

Trumpet Call!

Effective Christian action for Truth, Justice and Righteousness – October 2008

A Step Too Far

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

FACT

The final stage of the Bill is on the 22nd October. **In the previous stages of this Bill, both the House of Commons and the House of Lords have voted in favour of the creation of animal-human hybrid embryos and 'saviour sibling' children, and have abolished the need for IVF providers to consider the child's need for a father.**

Pro-life campaigners are now pressing for restrictions on the use of embryos, human or hybrid, and are urging MPs to vote for an amendment called the 'Hunt Test'. This will ensure that anyone wanting to create an embryo or hybrid embryo will have to **prove that the research is needed** and that there is no reasonably practicable alternative available. Amendments have also been tabled to restrict the type of cells that can be taken for a 'saviour sibling'. These include preventing cells being taken from bone marrow, which involves invasive surgery, or from other tissue, including organs. There are currently no amendments pending allowing IVF providers to take into account a child's need for a father when considering an IVF application.



The most high profile aspect of this Bill now awaiting consideration is the potential liberalisation of the abortion law, as it opens the 1967 Abortion Act to possible amendments. In 2007 there were over 200,000 abortions in England and Wales. Over 80% of people in England and Wales think that we should be seeking ways to make abortion less common, not more widespread. 68% of nurses are opposed to performing abortions and most GPs do not want their surgeries turned into abortion clinics.

Amendments to the Bill awaiting consideration include proposals to:

1. Remove the requirement for two doctors' signatures to certify the need for an abortion, and to allow abortion on demand.
2. Allow even surgical abortions to be performed by nurses and other health professionals other than doctors.
3. Relax current rules relating to the location where abortions are performed to include 'primary care' locations.
4. Remove the 'mental health' clause and permit abortion on demand up to 24 weeks.
5. Remove the right of conscientious objection to providing contraception, including the 'morning-after' pill.
6. Criminalise 'misleading advertisements' on abortion by pregnancy crisis centres that do not offer abortion.
7. Legalise abortion in Northern Ireland. (In spite of it being opposed by most members of the Northern Ireland Assembly in Stormont).

ACTION

- **Write** to your MP to express your concern about the devaluation of human life. House of Commons, London SW1 0AA. Alternatively, e-mail surnameinitial@parliament.uk, e.g. browning@parliament.uk.
- **Send** the enclosed 'Passion for Life' postcard to your MP **today**.
- **Inform** members of your Church about what is happening.
- **Pray** on the 22nd October (and if you are able join the Prayer Rally which is to be held on 22nd October 1.00pm –2.00pm -. St Stephen's entrance, which is immediately west of the Houses of Parliament.

World-wide Condemnation of Pogrom against Christians in India

Orissa Tragedy now enters Sixth Week

FACT

The anti-Christian atrocities in Orissa have continued unabated for 45 days at the hands of bloodthirsty gangs identified as belonging to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), and the Bajrang Dal. So far all Christians have been driven out of about 300 townships. Over 60,000 people are now hiding in the forests or living in refugee camps. Christians in the camps have been told they can only go home if they convert to Hinduism. Attempts have been made in the forests to convert Christians to Hinduism at knifepoint. Thousands of houses and hundreds of churches have been burned down. Some Christians have been burnt alive. One young Christian has been buried alive. Nuns have been gang raped and vast numbers of Christians have been severely injured.



Maranatha has been in direct and regular contact with Christian leaders in India and has been pressing for action to end the violence, through the Foreign Office, the European Parliament, and the Indian High Commission in London and the British High Commission in India. Maranatha has also had direct contact with the VHP in India. The response was very belligerent and the secretary emphasised that conversion to Christianity would never be tolerated. The stated aim of the Hindu militants is to drive Christianity out of Orissa.

The VHP is present in Britain, and surprisingly is a registered charity (number 262684). Maranatha has prepared an "information paper" on the VHP which is available from the office.

Maranatha also produced a report to the Foreign Office during the first few weeks of the tragedy and this is available as a composite document entitled "*The Horror of Orissa*".

It is available from on our website at http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/soon_subs_current.htm

ACTION

- Please study the reports and bring them to the urgent attention of your church.
- Please continue to pray for the protection of Christians under persecution in India. Pray for them to be able to maintain an attitude of Christian love towards their persecutors, and to resist the pressure, however violently presented, to 'convert' to Hinduism.
- Please help the Christians in Orissa by making a donation. Maranatha can help you with this.
- Thank God for the news that Christians in India, in all their troubles, are praying for us in this country.

What are We doing to our Children?

FACT

The Government now seems determined to go ahead with extremely dubious forms of sex education embracing the youngest of our children. Many parents are very worried that their children will be damaged by the lessons proposed, which are increasingly being seen as corrupting and damaging to healthy relationships.



ACTION

- Read the two documents listed below as a matter of urgency and bring them to the notice of your priest/minister and members of your church. (available on the parliamentary/submission page of our website).

"Submission on Sex and Relationship Education Delivery to the Department for Children, Schools and Families by Maranatha Community, September 2008"

"Sex and Relationship Education - Review. Presented to Rt. Hon Beverley Hughes MP and Mr Jim Knight MP, Ministers of State, Department of Children, Schools and Families by The Council of Health and Wholeness (which is associated with Maranatha) September 2008."

