

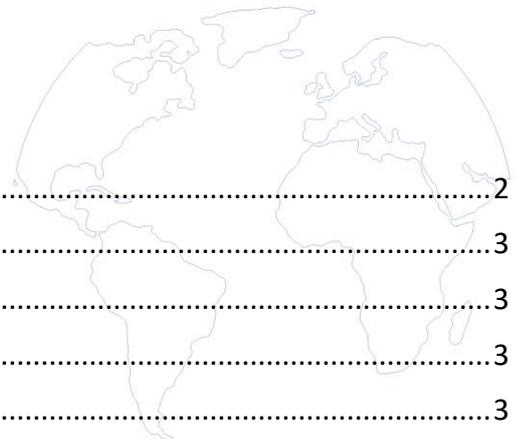


**CCI**  
Christian Council  
International



**CCI Newsletter**  
**June 2025**

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## Preface

Dear reader,

We can look back on a fruitful quarter. On the one hand, this fills us with gratitude; on the other, it fills us with concern that much work remains to be done.

### **North America - Abortion and threatened freedom of education**

During the month of April, CCI had the opportunity to bring attention to the work in [Alberta, Washington State and British Columbia](#). At the UN in New York, CCI witnessed the failure to reach a final document that included abortion as a human right. The United States withdrew from the consensus, see later in the newsletter. However, the article by our board member in the U.S. shows that there is also plenty to do in the U.S. when it comes to [freedom of education](#): “We need to promote schools where parents, not bureaucrats, are in control of their children's destiny.” CCI is fully committed to that.

### **Africa - ‘The last man standing’**

Two conferences were attended in May in [Uganda](#) and [Kenya](#). The main focus of the conferences was the shared mission to eliminate all forms of modern colonialism and ideological imposition from the continent. CCI encourages African countries to remain steadfast in their own cultural values. Thanks to our Africa Policy Officer for her work on this continent.

### **Europe - Digital Services Regulation (DSA) and LGBTQ strategy**

We had the chance to provide critical feedback to the European Commission on the law that seeks to regulate the [online services industry](#). Read why this could lead to a form of censorship and Christian persecution. We also made recommendations for the renewal of the [LGBTQ Equality Strategy](#) for 2026-2030. “The EU must

guard against ideological absolutism under the guise of inclusion.”

### **Geneva - Defense of the natural family, religious and personal freedom and unborn life**

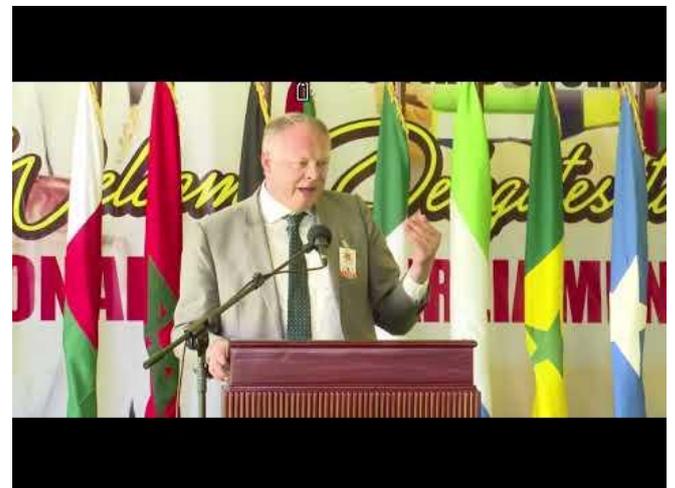
Three different themes were addressed at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva: defense of the [natural family](#), religious [freedom of educational institutions](#) and [unborn life](#). We also collaborated on curtailing the role of the World Health Organization (WHO), such as blocking vaccination requirements in the [pandemic treaty](#). Thanks to the work of our Geneva policy officer, opportunities to make our voice heard are expanding. We hope that with your support this will continue to be possible!

We thank everyone who has supported us recently with prayer, compassion or donations.

