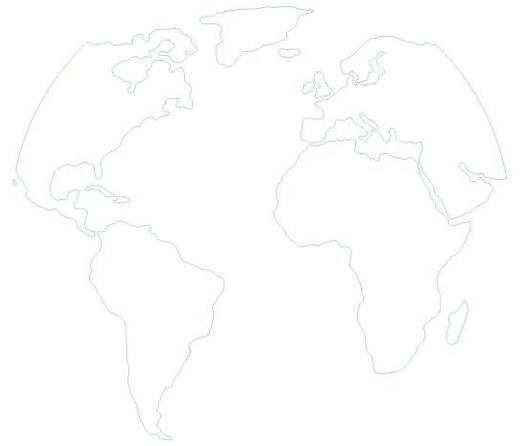




CCI
Christian Council
International



Life



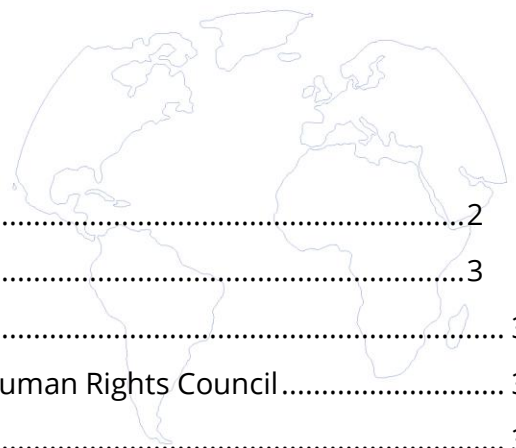
Family



Freedom

CCI Newsletter

September 2025



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Preface

Dear reader,

Freedoms

You have surely noticed the news of Charlie Kirk's death. Our board member from the US writes about it in this newsletter. The whole incident has deeply shocked us as it directly affects our freedoms, of religion and of expression. Issues that CCI stands for. Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen is due to appear before the [Supreme Court on October 30th](#) in connection with the same issues. We hope to support her there.

UN Geneva

A lot of work has been once again done this past quarter. At the UN in Geneva, we had the opportunity to speak on various topics such as abortion, education, religious youth, and comprehensive sex education.

Africa

African leaders are joining forces to protect African families, preserve Africa's cultural identity, and defend the continent's sovereignty. CCI was able to play an advisory and supportive role in the drafting of the African Charter on Family, Sovereignty, and Values.

Europe

CCI is portrayed as a religious extremist organization in the Brussels report [The Next Wave](#). For us, this means that we are clearly making a difference!

Last quarter, we again used the tools available to respond to proposals from the European Commission. We did this on issues such as the strategy for gender equality, the strategy for civil society, and an action plan against cyberbullying. Our employees also had the opportunity to attend a training course organized by the [World Youth Alliance in Brussels](#).

America

Our representative in the US designed an internship program for students who want to learn how to defend Christian values. Read more about this in the newsletter.

CCI 12.5 years

12.5 years ago, CCI was officially founded as the Transatlantic Christian Council in the Netherlands. During this period, our existence has been tested several times by courts, UN meetings, EU documents, and the media. Despite all these challenges, however, we have been able to make our voice heard and to advocate for life, family, and freedom at the highest level. Offering a Christian answer to the secular tide. Every small achievement or improvement has been an undeserved gift. That is why we must repeat what was said after CCI providentially obtained its UN status in 2016: "To God be the glory."



Thanks

We would also like to thank all our sponsors and loyal members of our business network from around the world for their support and for making this work possible. We hope you will continue to support us! Watch our new video explaining CCI's work in a nutshell.



On behalf of the CCI team,

Henk Jan van Schothorst

Director Christian Council International

Fields of Work

News from UN Geneva

Education, Abortion and Women's Rights 59th session of the Human Rights Council



Tuesday, July 8th, the 59th session of the Human Rights Council concluded in Geneva. Due to the budget crisis, the conclusion took place three days earlier than planned. Despite these financial shortfalls bringing the UN back to its core tasks, certain issues remain worrisome. For CCI, these were mainly UN Rapporteurs' reports.

