



**CCI**  
Christian Council  
International



# CCI Newsletter

## June 2024

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for LIFE  FAMILY  FREEDOM 

## CCI Newsletter

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## Preface

Dear reader,

Over the past quarter, we can look back on matters of concern, but there are also many reasons for gratitude.

### New employees

Thanks to your support, it was possible to hire two new staff members as of May 1: Wilmer Hak as policy officer for the UN in Geneva and Sylvia Mesesi as intern for the African network. Please read more about them later in the newsletter. They were almost immediately involved in a worrisome development: the pandemic treaty and binding WHO guidelines that threaten to limit our freedom of choice around vaccination, among other things.

### Päivi Räsänen

In early May, at the invitation of CCI, Päivi Räsänen came to the Netherlands with her husband to share her story with us. She is being persecuted because of her expressed Biblical views on marriage. Shortly before she came to the Netherlands, she was told that the Finnish Supreme Court will hear her case, even though she has already been acquitted twice. The video below gives a brief impression of the evening we had with her in Gouda.

### And on

'The European Conservative' magazine had an interview with yours truly about the work of CCI. You can also read in the newsletter Peter Smith's report on the Committee on Population & Development in New York, which he attended in late April. Our board member John Van Der Brink gives us his insight on affirmative action in the U.S. which is completely pervasive.

We have also been active in Africa, Rome, Hungary, Geneva and before the European Parliament. We are grateful that Bert-Jan Ruissen of the SGP may continue his work there. In this we wish him God's indispensable blessing.

### Canada

In the coming period we hope to work on the establishment, next to the existing one in the US, of an entity of CCI in Canada, where we met great support and interest in CCI's work.

### Call for support

Expanding our team and implementing our goals worldwide, also brings with it financial responsibilities. We hope that you can continue to support us to make a Christian voice for Life, Family and Freedom (of religion and education) heard.

On behalf of the CCI team,

**Henk Jan van Schothorst**

*Director Christian Council International*

### [Video \(4 min\) CCI event with Päivi Räsänen](#)

On May 3, 2024 we had an event with the Finish politician Päivi Räsänen in Gouda, The Netherlands. Watch the video for a short impression.

Theme: Free Brave - Bible in the dock?! The fundamental rights of freedom of religion and expression are threatened.



[Click here for a 12 min. impression](#)

## The Dutch Christian Confronting the International Left

**"The UN is teeming with leftist organizations. I thought: Someone has to do something. Why shouldn't I try it?"**

*By: Jonathon Van Maren*

*— May 8, 2024*

Source: [The European Conservative](#)

[Listen to the podcast of The Van Maren Show](#)

After a half-hour audience with Henk Jan van Schothorst, President Chan Santokhi of Surinam was vexed. Abortion is illegal and opposition to the LGBT movement is strong in the small South American country. But the Surinamese ambassador to Brussels had recently signed a binding trade agreement with the European Union that included mandatory provisions on sexuality and “reproductive rights.”—without any public debate. Quietly inserting a radical social agenda into ostensibly economic negotiations is a key neo-colonial strategy of Western powers, and it is very effective.



*Praying for the Surinam President – December 2023*

Van Schothorst advised the president to withdraw the signature and send the treaty text to the Surinam parliamentary assembly, giving them six months to compare it with the country's

laws, and return the Surinam position to the EU. If the EU rejected it, Surinam could simply find other trade partners. “I thanked the president for his time and his attention,” he recounted. ““No,” he and his spiritual advisor said, ‘We must thank you. God has sent you. Would you please pray for us?’” The Dutch activist and the South American president bowed their heads together in prayer.

Surinam was the last stop on Van Schothorst's whirlwind December tour of four South Caribbean countries. Henk Jan van Schothorst is the founder and executive director of [Christian Council International](#) (CCI), and his mission is to create “a transatlantic and international network of Christians and conservatives involved in public policy and influence policy from a Christian perspective,” working at the UN, EU, AU, and OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) “to stand up for a Christian voice worldwide with a focus on life, family, and freedom of religion and education.”

On this trip, Van Schothorst briefed Christian parliamentarians, pastors, professionals, and high-ranking politicians on the details of the 20-year ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific)-European Union Partnership Agreement. “It intrudes into almost every area of the public and private life in signatory countries,” Van Schothorst noted. “From dictating abortion, to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), to parental discipline, and social, sexual, gender, and cultural norms and more, the treaty goes far beyond the 2000 Cotonou Agreement it is intended to replace, violating national sovereignty in many ways.” That, of course, is deliberate.

Earlier in 2023, Van Schothorst had been invited to the Caribbean after a series of meetings at the semi-annual EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assemblies, where he and his CCI colleagues met and spoke with parliamentarians from Caribbean and Pacific countries; out of 16 Carib countries, 10 had not yet signed the treaty. Van Schothorst detailed the ways that the treaty obligations



conflicted with the conservative laws of these countries—and how the inclusion of these provisions was intended to change laws on the issues of abortion and sexuality. In Surinam, after “appearances on radio, TV, and meetings with Christian professionals, spiritual leaders, parliamentarians, and the president, the Surinamese people became aware of the EU’s ideological power grab and a lively public debate erupted.”



