

Trumpet Call!

Effective Christian action for Truth, Justice and Righteousness – September 2011

A huge number of issues has arisen which calls for a Christian response. It is vital to recognise that when Christians speak out in large numbers on key current matters, there is an impact. CHRISTIANS CANNOT AND MUST NOT REMAIN SILENT. EVERY LETTER AND EMAIL SENT MATTERS. We are beginning to see a groundswell of Christian response to matters concerning our national life and we thank God for this. The Trumpet Call network now embraces thousands of Christian activists in all the churches. We collaborate with a team of specialists and other Christian agencies. Your participation is much appreciated. Please pass on the contents of Trumpet Call to other, especially to friends in your church. Please pray that God will honour our endeavours.

SHARI'A IN THE UK – Truth hidden?

Fact

Government ministers have abandoned an Inquiry into the growth of Shari'a courts in the UK that deal in Islamic justice, because the Muslim courts have refused to cooperate. The Ministry of Justice had launched the Inquiry into the operation of Shari'a courts in Britain because of rising fears that the secretive system could have an unhealthy and divisive influence on our national life. The failure of this probe has generated new fears among politicians and the public about the growing influence of Shari'a law in the UK. They are worried the courts' decisions may run against the law of the land particularly in divorce settlements for women. The scrapping of the Inquiry was announced at a time when Islamic extremists had launched a campaign in London to declare "Shari'a controlled zones". The abandonment of the Government's Shari'a Inquiry has fuelled fears that Muslim radicals will be able to continue intimidation activities unchecked.



The number of Shari'a courts here is unknown, although an estimate of 85 made by the CIVITAS think-tank in 2009 is widely accepted. The failure of the Government's investigation was disclosed to MPs by Justice Minister, Jonathan Djanogly. There is clearly reluctance to discuss their work by the Shari'a courts and clearly they have failed to co-operate in the Inquiry. For the integrity of our legal system and the maintenance of good community relations, it is vital that the activities of these courts are properly reviewed. There is particular concern about rights of women and children and also about the consequences of encouraging a dual legal system in our country.

Action

Write to or email your MP c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Express your concern about the growth of Shari'a courts in our country and in particular the failure of the Government to complete its Inquiry into Shari'a courts in Britain. Ask him/her to press for the Inquiry to be reinstated. Point out that in our history hitherto no group has proposed to be governed by its own separate law.

DRUGS - Legalisation proposed

Fact

The United Kingdom has a massive drugs problem. Young lives have been ruined and families blighted by the widespread use of a broad range of illegal substances. We now have a national network of criminal gangs distributing drugs to the young. Those who work for a **drug-free society** are now faced with powerful pressure groups (mobilised by wealthy individuals such as Soros) which are seeking to normalise drug taking under the guise of 'harm-reduction'.



To the astonishment of many, the Liberal Democrats at their autumn conference this year, have passed a motion to establish a panel to consider decriminalising the use of all drugs. Few will deny that the UK drugs policy has been largely ineffective, but the truth is that **Christian agencies have been dramatically successful in setting young people free from the scourge of drug addiction.** The evidence for this is firmly established but political correctness prevents it from being widely known. The pro-drug pressure groups wish to burden future generations with an ongoing drug problem with enormous social consequences. It is widely recognised that these proposals could not be properly policed.

Action

Write to or email Tim Farron MP, President of the Liberal Democrats, c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Express your disappointment about the policies adopted by his Party. Point out the grave risks of what is proposed. Emphasise that the wrong message is being given to the young. Tell him this policy will alienate many. Also let local Liberal Democrats know of your concern.

EUTHANASIA - BBC propaganda

Fact

Having produced five programmes presenting Euthanasia in a good light, the BBC made the remarkable decision earlier this year to allow a pro-euthanasia campaigner to produce one of their programmes which screened an assisted suicide event. This programme was an act of gross irresponsibility and it is important that we continue to make our views known to the BBC and to our local MPs. The BBC should not be used for propaganda.



It is well known that when suicide is presented there is an immediate danger of replication on the part of vulnerable people. The BBC deliberately chose to ignore this. They even ignored their own guidelines, which clearly state *"factual reporting and fictional portrayal of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm have the potential to make such actions appear possible, and even appropriate to the vulnerable"*. The BBC, which is increasingly seen as a propaganda medium for secular humanism, clearly did not heed the guidance given by the World Health Organisation which states *"Don't publish photographs or suicide notes. Don't report specific details of the method used. Don't give simplistic reasons. Don't glorify or sensationalise suicide"*. In their anxiety to promote euthanasia, the BBC clearly ignored the fact that this kind of programme is a direct threat to sick and needy people who might already feel pressurised to bring their lives to an end either because they feel a burden upon other people or for some other reason. The presentation of a death of a patient in the form of voyeuristic entertainment on a television programme is repugnant.