UN Human Rights Council, Geneva

By Wilmer Hak

UN Rapporteurs and Experts are mandate holders who monitor the situation of a specific right or country. In total, there are 60 mandate holders with at least one representative. Every year, such a representative publishes a report with their findings. Every three years, a vote is taken on whether to renew the mandate. This session, for example, the mandate around Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity was renewed.



Freedom of education

When it comes to the content of the reports, the report by Ms F. Shaheed, the UN Rapporteur on education, was particularly worrisome. She called on Member States to [ensure Comprehensive Sexuality Education](#) in their education programmes to create safe schools.

However, mandating *Comprehensive Sexuality Education* as a curriculum goes squarely against the freedom of schools to choose material that suits the school's identity. This is certainly relevant when it comes to programmes that have been [criticized](#) for their ineffectiveness and sexualizing content for young children.

In addition, [another report](#) by the UN Rapporteur on her visit to the United States stated that public education is a right and that selecting educational materials based on content is discriminatory.

In international law, however, there is no right to public education, but to education in its general, diverse breadth (see, for example, [Article 13.3 ICESCR](#)). Parents therefore have the right to choose alternatives, including Christian education. These schools also have the right to reflect their beliefs in selecting and rejecting certain materials.

Where no country stood up for this freedom, CCI [spoke out](#) to protect these freedoms. In doing so, we called on member states and the Rapporteur to recognize and respect Christian education, including in the area of sexuality.

[Read more](#)

CCI Statement General Debate Human Rights Council 2025

During the 60th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, CCI delivered a video statement in the General debate, calling on the Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights to protect and promote life, family, and freedom in line with international consensus.



The statement read as follows:

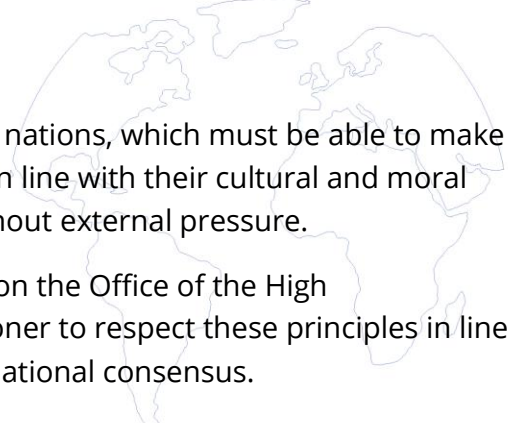
Mr. President,

Christian Council International appreciates this opportunity to contribute to the General Debate. As an organization committed to the protection and promotion of life, family, and freedom, we wish to emphasize the following key principles that are necessary for addressing the issues our world faces today.

First, the sacredness of life, from conception to natural death, must be upheld. Life is a gift that deserves protection at every stage and under every circumstance.

Second, the family, founded on the union of a man and a woman, provides the best environment for raising children. Parents hold the primary responsibility in guiding their children's education and well-being, and their role must be respected, not replaced.

Third, the importance of freedom. Freedom of religion and conscience allows individuals and communities to live by their faith and values. Persecution of Christians and political leaders for their beliefs is unacceptable. Freedom also



belongs to nations, which must be able to make decisions in line with their cultural and moral values without external pressure.

We call upon the Office of the High Commissioner to respect these principles in line with international consensus.

Thank you.

[Abortion does not contribute to development](#)

Urgent Call to U.N. Special Rapporteur on Development

Our statement to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development urges the Rapporteur to recognize that the protection of unborn life, motherhood and religious values are crucial to development, not hindrances. This was necessary because his report implied the opposite.



The statement read as follows:

Christian Council International thanks the Rapporteur for this report. Complex challenges directly impact global development and cause people to rely on the core basics to survive.

When it comes to the pillars of development for these people. Which would be the most important? We see that when economies and political systems collapse, social and cultural

backgrounds often remain resilient. The report unfortunately fails to take this into full account.

