

# **Our Christian Identity**

**The removal of Christian values from the  
public space: the de-Christianising  
of the United Kingdom**

**July 2008**

*maranatha*



# Preface

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## Our Christian Identity

**The removal of Christian values from the public space: the de-Christianising of the United Kingdom**

### This Document

This document has been prepared by the Maranatha Community.

It is prompted by the many and increasingly obvious signs of social decline in the United Kingdom. This decline has coincided with the widespread abandonment of Christian values in our national life. Simultaneously, there has been a remorseless process of secularisation. God has been expelled and there is an emerging antagonism to the public expression of Christian belief by powerful public bodies. The introduction of new forms of social engineering and the adoption of “political correctness” have led to the emergence of a new and destructive intolerance and of discrimination against practising Christians which many now see as the beginning of a form of persecution. It would be futile to attempt to put the clock back, but equally it would be foolish to ignore the very serious consequences of the abandonment of the Judaeo-Christian influence which has prevailed in our land for centuries.

First Edition, July 2008

Further editions of this document will be produced as circumstances require. Evidence for inclusion in these will be welcome. Note: Sources quoted in this document have been checked wherever practical.

### The Maranatha Community

The Maranatha Community is a national movement and network of Christians in all denominations. Comprising thousands of active members of churches of all traditions, it is committed to healing, unity and renewal of faith. Formed 27 years ago, its members have been very deeply involved in care and relief work, and it has also taken the initiative in broad areas of national concern both in Parliament and throughout the country.

© The Maranatha Community UK Office  
102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester, M41 6JT  
Tel: 0161 748 4858. Fax: 0161 747 7379.  
E-mail: [info@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@maranathacommunity.org.uk)  
Website: [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk)

The Maranatha Community Trust is a registered charity, number 327627.  
The Leader and co-founder of the Community is Dennis Wrigley.



*“Britain has inherited a rich spiritual and cultural heritage based on the Judaeo-Christian tradition which has underpinned our democratic institutions, laws and abiding values.*

*Over recent years we have seen a decline in commitments to this heritage. We have also experienced manipulation of democracy by those who would use democratic freedoms to destroy democracy itself. We have sown to the wind and are reaping the whirlwind of declining morality and increasing cynicism.*

*‘Without a vision the people perish.’ There is an urgent need to recreate a vision which will preserve all that is best in our spiritual heritage and to ensure that we pass this on to our children and our children’s children.”*

Caroline Cox, The Baroness Cox

*“It was Christianity which taught barbarians to base their social relationships on something wider than tribe or kindred.”*

*“The most formative part of Britain’s long history was that in which the national consciousness of its rival and quarrelling peoples grew out of the Christian faith... Everything educative and enduring in medieval Britain was the legacy of the Christian Church and its creed of creative love.”*

*“Out of Christ’s teaching arose... the creation of law and order and personal freedom through the exercise of Christian love.”*

Sir Arthur Bryant *“A History of Britain and the British People”*

*“The Christian faith lies at the root of our identity as a nation.”*

*“No-one can deny that without Christianity, its reform and renewal, there would have been no nation, institutions, laws or values worth the name.”*

*“...it is necessary to understand where we have come from, to guide us to where we are going, and to bring us back when we wander too far from the path of national destiny.”*

Rt Revd Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester

*“A nation which has forgotten its past can have no future.”*

Sir Winston Churchill



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# I. Introduction

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The foundations of our nation are unquestionably Christian.

- Christian belief and practice have had a fundamental and formative influence on the United Kingdom over the centuries.
- Christianity occupies a fundamental place in our social fabric – it is a key component of our civil society. Our culture, laws, democratic institutions, architecture, art and science, together with local communities, have all been profoundly influenced by the Christian faith.
- Christian belief, morality and practice undergird most of our national institutions\*.
- Christianity has played a major part in many of the great social reforms in our history. It has been Christian reformers who have taken countless initiatives to protect children, improve working conditions, develop educational and healing facilities and abolish slavery. Many of our hospitals, orphanages, hospices, schools, colleges and universities, major charities and even football clubs were originally Christian foundations.
- The British concepts of freedom, justice and democracy, admired all over the world, are deeply rooted in the Bible. Our legal and political systems are founded on Judaeo-Christian principles.
- A vast range of charities launched and operated by Christians have brought enormous benefits to the people of our nation and continue to do so.

However, we are going through times of great social and cultural change.\*\* In recent years our national life has been enriched by substantial numbers of people of different cultures and religions who have come to live in the United Kingdom. Christians are committed to love their neighbours including those of different faiths. We have an important role to ensure good neighbourliness and the establishment of strong communities. The presence of those of other faiths, which we respect, does not alter the fact that our Christian inheritance remains the central characteristic of our nation.