Action

Write to or email the BBC Chief Executive Mr. Mark Thompson, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Tell him this propaganda should have no place in BBC programming. Ask him why the BBC chose to ignore their own and WHO guidelines. Ask him if he endorses the principle of programmes being presented by campaigners holding a particular viewpoint. In particular ask him whether the BBC is prepared to broadcast a programme in which the arguments against euthanasia are properly addressed, and if not, why not.

SECULARISM - BBC bias

Fact

It is widely recognised that the BBC consistently goes out of its way to give prominence to the message of secular humanism. It consistently publicises the views and beliefs of militant anti-Christians and atheists. Earlier this year the BBC even gave a platform to an official of the National Secular Society in a discussion on the persecution of Christians overseas.

The Maranatha Community asked the BBC to divulge the number of occasions when they had quoted, interviewed or featured in any way the National Secular Society in its news and current affairs programmes during the two year period ending 31 December 2010. They refused to do this in spite of a formal submission under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. They are steadfastly refusing to let the truth be known and are deliberately hiding this information from the public. The BBC have given no reason for their decision and steadfastly refuse to allow licence payers to know the truth.



Action

Write to or email Mr. Mark Thompson, Chief Executive, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Tell him there is a widespread and growing concern about the pronounced bias within the BBC against the Christian Church and faith. Point out to him that the BBC is consistently being used as a vehicle for the dissemination of the message of secular humanism. Ask him why the BBC is so anxious to hide the truth about the publicity it gives to groups such as the National Secular Society.

OUR CHILDREN - Britain's crisis

Fact

The United Nations has just published a report jointly funded by the Department for Education which warns that materialism has now come to dominate family life in the UK whereby parents pointlessly amass goods for their children to compensate for their long working hours. The report suggests that obsession with goods is one of the underlying causes of the riots which took place last month.

The report also calls for the Government to ban advertising aimed at children under the age of 12. Dr. Agnes Nairn, the report's author says "Parents in the UK seem to be locked into a system of consumption which they know is pointless but have found hard to resist". She says there is "an enormous difference" between the UK and other countries. **The original UNICEF report in 2007 branded Britain as the worst country in the industrialised world to be a child.** It ranked Britain bottom out of 21 developed countries for child welfare. It was third from the bottom for educational standards, bottom for self-esteem and second from bottom for teenage pregnancies. British children were also significantly less likely to be in two-parent families.



Action

Write to or email Sarah Teather MP, Minister of State for Children & Families, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. Ask her what the Government is going to do in response to the UN report. In particular ask her whether the Government is now prepared to take steps to ban advertising aimed at children under the age of 12.

PEOPLE AT RISK – Do we care?

Fact

There is widespread and growing public concern about the safety of vulnerable patients in care homes and hospitals, following a television documentary which gave evidence of extreme brutality towards patients at Winterbourne. A member of staff there had reported it to the CQC but they failed to take action.



The Chairman of the CQC, Dame Jo Williams, admitted the regulator had been warned repeatedly but done nothing. She admitted “once should have been enough”. This month the Health Select Committee of the House of Commons has expressed its concern that the Care Quality Commission has carried out 70% fewer investigations in visits to establishments for which it is responsible than hitherto. This is totally unsatisfactory.

Action

Write to or email your MP c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA and ask him/her to press for an immediate review of the effectiveness of the Care Quality Commission. Ask them what steps have been taken following the reported scandal to ensure that the CQC responds properly and promptly to serious complaints. Ask them what steps have been taken to ensure that the CQC does its job properly in protecting the weak and vulnerable. Write to or email Dame Jo Williams at the Care Quality Commission Finsbury Tower, 103 - 105 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8TG. Express to her your profound concern about the safety of vulnerable people in homes and hospitals. Express your worry about the effectiveness of the Commission.

MORALITY & SCHOOLS – Vigilance?

Fact

Recently, Benedict Garrett, a teacher at Beale High School, Ilford, was found guilty of inappropriate communication with students and also of being involved in the production of pornography. He was accused of repeatedly failing to establish and maintain professional boundaries in his relationship with children and young people. The teacher claimed that his involvement in the pornography industry was not harmful and in his website he brazenly declares *“I am a man with a mission...to unashamedly demonstrate the art of pleasure in the realms of fitness, sex and entertainment. For the past four years I have been teaching children to be open-minded”*.



His case was recently considered by the General Teaching Council for England who said they regarded his activities as *“fundamentally incompatible with being a teacher”*. In spite of this, the General Teaching Council made the surprising decision **not** to issue a suspension order or a prohibition order against the teacher, or even a conditional registration order. They merely decided to issue a reprimand which only remains on their register for two years. Widespread concern is being expressed about this decision. We believe far greater care must be taken to protect our schoolchildren from corrupting influences.

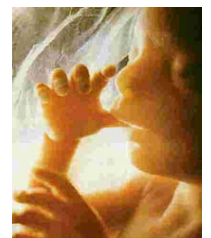
Action

Write to or email Alan Meyrick Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for England, 19-30 Alfred Place, Whittington House, London WC1E 7EA. Express your concern about the possible future influence of this teacher upon children if he is allowed to return to the teaching profession.

