New Jersey](#)

[Fotoverslag van het event in Michigan](#)

Mark den Hollander is CCI Representative in the US



July – September

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 Koscis.

[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

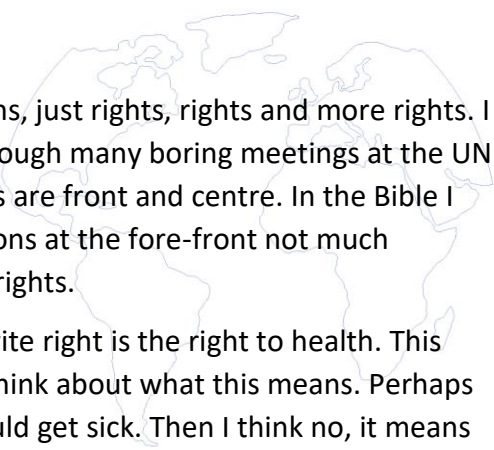
Its my RIGHT

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 overturned 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 26th 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: Policy & Advocacy Director Africa

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.

Policy & Advocacy Director Africa

Media

New trade agreement forces African countries to follow European ideas



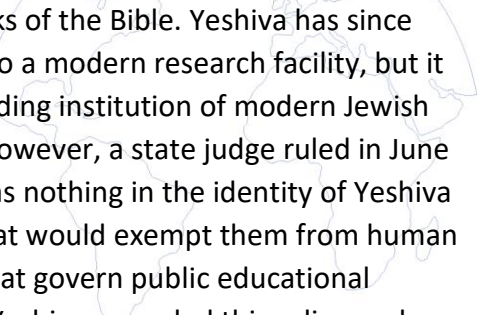
CNE.news - Pieter Beens: A new trade agreement with the European Union should bring African countries welfare and security. But in return, these countries must prioritise abortion and sexual diversity on their agenda....[Read more](#)

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.

Oktober – December

Fields of Work

News from Africa

Our work on cleaning up the ACP-EU treaty

By: Our Policy Policy & Advocacy Director Afrika and Henk Jan van Schothorst

The fight against the signing of the new EU-ACP Agreement continues. With the support of a global group of influential MPs, government officials, CSOs, and religious leaders, CCI developed a strong advocacy campaign strategy in the 3rd quarter of 2022. Thereafter, CCI used the last quarter of 2022 to implement this campaign strategy which solely focused on raising awareness about the concerning provisions inside the EU-ACP Agreement among the ACP representatives who attended the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) and the ACP Heads of State Summit in order to encourage them to speak out on the record against the Agreement. Without exposing our campaign strategies, below you can find a short overview of our achievements:

Maputo - [ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly](#)

After 1.5 years of plowing, toiling, sweating and sowing, finally the bomb burst on day 9 of the ACP-EU JPA meeting.

The EU is constructing and guarding a rampart of divide-and-conquer strategy. By means of voting, they planned to stitch together the final details in the already ready-made "rules of procedures" (of the separate EU-Africa protocol, the EU-Caribbean protocol and the EU-Pacific protocol). They thus want to impose their controversial SOGI, SRHR, LGBT, CSE ideologies on the 79 ACP states for 20 years in a binding way, but this has been broken with successive



explosive speeches by MPs from various ACP countries.

All of our work, analyses, travel and input to the country delegations and MPs seemed to come to fruit. On the final day, the behind-the-scenes negotiated proposed treaty was once again put on the table for debate and several MPs requested to have the Agreement text shared with their national parliaments for their consideration (due to required legislative changes on all sorts of ethical issues such as legalization of abortion). The main reason for this request was that these MPs wanted to avoid their leaders to sign an Agreement which has not been debated in parliament by the MPs who are representing the opinion of their citizens and should therefore know and agree with what this Agreement entails.

However, the Delegation of the European Council/Commission set his heels deep here and did (wrongly) very easy about (undefined) human rights paragraphs in the text. He also stated that all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, abortion and sexualizing education, would be underlined by the new treaty. This means that all EU and ACP states should abide by this, regardless of what their national laws states. He further said that he did not want to change anything, falsely claiming that the text before us on human and social issues would be according to international law and thus should already be used as a benchmark by ACP countries. Because this came across as quite disrespectful and arrogant, MPs from several African and Caribbean countries strongly objected, which was ignored by the EU. Also ignored was a timely Malawian motion for a resolution to send the treaty for debate to national parliaments for unclear procedural reasons. This was a lesson in vivid

teaching of practicing neocolonialism by the EU.
To be continued...

