





for LIFE  FAMILY  FREEDOM 

CCI Newsletter June 2023



Content

Preface	2
Fields of Work	3
News from Africa.....	3
Ideology or Identity?	3
In conversation with SGP on chamber questions abortion as a human right.....	5
News from UN New York	5
Commission on Population & Development (CPD)	5
News from the USA.....	6
Christianity Versus Culture	6
The work of CCI in a nutshell	8
Urgent financial support needed for CCI	9
 Colofon	11
 Colofon	11

Preface

Dear Reader,

Male/Female Creation upside down

A fierce battle is raging worldwide over how to value and define life, family and freedom. For example, 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.

Signing controversial treaty postponed again

Another example is the controversial treaty between the EU and 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Once again its signing has been delayed by 4 months. In addition to growing and increasingly vocal concerns on the ACP side, the EU itself cannot reach unanimity. Countries like Poland and Hungary have fundamental problems with the treaty from the beginning. The new postponement became clear during meetings in Brussels from June 19-28 of more than 100 parliamentarians from ACP countries in Brussels. The first days were in the EU-funded ACP secretariat, then jointly with a number of European colleagues in the European Parliament. Christian Council International attended as an accredited organization.

The flames fanned at EU-ACP meeting

The closing address by the Vice President of the European Parliament, also co-chairing the parliamentary LGBT intergroup, swept away any remaining doubts about European intentions and fanned the flames. Among other things, he stated that LGBT rights are non-negotiable human rights, that ACP countries "must" engage in this fight for universal decolonization of homosexuals and trans identity, and praised the fact that the treaty is legally binding. This norm-claiming stone in already turbulent pond full of ACP representatives did not miss its mark. In furious

fashion, parliamentarians from various countries reacted, demanding respect for African values and sovereignty. In tumultuous fashion, the meeting came to an end, as you can see in the video below. To be continued.

Victory promised

Please read further in this newsletter the reports of our Africa policy director and our representative at the UN as well as our board member's article in the US on Christianity vs. culture. I finish here with the concluding words from his article: Christians can expect opposition. But they can also expect victory, not because of their strength but because He has promised to be faithful to His own. May the Lord bind us together in our unsettled day and grant that we might find refuge in Him.

With warm regards,

Henk Jan van Schothorst

Directeur Christian Council International

Confrontation caused by EP (and LGBT intergroup) vice president with Uganda/ African delegates:



Fields of Work

News from Africa

Ideology or Identity?

In Africa this quarter, the focus was on the First ACPF Regional Family Conference (May 11-12) in Nairobi, Kenya, and the ACP-EU Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels (June 19 - 28).



Reflection ACPF

The African Christian Professionals Forum (ACPF) is an organization with different country offices that brings together a large number of Christian Professionals from different African countries who work in government, service, and private sectors from different African countries. This forum is very active in discussing and promoting pro-life and pro-family issues and is a staunch ally of CCI in the fight against the EU-ACP Convention.

On the first day, only the 25 ACPF country coordinators gathered from Ghana, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, DRC and Kenya itself, among others. They discussed the progress of the ACPF in the different countries. Henk Jan (CCI) was invited as a guest speaker to create further awareness among the country coordinators about the dangerous provisions in the EU-ACP Agreement. In addition, Henk Jan also gave concrete tools to pressure their members and people's representatives to stand up against

the EU and this Treaty. Seven key action points resulted from the presentations and discussions on Day 1:

1. ACPF could provide capacity building on specific topics, e.g. Training journalists to portray biblical and scientific facts on topics such as family, pro-life, freedom of religion, etc.
2. Setting up an online information platform for Christian Africa where ACPF members can find information about each other's work and locations.



3. Developing a robust communication strategy, including regular writing of communiqués, closing papers, statements, and opinion pieces to take a clear position on behalf of our members to support medical ethics issues on a continental and national level.
4. To develop ACPF into a coordinating forum on pro-life and pro-family themes for religious professionals and their organizations. This means that if, e.g., there is a conference on pro-life, then

ACPF can mobilize as many members working in that area as possible, etc.

