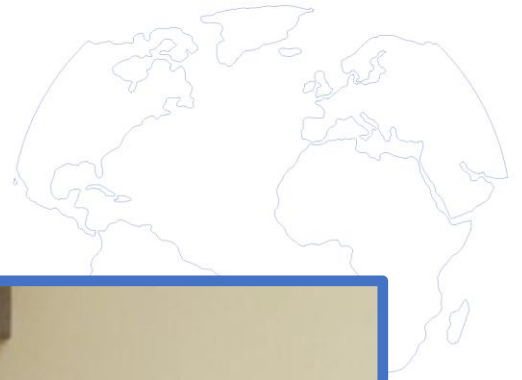




CCI
Christian Council
International



Praying for the Surinam President – December 2023

CCI Annual Report

2023

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Management Report

2023

Purpose

Christian Council International defends and promotes life, family and freedom, 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.

CCI influences public policy primarily at the international level among international organizations and member states 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.

10 years

On January 28, 2023, CCI was able to commemorate its 10th anniversary. On the occasion, the undersigned presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Päivi Räsänen, Member of the Finnish Parliament.

Results

Africa

Since January 2022, our employee in Africa has been committed to CCI on a 0.6ft basis. This has been reduced to 0.3 fte in mid-2023.

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 2023:

- Together with the support of CCI, Malawi alerted other heads of delegation in the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) about the dangerous provisions during the ACP-EU JPA in Brussels from 25 February - 2 March 2023.
- CCI assisted Uganda in tabling their motion asking to postpone the signing of the EU-ACP Agreement until ACP countries reach a

consensus on their objections to controversial provisions. The vote on the rules of procedure did not take place.

- On behalf of CCI, together with its allies, our representative was able to raise his voice at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). This resulted in a UNCSW 2023 agreement without the terms "comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)", "sexual rights" and "sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)".
- CCI participated in the two-day Inter-Parliamentary Conference from March 31 to April 1 in Uganda. CCI was able to advise President Museveni with a delegation regarding a law against homosexual praxis, to find a way for a legal sanctuary for people with same-sex attraction.
- CCI participated in the First Regional ACPF (African Christian Professionals Forum) conference (May 11-12) in Nairobi, Kenya, and the ACP-EU Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels (June 19-28). There was an opportunity to create awareness among the country coordinators about the dangerous provisions in the EU-ACP Agreement and to provide concrete tools to stand up against this treaty.
- After almost 3 years of pushing and pulling, a 'signing ceremony' of the treaty took place in Samoa on November 15. However, 35 of the 79 countries did not immediately sign the treaty. After further EU pressure, 60 countries have now signed. With ACP parliamentarians we will consider how these countries can protect their societies against ideological imperialism of the EU.
- At the request of representatives of Trinidad & Tobago, CCI was able to warn against the treaty in various Caribbean countries, including Suriname. Although Suriname had already signed the ACP-EU treaty, CCI was able to point out the dangers of the treaty with the EU to the Surinamese President in December, after which he immediately made

an appointment with the Foreign Affairs officer who had signed the treaty on behalf of Suriname.

Read more about this in the annual report.

United Nations (UN) Geneva

In connection with the focus on the foregoing, less attention was paid to the meetings of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2023. In September, CCI attended the 54th session of the Geneva Human Rights Council. The position of women is in danger with the abolition of the biological definition of woman, mainly advocated by the West. Intervention by organizations such as CCI is necessary.

United Nations (UN) New York

On behalf of CCI, Peter Smith was able to attend various annual committee meetings at the UN in New York:

- March: the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67). Our representative in the US, Mark den Hollander, also followed this committee.
- April: Committee on Population and Development (CPD56)
- November: the 3rd Committee (3Com) of the General Assembly

Smith has attended UN meetings to lobby with the pro-life/pro-family NGOs at the UN for the past 25 years and has attended approximately 150 meetings. Normally he was in the corridors encouraging diplomats to remove references to bad language from resolutions and replace them with good ones. In 2023, Smith followed the meetings online.

America

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

- Who owns our children?
- The diploma debacle; about name or gender change
- Christianity versus culture
- A few bright spots; about religious freedoms
- Growing up in a woke society

In August there was the Teacher's Conference North America, where Van Der Brink and the undersigned contributed.

Mark Den Hollander has been volunteering for CCI in the US since 2022. In 2023, he played a major role in organizing the CCI United Nations Fellowship New York (March 2024) for his fellow Hillsdale College students.

In the summer of 2023, contacts were made in **Canada**, which resulted in various (business) meetings. It is being investigated whether a CCI entity can also be established in Canada.

Europe

The attacks on Christianity are also increasingly noticeable in Europe.

Member of Parliament Päivi Räsänen in **Finland** has been charged for her statements about (homo)sexuality. CCI supports her in the lawsuit filed against her. CCI presented a statement of support on behalf of the CCI supporters prior to the appeal that was filed August 31 and September 1 in the court in Helsinki, Finland.

Following the attacks on the so-called 'anti-gay law' (in reality a law that respects parents as primarily responsible for education about sexuality for their children under the age of 18, whereby schools are not allowed to promote homosexuality and gender reassignment) in **Hungary**, CCI supported this country. In September, CCI attended the Demographic Summit in Budapest, which advocated "traditional family values." On behalf of the CCI business network, a Hungarian Bible was presented to President Katalin Novák. In

November, CCI contributed to the IV EUCET Conference in Hungary.

The Warsaw Family Policy Conference was attended in **Poland**. In the field of family policy, Poland, like Hungary, is exemplary. The opening meeting of the OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference was subsequently attended.

In July the CCI team visited **Brussels**, where they work closely with the Eurogroup SGP.

Media and campaign

CCI was able to convey its message to various media:

- Nederlands Dagblad, January 27, 2023, '[This is colonial behavior](#)'
- Featured! January 30, 2023 Henk Jan van Schothorst [CCI about new colonization of Africa](#)
- The [Finnish media](#) covered the campaign of support for Päivi Räsänen, August 31, 2023
- Interview with Henk Jan van Schothorst in [the GezinsGids](#), November 2, 2023
- Reformatorisch Dagblad, December 5, 2023: [Government must immediately stop sexual indoctrination](#)

In 2023, in addition to the general goals of CCI, the main focus was on promoting the campaign "CCI-Lobby Africa for Cleaning up the ideologically and neocolonially charged EU-ACP trade agreement". This campaign has resulted in greater awareness of the themes at stake, broader brand awareness of the foundation and financial support from the Netherlands, Canada and the US.

Notes on Finance

Compared to the year 2022, the foundation saw its income increase from €200,000 to €245,000 in 2023. In addition to personnel costs, investments were mainly made in the Africa project.

The Supervisory Board of CCI consists of Jan Schippers (chairman) and Johannes Luiten

(treasurer) and Leonard van Schothorst (secretary). They perform their duties without pay. The member of the Board of Directors and the Administrative Assistant (0.4) are paid as employees, taking into account the BBRA salary scales. The salary of the member of the Board of Directors deviates downwards from the average salary that is common in small charity organizations. As soon as income allows, this will be adjusted and new staff will be recruited. Until then, we work with volunteers, interns and consultants.

2024 and further

The board has agreed to the proposal and budget for a 3-year project from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026, [the ongoing program](#).

Contacts have been made in Canada and it is being investigated whether CCI can be incorporated in Canada and whether tax-exempt status can be obtained there.

With the CCI program we will firstly use our consultative status with international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to strengthen the protection of classical freedoms and counter the attack of a threatening to reverse secularism. Second, as irreplaceable allies, we will strengthen transatlantic ties based on the Judeo-Christian tradition in various ways. In order to do this work thoroughly, we want to have permanent supervision at the aforementioned international organizations and member states and the US Congress. Substantial financial support is a prerequisite for this.

Deo Volente.