In Grenada—where 96.6% of the population identifies as Christian—he met parliamentarians and pastors; the country later signed the treaty “at the insistence of the EU and with the promise that nothing substantive would change compared to the previous treaty (although that commitment was not included in writing).” MPs and ministers made time to meet in Trinidad (63% Christian) and Tobago (90% Christian); and the government there declined to sign. “On my transit to touristic Barbados, a liberal influx greeted me at the airport,” Van Schothorst told me. “The number of Christians has fallen to just

under half of the population. I was not surprised that this country signed on.”

At the signing ceremony in Samoa on 15 November 2023, it turned out that 35 of the 79 countries had not yet signed the treaty. Why? Van Schothorst believes that CCI had something to do with it. “That was partially a result of our raising awareness,” he told me. “Dozens of times over the past three years, in Africa but also in Europe, we have gone to countries to point out the dangers in the treaty.” His Caribbean tour is one example of CCI’s work and real-world impact.



Henk Jan is the third of ten children from a conservative Christian family in the Netherlands, and his interest in politics was first piqued when he heard his father’s denunciations of socialist prime minister Joop Den Uyl. After military service and a six-month mission in Guinea, West Africa, he became a teacher, studying history in the evenings. At Leiden University, he specialized in European Union studies and did an internship with a newly elected Christian Member of European Parliament. After a week and a half, Van Schothorst recalled, the MEP asked him to stay on.

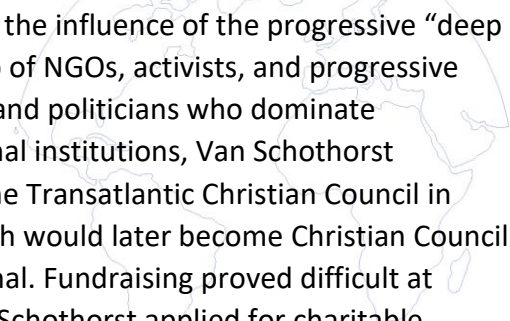
Van Schothorst spent seven years in Brussels and Strasbourg in the European Parliament, mostly in the Committee on Foreign Affairs. “There, I saw the great power of the European Commission as the institution that initiates legislation,” he told me. “Often out of sight of both the population and its representatives, all kinds of regulations, laws, and treaty negotiations are made and had. The standards by which these invisible, unelected, and mostly permanent bureaucratic elites are increasingly developing in a leftist

direction—especially when it comes to sensitive ethical issues. More and more power is being drawn to Brussels.”

Who was watching the proceedings and holding the leftist activists accountable from a Christian perspective? Van Schothorst saw almost no one. (Later he found some likeminded organizations such as C-Fam and Family Watch at the UN-level, as well as Alliance Defending Freedom.) Conversely, the ideological enemies of Christianity were everywhere, constantly pushing their views and their policy agendas, working with generously subsidized NGOs, and shaping policy at every level. When his young family began to suffer from his frequent absences, he quit Brussels and got a job at the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy in The Hague on behalf of the SGP (Reformed Party), where he worked for four years. In his new role, he once again witnessed the power of progressive forces.

“I was responsible for the technical support of political parties in the process from one-party government to multiparty democracy in Kenya and Tanzania,” he told me. At the United Nations, he saw an all-out push by Western countries to smuggle abortion and the LGBT agenda into every law, policy, and treaty under the guise of “reproductive rights,” “non-discrimination,” and “sexual orientation and gender identity.” The same trends he had witnessed at the European Union were also underway at the UN.

“At the UN, there is no direct parliamentary control; and without sufficient watch and democratic control, international standards are set there. In negotiations, developing countries are often overrun by rich Western countries with their sexuality and gender ideologies.” Van Schothorst noted. “The various UN agencies are executive bodies of these philosophies rather than impartially serving the member states. It is teeming with leftist organizations. I thought: Someone has to do something. Why shouldn’t I try it?”



To combat the influence of the progressive “deep state” blob of NGOs, activists, and progressive delegates and politicians who dominate international institutions, Van Schothorst founded the Transatlantic Christian Council in 2013, which would later become Christian Council International. Fundraising proved difficult at first—Van Schothorst applied for charitable status from the Dutch government and was promptly refused. He fought the decision up the chain of command, and then in the courts. After two and a half years, three judges ruled unanimously in his favor with retroactive effect, and the Supreme Court rejected a government appeal in 2015.

Despite his victory, the legal battles cost tens of thousands of euros with little money coming in. Van Schothorst ended up working five years pro bono while his wife supported the family. The connections he made during his time at the EU’s Foreign Affairs Committee served him well, and he was able to begin meeting with politicians very quickly—even those with whom he disagreed. “I see my opponents as human beings created in the image of God, and some of them are my friends,” he said. “After a long discussion we can put it aside and have a friendly drink and talk about other things.”