On behalf of the CCI team,

**Henk Jan van Schothorst**

*Director Christian Council International*



*Speech Henk Jan van Schothorst on the 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family and Values, Uganda*

## Fields of Work

### News from Canada

Gained a foothold for CCI  
Canada

Chilliwack, April 14, 2025

With the opening of a bank account, CCI is now permanently established in Canada. Henk Jan van Schothorst, founder and CEO of CCI, says he is pleased with this move. "Our message is resonating in the Netherlands, the United States and Canada. It is badly needed to make a Christian voice in the field of life, family and freedom in order to turn the secular tide."

Van Schothorst is in Chilliwack, Canada this week where he is giving several presentations on CCI's work. "The interest is encouraging. Prayer and support for our work is more than welcome."



*CCI founder and CEO Henk Jan van Schothorst (left) and CCI board member Gerrit Rozendaal opened a bank account for CCI Canada on Monday in Chilliwack.*

CCI on tour of western U.S.A. and Canada  
**In March and April, CCI, which is also based in Canada as of March 18, 2025, had wonderful events at Christian schools, churches and businesses in Alberta, Washington State and British Columbia.**

The goal was to inform and engage the support base about secular policy threats that undermine Life, Family and Freedom and to share what CCI is

trying to do about them.

In addition to Henk Jan van Schothorst, CCI Director and Riekelt Pasterkamp, CCI Global Public Relations Manager, Andrew Boitchenko, a member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly, attended the events in Alberta by video. In Washington State and British Columbia, they were joined by George Roller, missionary for members of Congress in Washington DC and his wife.

[Find here a photo report of the various events.](#)

Thanks to Gerrit Rozendaal, board member of CCI Canada, for the great organization of the events in churches, at schools and personal appointments in British Columbia.

Also a big thank you to the ones who organized the events in Sunnyside, Lynden and Alberta.



*CCI event in the RCNA church, Chilliwack, BC*

Credentialing ceremony of @USAmbCanada Pete Hoekstra – May 2025

On Tuesday, 1 day after Canadian elections, Henk Jan van Schothorst had the great honor to attend the credentialing ceremony of @USAmbCanada Pete Hoekstra to the @GGCanada at @RideauHall in @Ottawa. And one day later his first appointment at @usembassyottawa. He was right: Canada is a sovereign state.



## News From Europe

European digital censorship calls for steadfast Christians

By *Henk Jan van Schothorst and Wilmer Hak*

**The European Commission has taken five countries to the European Court for failing to comply with the controversial Digital Services Regulation (DSA). The Netherlands would also have been taken to court, were it not for the fact that the Netherlands applied the DSA at the last minute. A decision that could start to have far-reaching consequences for every internet user.**



The DSA aims to regulate the online services industry. Media companies such as Google, TikTok and YouTube must bear more responsibility for the content posted on their platforms. Messages, photos or videos showing acts that are illegal in everyday life should become so online.

### Shield for 'European Democracy'

The DSA is part of the European Commission's megalomaniacal plan to form a "shield" for democracy. This shield, consisting of a package of legislation and policy instrument, should protect citizens from misinformation and foreign influence. Since media platforms can play a

crucial role in disseminating this, they must be regulated.

One way the DSA does this is by requiring websites, apps and media platforms to detect and remove hate speech and illegal images faster. Illegal gambling and porn sites, online fraud and anti-Semitic statements can thus be dealt with faster.



However, despite sounding promising and necessary in certain areas, experts in Brussels are calling on Christians to prepare for "polite Christian persecution". SGP MEP B.J. Ruissen also argued that the DSA has the potential to put "fundamental freedoms" at risk.