These are worrying developments, as it concerns the fate of +1 billion people for the next 20 years, including their unborn lives. Fortunately, more and more ACP countries are standing up to speak out against this injustice.



Luanda, Angola - [10th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the OEACP](#)

My lobbying message at the Luanda summit was summed up in 1 page:

URGENT BRIEFING: Serious Overlooked Problems with ACP-EU Agreement!

The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement is a binding 20-year treaty that intrudes into almost every area of public and private life of EU and ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific) countries. From dictating abortion, to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), to parental discipline, and social, sexual, gender and cultural norms and more, this treaty goes far beyond the Cotonou Agreement it is to replace, violating national sovereignty in the following ways:

- **Divides OACP member states into three separate protocols** (African, Caribbean, Pacific) and appoints the EU as a cochair of each thus weakening the OACPS' collective bargaining power while strengthening the EU's power.
- **Bypasses national parliaments and cedes lawmaking powers to a Council of over 100 foreign government Ministers** with authority to make binding decisions on parties.

- **Deceptively requires the legalization of abortion, prostitution, same-sex marriage, the LGBT agenda, and child sexualization** through its requirements to implement multiple innocuous-sounding documents and "sexual and reproductive health and rights."
- **Transforms multiple non-binding documents into legally binding treaties with the EU** (i.e., ICPD, Beijing, and their controversial conference review outcome documents--past, present and future-- as well as regional agreements such as the contested Maputo Protocol and Maputo Plan of Action, and the radical Montevideo Consensus).
- **Requires cooperation with the UN's human rights mechanisms** such as treaty bodies and UN experts, which now also mandate abortion, CSE, special LGBT "rights" and more.
- **Supersedes all other treaties with a supremacy clause and cleverly establishes "human rights" (which conveniently are not defined) as an "essential element" of the treaty**, making it impossible for countries to reserve on the treaty's controversial provisions, many of which are positioned as "human rights."

CALL TO ACTION

1. **Recognize that the treaty's current text dividing ACP countries into three separate protocols is unacceptable.**
2. **Insist on continuing with the Cotonou Agreement instead which keeps the OACPS united.** Updates could be negotiated in consultation with national

parliaments, the rightful law-making bodies for sensitive sexual, social, family and domestic issues.

- 3. Support a motion by Malawi calling to delay Head of State signing until national parliaments have time to scrutinize the treaty and address the areas that conflict with national laws. (The motion was denied a hearing in Maputo at the ACP-EU JPA).**

Don't accept the argument "it is too late to make changes as the text was already agreed."

It is NEVER too late to protect your nation's children, parental rights, family and cultural values, and especially national sovereignty!

For more information and documentation go to <https://deviouseutreaty.org/>

CCI has been able to reach many ACP delegations in both Maputo and Luanda and made them aware of the danger of this Agreement. CCI therefore looks back on a successful campaign year in Africa. In 2023, CCI will make every effort to halt the signing of this agreement until all countries covered by this agreement are able to maintain their national sovereignty and Christian values regarding life, family, and freedom of religion and education."



Uganda Speaker defending African Pro-Life Family values against so called European values.

News from UN New York

Human Rights
By: Peter Smith

On 10th December 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was agreed and published in France.

The negotiations were chaired by Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt. This was done in

the ashes of WW2. It was hoped that this system of rights and an international body called the United Nations might prevent war and other terrible things like genocide. They have not succeeded in these two areas. But even so its a neutral place where countries can meet and perhaps resolve their differences.

This system of human rights is not very compatible with a Christian world view. The Bible is mainly about our responsibilities, a concept completely lacking in this so called "rights-based approach" to different issues. Having 25 years of experience at the UN I have heard this "rights-based approach" being proposed for sinful behaviour time and time again. Abortion is a human wrong not a human right.

My good friends Douglas Sylva and Susan Yoshihara (C-Fam) published a white paper called "Rights by Stealth – The role of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies in the campaign for an international Right to Abortion" Ref :

<https://cfam.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/Rights.By.Stealth.pdf>

This paper was first printed in 2007 and updated in 2009.