Since the launch of CCI, raising awareness has been Van Schothorst’s primary goal. He is a go-between, informing Christians about the profoundly consequential goings-on within international institutions, and lobbying and educating policymakers about the implications of various agreements. CCI has consultative status at the UN in New York, the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the EU in Brussels, working hard to bring the Christian worldview to bear on the proceedings and to impact the final text of resolutions and policies (so that they at the least respect national sovereignty and democratically enacted laws of member states).

CCI has also joined with many other Christian organizations to speak out on the political

persecution of Christians within Europe, such as Finland's Päivi Räsänen and the targeting of countries such as Hungary for its opposition to the LGBT agenda. Most tangibly, as previously mentioned, van Schothorst believes that CCI's efforts have contributed to the delayed signing of the EU-ACP treaty.

After a decade of hard work building the organization, Henk Jan van Schothorst hopes to take CCI to the next level. "We have an ambitious three-year program aiming to return Christian perspectives to the very center of public debate and policy in North America, Europe, and worldwide," he told me. "The Program for Life, Family, and Freedom at the 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."

To accomplish this, Van Schothorst hopes to utilize CCI's consultative powers to mobilize "an international network of politicians, NGOs, legal specialists, educators, and journalists to defend family and freedom to policymakers." In the long-term, this would include offices and employees in multiple locations worldwide. It's an incredibly ambitious plan, and the forces he and his allies are up against are well-funded and culturally powerful. What Henk Jan van Schothorst is suggesting is a Christian version of the Left's long march through the institutions—a generational fight against long odds. But it must be done, nonetheless, and Van Schothorst's mindset echoes that of countless successful activists over the decades: "Why shouldn't I try it?"

**Jonathon Van Maren** is a contributing editor to *The European Conservative*. He has written for *First Things*, *National Review*, *The American Conservative*, and his latest book is *Prairie Lion: The Life & Times of Ted Byfield*.

- Tags: [European Parliament](#), [ideological colonialism](#), [Jonathon Van Maren](#), [United Nations](#)

See also on [lifesitenews.com](https://lifesitenews.com)

## Let's introduce

Thanks to your support, we were able to hire two new colleagues, since May the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024! Although they have only been working for a short time, they have already achieved a lot. For example, read further in the newsletter the article about the WHO, which both newcomers worked on.

### Wilmer Hak



Wilmer Hak is the advocacy and policy officer for the CCI at the United Nations Human Rights Council and the World Health Organization in Geneva. He studies Law at Erasmus University, Rotterdam. Part of his assignment involves the monitoring of treaties and resolutions in Geneva and speaking at meetings on behalf of the CCI. An important part of his work is also to reach out to diplomats/members of parliament/ambassadors from all over the world to advocate for Life, Family, and Freedom. The creation of a network with relevant international actors, to ensure rapid information sharing when needed concerning these principles, is also one of his main duties.

As a law student, he is interested in comparative law and international law. The legal and historical basis of the 'cultural' agenda behind many contemporary international documents has his special interest. The combination of these more legal arguments with Christian norms, values, and



ethics is vital to protect and stand strong for Life, Family, and Freedom on an (inter)national playing field.

Sylvia Mesesi



Sylvia Mesesi is as an intern the Policy and Advocacy Officer for CCI in Kenya, Africa. Residing in Nairobi, Sylvia is currently pursuing a degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. Her role at CCI involves significant responsibilities aimed at fostering and protecting African cultural and social values, focusing on Life, Family, and Freedom. In her capacity as CCI's representative in Africa, Sylvia is spearheading the establishment of the CCI Pan-African Network of Members of the National Parliament (CCI PAN-MP) from various African countries. This network aims to create a robust platform for advocacy and policy development to uphold and promote African cultural and social values. Sylvia also engages in online monitoring and reporting of high-level meetings at the African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) and maintains a comprehensive database of CCI's strategic alliances across Africa.

With a strong interest in international relations and human rights issues, Sylvia brings passion and commitment to her role, working to ensure that African cultural and social values are represented and protected on both regional and

international platforms. Her work not only strengthens CCI's presence in Africa but also contributes significantly to the broader goals of the organization.

## Fields of Work

With pandemic treaty, WHO becomes a global authority



**The World Health Organization (WHO) must abandon the global pandemic treaty it wants to put to the vote. This treaty would seriously affect the sovereignty of its member states and personal freedom of choice.**

*By Henk Jan van Schothorst*

The World Health Organization (WHO) will hold its annual meeting in Geneva from May 27 to June 1. Months of feverish discussions on a global pandemic treaty came to a standstill on May 24. Almost unnoticed, we had entered a legally binding pandemic treaty, with the WHO as a global health agent. It is interesting to see whether the 194 member states will reach an agreement this week or whether the negotiations will be extended by six months or even a year.