From left to right Henk Jan van Schothorst, MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen (SGP) and Wilmer Hak

## Trusted reporters

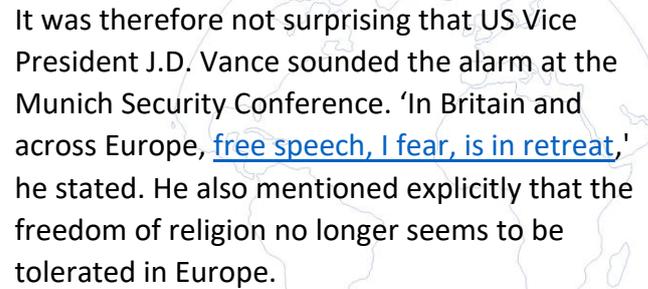
These concerns stem from the fact that the DSA wants media to be monitored by trusted flaggers. These are NGOs, knowledge institutes or quasi-governmental bodies that specialise in different areas, such as child abuse. When such a flagger posts a notification to a post, the platform or the owner of the app or website must assess this content for illegality as soon as possible. If that is indeed the case, it must be blocked or removed by the platform on penalty of fine.

This gives flaggers a dangerously large influence on freedom of expression. However, while most countries appoint politically neutral flaggers, one was appointed in Austria who promotes unlimited sexual freedom for children. When such a flagger has to determine which posts or websites contain hateful content, freedom of religion can be seriously compromised. Religious views on marriage between a man and a woman, for example, could be qualified as discriminatory and thus removed.

## Illegal content

These concerns are reinforced by the fact that the DSA does not define exactly what constitutes hateful, illegal or inaccurate content. Whereas international law does not criminalise the dissemination of untrustworthy or offensive information per se, the DSA argues that illegality should be judged by national laws. In many European countries, these laws have already become more arbitrary around religious freedom, let alone when they are to be interpreted by flaggers or platforms like Google.

The ongoing case of Ms Räsänen in Finland illustrates this in particular. The prosecutor here argued that posting a Bible text and publishing a flyer about the Biblical definition of marriage was offensive and discriminatory. The word “sin” was considered repugnant in this regard. With this, will online sermons soon be marked and censored as hateful and illegal?



It was therefore not surprising that US Vice President J.D. Vance sounded the alarm at the Munich Security Conference. ‘In Britain and across Europe, [free speech, I fear, is in retreat](#),’ he stated. He also mentioned explicitly that the freedom of religion no longer seems to be tolerated in Europe.

## New digital truth

Journalist Rod Dreher, an expert on Christian persecution in the Soviet Union, stated during a conference that the DSA not only restricts freedom of religion. According to him, the regulation also aims at creating a new truth. The vagueness of its terminology, as well as the fact that the European Commission can adjust algorithms during times of crisis and promote so-called “reliable information,” means that truth becomes defined by what is visible, not by what is actually correct.

According to Dreher, the danger of the Soviet Union was that people eventually stopped resisting falsehoods, allowing a world of lies to take hold. Now, as many Christians today continue to tolerate untruths and merely hope their views won’t be persecuted, there is no plan for standing firm within the framework of this new ‘truth’. Dreher argues that we must prepare now and remain steadfast in defending the truth.

That is why Christian Council International continues to engage at the policy level against these developments. By informing Members of the European Parliament and [providing concrete recommendations to the European Commission regarding the DSA](#), we aim to safeguard freedoms of expression, religion, and education worldwide. With the Truth of the Word as our standard.

*Henk Jan van Schothorst and Wilmer Hak,  
Director and Policy Officer EU/Geneva of Christian  
Council International*

[Published in the Reformatorisch Dagblad, June 14](#)

## Feedback on the Proposed LGBTIQ Equality Strategy Renewal (2026–2030)



The European Commission's proposed renewal of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy for 2026–2030 marks a critical moment for shaping future policy. As Christian Council International, together with three undersigned organizations, we respectfully submit our feedback and recommendations. While we acknowledge the Strategy's stated goal of combating unjust discrimination, we express serious concern regarding several of its provisions and underlying assumptions. In light of the Commission's report on the previous Strategy and its request for input, please find below our detailed feedback and proposals for the 2026–2030 renewal.