Bodegraven, April 2024

H.J. van Schothorst

Board of Directors



Financial Report

Find the Annual Financial Report, created by Van
Ree Accountants [here](#).



Description ▼	Costs ▼	Donations and benefits from fundraising ▼
Accountant Fees	€ 1.028,50	
Bank Costs	€ 993,59	
Board Costs	€ 388,70	
Business Network	€ 1.317,62	
Communication Support Base	€ 23.846,00	
Donations		€ 245.152,09
Office Costs	€ 2.156,25	
Project Africa/ACP	€ 109.241,93	
Project Europe	€ 18.626,20	
Project UN	€ 18.260,32	
Project US/CA	€ 18.166,13	
General Management	€ 24.805,12	
Transfer CCI US-CCI NL		€ 20.179,10
Insurances	€ 429,36	
Website	€ 1.500,00	
Grand total	€ 220.759,71	€ 265.331,19

January–March



Chat with President Museveni from Uganda

Fields of Work

News from Africa

Our work on cleaning up the EU-ACP Treaty



CCI's impact on the African continent has rapidly increased. Due to CCI's strategic campaigning on the EU-ACP Treaty in 2022, awareness about the dangerous provisions has planted seeds in the minds of many high-level decision makers across Africa. Special allies of CCI come from countries such as Malawi and Uganda which have taken a strong stand against anything that is a threat against African values regarding the family, culture and religion. This bore a lot of fruit for CCI in the first quarter of 2023, as Henk Jan worked hand-in-hand with very vocal pro-life and pro-family Malawian Members of Parliament to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA), the Parliamentary body of this still to-be-signed EU-ACP Treaty.



ACP-EU JPA

Together with the lobby support of CCI, Malawi alarmed other heads of delegation to the ACP-EU JPA about the dangerous provisions during the ACP-EU JPA in Brussels from 25 February - 2 March, 2023. While this should have been the moment for his motion to be tabled, the OACPS Secretariat did everything to block that from happening. CCI then assisted Uganda in putting forward their motion asking for the postponement of the signing of the EU-ACP Agreement until the ACP countries have reached consensus on its concerns on controversial provisions. Also this motion was blocked from being tabled. However, just like the ACP-EU JPA in Mozambique last year, both motions steered up a debate between the EU and ACP delegations. This resulted in the growing group of ACP countries that are concerned about the impact of the EU-ACP Treaty on their country. The key concerns being shared during the ACP-EU JPA in Brussels were:

- Lack of clarity on the amendments of the three regional protocols (EU-African, EU-Caribbean, and EU-Pacific), especially regarding the fact that the EU wants the EU-ACP Council of Ministers as a governing body to oversee the implementation of the Agreement, which basically overrules the competence of the national parliaments.
- The increasing awareness about the concerning provisions inside the EU-ACP

Agreement that jeopardize the national sovereignty and the cultural, social, and religious values of individual States under this Agreement.

- The need for the OACPS Council of Ministers to be accountable to the ACP-JPA, just as the EU Council of Ministers is accountable to the European Parliament.
- The possibility to move the OACPS Secretariat out of Brussels and inside an African, Caribbean, or Pacific country.

Due to the above-stated concerns shared by the ACP delegations, the voting on the Rules of Procedures did not happen; once again, since the voting also did not happen during the ACP-EU JPA in Mozambique last year.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

On behalf of CCI, together with its allies, our representative was able to raise its voice, speak up for life, family, and freedom and lobbied many high-level stakeholders about the dangerous concepts of SRHR, CSE, and SOGI which are also found in the EU-ACP Agreement. This resulted in an UNCSW 2023 agreement document without the terms “comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)”, “sexual rights”, and “sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)”.

While this is a reason to celebrate, several non-Western delegations expressed their reservations on the controversial terms that remained in several paragraphs in the EU-ACP agreement: “SRHR” (which includes “safe” abortion) and “comprehensive information about sexual and reproductive health” (another word for CSE).

To underline the words of our representative, *“it became clear again that the war between light*

and darkness, between the progressives and faith-centered groups is huge and intense and an organization like CCI is therefore needed more than ever to sustain the campaign for life, family, and freedom”.

Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Uganda



The 2-day Inter-Parliamentary Conference held from 31 March till 1 April in Uganda was hosted by the Office of the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament and co-hosted by the African Bar Association (AfBA)¹. The Conference was titled ‘1st African Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family Values & Sovereignty’. It brought together Members of the Parliament (MP) and religious leaders from over 22 different African countries such as Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Eswatini, Malawi, and Uganda itself.

The Conference was a huge success with a variety of MPs providing statements on their stand to protect Life, Family, and Freedom, the exact Christian and traditional values CCI stands for. The EU-ACP Agreement was also discussed in a way to show the significant threat against these values in international agreements with the West. Henk Jan van Schothorst, CCI’s Executive Director, was also able to present about his lobbying work on the European Continent (in The Netherlands, EU member states, and in the European Parliament). In addition, CCI was able to join a delegation of Conference participants to meet with the Ugandan President and the First Lady to

¹ The AfBA Conference CCI and allies attended in August 2022 in Malawi made the AfBA President to take a stronger stand on Africa’s family, cultural and religious values and national sovereignty. One of the result is their willingness to

co-host this Conference which shows a huge sign against the Western progressive human rights agenda from African influential lawyers.

further raise their awareness about this Agreement as well.

This resulted in various media statements, with both the First Lady and President Museveni appearing to be well informed about the problematic provisions in the ACP-EU Treaty.

Against the massive, decades-long Western lgbt promotion, infiltration and recruitment of mostly young victims in Uganda, the Ugandan parliament has passed a law against homosexual praxis. We advised the President and Parliament to find a pathway for a legal safe haven for people with same sex attraction.

A further report and overview of fruitful outcomes will be shared in the next quarter



newsletter.

News from UN New York

Is the United Nations rushing toward judgment?
 On the Commission on Status of Women (CSW)

By: Peter Smith

Find referenced documents in this article [here](#).

I have spent the last two weeks listening to debate at the annual CSW, from 6 to 17 March 2023. This is not my first CSW , I started getting involved in 1995.



In my daily Bible reading I was reading through the book of Isiah and noticed chapter 3 which in my NIV study Bible has the title Judgement on Jerusalem and Judah.

Verse 9 “ “ they parade their sin like Sodom.”

At the UN various groups get together to voice their positions in general discussion and also when a document is being negotiate. One of these groups is the LGBTQI+ group co-chaired by the Netherlands and Argentina, there being 42 countries in this group out of the 192 at the UN. Some 15 countries spoke individually promoting LGBT etc issues.

Verse 12 “ Youths oppress my people..”

There was a whole half day session in the general discussion given over to youth. This reminded me of wee Greta Thunberg telling us all we would be destroyed some years ago by climate change. My Bible says , Children obey your parent”.

Verse 12 “..Women rule over them...”

There was a lot of talk about gender equality at this meeting, but my 28 years of experience at the UN tell me that the real agenda is an oppressive matriarchy to be set over the world.

The other verse that comes to mind is “Thou shalt not murder.”

The euphemism for abortion and other things is in the term “ sexual and reproductive health rights.. This term was used by some 33 countries as well as the EU in the general discussion. Also some 13 countries were pushing for Comprehensive sexuality education , or as I like to say lesson in depravity for children. The Lord warned about causing “ Little ones to stumble ,, millstone ,, into the water with you “.

No pro-life pro-Family NGOs got to speak. But an Inuit NGO from Greenland had slipped though the net. She complained about Danish medical people visiting them in the 1960s and fitting thousands of IUDs to unsuspecting women + girls. They will not be invited back to another CSW I suspect.

On the positive side there was a group of 25 countries who spoke on behalf of the family.

Enough with the sermon onto the actual subject for CSW this year.

Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

This ended up with a 30 page document, see



T128. It is the usual terrible UN stuff. Its meant to be about technology, and gender equality , but most women are not so interested in this type of work. In the UK 26% of Information Technology engineers are women. On a world -wide basis there are 19% of the technical workforce are women. This does not mean that women are discriminated against, many women are not interested in this type of career. Many want jobs they can interrupt to have children, it is hard to get back into computer work after an absence of many years as so much changes.

The document had 147 references to gender, 107 references to rights, and 4 references to responsibility. There was of course no reference to men , its as if we did not exist. The usual UN biased document, not much use to anyone.

There was the usual resort to the euphemism for abortion , “reproductive health”, with one paragraph pushing this a let but there was good protective language limiting its lethality. Sadly there was another paragraph on Comprehensive sexuality education , but not using that wording. Then there was a very good paragraph on family. See : T127

C-Fam did a great job as usual , their report is attached. They listed all the countries making good reservations on family and life issues. [Ref](#)

Also attached is an article written by my friend Grace Melton who is a long time lobbyist at the

UN , see ref for her article to get an American perspective. Ref T125

I was also in touch with an American friend , who was at the CSW , representing National Right to life. He was hanging around by himself near the end of the meeting, and heard the British delegate complaining about not “ making any progress at CSW this year”. This sort of thing is music to my ears. He obviously did not like all the family language, and the fact that LGBT wording did not get into the document.

Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York

Viewpoints regarding pro-life values and family rights are considered highly controversial at the UN

By: Mark Den Hollander

During my spring break, I had the opportunity to attend some of the events during the second week of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. This event was an eye-opening experience as I was provided with the opportunity to meet with important leaders. Through the different conversations, I was able to share some of the recent work of Christian Council International, especially regarding the recent negotiations of the ACP-EU agreement. I was also able to ask questions to these leaders about the current state of affairs that deal with human rights at the UN.



The theme for the event primarily focused on establishing the role of women within society through technological advancement and education. The specific theme was as follows: “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,” as stated by the organizational website.

While attending the event, I learned about some of the different viewpoints that are held internationally about different issues in relation to the rights of women and adolescent girls. In general it seemed that specific leaders from less developed countries were more interested in promoting social issues, culture, and human rights relating to abortion and comprehensive sexuality education, in comparison to less developed countries that need to focus on more pertinent issues such as healthcare and general education for women and girls.

The sub-topics that were talked about in the side-events were about anything from establishing women's rights within the workplace to securing better healthcare solutions for women in developing countries. For example, one of the side-events that I attended talked about trying to fight for equal opportunities for women pursuing judicial seats within the government.

As I was warned, I soon realized that conservative viewpoints regarding pro-life values and family rights are considered highly controversial at the UN. There seemed to be little to no place to



discuss these matters in a constructive manner. Some of my colleagues indicated that in recent years the hostility towards pro-life values and other similar topics has increased significantly.

Leftist protestors did what they could to disrupt a [presentation](#) by international law expert Stefano Gennarini from C-Fam who spoke on the need to question far-reaching sexuality education that is

being supported within many educational institutions. The comprehensive sexuality education that is taught in many schools across the United States, promotes sexual behavior, gender fluidity, and bisexual relationships for teenagers that goes on to influence



pornography and associated sexual violence. The harmful sexual education that is taught furthers harm to women through the increase of sexual violence. All efforts must be made to keep these harmful ideologies from corrupting the minds of our youth across the world and to prevent violence against women. While I have a lot to learn about the inner workings of the United Nations, I remain convinced that there are real ways to have an impact by getting involved and standing up for what is right. I encourage students and others who find interest in political and humanitarian work to seek out opportunities to get involved. The world we live in often does not honor and respect women as they have been created by God. The UN cannot clearly define what a woman is. God's word stands true: "Male and female created he them; and blessed them" (Gen 5:2).

The trip was a success because of the networking opportunities and learning experiences. Having connections and friendships at the UN in order to have an impact on the final policy negotiations. The mission of Christian Council International to the United Nations, in partnership with other organizations that hold similar pro-life and pro-family values, is a work that needs to be

continued to prevent harmful policies from infringing on the rights of those who hold to Christian values and principles.

Mark Den Hollander represents CCI in the US.



A Christian newspaper in the US reported on Mark den Hollander's lobbying work for CCI.

News from the USA

To Whom Do Our Children Belong?

By: John Van Der Brink

If you want to know what American society will be like tomorrow, then you need to look into today's classrooms. For many years, the college campus has been the seedbed which progressive thinkers used to control public opinion and to shape American ideology. Often parents have seen their children come home from college with a radically different mindset from the one they had when they left for college. The traditional values with which they had been raised were challenged in philosophy and psychology classes, and in its place, a woke ideology was entrenched in just a few short years.

From Biblical to Babylonian



This new way of thinking has now entered the American public mindset. Conservative values and Biblical precepts are increasingly challenged in adult society. Foundations like traditional marriage and a committed family structure are losing ground to loosely defined fluid human relationships. Long accepted standards of morality and proper order have been abandoned. The blind pursuit of individual freedom and equality have led millions of Americans to redefine what is right and wrong. Today the only right thing is that nothing is wrong, and the only wrong thing is that something is called right.

But many are beginning to push back. Parents are awaking to what is happening in American schools, and they are trying to regain their rightful control. Children belong to parents. They do not belong to the state. Parents have a right to know what is being taught in the classroom. They have a right to know and control the values being instilled in their kids. And they are fighting to maintain or regain it.

Liberals are furious. They see the American school system as the surest way to hold onto and even promote their woke agenda. Conservatives want to keep the future of the child in the hands of the parents. This great divide plays itself out in the halls congress, largely between Democrats and Republicans.

Free School Choice

There are two major fronts on this war over the child. One is "School Choice". For years, former Secretary of Education Betsy de Vos pointed out the need for parents to be able to choose the education that is best for their children. She rightly argued that children should not be tied to failing schools because of their zip codes nor to schools that promote an ideology that is not their own. Several states have recently passed laws which allow parents to direct some of their tax dollars to schools of their choice, not just to public education.

One of those states is Florida. On March 27, 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Bill HB 1 which provides parents with one of the most expansive opportunities to choose, unhindered by finances, where they want their children to be educated. There are more than 30 states now with some kind of School Choice laws, and the list is growing. This allows parents to choose schools which promote values and a worldview more in line with their own. Republicans generally favor school choice. Democrats, who are beholden to strong public school teachers' unions, are vigorously opposed. They fear losing financial support for public education, and they risk losing control over their woke agendas.

Parental Bill of Rights

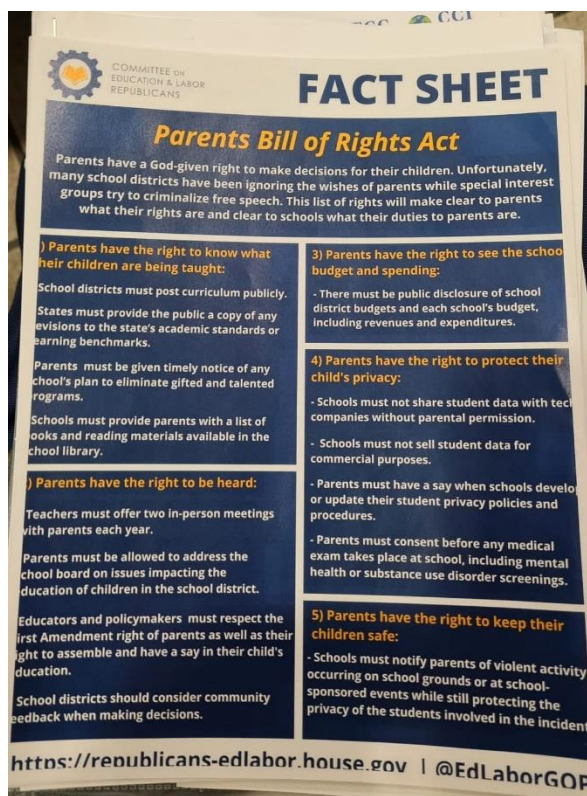
The second major front in this debate is the recently introduced "Parental Bill of Rights", which gives parents the right to know what is being taught in public school curriculums. It

passed on March 25, 2023 in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. Unfortunately, it will not pass in the democratically-controlled Senate, and President Biden would veto it if it did. Certainly, this bill will be the center of debate in the upcoming election cycle. And its passage puts on public display that Democrats want to remove parental influence in education while Republicans want to promote it.