ABORTION – Ongoing concerns

Fact

The recent debate in the House of Commons on proposed amendments to the Health and Social Care (recommitted Bill) highlighted the ongoing concern about the wisdom of allowing providers of abortion services to give ‘independent advice’ to those seeking abortion. The agencies which provide abortion have frequently suggested that abortion is a comparatively minor event.



The truth, however, is that many who have had abortions feel that they were not given sufficient warning of the possible outcome to their future mental wellbeing. Recently the Royal College of Psychiatrists has been carrying out a review of the mental impact of induced abortion and the Maranatha Community has made a submission to this. There is now a very substantial, but hidden, social problem which has largely been overlooked by the pro-abortion lobby. Women considering abortion have the right to know the possible mental consequences and they have the right to have effective help, counselling and advice, both before and after abortion procedures.

Action

Write to or email Rt. Hon. Andrew Lansley CBE MP Secretary of State for Health, Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS. In view of the fact that hundreds of thousands of women have had abortions, ask for the establishment of a clinical investigation into the long-term consequences of induced abortion. Point out that women have the right to know the truth and the right to have adequate support in the years following an abortion. Point to the dangers of misleading women by perpetuating the false belief that each abortion is a minor medical process rather than a major life event.

IRAQ – Wiping out the church

Fact

The Christian church in Iraq is one of the oldest in the world. The cruel truth is that 50% of Iraq's Christian community has had to flee the country since 2003. The war there has been a disaster for the church. Hundreds of thousands of Christians have been driven from their homeland because of attacks by Muslim extremists. Islamic militants are now systematically driving Christians from the country. Their plights is desperate but their situation is largely ignored. Rev. Emmanuel Youkhana of the Church of the East in Iraq says "The intention of the terrorists is to claim Iraq as a pure Islamic state". Archbishop Basile Georges Casmoussa of Mosul has called on the UN to protect Iraq's beleaguered Christian community.



Action

Write or email to Alistair Burt MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AH and also to your MP c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Point out that the Iraqi war has made the position of Christians in that country untenable and emphasise that their plight has now become a major international Human Rights issue. Point out that the issue of the war in Iraq was about freedom and justice whereas now Christians in that country are being robbed of both.

RIOTS ON THE STREETS – The roots

Fact

It is beyond dispute that large numbers – but not all – of the young rioters are from broken and dysfunctional families. Many politicians continue to turn a blind eye to the basic truth that the marriage-based family is the fundamental building block of a civilised society. Some of them steadfastly reject marriage as a means of safeguarding our children. Others say they want to "redefine marriage". Political correctness is causing many to be silent.



Action

Write or email your MP at House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Ask him/her what they are prepared to do now to promote the marriage-based family in the United Kingdom. Specifically ask them whether they will support the promotion of the values of the marriage-based family in our schools.

Note: There has been a very positive response to Dennis Wrigley's message on the riots on the Maranatha website.

WASTED MILLIONS – The fiasco continues

Fact

Our political leaders have shown themselves to be bad stewards of public money. Over the years millions of pounds have been wasted on delayed or abandoned projects with costs out of control. Ten years ago the Government decided to abolish 46 local fire and rescue centres and set up 9 regional control HQ's in their place. It was called FiReControl and was estimated to COST £72 MILLION and be operational in 2008. Bad management and a series of planning errors have now led to the entire project being scrapped. The cost is at least £469 MILLION. The computer system was never delivered and the fire services were not properly consulted. Margaret Hodge, the Chairman of the House of Commons Public Accounts Select Committee said earlier this month "No one has been held to account for this project's failure, one of the worst we have seen for many years, and the careers of most of the senior staff responsible have carried on as if nothing had gone wrong at all and the consultants and contractors continue to work on many other projects". Vast sums of money have been similarly wasted on a variety of other projects such as the Child Support Agency, Defence Procurement, and Tax Credits. There is now great concern about the NHS centralised database. The situation about the control of public money is now staggeringly serious.



STOP PRESS: The level of public money wasted through the provision of Private Finance Initiatives in the Health Service has just been revealed. It is a crippling and indefensible burden on future generations. In addition to this, it has just been announced that the collapse of the ill-conceived NHS national centralised computer system may have cost the nation £12 billion. Christians cannot remain silent in the face of this disastrous irregularity.

Action

Write/email your MP c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Express your anger at this outrageous waste of public money. Ask him/her whether they are prepared to press for a major public investigation into the waste of money in the public sector. Point out that at a time when there is growing hardship in many families due to the economic crisis, the Government has a moral responsibility to take action.

Ablaze for His Glory

Saturday, 1st October 2011

We do hope you may be able to come to the Maranatha Community's National Assembly at Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church, Ramillies Avenue, Cheadle Hulme SK8 7AL. It will be a great day. We will celebrate 30 years of the life and witness of the Maranatha Community and we will look forward to an exciting future. Please do come.

It would be helpful if more Trumpet Call members could let us have their email addresses. This would help us to reduce our costs. Please write to Charles Parker: charles@maranathacommunity.org.uk if you are willing to receive future issues by email. Thank you.