

Christian Weekly News 13/12/2024

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THIS WEEK

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- School worker sacked for posts on marriage
 - Family in race against time to save mother's life
 - Crackdown against soaring home education?
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FEATURED

School worker sacked for posts on marriage

A Christian educational behavioural assistant has launched legal action after losing her job for social media posts about marriage.

Before and during her employment at a Catholic school, Gozen Soydag ran social media accounts to encourage Christian women - @wifeinthewaiting and @ladygozen - which included posts supporting a biblical vision of marriage.

But on her birthday last year, she lost her job after complaints about some of the content on her channels. The school claimed that "much of [her] extensive online profile [was] incompatible with the school's mission statement and ethos" - even though it was plainly consistent with the Catholic and Christian views the school's ethos claims to uphold.

In a new video on our YouTube channel, [Gozen recounts what happened in the school and why she believes we must speak up.](#)

With the support of the Christian Legal Centre, Gozen has had her case heard by an employment tribunal this week.

Her story was reported extensively in the media, including in these outlets:

- [The Telegraph](#)
- [The Daily Mail](#)
- [The Times](#)
- [GB News](#)
- [Free Speech Union](#)
- [Premier Christian News](#)

Chief Executive [Andrea Williams appeared on TalkTV to talk about why the Christian Legal Centre is supporting Gozen, and Head of Public Policy Tim Dieppe explained on Premier Radio why her case sets a dangerous precedent for free speech.](#) Tim Dieppe also appeared on Revelation TV to discuss how Christian Concern is standing up for [Christian celebrities who are under attack for their faith.](#)

Pray that God would vindicate Gozen, and that her story would inspire Christians in the UK to be bold in proclaiming the beautiful truth about God's good plan for marriage.

[Watch our interview with Gozen on YouTube >>](#)

[Watch Andrea Williams on TalkTV >>](#)



Family in race against time to save mother's life

A Christian family, gagged by a Court of Protection 'transparency order', are in a race against time to save the life of their 54-year-old mother and grandmother known only as "XY", after a UK judge ruled that her right to live is 'outweighed' by the medical evidence, and it is therefore in her 'best interests' to die.

Supported by the Christian Legal Centre, the family have urgently applied for Interim Measures from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) to prevent the removal of an artificial airway and clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration.

This is reminiscent of the previous Christian Legal Centre case on behalf of a Polish man known as 'RS', who was tragically dehydrated to death after a Judge deemed his life worthless, and ordered that he be deprived of nutrition and fluids.

Pray for the Christian Legal Centre lawyers as they argue for XY's right to continue receiving food and water, and that her family would be comforted and supported.



Crackdown against soaring home education?

According to the Times, home education has “soared by a fifth in England over the past year”.

There have also been increased calls for “children at risk of abuse” to be prevented from being home educated and for stricter regulations to be imposed. However, this could eventually target Christian parents deemed ‘abusive’ for not supporting their children’s ‘gender transition’.

Communications Manager Paul Huxley shares his own experiences of home educating his children, and comments on how any crackdown on home education could backfire.

If you need any help or advice because you are a Christian home educator, please contact us.

Next April, Christian Concern will be hosting Education Revolution, which is an event designed to support and equip parents and teachers who want to give their children a Christian education, whether through home education or by starting independent Christian schools.

[How crackdowns on home education could backfire >>](#)

[Read the Times article on home education >>](#)

[Sign up for our Education Revolution event >>](#)

Man uses DIY abortion scheme to poison

Last week, the BBC shared the story of a man who was “jailed for 12 years after assaulting a pregnant woman and giving her medication to cause a miscarriage”.

The man was convicted of two counts of assault, and a charge of intending to procure a miscarriage.

Tim Dieppe, our Head of Public Policy, looks at the Christian Legal Centre's judicial review of the government's introduction of abortion pills by post during lockdown in 2020 - and the tens of thousands of women who have experienced serious complications and repercussions since.

Christian Concern challenged the government’s introduction of DIY abortion pills during the pandemic, and continues to raise awareness on the immense danger the pills-by-post scheme presents to women and unborn children.

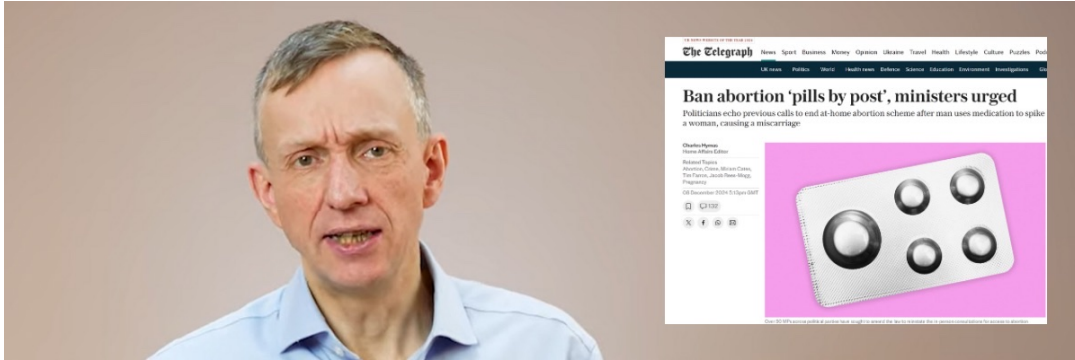
Pray that life in the womb would be so cherished that any violence done to unborn babies, as well as women, would be met with justice. Pray that criminals, and not unborn children, would receive the penalty for violence against women.