So, the struggle for the American child wages on.

To whom do our children belong? God says in his Word that children are a gift of God to parents. The fruit of the womb is His reward. Schools are there to support the parents in their tasks as stewards of the gift God has given. Children do not belong to teachers, or to politicians, or to the state. That is why many parents are turning to Christian education for the support of the ideology and worldview they want to teach their children.

What tomorrow will bring, no one really knows. American society is so volatile at the present time that it is impossible to see a clear path going forward. But one thing we can be sure of is that, as chaotic as things seem, the Lord stands above it all. His kingdom reigns. He can and He will still gather His church, even in confusing times. The candlestick of His Word, and its influence in society, will not be put out. Men and women and boys and girls will still be gathered into His everlasting kingdom by the mighty irresistible work of His Spirit. Christ is and will be King of kings and Lord of lords. There is a day coming when all His enemies will be forever vanquished. Then right will be right, and wrong will be wrong. And He will be all in all. Where will we and our children be on that day?



would also require parental consent for the school to make gender changes on the child's school records or use of opposite sex bathrooms. It was introduced by Representative Julia Letlow and vigorously promoted by House Education Chairwoman Virginia Fox before it narrowly



From left to right: CCI board member George Roller, Virginia Foxx and Henk Jan van Schothorst in December 2021

Media

[The Diploma Debacle](#)

By: John Van Der Brink

A new piece of legislation has serious concerns for all New Jersey schools including our own Christian school. Some legislators in the Assembly have introduced Bill 1588 which would require all New Jersey schools to issue diplomas in the “preferred name” of the graduate instead of his/her real name. Ironically, the school will not be allowed to require students to provide legal documentation of a legal name or gender change. Under this bill, schools would also be required to

Please note that the target of this legislation is not just public schools. The woke culture is trying to reach into every American institution, even the Christian church, school, and home. They want to change the way we think, the way we believe and the way we behave. Christians need to learn to take a stand against the gradual but persistent inroads already being made. May the Lord give courage, wisdom and discretion in facing these and other matters in our present society. Let us pray for our nation and its leaders in this difficult time.

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)

update their academic records showing a legal name or gender change of a former student.

This bill is set to be voted on by the full Assembly soon. A similar Senate Bill 2775 has been introduced but has not been heard by any Senate committees yet. Where this legislation will go is something that only time will tell. But it is easy to see the absolute disaster and total confusion which will result if it is passed. The accuracy and reliability of school records will be destroyed. One can only hope that there is enough common sense in the majority of legislatures who will see this bill for what it is, and reject it completely.

A bill about diplomas – is that so important? Perhaps it sounds rather trivial. But there is something more to consider here. Why does a bill like this even get written? Because there are those who want to pave the way and remove any opposition from society, completely. They want everyone to accept, endorse, and celebrate gender fluidity. They want to remove any hesitancy which arises from religious convictions, from legal implications, and even from parental influence. We are living in a society which claims to promote tolerance, but often practices intolerance towards conservative values.

[Certificate of Appreciation for Päivi Räsänen](#)

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary (today, January 28, 2023) of Christian Council International (CCI), director Henk Jan van Schothorst presented a Certificate of Appreciation to [Päivi Räsänen](#), a member of the Finnish Parliament.



<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/news/news/2023/ci-10-years-support-finnish-politician-paivi-rasanen>

'This is colonial behavior'

Europe tries to undermine African sovereignty with LGBT laws. Find an article about this on CNE.news, based on a production of the 'Nederlands Dagblad', click on the image:



Featured! Jan. 30, 2023 Henk Jan van Schothorst CCI on new colonization Africa



(English subtitles available). Europe is accused of colonialism by African leaders. There is a firm but almost invisible ideological gender and abortion agenda in the trade deal African and European leaders want to strike.

CCI 10 years – January 28, 2023



Thanks to a loyal CCI supporter!

Abortion is not an EU fundamental right.



February 8-9

Abortion is not an EU fundamental right. Human life is an inviolable gift of God. Unbelievable that this has to be defended [Oneofus](#). We were gathered in Brussels for that. And for opening Brussels office for [The European Conservative](#) [Alvino-Mario Fantini](#) [Ellen Kryger Fantini](#) 🙏. Meanwhile, Zelensky stopped by the [European Parliament](#)

Call to action in Congo

March 7-14

Raised alert in DR Congo about serious overlooked (moral) problems in the 20-year, binding, not yet signed ACP-EU Treaty, at ministerial, parliamentary and political party levels and call

for action: Clean-up in National Parliaments.

<https://deviousutreaty.org/>



*Meeting with Senate vice president DR Congo
(The video above has no sound)*



Press conference Congo (video)

Support for Hungary

March 23

Again an alarming mandate overstep against [#Hungary](#) by an increasingly more power and cultural appropriating, child-sexualizing EU+NL [Minister-president](#) <https://hungarytoday.hu/european-parliament-joins-attack.../> Worn today in The Hague with extra adhesion the Gold Cross of Merit of Hungary from @Andras Kocsis [Novák Katalin](#)



Video reports of visit to First Lady and President in Uganda

March 31-April 1



UBC Tonight Uganda - Visit First Lady Uganda (video)



UBC Television Uganda - INTER PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE FOR 23 AFRICAN STATES HELD IN ENTEBBE (video)

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).



ACPF REGIONAL CONFERENCE



BETTINA ROSKA
Advocacy Fellow, United Nations,
at ADF International



HENK JAN VAN SCHOTHORST
President of the board of directors
of the Dutch and the US entity

THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2023
8:00AM - 5:00PM
VENUE : EMORY HOTEL, NAIROBI

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 OP16². 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...

² 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 abjection 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)

July–September

Fields of Work

News from Europe

Thanks to the supporters of Päivi Räsänen



Helsinki, Finland, September 1, 2023

Thanks

On behalf of Päivi Räsänen, I would like to thank you very much for your support in connection with the appeal that was heard August 31st and September the 1st in the court in Helsinki, Finland. Prior to the trial, I had the opportunity to hand over 2,500 signatures of support on your behalf! Please watch the video above in which Ms. Räsänen also expresses her thanks:

"I am so thankful. I hope that you will send my gratitude. That I am so grateful for this support and for their prayers. That means a lot to me. Thank you so much and thank you for coming from the Netherlands".



Also the Finnish [media](#) paid attention to the campaign of support.

The number of signatures has now risen to over 2900. We hope for even more [support](#). The action continues as long as the process is running.

The Case

The charges concerned her tweet in 2019 of some Bible verses from Romans 1:24-27, with which she tried to dissuade her Lutheran church leadership from walking in the Helsinki Pride Parade. Also, a booklet she wrote in 2004 with the theme "Man and woman He created them" and a discussion of these issues during a radio broadcast was qualified as 'hate speech'.

It was striking that during the hearing the prosecutor long, fundamentally and intentionally put the principle of non-discrimination above freedom of expression and religion. These are free, as long as they conform to normalization of homosexuality. I found the defense against the charges (again) more than convincing. The verdict will follow at the latest by November 30.

For further information on the Räsänen (and Lutheran bishop Juhana Pohjola, the editor of Paivi's booklet) case, please refer to [CNE.news](#).

IS THE
BIBLE
HATE
SPEECH?

August 31:
Päivi Räsänen
is on trial





CCI

Christian Council
International

Sign for
support

Budapest Demographic Summit Advocates for 'Traditional Family Values', Sept 14-15



For Life, Family and Freedom worldwide

In appreciation for your untiring dedication to support the cause of life, family, and freedom and to promote Christian values in politics we hand over this Bible.