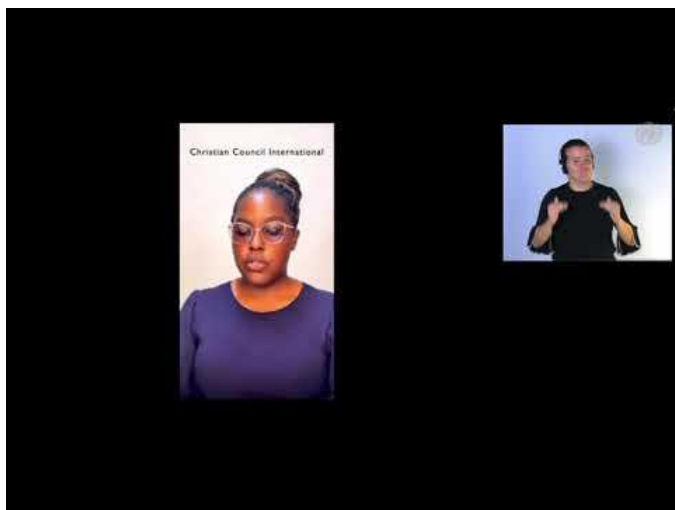
It was stated, for instance, that countries should not invoke religious values to deny women's autonomy and that countries should legalize abortion. This denies however the fact that abortion and SRHR are not universally accepted rights and that countries are sovereign in restricting abortion.

Unborn lives should not be seen as potential barriers to women's development, but as future thrivers. The word mother was only mentioned once in the report. Where was the recognition of the invaluable role millions of mothers play and want to play in having full and primary responsibility for the upbringing of their children?

We therefore respectfully call on the Rapporteur to recognize the cultural and social frameworks of countries and to adhere to the international consensus within his mandate.

Thank you.

Religious youth deserve a voice at the UN
**CCI Statement on Role of The Youth in
Advancing Human Rights at the Human
Rights Council Geneva**



Thank you for this opportunity. I speak on behalf of Christian Council International and many faith-based young people who feel left out of global human rights discussions.

We are often told that youth are the future. Yet many of us are excluded because our faith convictions are labeled as anti-rights. This is not true. Faith traditions uphold the dignity of every person, defend life from conception to natural death, and affirm the vital role of the family. These beliefs are at the root of social order and strengthen human rights; not weaken them.

Across Africa, young volunteers support faith-based organizations as they run hospitals, schools, and community programs that bring hope and dignity to countless lives. They advance human rights every day, yet their voices remain absent from the tables where decisions are made. This was evident in the Summit of the Future and ICPD+25, where faith-based youth perspectives were largely excluded.

We urge this Council to be intentional about including all youth perspectives in implementing the Pact for the Future and other youth-based global frameworks. Decisions should reflect the values and experiences of every voice in society.

I thank you.

Protect Kenian Children's education

By Mr [Richard Kakeeto](#)

During the [Universal Periodic Review of Kenya](#), the Kenya Christian Professionals Forum, together with Christian Council International, delivered a statement on the right to life and education in Kenya.



The full statement reads as follows (the last part was not shared with the UN):

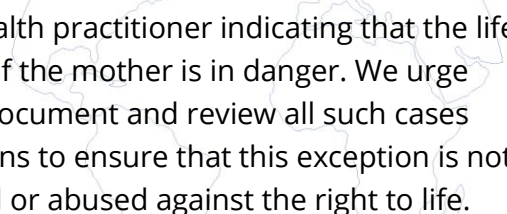
Thank you madam president,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Kenya Christian Professionals Forum and Christian Council International.

We are concerned about Kenya's support for six nuanced recommendations related to ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services for all. We trust that the implementation of these recommendations will be guided by the relevant and commendably noted recommendations, as well as Kenya's constitutional framework and values.

Kenya is under no international obligation to legalize abortion, nor to impose a value-less and now contested Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) on children. We emphasize that parental involvement in decisions concerning the health and education of their children is guaranteed in international human rights law and must be respected, protected and promoted.

Kenya's Constitution clearly protects the right to life from conception to natural death by expressly prohibiting abortion. Exceptions are only with respect to a professional opinion of a



trained health practitioner indicating that the life or health of the mother is in danger. We urge Kenya to document and review all such cases and opinions to ensure that this exception is not misapplied or abused against the right to life.