“If DIY abortion was not allowed, he would not have been able to commit his crime.”

[Read Tim Dieppe’s article on DIY abortion >>](#)

[Watch Tim Dieppe’s analysis of abortion pill crime >>](#)

[Learn more about our DIY abortion legal challenge >>](#)



TAKE ACTION

Send a message of courage this Christmas

This is the last chance to send a personal message of support and encouragement to one of our clients this Christmas.

Along with the Christian Legal Centre, we are supporting many Christians in the UK who have faced serious consequences, including losing their jobs, because they made a stand for Jesus.

Even when they win their legal cases, it can be a long and lonely wait for justice.

Submissions will close on Sunday evening. So make the most of this opportunity to bless a client this Christmas and send a short note thanking them for their faithful stand for Christ and freedom.

Send your message of encouragement to one of our clients this Christmas



IN DEPTH

Puberty blockers always create victims

This week, the government announced that the current ban on puberty blockers being used for children's gender dysphoria will continue indefinitely in England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland will do likewise.

Puberty blockers have documented side effects. They have not been around long enough for us to fully know the long-term outcomes, and evidence continues to emerge of young people who have been permanently harmed and deeply regret using them.

Further, puberty blockers seek to change what cannot be changed. Any fight against God's design is a battle already lost.

While we welcome the news of an indefinite ban, Carrie Clark insightfully writes for Spiked that sadly and even incredibly, the fight to stop puberty blockers is far from over.

[Read more >>](#)

IN THE NEWS

Islam

After an 8-week murder trial, Sara Sharif's father and stepmother have been found guilty of the horrific torture and murder of the 10-year-old.

MP Will Forster raised concerns about the effect that "cultural sensitivities" may have had in preventing Sara's abuse from being reported and effectively investigated. After teachers noticed bruises on her head and neck, Sara was forced to wear a hijab for the last 8 months of her life.

The Guardian also revealed that Iranian women "could face the death sentence or up to 15 years in prison" for defying "new compulsory morality laws" that further restrict women's rights and prohibit unveiling and 'improper' dressing.

Pray that public officials and teachers will call out abusive Islamic practices, that women and children would be protected in Islamic nations and communities, and that Christians would be equipped to bring the hope of the gospel to Muslims.

[Read more about Sara Sharif's case >>](#)

[Read about the impact of cultural sensitivities >>](#)

[Find out more about Iranian morality laws >>](#)

End of life

As Kim Leadbeater publicised the assisted suicide bill committee members, the Independent reported that MPs opposed to the bill have expressed deep concern that the committee is a “stitch-up” designed to hinder adequate scrutiny.

Meanwhile, the Daily Mail reinforced concerns that the ‘High Court judge safeguard’ requiring a judge to sign-off each assisted suicide request ‘could be dropped amid fears of lengthy court backlogs’.

The BBC also revealed that euthanasia, which in Canada is called Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), now accounts for ‘nearly one in 20 deaths’ there.

Pray that the assisted suicide bill will be effectively scrutinised, that MPs will be made aware of the immense dangers of this legislation, and that it will be voted down at third reading.

[Read about the MPs committee concerns >>](#)

[Find out more about MAiD in Canada >>](#)

Gender

In the Telegraph's 'women of the year' list, the Darlington Nurses were featured in the line-up of inspiring women.

The Northern Echo also reports that "the Conservative Party have declared their support for eight Darlington nurses who are seeking to ban transgender colleagues from women's changing rooms."

Praise God for the continued momentum of support for preserving single-sex spaces. Pray that the nurses will be encouraged as they stand for truth, and that public pressure will force the NHS to protect women's privacy, safety and rights in the workplace.

[Find out more about the Darlington Nurses >>](#)



Christian freedoms

After the dramatic overturning of the Syrian government by rebel groups, Martin Parsons, leader of the Lindisfarne Centre for the Study of Christian Persecution, raises concerns about the risks the key jihadist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham poses to Syrian Christians.

David Charlwood, also from the Lindisfarne Centre, analyses the implications of the takeover and how 'Assad's fall leaves Syrian Christians in peril'.

Pray for protection for the church in Syria as they face the possibility of increasingly severe persecution, and pray that the takeover would result not in a jihadist regime but in a free and democratic Syria.

[Read Martin Parsons 'Letter to the Editor' >>](#)

[Read David Charlwood's analysis >>](#)

Freedom of speech

The Spectator responds to press watchdog Ipso's "outrageous" ruling, warning that it will have a "chilling effect on free expression". The magazine was criticised for publishing the phrase, "a man who claims to be a woman," in a comment article about a 'transgender woman' - i.e. a man who claims to be a woman.

Pray that freedom of expression will be protected and that opinions will not be censored in the public arena.

[Read the Spectator's response >>](#)



EVENTS

Sat 26 Apr: Education Revolution, Oxford

In April, we are once again seeking to support and equip, and gather and network with faithful Christians who are wanting to develop bold education initiatives, and also those who are seeking to remain faithful in the education sphere.

We want to gather home educators, school teachers, parents, leaders and academics to consider together the issues regarding educating God's children and young people for his purposes. We will also have an additional focus on how university level education might be drawn back to Christ.

Tickets are currently £50, and you can book your place now to ensure you don't miss out.

Find out more and book your ticket >>