Presented by the support base of Christian Council International (CCI) to

Your Excellency Madame

Katalin Novák

President of Hungary

In recognition of the God of the Bible, Who will give you the strength to fulfill your duty, we deliver this to you.

The Netherlands, September, 2023

Henk Jan van Schothorst,
Founder and Executive Director CCI

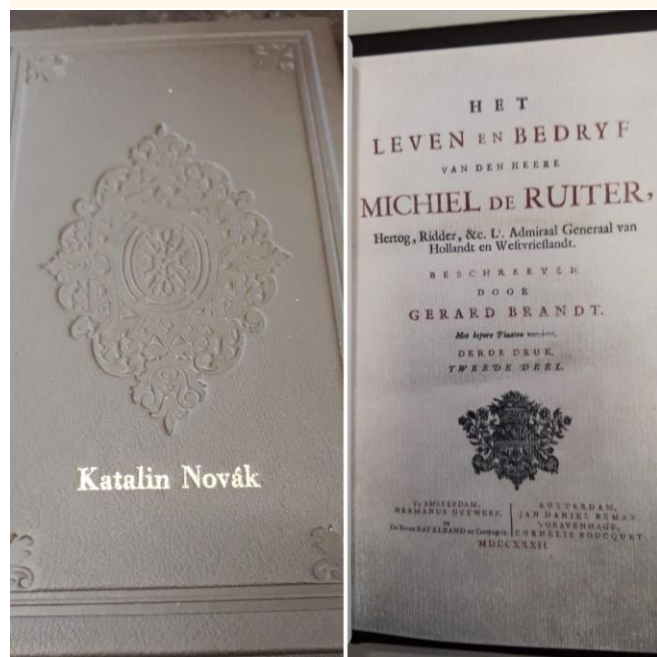
Organized by Dutch businessman Mr. Jan Konijn, who added a historic description of the liberation of 26 Hungarian pastors on 11 February, 1676 by Michiel de Ruyter.

www.christiancouncilinternational.org

Novák. The story about Michiel de Ruyter who freed 26 Hungarian pastors on February 11, 1676 was added as an appendix.



Henk Jan met Nick Vujicic : "What a joy and honor it was to meet [Nick Vujicic](#) again. 'Please, come closer to me', he said. What an exemplary preacher of the Gospel, blessed with a loving wife and 4 nice children. So grateful that he wasn't aborted, but got the chance to live, and became a blessing to the world.



Henk Jan van Schothorst attended [the Budapest Demographic Summit](#). Speakers were, among others: Viktor Orbán, Katalin Novák and Giorgia Meloni. On behalf of the CCI business network, organized by [Mr. Jan Konijn](#), he was allowed to present a Hungarian Bible to President Katalin

54th session of the Human Rights Council Geneva, Sept 25

Van Schothorst was present at the annual discussion on the Integration of a Gender perspective in the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The position of women is in danger with the abolition of the biological definition of woman, mainly advocated by the West. Reference or recommendation of marriage, family and motherhood were missing.

54TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (11 September – 13 October) as of 19 July 2023 (subject to change)	
25 September	2 October
ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON INTEGRATION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE (HRC res. 6/30)	
ITEM 4 D with Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine (oral update)	10.00 – 13.00 ITEM 6 UPR adoptions (Tonga Romania, Mali)
	13.00

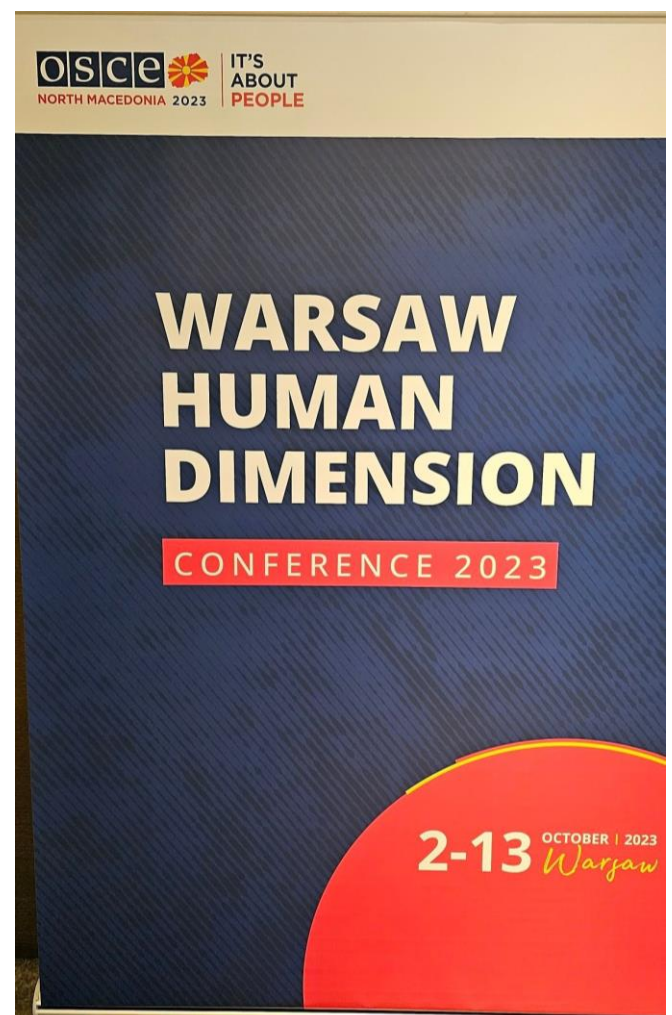


Warsaw Family Policy Conference, Sept 28-30
In the area of family policy, Poland, like Hungary, is exemplary. They perform a crowbar function, as "last men standing," to prevent unanimity in EU on important moral issues.



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Oct 2

After fruitful meetings with people from [ADF International](#) and [Instytut na rzecz Kultury Prawnej Ordo Iuris](#) at the opening of the [#warsawhumandimension](#) conference 2-13 okt from [OSCE – The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#), [OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights \(ODIHR\)](#), filled with statements from participating member states. Main themes: democratic constitutional state, fundamental freedoms and non-discrimination.



News from America

A Few Bright Spots

By: John Van Der Brink

We often take for granted the religious freedoms we still enjoy. The freedom to live and worship according to the dictates of our conscience has always been a part of our national heritage. Will that freedom still exist tomorrow? There are forces alive today that seem to want to take away those freedoms. But there are also people who are becoming aware of this threat and are letting their voices be heard. Even in the halls of Congress and in our nation's courtroom, a voice is being raised in defense of religious freedom. Amidst all that opposition, there are also some bright spots. May the Lord give strength, energy, and concern to our leaders who have a desire to maintain the morals and values of God's Word.



The upcoming presidential election cycle seems to be filled with candidates that will largely restrict or extend the religious freedom we still have. We would encourage everyone to be vigilant in researching what each candidate stands for and to vote for those who seem best qualified to defend our religious freedoms.

While there are many concerns, we would like to highlight some positive events related to religious freedoms. In the last few years, there have been those who have resisted the trends, challenged rulings in courts, and have been surprisingly successful in promoting religious freedoms. A few of them are listed below.

1. Recently the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a US Postal worker who was dismissed from his job because he refused to work on Sunday. His dismissal violated the employer's requirement to make reasonable accommodations for religious beliefs. This should help our young people

when faced with similar situations in the work world.