[Feedback to the European Commission on the Proposed LGBTIQ Equality Strategy Renewal \(2026–2030\)](#)

CPAC Hungary 2025

[Henk Jan van Schothorst](#) is in [Budapest, Hungary](#)

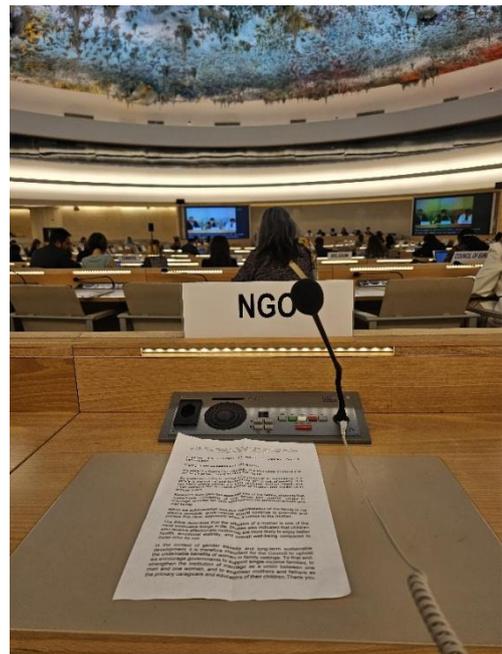
Exciting to be with +thousand mostly Christian conservatives and various prime ministers, ministers, leading parliamentarians, Congress members, scientists, media, NGO leaders gathered May 29-30 in Budapest at [#CPACHungary2025](#). Judeo-Christian civilization is at stake.



News from UN Geneva

Defend the natural family

**Statement during the Expert Workshop on the role of the family and family-oriented approaches, policies and programmes in the promotion and protection of human rights and in sustainable development – 28-29 May 2025**



*Henk Jan van Schothorst:*

"I deliver this statement on behalf of Christian Council International.

Distinguished delegates and participants,

We thank the Council for organizing this Workshop on the role of the family in the promotion of human rights.

As enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society. It is the place where people are born, nurtured, and educated, and often remains the strongest source of support and resilience in difficult times.

Research highlights this essential role of the family, showing that households consisting of one father and mother, united in marriage, provide the best environment for personal growth and well-being.

While we acknowledge that this manifestation of the family is not always possible, governments should continue to promote and protect this ideal, especially when it comes to the mother.

The Bible describes that the affection of a mother is one of the most invaluable things in life.

Studies also indicated that children who receive affectionate mothering are more likely to enjoy better health, emotional stability, and overall well-being compared to those who do not.

In the context of gender equality and long-term sustainable development, it is therefore important for the Council to uphold the undeniable benefits of women in family settings. To that end, we encourage governments to support single-income families, to strengthen the institution of marriage as a union between one man and one woman, and to empower mothers and fathers as the primary caregivers and educators of their children. Thank you."



Uphold the religious freedom of educational institutions

**Statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education - Human Rights Council, 59<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*Henk Jan van Schothorst:*

"I deliver this statement on behalf of Christian Council International/Transatlantic Christian Council.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report.

The importance of education cannot be overemphasized. The Bible states that education, as a primary responsibility for parents, is an invaluable gift from God<sup>1</sup>.

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights further underscores the right to education. Including the role of parents in choosing the kind of education their children receive. Christian educational institutions, whether public, private, or home schools, therefore uphold parents' right to choose education consistent with their beliefs.

Interlinked with this right is also the right to select textbooks based on Christian values and the interests of the child.

This especially applies to sexuality education. While the report calls on States to immediately implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education, no such obligation exists under international law.

<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 11:19; Proverbs 2:6; Proverbs 22:6.

Schools and States should therefore retain the freedom to adopt alternative curricula, reflecting Christian convictions on marriage, abstinence and sexuality.

We therefore respectfully urge governments and the Special Rapporteur to uphold the religious freedom of educational institutions. Thank you”.



Abortion is not a human right  
**Statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Health - Human Rights Council, 59<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*Henk Jan van Schothorst:*

“Thank you for the floor, Mister/ Miss President.

Transatlantic Christian Council/Christian Council International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to health.

While we appreciate the attention given to the well-being of health care workers, we are deeply concerned about the fact that the report treats conscience-based objections to abortion as a barrier to health, rather than a protected right. This framing marginalizes health workers who act in good faith and violates their religious freedom.