Much has been said in recent years about “pluralism” and “multi-culturalism”, and we undoubtedly face considerable problems in terms of integrating immigrants into our national life. However, most of those who come to live here welcome and affirm the value of Christian traditions. Their integration into the national life has often been hindered by a lack of understanding and planning, made worse by the imposition of “political correctness”.

The UK remains overwhelmingly Christian and in the last national census, in 2001, almost 72% of the population declared themselves so. In spite of this, great pressures have been built up against the public expression of Christian faith.

\*See Appendix 1

\*\*See Maranatha report “Western Culture and the Christian Gospel”, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, April 2003.

## 2. The Assault on the Faith

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The Christian faith and the Christian Church in the United Kingdom now face the most serious assault known for centuries. It is a sustained and systematic assault, probably greater than at any other time in our history.

The destruction of our Christian foundations is leading to a crucial weakening of our social cohesion as a nation. Many of the effects of this process are already evident and are recognised by Christians and non-Christians alike.

The intolerance which is now evident is antithetical to a free society. Moreover, this intolerance threatens the effective action of thousands of Christian charities, organisations and individuals across the country who have dedicated their lives to serving the most vulnerable and destitute.

Legislative, regulatory and social threats face Christians seeking to practice their faith in the UK today.

If we do not want to see our nation disintegrate, socially, morally and probably economically, it is imperative that we take urgent action to halt the undermining of our Christian foundations, and re-establish respect for God as the governing principle of our national life. This does not mean a return to the privileged position of the Church of the past, neither does it mean any lack of respect for those of other faiths, who have an important role to play in our national life.

The assault upon our Christian foundations and upon the free expression and practice of Christianity in this country is increasingly evident:

- Discrimination against Christians now often occurs under the auspices of “political correctness”, “multiculturalism”, or “tolerance”. Christians’ rights are frequently trampled on in the name of “not offending religious minorities”.
- Parliamentary and judicial attempts to juggle inalienable human rights safeguarded by the 1948 Universal Declaration and the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights have led to a hierarchy of rights emerging, both in popular discourse and in practice:
  - Freedom to express and act upon Christian teaching has been firmly relegated to the bottom of this hierarchy.
  - This hierarchy has received the endorsement of the UK Parliament’s Joint Commission on Human Rights (JCHR). The JCHR effectively redefined the concept of religious freedom in 2006, when it considered the controversial Sexual Orientation Regulations. It interpreted the qualifying aspect of Article 9(2) of the European Convention on Human Rights to establish a new status quo, that *a priori* whenever religious expression, let alone practice, conflicts with another right, religious freedom should be curtailed.
  - Regrettably, the very people professing to espouse “tolerance” are frequently the first to express intolerance, and even to show bigotry, when it comes to other people’s freedom to express and manifest Christian teaching and practice.

- The first victim of the new social paradigm that has been introduced has been freedom of expression and conscience. The UK is no longer a tolerant, free society founded on principles of free speech and liberty. It is no longer possible fully to express orthodox Christian views and to put those views into practice. Christians face censure, discrimination and even police action on subjects as diverse as family relationships, religious freedom, and abortion.
- Christians now experience intolerance, discrimination and even persecution for their beliefs in the law, in official guidelines, in regulations; in libraries, in the community and by the actions of local council officials; at school, at work, at university, and even in their own homes through television. This is an unprecedented situation.
- British Christians who have converted from Islam are being persecuted.
- Arguably more pernicious are the day-to-day examples of discrimination and intolerance now being experienced by hundreds of Christians up and down the country. There has been a rapidly growing number of incidents, both major and minor, contributing to the increasing marginalisation of Christians.
- Christians are confronted with deeply offensive representations of important religious characters – which are frequently publicly funded – with distasteful regularity. Their complaints fall on deaf ears.
- The damaging influence of atheism is evident in many parts of national life, and particularly in the media.
- This is particularly evident in the widespread denial of absolute standards of truth, morality and social conduct. Lesslie Newbigin said “In a pluralist society there is always the temptation to judge the importance of a statement by the number of people who believe it.” (*The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, 1989)
- The effect of recent developments has been to privatise religion, by expelling it from the public space. The Christian Church occupies a very significant place in the social fabric of the UK, and has done for centuries. It is a key component of civil society. If the privatisation of religion continues, priceless spiritual and social capital which binds communities together could be irrevocably damaged.

Gladstone said “What is morally wrong can never be politically right”. Today there is a danger of us believing that what is legally acceptable must inevitably be morally acceptable. This is not the case. The Archbishop of Birmingham commented in 2006, “Those who are elected to fashion our laws are not elected to be our moral tutors. They have no mandate or competence to be so.”

We are now seeing the penetration of the corrosive influence of secular humanism, through an insidious form of social engineering, in almost every part of our national life.

# 3. The Spiritual Roots of the Assault

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## 3.1 A Changing Situation

Ever since the Enlightenment there has been a sustained assault upon belief in a personal God. During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there was a growing belief that God was an unwarranted intrusion into human life. During the past 100 years formative influences have led to the dismissal of God from our lives.