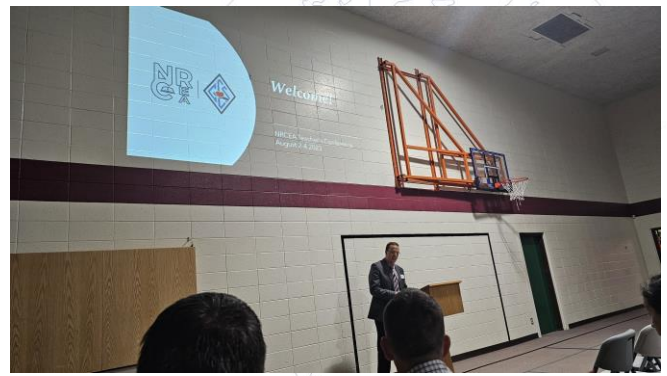
2. In 2021 *Tandon v Newsom*, the Supreme Court of the United States reversed a lower California court decision that forbade church services of more than three families while at the same time allowing larger gatherings for other purposes. This decision clearly was in favor of extending religious freedoms to churchgoers.
3. In 2022 *Fulton v City of Philadelphia*, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a religious organization that placed children in adoptive homes to refuse to place them in the home of same-sex couples. This case reinforced the rights of organizations to make and follow policies that are consistent with their religious beliefs.
4. The concept of School Choice is extending across America, especially in states run by Republican governors. These programs provide tax relief to parents who choose to send their children to religious-based schools. Tuition is sometimes tax deductible, and in some cases, private schools are funded similarly to public schools.
5. Of course, we all know the long sought-after but unexpected reversal of the infamous 1973 *Roe v Wade* decision which legalized abortion nationwide. Who could have thought that there would come a time when this awful decision would be reversed? But elections have consequences, and in God's providence, it was the justices appointed by President Trump who dared to take a stand against this awful law. And although abortion is still practiced in many places, many politicians who oppose abortion have dared to speak out, and they are being elected to office. May the Lord grant further reforms in our country.

6. Finally, the Supreme Court also ruled in 2022 that the State of Maine which provides tuition assistance to nonreligious private schools must also provide equal assistance to nonpublic religious schools.

All the above serve as examples that the concerns that we have about Religious Freedoms are also felt by a growing number of others in our society. Some are speaking up and being heard. And while Christianity is shrinking in America and atheism is growing, there still are a small group of people, even among our leaders, who desire to hold on to the principles and values of a former generation. May God remember our nation and be with the upcoming generation.

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)

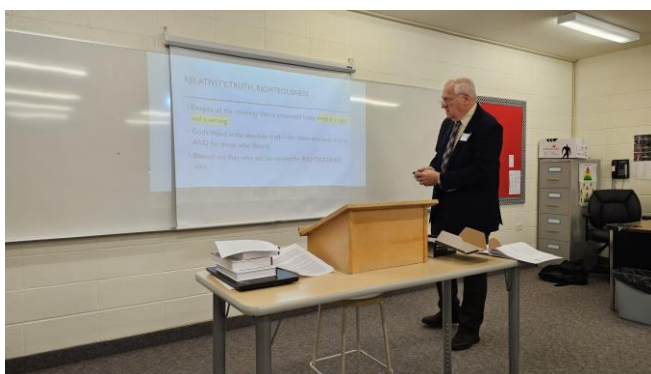
Teacher's Conference North America, Aug 2-4
With hundreds of participants, and CCI-US Boardmember John Van Der Brink, Henk Jan van Schothorst contributed to the educational Teacher's Conference North America of the Netherlands Reformed Christian Educational Association, in Coalhurst, Alberta: "For Life, Family and Freedom (of religion and education) @ UN, EU, AU and Member States".



News from the CCI team

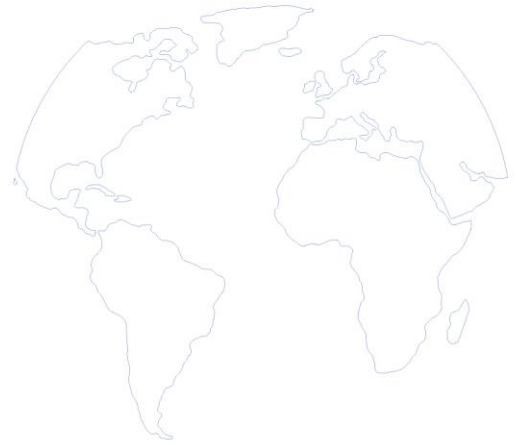
July 3-4:

The [Christian Council International](#) team had a unique day together and a nice meeting with MEP [Bert-Jan Ruissen](#) in Brussels. With our office Reps. from Europe, USA and Africa standing together for Life, Family and Freedom. Celebrated [#IndependenceDay](#) God bless America and the peoples of the world!



July 17:

Together with the Christian Council International (CCI) Africa Office representative, with her child, we had a useful and extremely trusted networking meeting with Diederik van Dijk, member of the Senate for SGP and director at @NPV - Care for life. Standing together and taking care of #life!



October–December

Fields of Work

News from Africa (ACP)

EU-ACP treaty NOT signed by almost half of the countries

By: our Africa representative

Even though CCI was occupied during the 3rd quarter with the preparation of a lobby session against [the EU-ACP Treaty](#) within a planned Pan-African Parliament (PAP) meeting in Uganda, the PAP meeting itself was postponed indefinitely due to unforeseen events.

After years of stalemate within the EU, Poland and Hungary finally agreed last July after indemnifications for them, resulting in EU unanimity.

Since the signing ceremony of the EU-ACP Treaty was planned for 15 November quite suddenly in Samoa (Pacific), CCI increased its focus on awareness raising to convince countries to not sign the Treaty. One of the activities that was supported by CCI was a press conference given in Nigeria (who does not sign the treaty) to inform the decision makers and the general public about the dangerous clauses inside the Treaty. Another example was that CCI was a keynote speaker for the online Conference of the African Christian Professionals Forum (ACPF) where Henk Jan was able to lobby influential professionals from different African countries to inform their governments to not sign the Treaty.

After the signing ceremony of the Treaty took place, the word came out that 35 out of 79 ACP countries had not signed. However, because the EU and the OACPS Secretariat (an EU-funded representative of the ACP countries in this Treaty) severely pressured countries to still sign, a few countries signed after 15 November as well. An overview of the countries that did not sign until

now can be found in the table below: 18 from the 48 African countries, 8 from the 16 Caribbean countries, and 5 from the 15 countries. The countries highlighted in yellow are the countries that were closely working with CCI to lobby against the Treaty.

Africa		Caribbean	Pacific
Benin	Mali	Antigua & Barbuda	Maldives
Botswana	Namibia	Bahamas	Palau
CAR	Nigeria	Cuba	Nauru
Equ. Guinea	Rwanda	Dominica	Tonga
Eswatini	Senegal	Guyana	Tuvalu
Ginea Bissau	Somalia	St. Kitts & Nevis	
Liberia	Tanzania	St. Lucia	
Madagascar	Uganda	Trinidad & Tobago	
Malawi			

Henk Jan met with the Suriname President and other Caribbean policy influencers

Since only half of the Caribbean countries did sign the Treaty (even in the case of Jamaica with a lot of reservations regarding SRHR), the EU and the OACPS Secretariat started to put much pressure on the remaining Caribbean countries to still sign. At the request of Trinidad & Tobago, Henk Jan therefore decided to travel to the Caribbean to support the countries that did not sign to stand firm against the pressure and to see opportunities to unsign for the countries that already did sign. According to our latest information, the EU needs two more countries to reach the required starting minimum for the Treaty to enter into force in 2024.

Henk Jan first went to the islands of Grenade and Trinidad & Tobago where he had intensive discussions with religious leaders, ministers and MPs. Trinidad has no intention of signing. Thereafter, he flew to Suriname to meet with the Surinamese President and his spiritual advisor. Even though Suriname already signed the Treaty, Henk was able to point out the dangers of the treaty with the EU. The President was shocked as he thought it was not that bad and that he could use his Presidential powers in case any conflict of interest occurs. Henk Jan told him that the Treaty gives all the power in the hands of the EU upon which the President immediately scheduled an appointment with the responsible of Foreign Affairs who had signed the Treaty on behalf of Suriname. Henk Jan thanked the President for his

time and interest, to which he replied: "We have to thank you. God has sent you. Without Him we can do nothing." The President then asked Henk Jan to conclude the meeting with prayer, which, besides commitment, dedication and quality, is the main foundation for the work of CCI.