Developing countries are divided and hesitant regarding what many consider to be a colonial and unfair treaty. The Dutch government, on the other hand, wants to push the treaty, together with the EU as a co-initiator, through its own legislation despite a parliamentary motion. According to experts, a possible new health crisis is not the main reason for the WHO's haste. Supporters want to finalize the treaty before the US elections (November). Due to the suspected Chinese influence at the WHO and the lack of



impartiality and expertise during the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump announced plans for the US to withdraw from the WHO. Insiders like Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Center for Cooperation on Global Health Law, are thinking that US Republicans and Trump will reject the pandemic treaty. "Nobody says it, but Trump is definitely the elephant in the room," states Gostin.

### **Infringement**

What is the case with the pandemic treaty? As we continue to recover from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic and the various policy responses to it, the WHO is busy drawing up a pandemic treaty. The idea behind the treaty is to be globally more prepared for and responsive to pandemics in a coordinated manner. Although the idea for such an "instrument" may be noble, the mandatory treaty text that is being put to the vote is extremely worrying.

A cause for serious concern is the 'One Health Initiative'. This initiative aims to merge human, animal and environmental health. That would give the WHO unprecedented power. Through this initiative, the WHO could manage human, agricultural and animal health policy in a country in detail. An international, unelected body would then control a country's domestic policy and thus infringe on its sovereignty.

In addition, the WHO, together with many signatory states, considers vaccines very important for combating pandemics. However, the WHO Pandemic Treaty now calls them the only sufficient means to effectively combat pandemics. Pushing through vaccines, sometimes insufficiently tested - and we are not yet talking about digital vaccination passports as a possible Trojan horse - can affect personal freedom of movement and the national health policy of member states.

### **Under pressure**

Another concern is the ambiguous criteria for declaring pandemics. Under the treaty, small

outbreaks can lead to a state of alert that may not even be necessary. The tricky thing is that the treaty gives the WHO the right to put pressure on countries that do not comply with the WHO action plan for these "pandemics".

This pressure is visible, among other things, in the formation of regional blocs between WHO member states. According to the pandemic treaty, a regional bloc can bind a member state to its conditions without consultation. The European Union does this, for example, by almost obliging its member states to sign the treaty. The state however, is autonomous. The notion therefore that a country, because it belongs to a regional bloc, is bound by the treaty conditions, is outrageous. This deprives countries of their constitutional rights and undermines democratic principles.

Affecting freedom of expression, religion and research by obliging Member States to eliminate certain 'misinformation and disinformation' about scientific research or health products is a further problem.

### **More time needed**

Recently, the WHO failed to meet its self-imposed deadline for submitting a final version of the pandemic treaty (Article 55). When implementing this treaty, the International Health Regulations (IHR, drawn up in 2005) would also have to be revised. The fact that the WHO want to introduce these regulations so hastily, possibly in connection with Trump, raises questions. Treaty changes and their ratification are crucial matters and take a lot of time.

Countries should realize that allowing the implementation of the pandemic treaty would give the WHO the power to operate beyond its current legal authority. It is therefore necessary to recognize that the treaty threatens the national sovereignty and democratic rights of countries and undermines the personal freedom of individuals.

The WHO should therefore not be given any commercial interests or more power. It must retrace its steps and remain a non-partisan organization concerned only with health, free from conflicts of interest and progressive agendas.

***The author is director of Christian Council International (CCI). He wrote this article in collaboration with Wilmer Hak (CCI Policy officer Geneva) and Sylvia Mesesi (CCI Policy Officer Kenya, Africa). CCI is in Geneva for advice and supervision.***

Published on May 28, 2024 in the Reformatorisch Dagblad: <https://www.rd.nl/artikel/1065021-met-pandemieverdrag-wordt-who-mondiale-autoriteit>



## Dark Clouds for Health Sovereignty

By: Wilmer Hak

The last week of May was a busy week for the World Health Organization (WHO) annual meeting. The heavily contested amendments to the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR) and other resolutions were pushed through the 194 member states of the World Health Assembly (WHA) just 90 minutes before the deadline. This hasty approach is concerning, not only due to the content of the amendments but also because of the impending Pandemic Treaty. With its presence in Geneva, Christian Council International (CCI) keeps a close watch on the developments.

### Concerning amendments to the Regulation

The IHR is a legally binding instrument of the WHO that empowers the WHO to prevent and take mandatory actions against international

diseases. After the COVID-19 pandemic, negotiations began to tackle the 'problems' faced during the last pandemic in the usage of the IHR. The slow, unfair and unequal approach of member states in tackling the virus was the main issue. The 'new' IHR aims to tackle these problems without considering that humans at the core cannot tackle pandemics themselves.