A 2023 study conducted in western Kenya titled *"The Unmet Need for Comprehensive Sexuality Education"* revealed that just eight hours of CSE exposure made school-going teenagers more likely to suggest abortion and contraception. This points to a model of sexuality education that generates demand for services, rather than one promoting sexual risk avoidance.

We therefore call on the government of Kenya to:

- Guarantee the participation of parents and faith communities in the development of any content on human sexuality,
- Require express parental consent before exposing children to any CSE content with an option for opting out.

Finally, we commend the adoption of the National Reproductive Health Policy (2022–2032) and the National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection (2023). We urge their full implementation as frameworks that advance human dignity, family values, and the strengthening of Kenyan society.

I thank you madam president.

News from Africa

The African Charter on Family, Sovereignty and Values

By Sylvia Mesesi

The African Charter on Family, Sovereignty and Values is the outcome of Inter-Parliamentary Conferences held in Entebbe, Uganda between 2023 and 2025. It represents the determination of African leaders and parliamentarians to defend the natural family, safeguard African cultural values, and protect the sovereignty of African states in matters of health, education, politics, and economics.



The Charter is structured in five chapters, covering the protection of the family, cultural identity, political and economic sovereignty, natural resources, education, and health. It establishes a permanent Committee on the African Family, Sovereignty and Values within the African Union to oversee implementation and ensure that states remain faithful to its principles.

What Next for the Charter?

The Charter will first be distributed to all African parliaments for thorough discussion and debate. Parliaments may propose amendments or modifications to strengthen its provisions and ensure broad national ownership.

At the Fourth Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Ghana in 2026, the Charter will be reviewed in its consolidated form. If consensus is reached, the Charter will then be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union for formal consideration.

Following the formal adoption process of AU treaties:

1. Adoption: The Assembly of Heads of State and Government will adopt the Charter as a continental legal instrument.
2. Signature: It will be opened for signature by AU Member States, signaling their intention to be bound.
3. Ratification/Accession: Each State must follow its national constitutional procedures (such as parliamentary approval) before depositing instruments of ratification or accession with the Chairperson of the AU Commission.
4. Entry into Force: Once at least fifteen (15) AU Member States have ratified, the Charter will enter into force and become binding on those States.

From that point, the Charter will not only be a declaration of shared values but also a binding treaty within the African Union, shaping policies and protecting Africa's families and sovereignty for generations to come.

[Read more](#)

The Gates Foundation's New IUD Threatens Africa's True Choice

By Sylvia Mesesi

In August 2025, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a new global reproductive health initiative: a large-scale rollout of an 8-year hormonal intrauterine device (IUD) in several African, starting with Kenya and Nigeria.¹ The device, called Avibela, is a levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system (IUS) that prevents pregnancy for nearly a decade with a 99% effectiveness rate.² The campaign is part of a massive \$2.5 billion women's health investment that the Foundation says will "empower women and girls" by giving them "more choices."³



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's investment in women's health and access to contraception

has been widely publicized, but serious questions remain. Is this truly about choice if women in rural and underserved areas may not even have the means to reverse the decision once the IUD is inserted?

A Decision That's Hard to Reverse

Unlike birth control pills or injections, an IUD can only be inserted or removed by a trained medical professional.⁴ This creates an obvious problem: many rural communities in Africa already lack access to basic healthcare, let alone skilled providers. In practice, this means a woman could be stuck with a contraceptive she no longer wants simply because there's no nurse or doctor nearby to remove it.

.....

A Call to African Leaders

Christian Council International (CCI) calls on African governments, faith leaders, and civil society organizations to critically examine this initiative. Programs funded by powerful global actors should not dictate African health policies or undermine African values.

Africa does not need another population control experiment. Africa needs healthcare that respects women, strengthens families and protects sovereignty.

[Read more](#)

¹ *Eight-year contraceptive to be introduced in Kenya*. The Standard, Aug 8, 2025.

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/health-science/article/2001526385/eight-year-contraceptive-to-be-introduced-in-kenya?>

² DKT WomanCare's Avibela product page states that IUDs "can be removed by a provider at any time."