With the President of Suriname [Chan Santokhi](#) and his spiritual advisor



News from the UN New York

United Nations – What is dangerous here ?

By: Peter Smith; he followed [the 3rd Committee](#) in November 2023

The UN was set up at the end of WW2 to prevent another world war. This was to include the Security Council who could decide to go to war as in Korea (1950) and against Iraq (1990).

The other main part of the UN is the General Assembly (G.A.) which consists of 192 countries. This has six functional committees:

1. Disarmament

2. Economic, Financial, Population
3. Social, Cultural , Humanitarian , Human Rights
4. Decolonisation
5. Administrative, budget
6. Legal issues

I have been following the 3rd Committee (3 Com) of the GA for nearly 30 years, as this is the most dangerous part of the UN for family and pro-life issues. This committee is at the forefront of the battle to make abortion a human right, and to promote LGBTQ+ issues. For a good summary of battles over the years go to:

<https://c-fam.org/event/the-history-of-pro-life-negotiations-at-the-un/>

Now the GA as well as 3 Com have a one country one vote system for any resolution. However, there was traditionally a system of consensus where if 3 or more delegations objected that wording was deleted. This system was abandoned at the 1994 Cairo Population Conference, by the Clinton Administration. Then two dozen countries would object, and they were told to post a reservation at the end of the meeting. This was the new consensus. There is rarely a vote at the UN except on very contentious issues.

I have just spent two weeks monitoring 3Com resolutions. There were 62 resolutions this session with 523 reservations or explanations of position. So, it is a sick joke to claim there is consensus at the UN on certain contentious issues. Many resolutions are adopted with no vote and no reservations, so you are looking at say two dozen objections to each of the bad resolutions.

There was the usual arguments on **Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights**. The pro-abortion countries wanting it even in the safe drinking water resolution and the pro-life countries saying there was no international right to abortion.



Then when the term **gender** (first introduced in 1995 at the Beijing women's conference) was mentioned in a document the conservative countries, and as always the Holy See said it was just biological: male and female. The E.U. and the other "developed" countries like the term gender as a social construct. These latter countries were pushing the term "women **in all their diversity**". A quick google search says this included transgender women (men pretending to be women).

One of the newer bits of bad language is "multiple **and intersecting forms of discrimination**". "To my mind this is the main plank of the woke, neo-Marxist philosophy that the world is full of oppressors and the oppressed. White straight me being the worst oppressors. And if you are for example a black lesbian with a limp you are the most oppressed and need lots of government assistance.

The most insidious and evil aspect of the UN is the leftist concept of developing **customary international law**. The oldest of these and good uses of it are diplomatic immunity. You must let an enemy ambassador into your country to negotiate a surrender. This type of law goes back to at least the ancient Greeks. But now some liberal law professors claim you can make customary international law just by repeating a vague concept in UN documents over a few decades. This is a very dangerous aspect of the UN in general and 3Com in particular. Many leftist Judges in many countries are trying this on to claim all sorts of rights. Such as the right to abortion, right to gay marriage, right to claim you are a different sex, etc.

On a positive note, there was a good resolution on **the family**, and this passed without a vote and only 4 countries objecting. There is a group of countries called Friends of the Family, a total of 25 members. Pray that more will join this group and that more countries will speak up for life and the family.

Peter Smith represents CCI at the UN in New York

News from America

Growing Up in a Woke Society

By: John Van Der Brink

Our children occupy a place in society today which is completely unique. In a world in which morals are changing as fast as technology, we in our school community are trying to hold on to the Biblical values and moral principles that we have inherited from our forefathers. The gap between us and society is, in one sense, becoming wider and wider. While our children are being taught right from wrong, many are taught that there is no right and wrong. In place of traditional morals are homosexuality, gender fluidity, abortion, euthanasia, Black Lives Matter, atheism, evolutionism, transgenderism, drag queens, etc. The shock of one new development has hardly faded before something else happens.

What happens to our young people when they leave our homes and our schools? Sadly, we must acknowledge that some turn away. Why does that happen? There may be more than one reason, but it may be helpful for us as parents and for them as growing young people, to understand how we got to where we are today.

I believe the "wokism" and the other immoral practices we see today can be traced back to the 1950's. Of course, in one sense it can be traced back to our deep Fall in Paradise where mankind has turned its back to God and rebelled against Him. But we are being "left go" today and there is a pattern and a pathway that marks that downhill trend.

Let's look at the last 70 years and see if there is a pathway that shows how we got where we are today.

Not too many of us will remember life in the 1950's, but some of you will have heard or studied that this was the decade of the Civil



Rights Movement, the emergence of pop culture, and the beginning of the sexual revolution. There was great unrest and cultural upheaval stemming both from racial injustice and tumultuous uprisings. The mass media was beginning to sway public opinion, and traditional values related to sex were being challenged. There seemed to be a stirring in the air – a rejection of norms and a launching out into new thoughts and new ways.

The 1960s also brought about changes. Political activism became popular, group demonstrations were a growing means of expression, and rock and roll music was born. The spirit of autonomy was emerging. At the same time, America elected its first Roman Catholic president and we placed the first man on the moon. That same decade was characterized by the threat of communism and the assassination of JFK and his brother. A sense of alarm and uncertainty prevailed.

The 1970s added to the upheaval. This was the decade of the “me” generation – people were all about self-realization and self-fulfillment. This was also the decade of Roe v Wade when abortion became legal in all 50 states. Add to that the threat of nuclear war, the disillusionment with the government caused by the Nixon debacle and the dragging out of the War in Vietnam, and you have the makings of a cultural revolution.

These three decades laid the foundation for radical change in America. A sense of normalcy was disappearing. Man in America was breathing a new spirit of existence: traditions and standards are no longer authoritative; everything can be questioned and opposed.

The next several decades only added to the decay. Public school prayer was increasingly restricted and eventually forbidden, the teaching of Creationism was replaced by Evolution, abortion rights were more entrenched, even late into pregnancies, and institutional atheism was taking root. Political corruption and corporate greed abounded on every hand. Marriage and family were replaced by a focus on career and

freedom from responsibility. Divorce for any reason or no reason became commonplace. In just a few decades, the emancipation from the Judeo-Christian culture was complete.

Today’s society encompasses all the anti-norms of the last 70 years. But it also embraces a new ideology. Wokism is a collection of anti-God, anti-norm, me-ism, and anti-standards. Anything you think, feel or desire is ok. Woke is an adjective derived from African-American Vernacular English – it means **“alert to racial prejudice and discrimination”**. The key words are **“prejudice”** and **“discrimination”**. Those two words are fed into a public mindset uncontrolled by standards and norms – and the result is chaos. Today in America, nothing seems to be shocking anymore. There seems to be just a continual wave of immorality and indecency.

So here we are in 2023. We live in a radically changed/divided society. Even the “world” sees society on the verge of – what? **We and our students are living in THIS society.** We are called to parent, to educate and to prepare our students to live in THIS society. What should we say to our young people about today’s culture?

- **Identify and warn – try to point out the root of wokism, where it is unbiblical, show how to avoid it.**
- **Become active in opposing it. Feel the responsibility we have to our fellow man.**
- **Try to discern what is good and what is bad.**

What does that mean in terms of what our young people are facing today – at college or in the workforce? It means that we ourselves need to be aware of what is happening in society. We need to know where ideas come from, the spirit that is behind them, how they conflict with Biblical standards, etc. We cannot afford to live in an isolated bubble.

We should also join or support organizations that oppose the wokism of today. There are people who have devoted their lives to promoting traditional values in America and around the

world, and they should have our moral and financial support. Some examples are as follows.