5. Structural engagement as ACPF with cultural institutions and government agencies and obtaining accreditation with the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN).
6. Strategic mobilization of ACPF members so that a powerful movement of Christian African professionals can be built across the continent.
7. ACPF will use the weapon of prayer to ensure that it becomes even more successful as a forum in Africa.

The second day of the conference focused on promoting the important role the traditional family plays in raising children with high moral values. Kenya's Member of Parliament Peter Kaluma, a staunch Christian and active member of the ACPF, opened the conference which was followed by several presentations, panel and group discussions. Henk Jan also participated in a panel discussion and shared his experiences in relation to the important role fathers play in the Christian education of children. The participants were about 150 people.



Reflection ACP-EU Interparliamentary Assembly

From June 19-28, the ACP-EU Interparliamentary Assembly was held. This meeting was a follow-up to the Assembly also held in Brussels in February. Since at that Assembly the motions of Malawi and Uganda were again not passed, CCI hoped

that this meeting would. Unfortunately, it failed again even though both motions are very important to ensure that the people's representatives of all 106 countries under the Treaty become aware of the dangerous provisions in the EU-ACP Treaty so that they can be removed. Nevertheless, a vote on the rules of procedure was completed followed by a heated discussion on the Ugandan anti-homosexuality Bill 2023. These discussions started when the EU Vice-President of the Assembly, who also appeared to be a member of the European LGBT community, said that "sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) is not an ideology but an identity". On top of that, there was a Member of the European Parliament from Ireland who claimed that the Ugandan anti-homosexuality Bill supports the killing of any person engaged in homosexual activities. He warned that this could lead children with homosexual feelings to be suicidal. This was received with lots of skepticism by many ACP representatives. The Ugandan ACP delegation responded by saying that nobody is allowed to go out and kill people but that Uganda is a peace-loving and sovereign country which has the right to "condemn aggravating offenses and the commercialization of homosexuality". The outcome of this JPA resulted in the current Cotonou Agreement to be extended with another 4 months. If Poland and Hungary are on board, the signing ceremony can happen in Nov/Dec 2023 in Samoa. If not, another ACP-EU JPA will be organized in Niger.



Saturday, 13 May 2023

DECLARATION
BY
THE FAMILY CONSORTIUM DURING THE FAMILY SYMPOSIUM 2023

WE, the Christian professionals in different churches, professional bodies and associations in Kenya:
ACKNOWLEDGING the supremacy of the Almighty God of all creation, His leadership over our Country, its laws and people.
HONOURING the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and its continued direction and guidance in our beloved country, Kenya.
COMMITTED to uphold and defend the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 as well as to nurture and protect the well-being of the individual, the family, communities and the nation.
NOW THEREFORE WE, the Christian professionals in different churches, professional bodies and associations in Kenya commit to recognize and promote our cultural foundation as a Nation and the family as the natural and fundamental unit of Society (Article 45) as enshrined in the Constitution and advocate to have the institution of family upheld and defended in our beloved country.
We hereby commit to speak out publicly & boldly in defence of the natural order of family. We commit to write clearly with intellectual & evidence-based arguments through all media. We commit to mobilise people to manifest support through signatures, marches & other manifestations for a successful amendment of the Constitution. We commit to give our finances and other resources needed to mobilise the advocacy & engagement in protection and promotion of family. We also commit to arise as one voice in prayer for the family.

On this 12th day of May 2023.

KCPF FAMILY SYMPOSIUM 2023

"That all may be one" John 17:21



News from UN New York

Commission on Population & Development (CPD)

By: Peter Smith

10 - 14 April 2023

This year the Resolution was on population, **education** and sustainable development.

There was no doubt some good ideas discussed, but the big issue was CSE



Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)

This program intended to brainwash children into believing that sex before marriage is fine, and a lot of other immoral things. In the first 4 days of the conference I counted 43 positive references for CSE by country groups, individual countries UN agencies and NGOs. On the other hand Russia and Nigeria came out against SCE as well as the Friends of the family group of countries.