This idea of unlimited social engineering is not only visible in the fact that the amendments promote vaccines as the best way to tackle and prevent a pandemic. The promotion of the QR code and travel restrictions for unvaccinated people also portray this worrying vision of the WHO. Besides, many leading researchers are increasingly warning about the harmful consequences and side effects of vaccinations.

These more ethical concerns coincide with major power grabs from the WHO through these amendments. This is, for instance, visible in the fact the WHO's Director-General can decide when there is a pandemic emergency. The WHO will then propose a plan to tackle this 'emergency'. The role of national health care in countries is that they must agree with this plan within 48 hours, if they do not agree, the WHO will report this to other countries and the public. This will cause major pressure on a member state because other countries will impose travel restrictions or sanctions, not to mention the public unrest, while there might be no emergency at all.

This infringement on healthcare sovereignty becomes even more visible if we take a close look at the change in terminology in the IHR. It is quite remarkable to see that the new term '*pandemic emergency*' is mentioned in the context of a public health emergency of international concern. This term opens the authority of the WHO to act during an emergency and to implement measurements. The problem however is that the criteria when there is a pandemic emergency are not exhaustively listed. They contain the wording '*including*' which indicates that there can be more reasons as mentioned. Therefore, the WHO can

decide at any time when there is a cross-border disease, such as HIV, that there is a pandemic emergency.

### **The new Regulation in a Broader Context**

If we place this extensive competence of the WHO into a broader context, the real aim of the amended IHR will arise. Just one week after the IHR was adopted, the WHO added with a secret ballot the highly controversial Center of Reproductive Rights (an abortion, LGBTQ+ promoting organization) to the list of official relations with the WHO. In another resolution adopted during the last week of May, the Social Participation Resolution, they also mentioned that SRHR (concerning sexual autonomy, abortion, LGBTQ+, and contraceptives) belonged to primary health care. The third resolution which was adopted concerning hazard response contained a provision to protect vulnerable people. These vulnerable people also included, without any reason, the LGBTQ+ persons.

All these documents are still missing one vital aspect, the Pandemic Treaty (more information: see opinion-article CCI Pandemic Treaty). This document was also pushed by the International Negotiation Bureau (INB), the negotiation bureau of the WHO, but failed to be adopted. This Treaty (it will probably become a treaty) includes the opening of a worldwide stock network *of relevant medical health products*. The WHO will assess with other relevant 'stakeholders' which products are relevant. This is because of the *whole-society approach* the IHR promotes where all relevant actors, including the new ones mentioned above, cooperate. This stock network will prioritize primary healthcare products, which are also abortion kits, contraceptives and many other products which aren't relevant at all. The IHR mentions their priority as they are already decided as primary health care in the Social Participation Regulation. Therefore, the stockpiles of pharmaceutical 'stakeholders' are already filling up with all of these 'relevant' products to be distributed freely when the WHO decides the next pandemic.

However, this devious approach with all this terminology and resolutions is not a surprise. The major donors and drivers behind all these resolutions and treaties are the European Union and the Biden Administration. Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada, who already has misused an old emergency law and prosecuted many unvaccinated people in the country in a totalitarian way, is also a frontrunner. The Biden administration, for instance, donated more than 1.2 billion taxpayers' money, to the WHO (which is 15% of their annual budget). This does not include the \$829 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The worrying aspect is that many countries worldwide are seeing a *fata morgana*. This is because of two other, devious approaches from the WHO. First, many countries are triggered by the idea of equitable access to vaccines. The African group, for instance, contains many conservative countries which do not promote the policies mentioned above. However, due to their lack of equal access to medical healthcare products, many aspects which include potential vaccine mandates from the WHO, are being overlooked.

The second deceiving approach to take away sovereignty is even more cunning. The WHO gives trial periods and ratification periods to countries which want to withdraw. In this timeframe, which was mostly around 12 to 18 months but has now changed to 10 months, countries can make reservations on the amendments. Afterwards, the treaty becomes binding. What is overlooked again is that reservations which are not compatible with the objective of the Treaty, as set out by the WHO, can be rejected by a majority of the WHA. In this way, countries will still obey the rules of the WHO without the national parliaments' consent.

### **Call to action**

The WHO has been busy for a reason. In May this year, all 49 Republican senators in the United States spoke out against the worldwide authority



of the WHO. Furthermore, in November 2024, God's willing, there will be presidential elections in the United States. Presidential candidate Trump has already criticized the WHO for their unethical policies and infringements on sovereignty. In 2020, he already suspended all financial support to the WHO and is threatening to do that again. The WHO would be in serious problems if that happens again. But the rush to make all these documents legally binding, including the Pandemic Treaty, is mainly due to the feared and certain loss of power from the WHO in the event of a Republican victory in November.

The INB will gather again in July to negotiate the Pandemic Treaty. If consensus is reached quickly, the treaty could be finalized this year in a special session of the WHA. Otherwise, it will be finalized at the WHA in 2025. To adopt this Treaty, if it will become a treaty, which is quite likely, a two-thirds majority must vote in favour. Afterwards, member states can make objections and reservations. On the already adopted amendments to the IHR member states can make reservations or refuse to ratify the document.