As a result, over the last two centuries many believers who were theists became deists, many became agnostic and then some became atheists.

The dismissal of God was accelerated by influential thinkers and writers:

- Feuerbach said that God is an invention.
- Marx said God is an opiate.
- Freud said God is an illusion.
- Nietzsche said God is dead.

Over a period of a hundred years there was a move towards the public denial and even ridicule of God.

- The Victorian poet Charles Swinburne arrogantly declared, “Glory to man in the highest, for man is the master of things”. In saying this, we see the creature mocking the Creator.
- More recently, we have seen the powerful emergence of “New Age” beliefs, in which the key leaders such as Matthew Fox and Shirley McClain freely proclaim “I am god” and “We are gods”.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, leading existentialist writers increasingly preached a gospel of despair and hopelessness:

- Jean-Paul Sartre could see no purpose in life.
- Albert Camus said, “I believe in nothing. Everything is absurd.”

These influences prepared the way for post-modernity, in which nothing is considered to be intrinsically right or wrong, good or evil, true or false. All absolutes are denied. Agnosticism is seen as inherently superior to conviction and belief. Inevitably, in this process there is an erosion of confidence in the Bible. Some liberal theologians have tended to assail the authority of the Scriptures and to dilute the central truths of the Christian faith.

## 3.2 Demolition

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, many writers and entertainers showed a deep loathing for Christ, the Christian faith and Judaeo-Christian ethics.

- Nietzsche said, “There are no moral truths at all... The world – including mankind – as it truly is, is without any purpose and is nonsense!” His fundamental message, and that of large numbers of other atheist thinkers, is that there is no reason or purpose in living. It

is a message of hopelessness and despair. Significantly, Nietzsche had a profound influence upon Hitler.

- Dr G Brock Chisholm, the first head of the World Health Organisation, had a deep and lasting influence on education in many parts of the world including the United Kingdom. He said, "The re-interpretation and eventually the eradication of the concept of right and wrong which has been the basis of child training, the substitution of intelligent and rational thinking for faith in the certainties of the old people, are the related objectives of practically all effective psychotherapy". He also made the amazing statement, "The pretence is made, as it has been made in relation to the findings of any extension of truth, that to do away with right and wrong would produce uncivilised people, immorality, lawlessness and social chaos". This is not a pretence: it has in fact come to pass. He freely spoke of the "necessity" of escaping from "moral chains". He spoke of the necessity for the human race to be "freed from its crippling burden of good and evil...". (*The Re-establishment of Peacetime Society, Psychiatry, 02/46*)
- Lyrics of the commercially driven pop culture of the Sixties were often dismissive of Christian values. Bob Dylan, in his album "Own Mercy", said, "They're breaking down the distance between right and wrong". In the 1995 film "Hackers", computer junkies declared, "There is no right or wrong, only fun or boring". Hugh Hefner, the publisher of Playboy magazine, boasted, "Sex is the major civilising influence in our society". Recognised standards and values were seen by the libertarian fundamentalists as a threat to freedom. Obscene and violent lyrics by performers such as Marilyn Manson became acceptable.
- In the "swinging sixties" the drug-crazed flower-power generation rejected all authority, preaching everything from agnosticism and atheism to anarchy. What claimed to be a new liberation became a new tyranny. A new hopelessness emerged, with a sense that life had no purpose. Many freely admitted that they did not know who they were, where they were, where they had come from, or where they were going. The characteristic of the new culture was despair. Unsurprisingly, we saw the emergence of anarchic art and the so-called "theatre of the absurd".

### **3.3 Creation of New Religions**

Commencing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, largely in America, we saw the creation of new religions which, while denying the central truths of the Christian faith, still claimed orthodoxy. These included the Mormons ("The Church of Latter Day Saints"), the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Christian Scientists and the Christadelphians. As they grew, they gained support from disaffected members of mainstream Christian churches, towards which they were highly antagonistic, and still are today.

This century has seen the emergence of more cults such as the Moonies ("The Unification Church") and, still more recently, the followers of the novelist Ron Hubbard ("The Scientologists").

All these competing religions actively proselytise in the United Kingdom, and many of their adherents have been drawn from the mainstream churches, largely due to a lack of clarity and sound teaching. The churches largely failed to respond to a widespread hunger for a spiritual meaning to life, and so people looked elsewhere. People searching for deeper spiritual experiences have turned away from churches which have an impoverished prayer life. In addition to this, there has been a proliferation of New Age groups, and also a movement fostered by theosophists and others towards a one-world government and a one-world religion.

### 3.4 Cross-currents

During the past 100 years, with increased travel, substantial spiritual influences from Eastern religions have been imported. These have often been accommodated into the various New Age groupings. Simultaneously, we have seen a huge increase of interest in the occult and the re-establishment of various forms of paganism. Groupings ranging from Hari Krishna to Theosophy have had a deep influence, particularly amongst the young.