<https://dktwomancare.org/products/contraception-methods/intra-uterine-devices-iuds/avibela/>

³ *Gates Foundation announces \$2.5 billion commitment to women's health research and innovation*. Gates Foundation, Aug 4,

2025. <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center/press-releases/2025/08/womens-health-funding-commitment?>

⁴ DKT WomanCare's Avibela product page states that IUDs "can be removed by a provider at any time."

<https://dktwomancare.org/products/contraception-methods/intra-uterine-devices-iuds/avibela/>

Visit by our colleague Sylvia to the Netherlands and Belgium



Last August, our colleague Sylvia Mesesi from Kenya had the opportunity to visit the Netherlands and Belgium. Together with Henk Jan and Wilmer, she visited, among others, the European Parliament in Brussels. It was a unique opportunity for the CCI team to work together.



Amsterdam

News From Europe

CCI portrayed as a religious extremist in Brussels Report

A Brussels report sounds the alarm: religious extremists are taking over Europe.

The European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF) published this report in mid-June. The main author is EPF director Neil Datta.

EPF is a network of parliamentarians from EU member states who focus on sexual and reproductive rights (SRGR).

The report's focus on free abortion is so strong that anything related to having children is viewed with suspicion. This applies to people who are committed to the family, but also to governments that are concerned about population decline.

and diplomats from Nigeria for their support for human rights,²⁷ and for the expulsion of SRHR organisations Planned Parenthood and IPAS for their support for reproductive autonomy.²⁸ Like the CCI and Ordo Iuris (see below), CitizenGO Africa has also campaigned to have African countries reject the Samoa Agreement between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), falsely claiming that the trade agreement “advocates for the promotion of LGBT rights, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), contraception for teenagers, and abortion”.²⁹

Going beyond SRHR, CitizenGO also promotes conspiracy theories and has campaigned against the World Health Organization’s proposed pandemic readiness treaty.³⁰ In 2022, the Mozilla Foundation found that CitizenGo Africa was behind a range of social media disinformation and misinformation campaigns on Twitter in Kenya.³¹ CitizenGO activities and campaigns are regularly covered by the Association for Catholic Information in Africa (Acia Africa) press agency.³²

CCI: NEO-COLONIAL CHAMPIONS OF PSEUDO-DECOLONISATION

The Dutch-American CCI also plays a significant role in the anti-gender movement across Africa. It maintains a presence through permanent staff based in Africa³³ which aims to “develop a network of representatives all over Africa who function as the permanent eye on the African continent... To actively engage with like-minded Pan-African CSOs and

CCI: sponsored extremism

Henk-Jan van Schothorst of Christian Council International (CCI) also comes off badly in the EPF report. People often accuse others of what they themselves are, says Van Schothorst. "Who is investing in this report? I become extra alert when I see names such as Planned Parenthood, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Soros' Open Society among the sponsors.

EPF also receives public funding from the World Health Organization, the European Union, and United Nations agencies. These organizations have taken an ideological turn. They no longer function as an executive body for conservative member states, but serve a left-liberal agenda of unelected bureaucratic elites.

That is the real news of this study: a new wave of government-sponsored bureaucratic extremism. This targets organizations that oppose the chaos and moral bankruptcy that EPF stands for."

 Read more at CNE.news:

<https://cne.news/article/4794-review-christian-extremists-are-overtaking-power-in-europe-new-report-claims>



CCI signs letter to European Commission in support of freedom of speech

[Free Speech Ireland](#)
[@FreeSpeechIre](#)

September 17, 2025

Free Speech Ireland adds its name to 50+ NGOs calling on [@vonderleyen](#), [@McGrathEU](#) & [@HennaVirkkunen](#) to ensure the [#DigitalServicesAct](#) **protects free expression, not restricts it**. The digital space must remain open to all voices.

To: Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Ms. Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for tech sovereignty, security and democracy

Mr. Michael McGrath EU Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and Rule of Law

17.09.2025

RE: Concerns Regarding the Digital Services Act and Its Threat to Civil Society and Free Expression

We write to you as leaders and representatives of EU-based organizations, united in our commitment to the common good, democratic values, and the foundational principles enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

It is in this spirit of constructive engagement that we wish to raise significant concerns regarding the Digital Services Act (DSA), particularly its impact on freedom of expression.