I will quote the abstract for this paper below :

In the mid-1990s, a group of UN officials and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) gathered to formulate a strategy to promote a controversial



international social policy agenda by reinterpreting existing human rights treaties to give them new meanings. At the heart of this strategy was a four-step process to use the six United Nations (UN) human rights treaty monitoring bodies and an interlocking network of UN agencies, UN officials, and NGOs to create an international right to abortion. In the decade that has followed, UN member nations have allowed the strategy to develop to an extensive degree, despite the fact that it undermines their own laws. This study examines the reasons why the process has been able to advance, and analyses the way the strategy has undermined the treaty monitoring system and challenged the credibility of the international human rights regime.

Last week I was monitoring, on-line, the Report of the Human Rights Council.(HRC).The current president of the council is Ambassador Federico Villegas from Argentina. Some 25 years ago this country was very conservative, but now they are quite trendy. Around 24 countries spoke mostly in their individual capacity, some are recorded below.

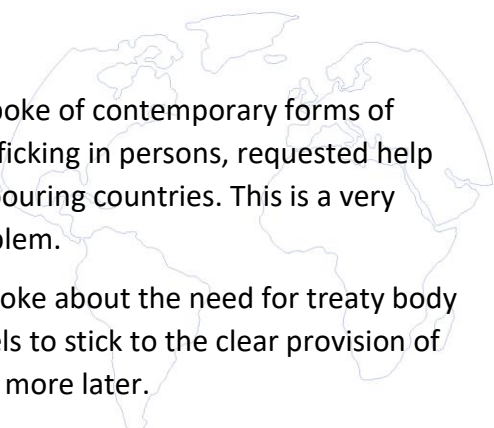
Chile – Want to protect especially **LGBTQ**... refugees.

Cameroon – Delegate gave a brilliant intervention begging that they focus on issues that unite us not what divide. For example freedom of the press, abolishing slavery etc. She suggested having an International Migrant Day each year. I was shocked to hear some sensible comments from the 3rd committee.

Argentina – Was pushing diversity and gender equality, weasel words.

Cuba – They are still complaining about the US embargo. They should not have stolen US businesses during their communist revolution.

Ethiopia – Does not like country specific resolutions, especially the ones critical of them



Malawi – Spoke of contemporary forms of slavery, trafficking in persons, requested help from neighbouring countries. This is a very serious problem.

Nigeria – Spoke about the need for treaty body review panels to stick to the clear provision of each treaty, more later.

El Salvador – Spoke of dis-information on the internet. They did not say who determined right from wrong information.

Netherlands – Wants more NGO involvement in the process, but perhaps only certain types of NGOs, not the pro-family one !

Italy – Wants support for **LGBTQI** people and wants to condemn child , early and forced marriages. I am sure this intervention was NOT authorised by the new conservative government of Italy.

The president of the HRC Amb Villegas then spoke about how he liked to have NGOs work alongside him, to report on state problems. He talked about how there was once just the right of states, but now the rights of citizens. He did not mention anything about responsibility. He talked about parity on compliance committee panels, even though 70% are now women.

General debate

Around 20 countries made interventions at this time, the more interesting comments are recorded below.

India – Want a right to development. I have always wondered what this looks like. Britain and the Netherlands never talked about such a right when they developed.

Cuba – Also wants a right to development (Throwing off communism would help)

Iran – Does not like country specific resolutions especially ones against Iran.

Nigeria – **This was the best intervention all day. The delegate strongly pressed for national**

sovereignty, that LGBT rights are not recognised and that the compliance committees go beyond their mandates. He referred to these “so-call rights “. Then he mentioned family and religious values. He condemned the attempt to make abortion a human right, and as abortion is not even mentioned in all these treaties the so-called experts should stick to what is in the treaty. One of the best interventions I have heard at the UN. I wished I had been in New York to shake his hand and congratulate him, Nigeria is always strong on these matters.

Bangladesh – Want a special rapporteur for older people and one for leprosy.

Indonesia – Wanted polarisation to stop and for common ground to be respected. A good intervention.

So it's the same old story at the UN , the big strong developed countries trying to push their secular system on the rest of the world. The big crime in poor countries is where women still die in childbirth and all the rich countries prioritise for them with aid is abortion and gay rights.

Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York



Media

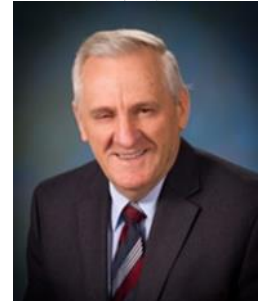
What Does the “Respect for Marriage Act” Mean for Christian Education?