For the Netherlands, a special procedure is put into place. The Dutch delegation in Geneva stated that the new government, not the current caretaker government, must 'approve' these amendments. It is advised to do this before the Pandemic Treaty is put into place to prevent any confusion or obscurity on what to agree on or not, especially because of the misleading ratification periods. For the new cabinet in The Hague, it is therefore necessary to closely look at the amendments and their effects on national sovereignty and individual rights as soon as possible.

If our personal freedom and national sovereignty are valuable to us, quick action is necessary for all the member states of the WHO. We call upon all members of Parliaments and citizens around the world to resist the amended IHR and all the other resolutions and to refuse the ratification. For the

Pandemic Treaty which still must be adopted, we urge all member states, especially developing countries, to withdraw from the document, as this is paving the way for an authoritarian, unethical WHO rather than an advisory WHO. This resistance will be strengthened by supporting the CCI. By making a permanent council and supervision in Geneva, we are capable of drawing attention to important problems within international treaties to diplomats from all over the world. Hereby we advocate for the protection of life, family, and freedom, and in this case also health sovereignty and the protection of personal freedom regarding the decision to vaccinate or not.

*Wilmer Hak is CCI Policy Officer Geneva*

### News from Africa (ACP)

Henk Jan van Schothorst attended two conferences in May. Uganda and Kenya with the aim of making people there aware of the agenda that Europe is trying to impose on them.

### 2nd African Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family Values and Sovereignty – Uganda - May 1-3

Henk Jan: "As you sit in the hotel lobby in Entebbe watching the news, you suddenly see yourself appear on screen, with a telling caption: 'The Speaker of Uganda Parliament has mobilized African Parliaments: **Don't be intimidated by the West.**'" Concluded in Presidential Palace.





[#2024UNCSC](#) Summit of the Future – Kenya – May 9-10

The Summit aims to accelerate meeting international commitments and address emerging challenges through the Pact for the Future. This actionable document will be negotiated and endorsed by countries during the September 2024 Summit at the UN in New York, ‘fostering a more resilient global community for current and future generations’.



A 'common' agenda and a 'pact' is where they are working on. But the spirit in which many reps of orgs expressed themselves, as promoting [#SRHR](#), Feminist Future, lgbt, felt cold, I missed the [#family](#) warmth.



The Bible is very clear about people having children, even when in captivity<sup>1</sup>.

In 1994 there was an enormous Conference on Population & Development in Cairo. Last week in New York was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There was just a one-and-a-half-page political declaration agreed last Monday, nothing controversial in it<sup>2</sup>.



The idea of linking population and development is a diabolically clever one. Many countries have been fooled into thinking that low fertility rates will lead to development. However the actual results are quite different, see ref.<sup>3</sup> where a study by the **World Bank** shows **no linkage between fertility rates and economic development**. This graph of 100 countries is a scatter pattern, no correlation between the Y and X axis.

Attached is a promotional video from UNFPA promoting this **fictional** model of the **Demographic Dividend**<sup>4</sup>. They forget to mention the old dependent people who are to be looked after by fewer and fewer young people. Some 19 countries and two large groups mentioned the term “demographic dividend”<sup>5</sup>. I have spoken to some delegates previously about this and they say they did not manage the dividend so well. It’s the perfect excuse, you did not get it, as your management was bad.

<sup>1</sup> Gen 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, “ Be fruitful and increase in number ....”

Gen 9:1 Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth  
 Jeremiah 9:6 Marry and have sons and daughters ; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage , so that they too may have sons and daughters.

<sup>2</sup> [Document AM081](#)

<sup>3</sup> [World Development report](#)

<sup>4</sup> Promotional video from UNFPA promoting this fictional model of Demographic Dividend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhkrS0qSJlg>

There was one flicker of light in the dark wilderness at the UN last week. Angola said they were fighting against corruption. I would say war and corruption are the two main barriers to development.

The two worst delegates promoting the killing of unborn children by abortion were the U.K. and France. The group of countries for the family were led by Belarus. Many pro-abortion NGOs were promoting the killing of unborn children. They seemed to think this was the key to female emancipation. Pro-Life NGOs like C-Fam were the small sane voices crying in the wilderness. Youth delegates were unhappy that children could not run the world.

The best delegation for reservations was the Holy See. They promoted the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Year of the Family (2024), promoted the sanctity of life from conception and explained that gender was biology, male and female. They also spoke up for the poor.

*May 6, 2024*

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

<sup>5</sup> **Demographic dividend**, Countries - Nepal, Panama, Burkina Faso, Sao Tome and Principe. Laos, Costa Rica, China, Cambodia, Gambia, Chad, Niger, Burundi, Comoros, Brazil, South Africa, Sri Lanka & Liberia.