I was concerned, but then on the Friday morning, we learnt that there had been no agreement with the document and the Chairman gave out a "Chair's text" at 10.20pm Thursday evening. Some 22 brave countries opposed this document especially Paragraph OP16¹. So the balance was

countries must ensure that the programmes and attitudes of health-care providers do not restrict the access by adolescents to appropriate services and the information they need, including on sexually transmitted infections and

In conversation with SGP on chamber questions abortion as a human right Africa Africa has had enough of cunning neocolonial behavior NL and EU with proposed ACP-EU Treaty. The included abortion is NOT an internationally valid human right, but an injustice! [Henk Jan van Schothorst](#) had a useful conversation with [SGP Chris Stoffer](#) about painful answers Cabinet. You will be that unborn child...

¹ OP16 Recognizes the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for adolescents to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance on sexual and reproductive matters, and that

55 countries wanted the Chairman text adopted and 22 did not. Now the UN works on a consensus system, not a majority vote. Consensus means you all agree.

Then to my relief the chairman withdrew his text. There was wailing and gnashing of teeth among the pro-abortion anti-family countries. As I always



say no document is much better than a bad document coming from the UN.

'Mill stone award'

While listening to all the lies being told about CSE the Lord gave me the following verse :

*It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a **mill stone** tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.* Luke 17:2

This year the 'Mill stone award' goes to the Argentinian Ambassador. She pushed CSE more than any other country, legalising of abortion, claiming any type of family combination was fine and did not want doctors to claim conscientious objection to any of her " scientific ideas".

The Truth teller award

This year goes to Stefano from C-Fam who simply said CSE does not work. There was horror and disbelief on the faces of the officials around him. See this excellent talk by Dr. Thomas Sowell along the same lines.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1JXZZmlgTI>

Near the end of the meeting Pakistan gave a stinging rebuttal to the rich countries who were

sexual abuse, and also recognizes that in doing so, and in order to address, inter alia, sexual abuse, these services must safeguard the right of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, respecting cultural values and religious beliefs, and that in this context

pushing CSE and not interested in basic things like funding schools for poor kids.

My own daughter went on a Mission trip to Malawi some 15 years ago , to a school in Blantyre , where they gave each student a small note book and a pencil. The teacher did not even have chalk to use on the blackboard. This was supplied by this small group of Scottish Christians

There was much behind the scenes lobbying at this meeting, and in the past about CSE. **An excellent result occurred, no document.**

Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York

News from the USA

Christianity Versus Culture

By: John Van Der Brink

It is interesting to observe and note the relationship between Christianity and the culture at large during the history of the New Testament church. Ever since Jesus was on earth, His



followers and His people have faced challenges and opposition. But the nature of the conflict has not always been the same. In the early church, the first 300 years, Christians suffered indescribable persecution. That was primarily because the doctrines and way of life conflicted with two major power sources – the Jews and the Romans.

Palestine in Jesus' time was ruled by the Romans. The Romans controlled everything in society. They had a religion that included the worship of the gods, and they also deified their leaders. Failure to acknowledge and worship these gods was said to bring the wrath of gods upon the land. Therefore, Christians who refused to bow before the Roman gods were said to be the cause

countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to reproductive health information and care for adolescents;

of all the evils that came upon the land - such as famines and earthquakes.

Christians did not fare much better at the hand of the Jews. Orthodox Jews we know were still waiting for a strong redeemer like David who would drive away Roman control. So, when the followers of Jesus claimed that the promised Messiah was one who had come to suffer and die for sinners and that they were sinners in need of his substitutionary death, this was greatly offensive to them. They thought that Christians were traitors to the Jews' expectations, and so they too contributed to the persecution of Christians.

And then a major event occurred in history that changed the status of Christianity in public opinion. The emperor Constantine was facing a decisive battle against a formidable enemy. The night before he met his enemy in open conflict, he said that he saw a sign of the cross in the sky with words meaning, 'In this sign, conquer'. The next day, he gained a decided victory, and he made Christianity the religion of the empire. This brought thousands of pagan people into the Christian church, which in turn resulted in a very watered-down form of Christianity.

Now each of these experiences that Christians had with their society has huge lessons for Christians in the 21st century. There are three lessons that seem obvious.

- a. **Persecution.** Most Christians today do not suffer persecution, at least not physically. Some Christians live in countries that do persecute Christians. They do not have the Christian freedoms most of the world enjoys. We should pray for fellow Christians in these places. In the past, it was through persecution that Christianity actually grew. Those who suffered a martyr's death were an inspiration to those around them. What would we do if we were called to suffer and die for our faith?