Now we face the additional challenge of militant Islam, which is dedicated to the conversion of Britain.

### 3.5 Secular Humanism

The assault on the Christian faith is currently led by a number of high-profile and committed secular humanists such as Richard Dawkins and Polly Toynbee. An aggressive and antagonistic approach to belief in a personal God is increasingly evident in the academic world, in politics and the media. Two militant groups, which, significantly, do not divulge the size of their membership, the National Secular Society and the British Humanist Association, are very active in their daily assault on Christianity.

What has seemingly become the “sacred doctrine” of human rights increasingly appears to set itself up as the religion of a godless age. It has become one of the means by which secularism is steadily eroding the Christian roots of our civilisation. Secular humanists consistently argue that religion is inherently unenlightening, prejudiced and divisive. This doctrine is not merely a threat to freedom of speech and religious expression, it is a fundamental onslaught on the national identity and bedrock values of this country. It clearly attempts to destroy those freedoms which Christianity itself first created.\*

- **Secular groups tried to counter Christian ceremonies**

The National Secular Society is currently promoting a “certificate of de-baptism”. The British Humanist Association is actively promoting humanist marriage and funeral ceremonies.

- **Humanist association attacked faith-based public services**

The British Humanist Association (BHA) claimed that religious organisations do not offer any distinctive benefits in the provision of public services. It also argued that government plans to give religious organisations a greater role in the provision of public services “run the risk of lowering standards, increasing inequalities, introducing ‘parallel services’ and damaging social cohesion” and that exemptions to equality legislation enjoyed by religious organisations could lead to discrimination in the workplace, and questioned whether faith-based organisations would provide public services irrespective of religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Faithworks leader Malcolm Duncan rejected the report’s findings, arguing that the BHA had “fallen into accusatory and exclusive language” and its report attempted to “consign faith to the edge of society, attacking and misrepresenting who we are and our motivation for what we do. Its language caricatures the faith sector, assuming the worst of us rather than acknowledging the best.” He stated that “The way ahead is not to dismiss faith, but to embrace it whilst at the same time celebrating the rights and responsibilities of humanists and secularists.” (*BHA report, Quality and Equality: Human Rights, Public Services and Religious Organisations; Christian Today 30/11/07*)

- **Britain “no longer Christian”**

The former Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, said in a radio interview that Britain was “no longer a Christian country” because people no longer went to church. (*Daily Mail 07/09/06*)

\*The roots of the secular humanist attack, and an outline of the humanist strategy, are given at Appendix 2.

- **Christianity “almost vanquished” in the UK**

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor, the leader of England’s Catholics, has said that Christianity has “now almost been vanquished” in the UK. He said the religion is no longer the background against which individuals and the Government measure their morality, and many people looking for something to believe in are placing their trust instead in the occult or New Age beliefs. His lament mirrors similar complaints from the Archbishop of Canterbury that a “tacit atheism” is now mainstream thinking in Britain. (*Daily Mail 06/09/01*)

- **Authority and the influence of Christianity weakened**

Ann Widdecombe MP has said that “Most of our social ills are down to loss of authority; in schools, by the police, in the home, in organised religion. There is a slow descent into anarchy. We are in moral anarchy... The Prime Minister wanted the millennium celebrations to start without prayer. We were celebrating 2,000 years of Christianity! There was complete bafflement on the part of other faiths. Fortunately, the Bishops threatened a boycott, so we got a prayer, one that managed not to mention Christ or God. Threats come from without, but they flourish if you are weak, within. Christianity is now treated as the Cinderella religion in this country.” (*Daily Mail 04/09/07*)

Secular humanists in local authorities appear even to want to airbrush Christian titles from the establishments for which they are responsible.

- **Council attempted to de-Christianise name of school**

Islington Council has issued a public consultation on the name to be given to a new “city academy” in the borough. The school, which is an expansion of an existing Church of England school – St Mary Magdalene – into a new city academy, will remain partly Church of England funded. However, the council has decided that the retention of the association with a Christian saint may “cause offence to other religions”. However, Jewish and Muslim leaders in the borough have expressed their astonishment at the council move, saying that the name is “simply not an issue”. A spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews said that “we live in a country which is Christian by history and culture”. (*The Times 05/11/04*)

Although many of the assaults upon Christianity appear to be primarily political, it is becoming more apparent that they are in fact spiritual.

# 4. The Context of What is Happening

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If we are to understand the nature of the accelerating de-Christianising process, we must first consider the context in which it is taking place.

## 4.1 The End of the Imperial Industrial Age and the Influence of Two World Wars

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Great Britain was the dominant imperial power in the world. The sun never set on the British Empire, with its vast colonial outreach.

The birth of the Industrial Revolution brought huge changes to the fabric of the nation. Nonetheless, during this period there was a very strong ongoing and influential framework of Christian belief and social morality in the life of the nation. This stemmed largely from the Anglican, Non-conformist and Roman Catholic churches, which exercised considerable social and political power.