Groups – ESCAP – Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific

ECA – Economic Commission for Africa



## Affirmative Action?

By: John Van Der Brink

We live in a country in which racial discrimination is considered one of the greatest crimes that can be committed. Any individual, business, corporation, or institution that speaks or who follows policies that unfairly prefer one person to another based on their skin color is sure to be condemned by those who notice, and often end up in jail or paying a heavy fine. This reaction to punish the perpetrators has often gone to such an extreme that today we often see what is called reverse discrimination – the unfair advantage of those with a certain skin color over those by whom they experienced discrimination in the past. Today's affirmative action is a prime example of a good thing gone bad. Other cultural uprisings such as Black Lives Matter is another example of gross overreaction.

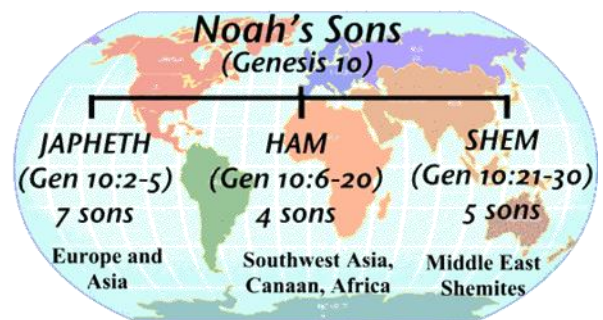
But what is the root of this discrimination and this overreaction? The answer is that quite frankly our country and some other countries have a sad history of slavery. Thousands of black people were captured from their homes in Africa and forcibly transported to other countries where they were sold as so much property and then forced to work for their masters, often under horrible conditions for the rest of their lives. This sad state of society lasted for many generations in America until the hearts and minds of many leaders began to question and oppose these unjust practices. Even Christian men and women were at odds with each other on the issue of slavery. Some justified it based on Scripture and long-standing custom; others vigorously opposed it because of its cruelty and by citing the same Holy Word. Resistance to abandon what for many was a lucrative business eventually led to a Civil War in our country before it was finally



abolished by the Emancipation Proclamation of president Abraham Lincoln .

Or was it really abolished? Is racial segregation gone? Is discrimination a thing of the past? Do all Christians condemn judging others because of skin color?

Slavery in our country is gone. But there are still some people who harbor feelings of superiority over black people and they base their feelings on the Bible! They believe that there is a curse placed by God through Noah after his son Ham mocked his wicked conduct. “Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren”. This verse has stifled the conscience of many slaveowners and been used to try to justify the slave trade. And it is still used as an excuse, even in Christian circles, to speak disparagingly of those with a dark skin color.



Cursed be Canaan – what does this actually mean and how did it become so misconstrued? Noah had three sons – Shem, Ham, and Japheth. His youngest son was Ham who had four sons – Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. Since Ham was the son who mocked his father's nakedness, why did Noah curse Canaan his son? The Bible does not explicitly say why, but it is quite possible that Canaan participated in this event, and Noah condemned the seed of Ham that would descend from Canaan because of his wickedness. Later it was seen that Canaan **was** cursed, they **did** become servants and slaves to their brethren, and it **was because** of the curse pronounced upon them.

But the other three sons of Ham were not cursed. Some claim that the descendants of Ham settled in Africa, became black in skin color, and

therefore black people are cursed, and slavery and mistreatment are justified. But only some of his sons settled there; others including the Canaanites did not settle there, and their skin probably retained a medium skin tone common to most Middle Easterners even today.

So, the Canaanites, who were cursed by Noah, did not have black skin color. To treat black people as if they were the ones who were cursed is based on a flagrant error.

Regardless of what happened centuries ago, it is completely unchristian for anyone today to regard those of any ethnic group or of any skin color to be inferior to their own race. How haughty are they who think their ancestors, or their skin color somehow makes them better than others! There is no curse on a certain skin color, and there is absolutely no biblical basis today for any such thoughts. Before God, we are all the same – sinful creatures in need of washing and cleansing by the blood of Christ.

On the opposite side, and equally appalling are those who use skin color to claim special rights, reparations, affirmative action, or special privileges. This is reverse discrimination, and it also is an insidious evil undermining peace and stability in society.

One more thought. We all are products of our culture. Our way of thinking is often shaped, at least partially, by the way people around us think. That is why some of our forefathers, like John Newton, George Whitefield and others, as well as statesmen like George Washington and others were once slave owners. But when the light of God's Word focused on the ungodly nature of these practices, some of these same men became the most ardent leaders against slavery. But change did not happen overnight. In some cases, it took generations, a lot of soul-searching, and a shameful admission of guilt before it disappeared. Perhaps there are still traces of it, even in our own communities, but it should be identified and forsaken.

Our children are growing up in a very confused divided world. They can readily see slavery is wrong. But they also see that an overreaction is wrong. College campuses and work environments are powder kegs of racial sensitivities – one wrong word or action and a social explosion occurs.