By: John Van Der Brink

The so-called Respect for Marriage Act was recently passed in the United States Senate. It is now headed for approval in the House of Representatives where it is expected to easily pass given the current Democratic majority there. President Biden has promised to sign it into law as soon as it comes to his desk. So, before year's end, the United States will likely have endorsed and reaffirmed a way of life which is clearly against God's Holy Word.

The significance of this legislation for Christian schools and churches is disturbing. To understand how it is likely to affect us, we need to understand the status of marriage laws in America before this legislation. Because the definition of marriage was such a hot-button issue in the 1990's, our nation's leaders passed a law in 1996 called the Defense of Marriage Act. That was a federal law which defined marriage as the union between one man and one woman and forbade states from being forced to accept same sex marriages performed in other states.

That definition lasted until 2015 when the Supreme Court ruled in the Obergefell v. Hodge's case that same sex marriage was a fundamental right and that state bans were unconstitutional. This led to a widespread practice and acceptance of same sex marriage in America. But Liberals today are afraid Obergefell v Hodge may one day be reversed, and marriage would again be a matter controlled by each state. So, the Respect for Marriage Act is designed to secure same sex marriage permanently. It repeals the 1996



decision and forces all states to accept same sex marriages performed in other states. Therefore, if Obergefell v Hodge one day fails, same sex marriages will still have the protection of the Respect for Marriage.

When signed, same sex marriages will have the support of both the Obergefell case and the Respect for Marriage Act. What is the concern for Religious Freedoms?

Basically, the Respect for Marriage Act represents and reflects 2022 liberal agenda about sex and gender issues, and the wording in it is designed to move that agenda forward. To get enough votes to pass it, liberals needed to provide so-called exemptions for religious organizations. **But the exemption wording is too vague, and this prompted several senators to suggest amendments before it was passed. Unfortunately, those proposals were rejected, and that rejection reveals the real intent and likely outcome of this legislation.**

1. Senator Mike Lee wanted to include wording which would prevent the federal government from negating the tax-exempt status of faith based nonprofit organizations. That wording was rejected! So, our **tax-exempt status could be threatened** if our hiring practices were considered contrary to this law.
2. Senator Marco Rubio's concern were also dismissed. He was concerned that the wording in the bill allows individuals to sue who feel harmed by the policies of a religious organization. In other words, **religious organizations such as a school could face lawsuits** from those who feel harmed by their policies.
3. Finally, Senator James Lankford wanted to include wording which would protect the government from denying various benefits to religious organizations if their policies conflicted with this legislation.



Again, his concerns were rejected, so **denials of benefits such as certifications, scholarships, and accreditations** can be expected.

What is also disturbing to note is that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act which defended a Biblical concept of marriage was passed with a vote of 85 to 14. Today, those who wanted to defend the same thing lost 36 to 61. That reflects the moral change in America in 26 years! Even 12 Republicans succumbed to the sexual revolution.

Still, today, we have religious freedom in our country. And there is One who reigns over all things. By His work and providence, He can turn the heart of the rulers even in our troubling time. Let us try to pray for them, and also ask that He would preserve Christian education and freedom of worship for our children and grandchildren.

Religious Freedoms and the Midterm Elections in the US

November 2022

In just a few days, America will go to the polls in a so-called midterm election. This election comes at a time when many Americans are concerned about the direction of our country both on national and an international scale. Wars and rumors of war abound in many places globally, and America's position both defensively and offensively, seem threatened. Inside our nation, there is division, confusion and controversy. Considering these things, it is very hard to be optimistic about the future.

Still, as of today, we may have the Religious Freedoms we hold dear. We may have God's Word in our homes, in our churches and at school. That has been a hallmark of hope for many generations. But there are those who would like to use "discrimination" in such a way

that would criminalize a lifestyle based on His Word. **And that is why it is so important to vote.**

Residents of New Jersey will not be voting for a governor or US senate seats in the 2022 election cycle. But all twelve House of Representative seats from New Jersey are up for vote. Although New Jersey is largely a liberal state, and it is unlikely that our votes will make a significant impact, even one seat would make a difference both in the state and in the nation. **It is important to vote in your district even when your preferred candidate is unlikely to win because the larger the conservative vote count is, the more likely that future candidates will respond to conservative values.**