Vast numbers of Christian missionaries had gone all over the world from these islands in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries to evangelise and establish educational and health services.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the two world wars had a fundamental and debilitating influence on British society. This contributed to the decline of the churches, the diminution of the influence and the undermining of Christian faith and practice.

Out of the ashes of the Second World War we endeavoured to restructure run-down inner city and urban areas. A huge and hurried building programme set on one side many old communities and replaced them with impersonal “concrete jungles”. With few exceptions, this proved to be a monumental disaster, and much of it had to be swept away in bold schemes of urban regeneration towards the end of the century.

## 4.2 The Radical Changes Emerging in the Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century

During the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century we saw the emergence of a mobile society in which people, products and ideas moved further, faster and more frequently than ever before. With the acceleration of social, political and commercial change we became, as Drucker put it, a “discontinuous society”. This mobility brought advantages but also problems, not the least of which was a growing instability in society. At about this time, the churches lost, to a considerable extent, their privileged position in society.

From the 60s onwards there has been a remorseless decline of our manufacturing industry, which continues today. One by one, established British companies went out of business or were taken over by large, impersonal industrial groupings. The last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century saw the emergence of huge, impersonal and often ruthless international corporations, some having financial strength greater than that of many nation states. With enormous financial power bases, they now influence governments and media. They fashion lifestyles, laying down their own standards.

Simultaneously, the driving forces of consumerism have been unleashed. The desire for money has generated a scramble for wealth and possessions. We have developed a society of instant gratification: live now, pay later. The frugality of past generations, who saved before spending, has been displaced by the credit card culture, and the financial institutions have enticed many people into debt. With the abandonment of traditional

Christian values about the wise stewardship of money and resources, we have seen the emergence of unabashed hedonism. In the process, human relations have been devalued and depersonalised.

A huge leisure, sports and entertainment industry has emerged. New celebrities have been created, often becoming dubious role models and, frequently, idols to be worshipped. In an emerging post-modern culture appearances and image are all-important. In addition, a communications revolution has taken place; it has brought enormous benefits, but also dangers.

The industrial changes of the 60s were matched by revolutionary social changes, to some extent generated by the new hedonism in which all authority was challenged and anarchy was celebrated. Selfish individualism, coupled with the excesses of drug-taking and sexual promiscuity, was fuelled by an increasingly powerful entertainment industry, which created and sustained the “pop culture”. Although the churches still carry out a very large amount of vital social work, their public influence has been marginalised.\*

### **4.3 Political Change and the Alienation of Politicians**

At the same time as all these changes, we have seen a rapid growth of central and local government, with multiple layers of bureaucracy and prodigious waste of public money. Politicians were not and are not good managers.

Gradually, government and politicians have become more remote from the people, who increasingly see themselves as being powerless. The trend towards the emergence of an all-powerful European super-state has developed largely without the realisation or consent of millions of people across Europe. They had welcomed the idea of a European Community, but are increasingly dubious about the prospect of a highly centralised and very intrusive European Union.

There is widespread ignorance of what is happening, and the majority of people do not bother to vote in European elections. The remoteness of the political process is now evident in the United Kingdom, with diminishing turnouts at General Elections and local elections. There is a fear that the emerging professional political class does not effectively represent the people, and there is a serious and widespread disenchantment with the entire political process. This is dangerous. The present UK Government has the support of only 22% of the electorate, and did not secure more than 32% of the votes cast at the last General Election. It has pushed highly controversial legislation through Parliament, often with little real public support.

Thus, politics, industry and commerce have become increasingly impersonal. In all this, huge social problems have emerged which politicians seem unable to deal with effectively.

### **4.4 The New Idolatry**

To a large extent Christian belief and practice in the United Kingdom has been swept on one side. Belief in and worship of God has been privatised. God has, in effect, been dethroned, dispatched, and replaced by a celebrity culture with its own idols and role models in entertainment and sport. Wealth is worshipped and hedonism promoted.

\*The Church of England report, “Moral, But No Compass” (2008) states “We were astonished to be told by civil servants that there is no evidence base in government on Christian institutions”. It refers, among other things, to “extensive work on Muslim ‘radicalisation’”. The report also says, “We can only conclude that the absence of a ‘churches’ evidence base is grounded in a judgement that churches are not worthy to have even a modest role in government schemes”. The authors concluded “the churches do not register on the policy-making radar in serious terms...”.

This process has been accelerated with the explosive influence of the information technology revolution. Electronic networking has transformed communication. We have become, perhaps as never before, a culture driven by image and appearance. We are controlled and disciplined by mammon rather than by Almighty God.