- b. **Error and Ignorance.** The Jews in Jesus' day were very religious people. They practiced their faith zealously. But it was a religion that was not according to the Bible. They completely misunderstood who the Messiah was. So they lived and died without a real Savior. And today too, if we have a religion that is not according to God's Word, it is empty and vain. Regardless of how zealous and sincere we are, it is only the blood and righteousness of Christ Jesus which can cleanse us from all sin.
- c. **Religious Freedom.** Christians in Constantine's day enjoyed unprecedented freedoms. But sadly, that freedom brought about much nominal Christianity. Those who were Christians in name did not hold onto doctrinal accuracy, and soon the church became polluted with error. We too have unprecedented Christian freedoms. What is the character of the church like today? Filled with nominal Christians and error. There is cause for us to consider and reflect.

Solomon said there is nothing new under the sun. Another one said that he who ignores history is bound to repeat it. Christianity today, like in all ages, seems to bear the brunt of opposition from all sides. The reason is that Satan does everything in his power to oppose it, and if possible, to destroy it. But Satan is a defeated enemy. He will not prevail. Scripture says that the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church. That is true in 2023 also. So true Christians can expect opposition. But they can also expect victory, not because of their strength but because He has promised to be faithful to His own. May the Lord bind us together in our unsettled day and grant that we might find refuge in Him.

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)



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

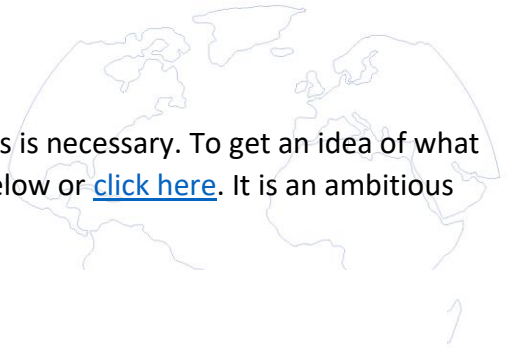
1. By supporting Hungary's defense of Christian values, we help to prevent the EU from reaching European and international consensus on pro LGBTQ+ and gender ideology.
2. Through our support of the Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen, awareness has been raised in the EU and member states that the Bible 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

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, US and its Member States" 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, and AU, and its full-time presence in the US, to strengthen the protection of Christian values and freedoms and national sovereignty.
- By mobilizing a network of like-minded decision makers, parliamentarians, the media, and CSOs to jointly raise awareness and influence the policy makers to protect Life, Family and Freedom.



1. Project United States

- Location: Washington DC
- Permanent monitoring and action on the day-to-day affairs in US politics and US Congress.



2. Project United Nations

- Locations: New York, Geneva
- Permanent monitoring and action on the day-to-day affairs at the UN Headquarters, the UN Human Rights Council, and WHO Office.



3. Project Europe

- Locations: Brussels, Strasbourg, Warsaw, Vienna
- Permanent monitoring and action on the day-to-day affairs at the EU Institutions and the OSCE.



4. Project ACP

- Location: Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
- Permanent monitoring and action on 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).



CCI's main activities across the four different project locations

- Contribute with 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.

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

Expected results

- Harmful policies / treaties blocked or amended in favor of life, family and freedom.
- A high-level international policy network established and effective in influencing policy at the US, UN, EU, and ACP level.

Key policy focus areas

- Dangerous policy key words threatening life, family and freedom:
 - Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) - sexualizing children
 - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) - abortion rights
 - Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) - LGBT promotion
 - Safe Abortion - in relation to the rights of women as victims
- Current international policies that contain the above-stated dangerous keywords:
 - The new 20-year binding EU - ACP Agreement (not yet signed)
 - Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment
 - AU Safety and Social Security Protocol
 - WHO TreatyAnd more is likely to come....

Special project

November 2022 - January 2024

Support lobby Africa to clean up ideological and neo-colonial EU-ACP Trade Agreement

EXPECTED RESULT

More than 1 billion people will be spared for 20 years from being forced to accept CSE, Abortion, and LGBT / SOGI as promoted in this treaty

\$ 265.000

Donate to Christian Council International (CCI)

CCI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity with tax deductible status for donations.

Checks can be sent to:
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