On a state level, it is also important to vote your convictions. In fact, voting for state and local candidates can make a difference in our own communities. Elected officials plan activities and decide how tax money is spent. Candidates with liberal tendencies often promote activities that are not consistent with a Christian worldview. It is even important to pay attention to the candidates for local public-school boards. What is promoted and practiced in public schools helps to establish norms in society. **The normalization of unbiblical values bleeds into all segments of society.**

Finally, let us not lose sight that, despite all the discouraging trends we see in society today, there is a God who rules and reigns above it all. We should do our best to order our society in accordance with His Word. But more importantly, we should be concerned about how we personally, and in our families, stand before God. **May the Lord give prayer for leaders who desire to lead according to the morals and principles of His Holy Word, but above all for the welfare of our never-dying souls.**

On behalf of the Religious Freedom Group,

John Van Der Brink, 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)

Presence of CCI at various events

Late September - The debate on the Transgender Act in the House of Representatives (Netherlands)



Here Roelof Bisschop of the SGP.

October 1, 2022 – World Congress of Families in Mexico



October 18, 2022 EP Strasbourg on national sovereignty on health and education issues. On invitation of Margarita de la Pisa and [Bert-Jan Ruissen](#) of [ECR Group - Conservatives & Reformists in the European Parliament](#) we discussed with MEPs in EP Strasbourg problematic provisions in the not yet signed 20 year binding, sexually polluted, ACP-EU 'Partnership Agreement', emphasizing the national sovereignty on health and education issues.

WEISS N1.3
18 OCTOBER - 11:00

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION ISSUES

Awareness raising and call to action regarding the concerning provisions inside the EU-ACP Agreement



SPEAKERS

MARGARITA DE LA PIZA CARRIÓN - MEP

BERT-JAN RUISSSEN - MEP

HENK JAN VAN SCHOTHORST - CHRISTIAN COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHARON SLATER - FAMILY WATCH INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



This broadcast (Dutch spoken) is about abortion and protection of life, among other topics. On behalf of the SGP, MP Chris Stoffer was our guest. Also at the table were Henk Jan van Schothorst (Christian Council International), Maaïke Rosendal (Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform), Adrienne Vroegindewij (Er is Hulp) and Rody van Heijst (SGP Jongeren).

November 12, 2022 - March for Life, Malieveld The Hague



Left to right: Sharon Slater, Margarita de la Piza, Henk Jan van Schothorst and Bert-Jan Ruissen

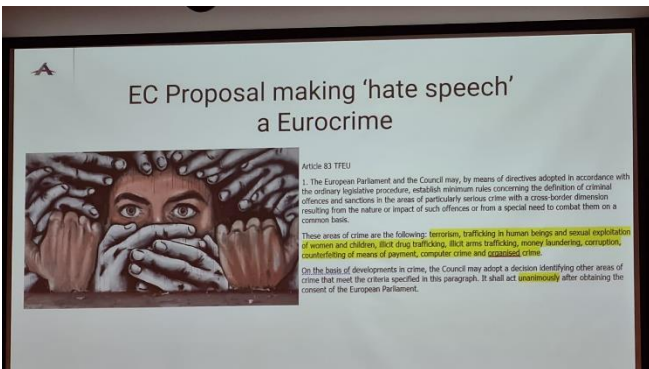
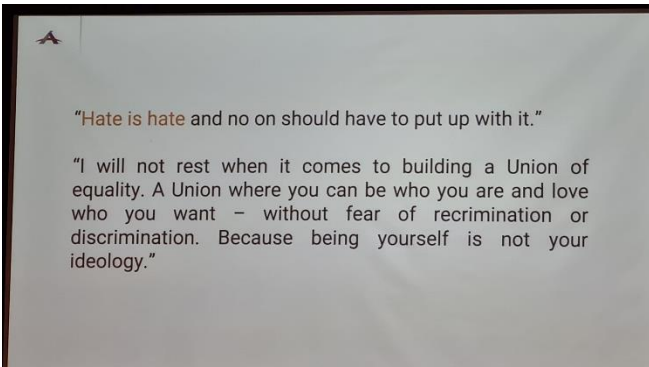
November 4, 2022 - Live broadcast of Studio SGP on "Standing Up for Life."