# 5. Limiting the Public Expression of Christianity

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The public expression of Christianity is being assaulted in a wide variety of ways.\*

## 5.1 Bibles and Christian Symbols Are Being Banned

There is a pronounced trend for the public display of Christian images to be discounted or disallowed. There is increasing evidence of public bodies and other institutions banning Bibles and Christian symbols such as the Cross.

- **Council covered up Cross in crematorium**

In 2004, after a Cross has been displayed at the Croydon Crematorium for 60 years without any complaint, the authorities decided that it should be covered up because it could be offensive to non-Christians. The council wanted to qualify for a Charter Mark “seal of excellence”, which recognises standards in public services. The guidelines for a Charter Mark say that permanent religious symbols should not be present in a crematorium. However, after public outcry the crematorium modified its ruling to make the cross available for those who want it. (*Daily Mail 26/05/04*)

- **Council removed Cross from crematorium**

In June 2005 a five-foot wooden cross was removed from the wall at Torquay crematorium in order “to cater for everyone in a diverse multi-faith society”. Torbay Council also renamed the building a “ceremony hall”. (*Daily Telegraph 09/06/05*)

- **NHS Trust attempted to ban hospital Communion table**

In March 2005 Perth Royal Infirmary was told by the NHS Trust to remove the Communion table from its Chapel because it could offend non-Christians. Public outcry made the Trust reverse its decision. (*Daily Telegraph 03/03/05*)

- **NHS Trust banned Bibles**

The University of Leicester NHS Trust decided to ban Bibles from its bedside lockers in order to avoid offence amongst other religions. Muslims and Sikhs opposed the decision, which was later reversed. (*BBC News Online 09/06/05*)

- **University banned Bibles**

The Edinburgh University Students’ Association voted to remove Gideon’s Bibles from halls of residence. The ban had to be approved by university officials, but in the past they agreed to similar requests, eg to remove prayers from graduation ceremonies, without protest. (*Edinburgh Evening News 20/10/05*)

Deliberate efforts are being made to remove the Cross from uniforms.

- **Metropolitan Police removed Cross from badge for Muslims**

A Muslim trainee traffic warden complained to an industrial tribunal that the Cross on the crown on his cap badge constituted discrimination. The Cross, which measures less than a quarter of an inch, is an integral part of the crown, which represents the crown used at coronations of the English monarch. Nevertheless, the Metropolitan Police Authority agreed to allow “alternative badging... where an objection to Christian symbols is raised by an individual, supported by some degree of proof.” (*Daily Telegraph 12/08/02*) Note: The crown symbolises the authority of the Monarch, under whom Metropolitan police officers and officials serve and from whom they draw their own authority.

\*See Section 7 for Freedom of Speech issues

- **Prison officers told to submit to Muslim objections to Crosses on tie pins**

Prison officers at Wakefield jail have been told that they must not wear a flag of St. George tie pin. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Ann Owers, has said she is concerned about the “lack of cultural understanding” at Wakefield jail and said “We were concerned to see a number of staff wearing a flag of St. George tie pin. While we were told that these had been bought in support of a cancer charity, there was clear scope for misinterpretation.” Chris Doyle, Director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding, stated that the Cross of St George – England’s national flag – is offensive to Muslims because it was carried by English crusaders in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. He wants England to find a new flag which “is not associated with our bloody past and one we can all identify with.” (*Daily Telegraph 11/10/05*)

The traditional display of Christian symbols on jewellery is increasingly coming under pressure in schools and the workplace.

- **School banned wearing of Crucifix**

Sam Morris, 16, was sent home from Sinfyn Community School in Derby for refusing to take off a crucifix necklace. Sikh pupils are allowed to wear a steel bracelet, known as a kara, for religious reasons. Education officials were unrepentant and said that Sikhs are required by their religion to wear items of jewellery, whereas Christians are not. Miss Morris had worn the crucifix for three years. Her mother said, “She thinks it’s very unfair when other people are allowed to wear religious symbols. It just ends up creating a divide between the pupils.” Derby City Council urged any school imposing such regulations to look carefully at individual circumstances before issuing a total ban. (*Daily Telegraph 06/12/05*)

- **Airline told staff not to wear Crucifixes**

The airline BMI has told staff flying to Saudi Arabia to leave crucifixes and St Christopher medallions in their lockers to avoid causing offence there. Peter Kearney, spokesman for the Scottish Bishops’ Conference, said this was an insult to all Muslims: “It implies Muslims have no respect for other faiths.” BMI said their staff could switch to short-haul flights if they preferred. (*The Universe 5/02/06*)

- **Airline suspended Christian employee for wearing Cross**

In October 2006 a Christian employee of British Airways was banned from wearing a tiny cross which was deemed to be offensive, even though women wearing the Muslim hijab are allowed to work at check-ins and Sikhs are allowed to wear turbans and wear a traditional bangle. Jack Straw described the situation as “wholly inexplicable”. Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, described BA’s uniform policy as “flawed”. On 19 January, BA dropped its ban on wearing a cross openly, and the Christian employee, on unpaid leave for 4 months, was allowed to return to her job. (*BBC News Online 23/11/06, 19/01/07, 21/11/07*)