Firstly, the terms "illegal content," "systemic risk," and "disinformation" remain broad and open to interpretation. Without clear definitions and proportional enforcement, legitimate expression may be unduly restricted. Therefore, the DSA risks violating Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which guarantees the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference.

Secondly, the role of "trusted flaggers"—frequently large organizations that may have their own biases and agendas—may lead to the DSA being enforced in a discriminatory manner, i.e. disproportionately affecting viewpoints that diverge from prevailing policy or social consensus.

Finally, the limited scope of judicial oversight over content moderation raises concerns regarding the effective protection of fundamental rule-of-law principles and may constrain the ability of civil society actors to seek adequate remedies when their expression is restricted.

Considering the above, we respectfully request the Commission's clarification on the following points:

1. How will the Commission incorporate free speech concerns into the DSA review of mid-November?
2. Under the DSA's "country of destination" provisions, could a removal or restriction order issued in one Member State require platforms to apply that decision in other Member States, effectively extending the most restrictive national standards across borders?
3. What specific safeguards has the Commission implemented under the DSA to ensure that factually accurate but dissenting content is not removed or demoted, as it occurred during the pandemic under policies fighting so-called disinformation?

We are looking forward to your response and commitment to the fundamental right of free expression. The digital space must remain a forum where differing voices can contribute to the common good and public debate.

Yours sincerely,

1. Free Speech Ireland
2. Akadémia sv. Michala, Slovakia
3. Alianția za rodinu, Slovakia
4. Alliance for Family, Czech Republic
5. Asociația Pentru Drepturile Omului Imaginea României (AIR), Romania
6. Asociácia za život a rodinu, Slovakia
7. Association for Preparation for Family, Lithuania
8. Association of Microbiologists, Immunologists, and Statisticians (SMIS), Czech Republic
9. Association Society and Values, Bulgaria
10. CED/EDIC, Austria
11. Choice for Life, Bulgaria
12. Christian Council International (CCI), Netherlands
13. Digital Justice, Ireland
14. Family Day Association, Italy
15. Femina Europa, France
16. Free Society Institute, Lithuania
17. Free Speech Society, Czech Republic
18. Gaisma pasaulē, Latvia
19. Générations Avenir, France
20. Gimene, Latvia
21. Health Law Institute, Lithuania

22. In the Name of the Family, Croatia
23. Inštitút pre ľudské práva a rodinnú politiku, Slovakia
24. Institute H21, Czech Republic
25. Institute of Law and Civil Rights (Pro Libertate), Czech Republic
26. Interessenvertretung unberechtigter Menschen, Germany
27. Īsta Mīlestība Gaida, Latvia
28. Konservatīvās domas conference, Latvia
29. Krīzes grūtniecības centrs, Latvia
30. Kristīgo mediķu biedrība, Latvia
31. Latvijas daudz bērnu ģimeņu apvienība, Latvia
32. Latvijas Vīru biedrība, Latvia
33. Le Syndicat de la Famille, France
34. Legal Advice Center (ILAC), Bulgaria
35. LĪDZVĒRTĪBA, Latvia
36. Människovärde, Sweden
37. Nadacia Tunegu, Pūčka, Tesára
38. Nadacia Fides et Ratio, Slovakia
39. National Association "March for the Family", Bulgaria
40. National Association of Families and Parents, Lithuania
41. Nodibinājums Attīstības fonds Celies, Latvia
42. Nodibinājums Mantojums, Latvia
43. O.C.D.L., Romania
44. Palīdzī Otrām, Latvia
45. Pastor bonus, Slovakia
46. Plattform Christdemokratie, Austria
47. Pro-Life Action, Slovakia
48. Pro Vita e Famiglia Onlus, Italy

CCI's feedback to the European Commission
CCI has taken the opportunity to submit feedback on a number of topics to the European Commission. Please find below the input that has been provided.



Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030

Christian Council International (CCI) is grateful for the chance to give feedback on the EU

Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. We support the effort to protect the dignity of every person and to remove barriers that limit women from fully participating in society. But we believe some parts of the strategy need to be rethought. Equality must be based on truth and protect life, family, and freedom of belief. As the EU plans the next strategy, we hope it will protect rights without sidelining different beliefs. The feedback attached highlights areas of concern and gives recommendations we believe will lead to a more balanced approach. [Go to the entire EU Feedback on Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2023](#)

EU Civil Society Strategy

Christian Council International (CCI) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the initiative for an EU Civil Society Strategy. While we acknowledge the importance of this Strategy, several key aspects need careful attention, specifically its neutrality, scope of application, and transparency. The attached feedback outlines these aspects and offers concrete recommendations that we believe are essential for the successful implementation of the Strategy. [Go to the entire EU Feedback on EU Civil Society Strategy](#)

Action plan against cyberbullying

Christian Council International (CCI) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the initiative for an Action Plan Against Cyberbullying. In the attached feedback, we offer concrete, substantiated recommendations that, we believe, are essential for the successful implementation of the Strategy. Specifically: the scope of the Action Plan, the role of parents, freedom of speech, pornography, and access to social media. Let us not forget, however, that the true cause of cyberbullying is the sinful nature of our hearts, and that only a renewed heart by the Holy Spirit of God can bring true love and respect among people. When this occurs, cyberbullying

would cease to exist. It is our sincere hope for Europe that this necessity is recognised and prayed for. [Go to the entire EU Feedback on Action plan against cyberbullying](#)

Training for CCI staff on Human Dignity and Related Issues

By Mark den Hollander

Engaging with the pressing social issues of our time is something that requires grit, serious attention, and a strong sense of character. But even with a robust sense of positive character traits, policy discussions are difficult to do in isolation from others who share similar values. Coming together with like-minded individuals to think, collaborate, and share perspectives is one of the best ways to overcome the challenges that policy work naturally involves.



Image: World Youth Alliance

This summer, CCI staff including Wilmer Hak, Sylvia Mesesi, and Mark den Hollander, along with intern Jayden Neels had the opportunity to attend the Advocacy Training academy in Brussels from July 9-12, 2025, hosted by the World Youth Alliance (WYA). The academy brings together committed individuals who are interested in policy conversations that are related to the inherent dignity of human life.

Over the course of four days, ten white papers were discussed on issues that included reproductive health, sustainable development, and surrogacy. Participants were required to engage in conversation and debate by looking at multiple perspectives of different topics. In addition, time was also spent on simulating conversations with diplomats to think about best ways to advocate for the issues being discussed.

“Although I could only attend the World Youth Alliance Advocacy Academy online, it was still a meaningful experience,” said Sylvia. “The topics we covered, like reproductive health, family policy, and human dignity, are areas I have already engaged with at CCI, so much of the content felt familiar. What the Academy added was the chance to practice these ideas in a more hands-on way. In the breakout rooms, we worked on how to present arguments and persuade delegates and other stakeholders to support positions that protect life and dignity. That made the training practical and helped me see how young people can bring clarity and confidence into global conversations.”

A recurring theme was present over the course of the training, stating the importance of recognizing human dignity in policy frameworks from international bodies like the United Nations and the European Union. When human beings are not viewed through a lens of intrinsic worth—that humans are created in the image of God—they risk being reduced to mere instruments for ideological agendas. The academy examined case studies from recent decades, including the implications of coercive population control measures, highlighting how such policies destroy fundamental human value.

Programs like the WYA Advocacy Academy instill hope for the future, serving as a reminder that a global network of advocates is actively pursuing

laws and practices that support human flourishing over human decline. By equipping young leaders with both knowledge and tools, these initiatives foster a more humane, person-centered approach to global policymaking.

News from America

Training the Next Generation of Leaders and Defenders

By Mark den Hollander

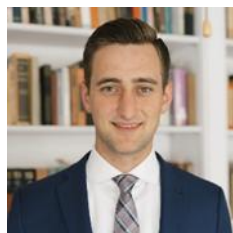
Common sentiments are



heard among young people engaging in politics

today; they do not know how to get involved, they do not have

important connections, and they do not know what they can do to make a difference in local and international communities.