November 14-16, 2022 Strategic meeting in Vienna

During a 3-day strategic discussion in Vienna, it became clear: The EU preaches solidarity and democracy, but, as evidenced by the below bell-ringing excerpts from the so-called "State of the Union" by the unelected "EU President" Von der Leyen, and their modus operandi with developing countries: The EU simply wants to assert Brussels power and standards in member states and worldwide. African MPs recently told their European counterparts in Maputo that this was a disrespectful attack on the democracy, sovereignty and culture of their countries, and an

unacceptable ideological new colonialism, even a new slavery by the West.



Featured! November 22, 2022 - Henk Jan van Schothorst: European Christian values under pressure

A new report from Church in Need shows that Christians are also facing increasing difficulties in Europe. There is an increase in violence but Christian views are also under increasing pressure.



Featured! Dec. 13, 2022 On European prosecution (advance notice)

In some European countries, Christians experience being restricted in expressing their faith. Henk Jan van Schothorst of Christian Council International sees that religious freedom and woke ideology clash head-on.





Christian Council International in a nutshell



LIFE

What's at stake:

The EU wants to standardize abortion laws, LGBT promotion and sexualizing education internationally, here in a binding trade treaty with a group of 79 African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries, more than 1 billion people. But education and health are matters which belong to national competencies. By pressuring these nations, the EU is subverting sovereignty and Christian values.

What we do:

We alert key leaders in ACP countries and in the EU so that complying with this pressure is prevented. Freedom to enact own legislation must be preserved.

FAMILY

What's at stake:

Western countries are trying to use the UN to add a new term to categories protected by nondiscrimination policies. This term is "sexual orientation and gender identity" (SOGI). Proponents would like to define gender as a feeling, a self-chosen identity, and not as a biological distinction. This new gender ideology denies the Biblical creation order.

What we do:

We participate in public discussions at the UN and lobby for worldwide respect for Biblical directives on marriage and the family.

FREEDOM

What's at stake:

Freedom of education, of religion, and of speech is under increasing international pressure, especially in the EU and the United States. Finnish Christian politician Päivi Räsänen is on trial for inciting hatred because of her expressed Biblical views on homosexuality and marriage. In a similar vein, Hungary is also under attack over its child protection laws.

What we do:

We stand up and publicly defend these freedoms. We provide moral and informational support to individuals and countries under attack for their Christian beliefs and culture.

What we achieve:

ACP-EU Treaty

National Sovereignty Secured

1. Due partly to our efforts to alert EU and ACP member states about serious content problems, the signing of the EU-ACP Treaty has been delayed, already for 2 years.
2. We spoke in the European Parliament to identify problems that would result from passing the Treaty. We also drafted written questions for the European Commission to answer.
3. Through our African office, we supported ACP Members of Parliament by asking critical questions during the EU-ACP Parliamentary Assembly.



President of Malawi with Henk Jan van Schothorst

United Nations

Norm Creation Order Maintained

1. Through our consultative status, we bring a Christian voice to the United Nations meeting rooms and actively monitor the ongoing agenda.
2. We managed to work with supporters to keep sexual orientation, gender identity, sexualizing education, and LGBT promotion out of norm-setting resolutions.
3. We help to prevent abortion from becoming an international human right.



Mark Den Hollander
CCI US representative to UN

Hungary - Finland - USA

Defense of Christian Freedom Supported

1. By supporting Hungary's defense of Christian values, we help to prevent the EU from reaching European and international consensus on pro LGBTQ+ and gender ideology.
2. Through our support of the Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen, awareness has been raised in the EU and member states that the Bible is on trial.
3. With our CCI branch in the US, a policymaker network is being formed for the defense of freedom of education and of religion.




CCI in Finland at Päivi Räsänen's court case

Financial Report

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

Compared to the year 2021, the foundation saw its income decrease in 2022 from €240,000 to €200,000. Besides personnel costs, particular efforts were made to promote the campaign "CCI-Lobby Africa for Cleaning Up Ideologically and Neocolonially Charged EU-ACP Trade Treaty." This campaign has resulted in increased awareness of the issues at stake, wider name recognition of the foundation and financial support.



CCI's Supervisory Board consists of Jan Schippers (chairman) and Johannes Luiten (treasurer) and Leonard van Schothorst (secretary). They perform their duties unpaid. The member of the Board of Directors and the Administrative Assistant (0.4) are salaried, considering the salary scales of the BBRA. The salary of the member of the Board of Directors deviates downward from the average salary common in small charitable organizations. As soon as income allows, new staff will be recruited. Until then, volunteers, interns and consultants will be used.