- **School banned wearing of Christian ring**

Lydia Playfoot, a pupil at Millais School in Horsham, was forbidden by the school to wear a small silver ring inscribed with a scriptural quotation, although Muslims in the school are allowed to express their faith by wearing the headscarf and Sikh girls have been allowed to wear a bangle signifying their faith. Her efforts to challenge this decision in the courts have failed. (*BBC News Online 22/06/07*)

## **5.2 Christian Festivals Are Being Downgraded and Others Promoted**

Christmas Day was declared a public holiday in 1871, but recent trends show that Christian festivals, particularly Christmas, are now increasingly being treated as secular holidays rather than Christian ones.

This follows the example of the Whitsun bank holiday being replaced some years ago by a secular “Spring” bank holiday.

In November 2006, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, criticised Government ministers for sending non-Christian Christmas cards for fear of offending other religions.

The Rt Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, the Bishop of Rochester, accused a small but powerful group of officials of marginalising religious celebrations out of an oversensitivity to multiculturalism. He attacked “thoughtless bureaucracy and political correctness” for helping

to “write Christ out of Christmas.” He appeared to call for Christians to maintain their traditions to combat the threat posed by Islamic fundamentalism. “Britain is again faced with the challenge of a totalitarian ideology that... claims to be rooted in religious tradition. If Britain is to defend its values successfully, it must rediscover the Christian faith in which these values are ultimately rooted.”

- **Shop displayed carol with verses about Christ removed**

Dr Nazir-Ali cited a charity shop window that had a carol displayed inside, with all the verses about Christ removed, and said there is “mounting evidence that Christmas is being marginalised” by “a relatively small number of organisations, publications and people who would like to see Christmas made a matter for private celebration.” (*Daily Mail 23/12/06*)

Deliberate efforts are being made to minimize the significance of Jesus Christ by renaming Christmas and banning references to Jesus.

- **Council renamed Christmas “Winterval”**

In December 2004 Birmingham City Council opted to use the name “Winterval” instead of Christmas. (*The Times 21/12/04*)

- **Council renamed Christmas “Luminos”**

To avoid offending Muslims in the town, Luton Council has renamed the town’s Christmas lights festival “Luminos”, after Harry Potter’s light-making spell. Although 25 December celebrates the birth of Jesus the council has scrapped Christian images from its displays. It claims “rebranding” the seasonal events will help include folk of all faiths. (*Sunday People 9/12/01*)

- **Council renamed Christmas lights “Celebrity Lights”**

Lambeth Council ordered that Christmas lights should be renamed “winter” lights and “celebrity” lights. This decision was reversed after a public outcry, whilst Lambeth Council blamed it on a “junior official” who was concerned about people from other religions. (*BBC News Online 02/11/05*)

- **Hospital banned Christmas CD for mentioning Jesus**

At Christmas 2003 the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh would not distribute a Christmas CD after carol concerts because it mentioned the baby Jesus. A hospital spokesman said, “We could not just hand out the CD. If it went to every child it could cause offence to those who are not Christian.” (*The Scotsman 22/12/03*)

The success of policies and practices like these are illustrated by the results of a BBC survey:

- **Fewer than half of British children link Christmas with Jesus Christ**

A BBC survey revealed that only 44% of 7 to 11-year-old children across Britain regard Christmas as marking the birth of Jesus Christ. (*Daily Mail 21/12/06*)

Deliberate efforts are being made to minimize the celebration of Christmas.

- **Council described Christmas as “Potentially Offensive”**

Hackney Council, in East London, has described Christmas as “potentially offensive” to non-Christians and asked its employees to tone down their celebrations and keep decorations to a bare minimum. (*Daily Mail 16/12/00*)

- **Government department ordered Jobs Centres to take down Christmas trees**

The Department for Work and Pensions has ordered Job Centres to take down Christmas trees, baubles and tinsel. A memo sent to staff directed that “There will be no decorations in customer-facing offices.” (*The Sun 09/12/04*)

- **Job Centre refused advert for a Father Christmas**

Janet Curnow, the Manageress of Trago Mills Superstore at Liskeard, Cornwall, rang her local Job Centre for a Father Christmas. The Head Office of Employment Direct in Exeter rang her back to say that advertising for a Father Christmas was not allowed because it was “discriminatory”. (*Sunday Telegraph 18/11/01*)

- **Council banned poster about Christmas service, but allows Muslim party**

Buckinghamshire County Council banned the display of posters about Christmas services at High Wycombe Parish Church in the local library because the service contained Christian prayers. Peter Mussett, the council’s Community Development Librarian, said, “We have a multi-faith community and passions can be inflamed by religious issues. We don’t want to cause offence to anyone”.