- **NJ Family Policy Center** – legislation within a local state.
- **Alliance Defending Freedom** – broader scope, often defends Religious Freedoms.
- **Christian Council International** – tries to prevent these matters from developing worldwide.

It is also important to have discussions with our young people about how to approach the challenges they face. There are some people who simply get angry when they see what is happening in our society. But we should think deeper than that. What we see ultimately has its roots in our rebellion against God in Paradise. There we and our children declared war against God. And now we carry the same seeds of rebellion in our hearts as we see going on around us. Do we see today in society a reflection of our own hearts? Then our anger will turn to sadness – sad because we have brought these things upon ourselves. It will also make us prayerful – that God would send revival in our land. That seems impossible and improbable, but the Lord has ways and means to bring a nation, as well as individuals, to a place of bowing before Him.

Finally, we should be careful that our concern about these things does not “consume” us. It is possible to be overly concerned about cultural issues. There are young people who know all the sports figures and records. Others know a lot about movies and actors. Hopefully, we teach against all these things. But are we Cultural Junkies who know all the latest examples of wokism? Do we fret and fume about the latest story about Biden or Kamala Harris? Are we disgusted with the liberal spin of the media? Is that what is consuming our precious time of grace? Then our position spiritually is no better than those we oppose.

Change is rampant in the world today. It is almost as if we are being caught up in a swirl of rebellion, division, uncertainty, and fear. But there is one

truth which is unchangeable. **There is one thing needful despite all the confusion. We need to learn that we are poor sinners, that Christ is a rich Savior, and how the two come together.** May the Lord remember us and this rising generation for time and eternity.

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)

Presentation of CCI on various occasions
[Warsaw Human Dimension Conference](#) – Oct. 2



Family Days in Gorinchem, The Netherlands – Oct. 17-19



Alliance for Responsible Citizenship Conference – Oct. 30-Nov. 1



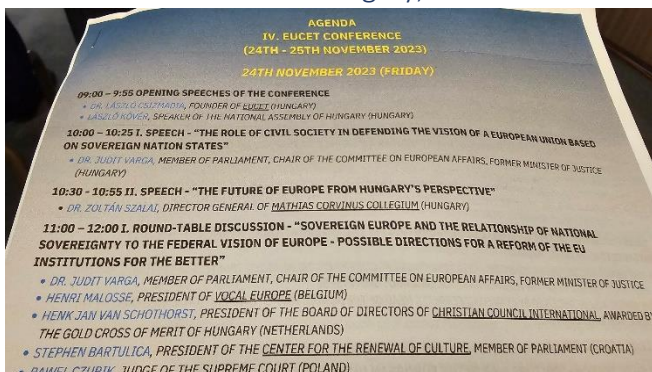
Theme: 'The better story'. It strikes me that the people here radiate so much joy, peace, faith, hope, love! Let's Create, not complain!

Political Network for Values – New York Nov. 16-17



Participated in V Transatlantic Summit New York 2023 16-17 Nov. [Political Network for Values](#): Affirming Universal human rights. Uniting cultures for life, family and fundamental freedoms, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the UN [#UDHR75NYSummit](#).

IV EUCET Conference – Hungary, Nov. 24-25



An absolute honor to sit next to the courageous former Minister of Justice [Varga Judit](#) and hand over a copy of 2021 Certificate of Appreciation in support of Hungarian Child Protection Act against gender ideology [Minister-president Novák Katalin Orbán Viktor Council of the European Union](#), András Kocsis

ACPF Annual Conference – Nov 28-29



**28-NOV
29 2023**

ACPF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**TUE - WED
3:00PM - 4:00PM DAILY**



Moderator
CONFUCIOUS JOSEPH
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

THEME: RE-IMAGINING THE AFRICA WE WANT

VENUE: ZOOM

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 813 0959 5421 Passcode: 449261

<https://acpf.africa>

For More Information:
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European Prayer Breakfast in Brussels – Dec. 5-6



Had good meetings with European Parliamentarians and many from the surrounding network around the European Prayer Breakfast in Brussels. In addition, an impressive commemoration of the horror attack on Israel on October 7, with Knesset members and testimonies of survivors and family members kidnapped.

Visit to Grenada upon the ACP-EU treaty – Dec. 14



An experience to visit the beautiful Caribbean island of Grenada by invitation, including the Parliament and a meeting with pastors. In this warm community consisting of 96.6% Christians, a frequently heard greeting is: "Have a blessed day." What a huge difference with NL.

Meetings in Trinidad & Tobago – Dec. 15-20



Had productive meetings in 2/3rd Christian Trinidad (prayer breakfast with ministers, MPs and pastors) & Tobago (90% Christian, meeting with Chief Executive in Tobago House of Assembly and Senator) about <https://deviouseutreaty.org/> T&T is not planning to sign. Show! #fruitonourwork



On December 20, a few hours after Bouterse's conviction, Henk Jan had a good conversation, concluded with prayer, with the current President of Suriname, His Excellency Mr. #CSantokhi on his Cabinet, right next to #FortZeelandia. Then Appreciation Evening for people with social needs by churches.

Dec 21 he had a full day in Paramaribo, starting with interviews on Radio Shalom and Radio 10, followed by pleasant conversations with RK Bisschop, BEP National Assembly faction, Director MinBuZa, etc. Concluded with speech: "Samoa ACP/EU Partnership Agreement" for +/- 100 Christian Professionals.

Media

Interview with Henk Jan van Schothorst in the "GezinsGids" (Family Magazine)



Before he leaves for the enormous UN building on Hudson Bay in New York, Henk Jan van Schothorst falls to his knees in his budget -"it must all be as cheap as possible"- hostel. He does not know what to do. What should happen next with his lobby organization? When he gets up, he is a burden lighter. "It was no longer my business." He talks about his top-level fight for 'peace for the city'. [Read more...](#)

[Government must immediately stop sexual indoctrination](#)

By: Gerard Vroegindeweij

Source: *Reformatisch Dagblad* December 5, 2023

"Of course I am in favor of protecting women and girls. Good things are also happening thanks to Dutch feminist foreign policy. However, by attaching LGBTI emancipation as an objective in the same breath, we see what really lies behind this policy. It seems to me like an institutional and ideologically charged agenda, pitting the creature against its Creator. With worrying consequences, such as worldwide sexual indoctrination of children in sovereign countries, to be enforced through new laws and treaties. [Read more...](#)

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.

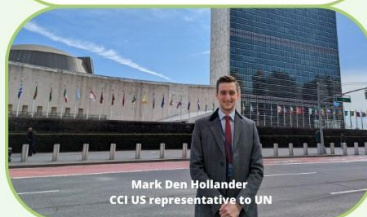


President of Malawi with Henk Jan van Schothorst

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



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\$700,000 per year (Alternative plan B at least \$300,000 per year)



CCI
Christian Council
International

CCI PROGRAM JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2026

Ambitious three-year program aiming to return Christian perspectives to the very center of public debate and policy 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 fundamental freedoms at a time when the Christian basis for these achievements is crumbling.

How?

- By using the powers provided by CCI's Consultative Status at the UN and EU, as well as high-level entrances in Africa and the US, to protect Christian values and freedoms and national sovereignty.
- By mobilizing an international network, such as from governments, NGOs, parliaments, churches, schools and media, to protect and defend life, family and freedom to policy makers.



**150,000
USD per
year**

1. Project North-America

- Location: Washington DC/ Ottawa
- Permanent monitoring and action on the day-to-day affairs in US and Canadian politics.
- Supporting politically persecuted states and Christians.



**150,000
USD per
year**

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.
- Supporting politically persecuted states and Christians.



**150,000
USD per
year**

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.
- Defending National Sovereignty



**250,000
USD per
year**

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.
- Supporting politically persecuted states and Christians.

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
 - Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment
 - Communication European Commission on Hate Speech
 - WHO Treaty
 - Among others, and no doubt there is much more to come...

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.

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

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