We are also concerned by the push to decriminalize abortion, which not only undermines the sovereignty of states to decide on this matter but also the voices of unborn lives.

We wish to reaffirm that international law does not establish a universal right to abortion, and that countries should help women avoid abortions according to the ICPD Platform of Action.

We therefore call on the Council and the Special Rapporteur to recognize the sovereignty of states, strengthen the right of health workers to ethical integrity, and protect the sanctity of unborn life. I thank you”.

The Pandemic Agreement: What Comes After "Greened"?



*Closure of the 13th INB Session for the negotiation of the Pandemic Treaty, 16th of April 2025.*

*By Sylvia Mesesi*

**On 15th April 2025, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) concluded its 13th and final session of discussion**



**on the WHO Pandemic Agreement.** [1] The green light has now been given to the final draft, with only editorial and formatting adjustments remaining. This means the text is ready to be tabled at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May for formal adoption by a two-thirds vote. The Agreement will then be opened for ratification by States and formal confirmation by regional bodies.....

The Agreement aims to ensure that the chaotic, uncoordinated and inequitable global response to COVID-19 is not repeated. Its goals are to

strengthen national and global capacities in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR).[5] But behind the aspirations lie controversial provisions, ambiguous language and some serious concerns even after the revisions made.....

The Pandemic Agreement is a sweeping attempt to reshape global health governance. Although it includes laudable goals, it still raises serious questions. Member States should proceed with caution, ensuring that any commitments made serve the public good and respect the dignity of the human person.

[Read the entire article](#)

*Sylvia Mesesi is CCI Policy Officer Africa*

Henk Jan van Schothorst in Geneva: “At May 27, the 78th World Health Assembly concluded in Geneva. We are increasingly worried about its growing grip on life and sovereignty worldwide. Global health policies, if needed, must respect the sanctity of life, freedom of conscience, and sovereignty of states in health policy”.



## News from Africa

Uganda - 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family and Values

*By Sylvia Mesesi*

**The 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family and Values was held in Entebbe, Uganda, from May 9th to 11th, 2025.**

The conference brought together Members of Parliament, Speakers, and distinguished guests from across Africa to lay the groundwork for a Continental Charter on Family Values.

The gathering was honored by the presence of H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and First Lady Mama Janet Museveni, who attended and addressed delegates on the opening day.



With participation from over 20 African nations, the conference marked a significant milestone in the collective commitment to defending and promoting African family values and sovereignty. The main focus of the conference was the shared mission to eliminate all forms of modern colonialism and ideological imposition from the continent. The proposed Charter on Family Values and Sovereignty will serve as a guiding framework for African governments and parliaments in safeguarding cultural identity and sovereign governance.

[Read more](#)





By Sylvia Mesesi

**The 2nd Pan-African Conference on Family Values (PACFV), held in Nairobi, from 12th – 17th May, 2025 convened delegates from all over the world.**

They represented governments, civil society organizations, faith groups and international allies to reaffirm Africa’s stand on the family, life, and sovereignty. The conference concluded with the adoption of the [Nairobi Declaration on Family Values](#), a bold and unified expression of commitment to defend the natural family, parental rights, and Africa’s cultural and moral identity.



Through a week of high-level discussions and collaborative sessions, delegates addressed rising global pressures and ideological threats to African societies. Particularly those threats disguised as development aid, education reform, or human rights agendas.

[Read more](#)



Henk Jan van Schothorst and Sylvia Mesesi

News from UN New York

Excellent news, there was no document agreed at CPD

By Peter Smith

[COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT - Fifty-eighth session](#)



**Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. New York, 7 to 11 April 2025**



Excellent news, there was no document agreed at CPD last week, which was attended by Henk Jan van Schothorst of Christian Council International. The USA withdrew its consensus and that was that. Many times in the last few years there has been no document, probably a good thing for the world.

Immediately after this event yesterday countries vented their anger. The worst one was France, they claimed abortion was a universal human right. I must say the distinguished delegate from France was telling lies. There is no document saying such a thing, in fact quite the reverse. This delegate also claimed that abortion on demand was needed for countries to develop. The British (and a little later the French) developed 150 years before legalizing abortion.

