

Christian Weekly News 09/08/2024

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THIS WEEK

- Responding to the riots
 - Tribunal member formally rebuked over anti-Christian comments
 - Christians arrested in Paris over Olympics bus 'protest'
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FEATURED

Responding to the riots

On Wednesday, we shared [our response to the recent riots](#) - we need to pray and to turn back to God.

Head of Public Policy Tim Dieppe wrote for the Critic that [two tier policing is not new](#). Violence is never justified but there have been many cases in the recent past of police treating some groups more favourably than others.

He also warned on GB News that [enforcing a new definition of Islamophobia is not the answer](#). Read his [report](#) for the Free Speech Union to understand more about why.

Pray with us that God would have mercy on our nation. We need Jesus Christ at the heart of society. Not just laws and policies that reflect his will, but his blessing.

Let's seek that by faith in the week ahead.

[Read our response >>](#)



Formal rebuke over anti-Christian comments

The Judicial Conduct Investigations Office this week formally rebuked panel member Mr Jed Purkis stating his public comments criticising Christians amounted to misconduct.

His comments came to light in the case of Christian teacher 'Hannah' who is being supported by our legal team. She was sacked for raising safeguarding concerns about a child being allowed to 'socially transition' at the school.

Purkis was recused from the hearing in her case after comments he had made online were found. The comments included describing Conservatives as 'tumours' and said 'if [Christians] are so f***ing super how comes there is so much s**t going on in the world.' The whole panel ended up recusing themselves to avoid 'perception of bias.'

The recusal and the formal rebuke further illustrates the presence of anti-Christian bias in the courts. Purkis was also part of the panel that previously ruled against Rev. Dr Bernard Randall, which is being appealed.

You can read coverage of the rebuke in The Times and The Telegraph.

[Read and watch more >>](#)



Christians arrested in Paris for bus ‘protest’

Six Christians from CitizenGO, including two from the United Kingdom were arrested and held overnight in a French jail for driving a bus through Paris that said “Stop Attack on Christians”, criticising the Olympic opening ceremony.

CitizenGO’s Campaigns Manager Caroline Farrow, wrote “*All of their belongings were confiscated, they were stripped and searched, and they were illegally denied to call their personal lawyers. Some were even not allowed to call their family members and were held on non-existent charges.*”

The team were eventually released.

You can read more in the European Conservative and the Catholic Herald.

[Read more >>](#)

TAKE ACTION

Stand for life - assisted suicide in Scotland

There's just over a week left to respond to the Scottish government on its proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill.

Please stand for life by making it clear that you oppose assisted suicide and euthanasia.

You do not need to live in Scotland to take part.

Read our guidance on responding to the consultation by clicking the link below.

[Respond to the consultation >>](#)

[Respond by 16 August](#)

IN THE NEWS

Life

Roger Kiska, standing counsel to the Christian Legal Centre's appeared on GB News with Neil Oliver to discuss the recent end of life legal win in the case of Sudiksha Thirumalesh. Doctors had argued in court that 19-year-old's desire to continue treatment was 'delusional'.

Neil Oliver said at the beginning of the interview, "when this story was brought to my attention last year I thought it couldn't be true."

Roger also discussed Sudiksha's posthumous win with Calvin Robinson on Lotus Eaters, where they also spoke about the case of Claire Brennan, who could be the first woman in Northern Ireland to be convicted for praying inside an abortion 'censorship zone'.

[Watch Roger Kiska on GB News >>](#)



Gender

Public Policy Researcher Carys Moseley's analyses of the Cass Review were edited and combined for the recent [Affinity Social Issues Summer Bulletin](#) by Lizzie Harewood. You can read Carys' [original articles about the Cass Review here](#). The bulletin also included updates and summaries of a number of recent Christian Legal Centres cases.

[Read Affinity Social Issues Summer Bulletin >>](#)

Doctors have [criticised the British Medical Association \(BMA\) for resisting the ban on puberty blockers](#). They wrote: "By lobbying against the best evidence we have, the BMA is going against the principles of evidence-based medicine and against ethical practice."

Education

You can now [read our full response to the Church of England's proposed new anti-bullying guidance, *Flourishing For All*](#).

Campaign group Sex Matters has [also criticised the new document](#), saying “this guidance should be scrapped and started again.”

Freedom

Christian Legal Centre client Dr Aaron Edwards [was on Lotus Eaters](#) with Calvin Robinson to share about the [latest update on his case](#).

They discuss how his experience reflects a broader trend of Christian persecution in academia and why there is a great need for Christians to speak into societal debates.



IN DEPTH

Why do women contact pregnancy support?

A new study has analysed [the reasons why women contact pregnancy crisis support](#).

The Pregnancy Crisis Helpline looked at their communication with women who seek their services. They found that women considering an abortion were often experiencing internal conflict about the decision and struggling with particular personal circumstances. 16% of queries mention coercion from a partner or family member.

It was also found that many 30% of the women are seeking help because of the mental health distress they experience after the abortion, including abortion regret.

This is an important study that sheds a light on why women contact pregnancy support services.

[Read the summary >>](#)

[Read the full study >>](#)

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Last week, we shared how GB diver Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix gave glory to God in an interview after winning bronze. This week, after missing out on a medal, she was very upset during an interview but still gave glory to God. It's reminiscent of Job 1:21 (NIV): "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

Give thanks for all those who seek to use the platform of sports to honour God - pray that they would have wisdom to navigate the challenges involved while being faithful and courageous for Christ.



EVENTS

23-26 August: David's Tent

Christian Concern will be exhibiting at David's Tent on 23-26 August.

David's Tent is an annual 72-hour non-stop worship event where thousands of believers across many different denominations come to worship Jesus together.

Come and say hello, bring a friend, and find out more about Christian Concern.

We will be giving away free resources and selling some of our Wilberforce Publications books.

[Find out more >>](#)

Sat 2 Nov: Mission of God Conference 2024

We're pleased to share that this year's Mission of God conference will be held on Saturday 2 November in Birmingham.

Jointly hosted by Christian Concern and Ezra Institute, the event will consider the challenge of Islam in the UK and how the Church should respond.

We will be sharing more details and opening bookings shortly but until then, please save the date and plan to come to this important event.