Radical pro-abortionists at UN exploiting Human Rights Declaration



FACT

- The UN celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December. Radical pro-abortion groups intend to exploit this occasion to present the UN General Assembly with petitions for a universal right to abortion i.e. right to destroy life. The Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-Fam) (www.c-fam.org) plans to present a petition calling upon the UN to protect the unborn child from abortion, which Maranatha supports.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls for a right to life, but UN committees now typically interpret that as a right to abortion. Last week C-Fam circulated their petition, which calls on UN Member States to interpret the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as protecting the unborn child from abortion. The petition stresses ***'the right to life of every human being, from conception to natural death, each child having the right to be conceived, born and educated within the family, based on marriage between a woman and a man, the family being the natural and fundamental group unit of society.'*** The aim is to present hundreds of thousands of names to the General Assembly. In ONE WEEK 15,000 people signed the petition.
- In contrast the Marie Stopes organisation launched a campaign twelve months ago after the Global Safe Abortion Conference, which took place in London. This event was sponsored by political activists who have penetrated various UN agencies including UNICEF. The conference and the campaign seek to bolster international commitment to abortion and for women's access to legal, "safe abortion" to be recognised as a fundamental human right. After a year of campaigning the Maria Stopes petition has garnered comparatively few signatures. However, they plan to continue to collect signatures online and will seek institutional endorsement of a right to abortion. They are planning and scheming to exploit the United Nations to change policy and to release funding for their purposes.

ACTION

- Please pray for the success of the C-Fam petition.
- Please go to www.c-fam.org to sign the Petition. The petition has been translated into several languages. Please cut and paste the link for the different language versions into an email and send the link to all of your contacts around the world.

Major Islamic Move at UN to Outlaw all Criticism of Shari'a Law

FACT

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), a grouping of 56 Islamic nations, has introduced a move, through in the United Nations Committee on Human Rights, to outlaw criticism of Shari'a law. It is expected to be debated in the UN General Assembly next year. The implications of this proposal in relation to freedom of speech and freedom of religion could scarcely be more dramatic and far-reaching.

If this proposal were to become international law, secular politicians wishing to maintain the supremacy of Parliamentary government in this country or elsewhere would be prevented from presenting the case against Shari'a law. It would become an offence to point out its deficiencies, such as its treatment of women as inferior to men (their evidence in legal matters is given less weight). Preachers and apologists of any religion other than Islam, together with academics and speakers approaching the subject from a non-religious point of view, would all be prevented from promoting or participating in free consideration and comparative debate of the world's various legal systems.



In particular, Christian teachers, writers and speakers would be prevented from presenting the Biblical truths setting out the primacy of God's law over any man-made system such as Shari'a law (and using that expression alone could be a criminal offence).

ACTION

- Pray that wisdom and justice will prevail, and that the UN will dismiss this proposal by the OIC.
- Write to your MP at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA expressing your concern that criticism of Shari'a law should not become an international law. Point out that this would prevent countries with a Christian heritage from speaking out against its deficiencies and that this would contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18.

Royal Mail Honours Eugenacist & Racist

FACT

This week the Royal Mail released their latest issue of stamps, named 'Women of Distinction'; among those honoured is 'Marie Stopes - a Pioneer of Family Planning'.

Marie Stopes was one of the founders of the eugenics movement, and an admirer of Adolph Hitler. She was determinedly anti-Christian, and said, 'I am out to smash the tradition of organised Christianity.' In her book 'Radiant Motherhood' published in 1920, Stopes demanded that 'The sterilisation of those totally unfit for parenthood be made an immediate possibility, indeed made compulsory.' Her own son, Harry, was removed from her will because he married a shortsighted woman called Mary Barnes-Wallis. Stopes wrote, 'She has an inherited disease of the eyes which not only makes her wear hideous glasses so that it is horrid to look at her, but the awful curse will carry on and I have the horror of our line being so contaminated and little children with the misery of glasses... Mary and Harry are quite callous about both the wrong to their children, the wrong to my family and the eugenic crime.' In 1952 she was involved in the creation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Stopes believed that no society 'should allow the diseased, the racially-negligent, the careless, the feeble-minded, and the very lowest and worst members of the community to produce innumerable tens of thousands of warped and inferior infants.'



ACTION

- Write to Adam Crozier, Chief Executive, Royal Mail Group Ltd, 148 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HQ or e-mail him at adam.crozier@royalmail.com. Protest at the decision to honour someone who was a racist and a eugenacist as a 'woman of distinction'.
- Do not accept the stamps from a post office; insist on buying ordinary ones.
- Some people are returning to the sender any mail that they receive bearing the Stopes stamps. You may wish to do the same.

Lap Dancing Club in your Community?

FACT



Under the present discredited licensing laws introduced by this Government in 2003 a lap-dancing club is treated in the same way as a theatre or a café. As a result of this licensing loophole, the number of seedy lap dancing clubs has doubled in the past four years, and now the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is consulting local authorities to see what, if anything, needs to be done. Too many lap-dancing clubs are gaining licences from local authorities in areas where local residents and the police deem them to be totally inappropriate.

MPs of all parties are expressing grave concern about the intrusion of these degrading establishments into local communities. They are often linked to immoral activities.

ACTION

- Write to your MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or email him/her at surnameinitial@parliament.uk (e.g.: browng@parliament.uk) and point out that most people object to lap dancing clubs in their community and these are being imposed by the Licensing Law of 2003 against the will of the people.
- Approach your local councillor and ask whether your council has made a response the Department of Media, Culture and Sport.
- Check with your local authority to see if there are any licensing applications pending, and if so organise your local church community to write and object.