The document, that failed this year did not have a single mention of the family. Many years ago, I heard an African delegate saying to colleague, “ These Europeans must have had terrible parents as they hate any mention of the family”. I am reminded of the 5th Commandment, Honor your

father and your mother , so that you may live long in the land the Lord God is giving you.

The Holy See came through as the truth teller again. They said sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights were declared controversial in Cairo (1994) and still is today.

There was a lot of talk about health being a human right. This idea perplexes me. Does this mean no one ever gets sick, I think not. Then we have the issue of who pays for the health care , probably me. Then there is the devious plan, if health is a human right , then reproductive health is as well , and reproductive health , according to the WHO includes “ interruption of unwanted pregnancy , ie abortion.

Some five pro-life NGOs made good statements to a stony silent room. Two other NGOs spoke about the negative psychological consequences of supposed safe legal abortion. All the other NGO were wildly pro-abortion, there never was an abortion they did not like.

[Find here the failed document.](#)

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

### News from America

With school leadership group at UN New York and in Washington – April 2025



On 7 Apr a NL school leaders group led by Pieter Moens received in New Jersey and 8 Apr at UN in New York. 9 Apr with them at US Min. of

Education in Washington DC. Then in Congress with George Roller among others, where just Pete Hoekstra was confirmed as US Ambassador to Canada.

### School Choice in America

By John Van Der Brink

**Most people know that the first schools in America were really Christian schools. Though they were public in the sense that they were open to everyone, they taught Christian values, the Bible was read and studied, and prayer was offered every day. The moral and principles included in all subjects were Christian.**



All that now has radically changed. Prayer in public schools has been outlawed, the Bible has lost its place, and any principles or values promoted may not refer to the Bible as the foundation. In its place all kinds of un-Christian and anti-Christian viewpoints are promoted.

The quality of education in America has also changed radically. American schools were once the epidemic of quality. Our schools were advanced compared to those in other countries. Now our elementary and secondary schools rank about 25th compared to other industrialized nations. And that is despite the fact that we spend tens of thousands of dollars per year per child on their education.

During the 20th century, parents in many communities reacted with alarm. They became increasingly concerned about the changes and the quality of education in public schools. Eventually they felt compelled to withdraw their children from public schools. They started their own Christian or private schools to try to adhere to the values and quality of a former day. And the only way they could do so was to pay for it with their own money.

### Funding Public Schools

This did not change their obligation to pay for public education! Funding public schools follows the same pattern before the radical changes. A large portion of the costs of public education comes from property taxes. This has led many to complain that they need to continue to pay for a system of education whose quality has decreased and whose ideology they disagree with.

### College, Universities

Unlike our public elementary and secondary schools, American colleges and universities are still the envy of the world. Students from all over the world choose to attend our colleges and universities because we still have some of the best available. Parents in America too can send their children to a college of their choice, and they do not have to pay tuition to other schools. Their tuition dollars are funneled to the school of their choice only. They can choose a state or private university, and they pay for what they receive. This has created a healthy competition in American colleges and universities, and quality in many places remains high as a result of it. No one is forced to go to a college or university based on their zip code.

### School Choice

Some legislators would like to change our elementary and secondary education system to reflect the model of higher of education in our country. This would be a system where parents could direct their tax dollars to elementary and secondary schools **of their own choice**.

### [Read more](#)

*John Van Der Brink, director of the Netherlands Reformed Christian School in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, and a member of the Board of Directors of Christian Council International (CCI)*



# CHRISTIAN COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

## A CHRISTIAN ANSWER TO TURN THE SECULAR TIDE

### WHAT

Christian Council International works at international organizations to:

- **Defend the sanctity of life**
- **Protect Christian families**
- **Strengthen God-given freedoms**

### WHY

International organizations increasingly:

- See themselves as the **global authority**
- Want **LGBT promoting education** to be the standard
- Call for **abortion to be a global right**
- Limit **freedom of speech, education and religion**
- Attack **Christian ways of raising children**
- Call for **vaccine mandates**