We are all descendants of Adam, equally fallen, equally in need of spiritual renewal and restoration. In God's sight, we are all of one race – a fallen human race. May the Lord bind these things upon our hearts. Then no one will place himself above anybody else.

*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)*

### News From Europe

Worldwide abolition of surrogacy - Rome - April 5-6



On the way to Rome for the protection of natural motherhood and childbirth and therefore for the worldwide abolition of surrogacy. Children and their rights should never be compromised by people who want a child through womb rent.

[#StopSurrogacy](#) [#surrogacyabolition](#)

To protect mother and child:

Attention Called for Worldwide Abolition of [#Draagmoederschap](#) met [#CasaDeclaration](#) [#StopSurrogacy](#) [#surrogacyabolition](#) on int conference in Rome. Samen with [Bert-Jan Ruissen](#), [Diederik van Dijk](#) [#SGPnieuws](#),



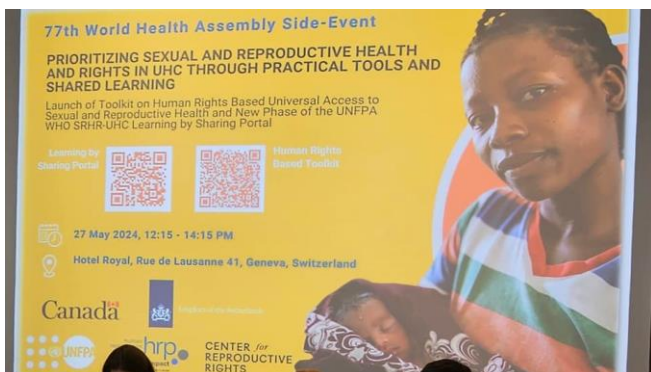
#RosBettina81 from #ADFIIntl and #refdag  
<https://www.rd.nl/.../1059106-sgp-vraagt-in-rome-aandacht...> and others.

Speeching at the SGP youth day – Utrecht, The Netherlands - April 13



At the [SGP-jongeren](#) youth day with [Chris Stoffer](#) / [SGP](#) and [Wimco Ester](#) / [Open Doors](#) led by [Florian Pronk](#) participated in a panel on Christian persecution. It is getting chilly in Europe for Christians, like [Päivi Räsänen](#), but at the same time we can know that God hears our prayers. [#remeuropa](#) [Bert-Jan Ruissen](#).

77th World Health Assembly (WHO) Geneva - May 27



Right at the opening day of [#WHA77](#), the Netherlands and Canada with [UNFPA](#), presented their priority at a side-event: [#SRHR](#). So sad, better follow [#Biblical](#) standards on m/f sexuality, marriage and family. Abortion is ending human life and is not an international human right: Right to Life is!



Peace March – Budapest – June 1

Gathered together today in Budapest in a peaceful march in defense of Christian principles, peace, democracy and national sovereignty vis-à-vis international organizations as EU and NATO.

[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

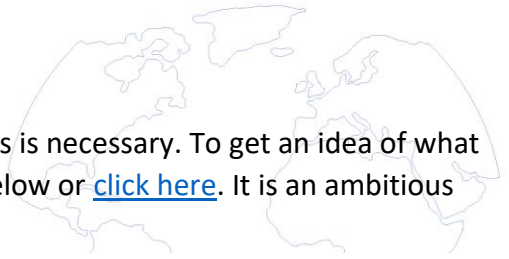
1. By supporting Hungary's defense of Christian values, we help to prevent the EU from reaching European and international consensus on pro LGBTQ+ and gender ideology.
2. Through our support of the Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen, awareness has been raised in the EU and member states that the Bible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

## Financial support needed for CCI

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



## SPONSOR PLAN FREE, BRAVE

**\$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.



**220,000  
CAD 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.



**220,000  
CAD 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.



**220,000  
CAD 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



**365,000  
CAD 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!**

Donate safely  
online



### Become a member of the CCI Business Network

Friend of CCI \$365 | Ivory Member \$1,500 | Silver Member \$3,650 | Gold Member \$7,300 | Platinum Member starting at \$14,600 | Patron starting at \$146,000  
Amounts per year.

Christian Council International (CCI)  
[canada@christiancouncilinternational.org](mailto:canada@christiancouncilinternational.org)  
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Business  
Network





## Colofon



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#### **Raad van Toezicht:**

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Wetenschappelijk Instituut SGP,  
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*Penningmeester:* Drs. Johannes Luiten,  
docent Algemene Economie en  
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*Secretaris:* Leonard van Schothorst,  
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CCI is a Section 501 (c)(3) organization  
under the IRS code, so contributions are  
tax-deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

#### **Website:**

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

**Email:** [info@christiancouncilinternational.org](mailto:info@christiancouncilinternational.org)

#### **Support:**

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#### **Board of Directors:**

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*Member:* Mr. George E. Roller,  
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Donation option in CAD, see:

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