The CCI summer research internship has been developed to meet the needs of young people who are looking to defend the values they support in the world. The goal of these programs is to provide an outlet for students to learn about topics that they have a vested interest in advocating and defending. For the summer research project, interns are paired with CCI staff members to develop a project proposal that is

based on one of the ten areas of research that are provided.

For Alex Mooney, a Hillsdale College student from Alabama, this meant taking time to research some of the harmful policies of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Alex has been quite interested in learning more about the events leading up to the dismantling of USAID. In his research, he delved into how large agencies like USAID were able to disguise highly controversial ideological agendas through the terminology of development aid.

Janée Van Harberden, a law student and legal assistant from Lethbridge, Alberta, researched Canada's contributions and legacy within the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). As a founding member in the organization of the UNHRC, Canada led some of the initial conversations on human rights. While Canada is no longer a participating member of the UNHRC, they have used the platform and their influence to push an anti-sovereignty message to countries around the world.

"My understanding of the UN and Canada's role within it has greatly expanded," said Janee. "But my appreciation for the importance of CCI's work grew even more as I saw Canadian representatives repeatedly advocating for values so opposed to a Christian worldview."

CCI looks forward to working with more interested, passionate young people who are ready to take on the work of policy proposals and implementation from a Christian perspective. In the upcoming years we look forward to growing our student programs.

Financial support is needed to continue training young people in policies that deal with family, life, and freedom. As we look



forward to next year, we are hopeful that we will be able to continue training brilliant young minds to get involved in the UN Fellowship as well as the summer research internship. Without financial support, these programs cannot continue. These training programs are developing the hearts and minds of our future generation of thought and leadership. Any financial support is greatly appreciated. If you would like to learn more about the training programs, please reach out by email.

The Death of Charlie Kirk *By John Van Der Brink*

The death of Charlie Kirk, the founder of Turning Point USA, is likely to produce a “turning point” which he never could have imagined. Opponents of his ideology and values tried to silence his voice and limit his influence. Instead, they unleashed a spirit of support and recognition that reaches far beyond the college campus and the youth culture in which he conducted his debates. Americans everywhere and of all ages and backgrounds have recognized the cruel hatred which led to his death, and many are for the first time listening to and supporting the conservative principles for which he debated.

Since the day Charlie Kirk died, his organization received over 60,000 inquiries to start new Turning Point chapters to promote the work he had been doing. Young people all across America are awakening to just how far leftist policies have been taking us. They are seeing that leftist policies have been leading to chaos and the ruin to our society. Charlie’s death has sounded the alarm even after he is gone. His voice, though silenced, still is heard loud and clear.



So, what happens now? Charlie’s widow, Erika, was unanimously chosen as his successor as CEO of Turning Point USA. A determined and spirited young woman, she inherits a support group of over 500,000 followers who have donated over \$389 million dollars since the foundation was established, and their enthusiasm for his cause has only increased since his death. Erika has made it clear that she is determined to carry on her husband’s work, and she has the finances and the support to do so. Clearly, if his opponents were seeking to counter his ideology and influence, they utterly failed.

God’s Word exhorts us to “Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10. As chaotic as our society has become, God is still in control. Sometimes He works in ways that we would never expect. His hand in providence often moves in mysterious ways. Let us pray that He would cause good to come out of evil, and that He would even use this national tragedy to cause many to turn unto Him in true repentance, crying out unto Him for mercy and pardon, and to turn us back to the Biblical principles upon which this nation was founded.

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
- **Fundamental freedoms** supported and defended
- **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

- 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 program at the UN** for students and policymakers.



EUROPE

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



AFRICA

- Stopped the **promotion of radical sexuality education programs** in African countries by warning policymakers.
- Provided vital assistance in creating an African Charter, promoting **family values and the right to life**.
- Organized a World Press Conference in Nigeria to **address the harms of surrogacy**.



NORTH AMERICA

- 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 for Christian policy** with the support base, parliamentarians and diplomats.
- Supported parental rights by defending **school choice and Christian education** to the US Secretary of Education.

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CCI is a Section 501 (c)(3) organization under the IRS
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