### HOW

- **Alerting**
- **Advocating**
- **Defending**
- **Networking**

### RESULTS & GOALS

- **Unborn lives** protected
- Norm of **male- and female creation order** maintained
- Defense of **fundamental freedoms** supported
- **National sovereignty** secured

*ADDRESSING THE UNITED NATIONS,  
THAT MARRIAGE IS A UNION  
BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE  
WOMAN, MAY 28, 2025*





# AREAS OF WORK

## WHAT WE DID SO FAR



### UNITED NATIONS (UN GENEVA/NEW YORK)

- Defended the **Biblical definition of gender** when a UN resolution sought to establish a third gender.
- Helped to **block vaccine mandates** in the WHO Pandemic Treaty.
- Established **a fellowship programme at the UN** for students and policymakers.



### EUROPE (EU/OSCE/MEMBER STATES)

- Limited the **radical sexual agenda** in the EU-ACP(African, Caribbean, Pacific) Agreement.
- Supported **Päivi Räsänen, a persecuted politician** for her Christian convictions.
- Provided **critical feedback to the European Commission** to strengthen religious freedom.



### AFRICA (AFRICAN UNION/MEMBER STATES)

- Stopped the **promotion of radical sexuality education programs** in African countries by supporting high-level policymakers.
- Provided vital assistance in creating an African Charter, which **promotes family values and resists abortion**.
- Organized a World Press Conference in Nigeria to **address the harms of surrogacy**.



### NORTH AMERICA (US CONGRESS/ CANADIAN PARLIAMENT/ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES)

- Next to **NL** (in 2013), **CCI also established** as a charity in **USA** (in 2020) and as a not-for-profit in **Canada** (2025).
- Established strong **relationships with Congress Members and the American Ambassador to NL and Canada** to promote Christian policies.
- Supported US schools and Secretary of Education in **defending school choice and Christian education**.

## COLOFON

### Office NL:



#### Stichting Christian Council International (Former: Transatlantic Christian Council)

Krooslaan 11  
2411 ZP, Bodegraven  
Tel: 06 558 38 607  
Email: [info@tccouncil.org](mailto:info@tccouncil.org)  
RSIN Fiscaal nummer: 8524 33 979  
Kamer van Koophandel: 57090181



#### Bankgegevens:

Bank rekening nummer:  
IBAN: NL29 RABO 0135 9749 09  
BIC: RABONL2U

T.n.v.

Stichting Christian Council International  
Rabobank  
Croeselaan 18  
3521 CB Utrecht  
Nederland

#### Website:

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

E-mail: [info@christiancouncilinternational.org](mailto:info@christiancouncilinternational.org)

#### Business Network:

<https://www.christiancouncilinternational.org/nl/business-network>

#### Steun:

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

#### Raad van Bestuur:

Drs. Henk Jan van Schothorst, coördinator  
activiteiten CCI, voormalig beleidsmedewerker  
Europees Parlement

#### Raad van Toezicht:

Voorzitter: Drs. Jan Schippers, directeur  
Wetenschappelijk Instituut SGP, voormalig  
beleidsmedewerker Europees Parlement

Penningmeester: Drs. Johannes Luiten, docent  
Algemene Economie en Bedrijfseconomie,  
Scholengroep Driestar-Wartburg

Secretaris: Leonard van Schothorst, directeur Van  
Schothorst Food BV

## COLOFON

### Office USA:



#### Christian Council International

1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW STE 1000 -  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006  
EIN: 85-1382246

#### Checks can be sent to:

Mr. John Van Der Brink, 243 Garside Ave Wayne,  
NJ 07470, USA

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



#### Website:

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

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

#### Support:

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

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*Member:* Mr. George E. Roller, Ambassador for  
Hope to the Hill at Capitol Hill

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Mrs. Jolanda van Schothorst-  
Geluk, General Administrator

### Office Canada:



#### Christian Council International Canada

#### Email - E-Transfer:

[canada@christiancouncilinternational.org](mailto:canada@christiancouncilinternational.org)

#### Donation option in CAD, see:

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#### Cheque - mailed to:

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