Councillor Margaret Dewar, who is responsible for the library, claimed that she was “appalled” at the attitude of “these so-called Christians making such a fuss”. She agreed with the banning of the poster because it pertained to “a religious preference group”, but supported a decision to allow a party in the library to celebrate a Muslim festival a few days earlier, because it resulted from “a policy which aims to be inclusive and respect the religious diversity of Buckinghamshire”. (*Daily Telegraph 12/12/03, Sunday Telegraph 14/12/03*)

Deliberate efforts are being made to minimize the use of Christian greetings at Christmas.

- **Scottish Parliament banned “Merry Christmas” greeting**

The Scottish Parliament has banned the words “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year” from cards sent out by MSPs and staff, saying that the wording was not “socially inclusive” and might offend people of other religions. (*Evening News 22/11/03*)

- **Government minister de-Christianises Christmas card**

Tessa Jowell, the Culture Secretary, has chosen a “politically correct” Christmas card with no reference to the birth of Jesus and no Biblical images. The message on it is not “Happy Christmas” but “Seasons Greetings”, because the card would be sent to people of various faiths. (*Sunday Telegraph 07/12/03*)

The Christmas message is being deliberately diluted.

- **Children’s video on religious tolerance ignored Christmas and Easter**

A new video designed to foster religious tolerance has been produced for 3 to 6-year-old children. Entitled “A Child’s Eye View of Festivals”, it focuses on Divali, Hanukkah, Eid-ul-Fitr and the Chinese New Year, but does not mention the great Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter. (*Manchester Metro News 15/10/04*)

- **Home Office threatened carol service as “too Christian”**

In November, 2005, the Home Office threatened to stop funding a carol service for the victims of crime because it was “too Christian”. After public protest, they reversed their decision. (*Daily Mail 8/11/2005; Hansard 09/11/05 col 655*)

- **School replaced nativity play with “seasonal celebration”**

At a Harrow school parents were concerned because the traditional nativity play was cancelled in favour of a “seasonal celebration” of four faiths. The school assembly had a presentation entitled “Festivals of Light – A Seasonal Celebration”. The head teacher said there was a four-faith assembly because the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, the Muslim festival of Eid ul Fitr and the Hindu celebration of Diwali all fell at about the same time as Christmas. Rabbi Michael Hilton said Jewish parents would not object to a Nativity play: “If a school is predominantly Christian it should certainly be celebrating Christmas.” (*Daily Telegraph 10/12/05*)

- **More public funds granted for ethnic festivals than for Christian events**

The Home Office granted £15,000 for a week of events marking Muslim and Hindu festivals, but nothing for “any specific Christian event”. The DoT spent £300 for a staff celebration of Diwali and Eid. The DVLA’s “diversity team” attended a Chinese New Year celebration in Swansea. The Highways Agency sent staff to a Diwali event in Birmingham, but for Christmas simply alerted its staff to the annual Whitehall carol service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office hosted VIP receptions to mark Muslim and Chinese events but has no plans to mark Easter. (*The Times 10/02/06; Daily Express 11/02/06*)

- **Schools replaced Christian nativity plays with secular presentations**

In December 2006 many primary schools and nurseries replaced nativity plays with something secular. (*Daily Mail 9/12/06*)

- **York Dungeon displayed satanic Christmas grotto**

York Dungeon's Christmas display was called "Satan's Grotto" and replaces Father Christmas with a grotesque figure in a dark cloak with a red face and horns. The grotto features elves impaled on spikes and robins roasting over an open fire. Visitors are given gifts such as severed fingers and other body parts, and are invited to sign their souls away. (*Parish Independent 07/12/04*)

Public expressions of the Christmas story are being banned.

- **Red Cross banned nativity scenes**

The Red Cross has decided not to allow any nativity scenes in its shops, in order not to be seen as promoting Christianity. Voluntary staff have complained, but the Chief Executive of the Red Cross said that they were "playing safe". (*BBC National News 21/12/02*)

- **Inland Revenue banned Bible stories**

The then Inland Revenue banned a collection for a children's charity which sends Christmas gifts in shoeboxes with accompanying Bible stories "because it offends the Government's diversity policy". (*Daily Mail 09/11/05*)

Christian holy days are being eroded.

- **Government lifted ban on betting on Good Friday**

In 2007, the Government abolished the long-standing ban on betting on Good Friday – one of Christianity's holiest days – even though it is one of three days in the year when no horse racing takes place. Churches said that it reflected lack of respect for the day when Christians recalled Christ's crucifixion, and a Church of England spokesman warned that it was part of a trend to remove the shared holidays that "help create a rhythm for the nation's life". (*Daily Telegraph 20/03/08*)

Traditional Christian food is being banned.

- **School replaced Christmas turkey with halal chicken**

So that all its children could sit down together to eat at Christmas, a school planned to swap traditional turkey for halal chicken. Parents protested that all the children eat Muslim food at Eid, so why should those who prefer traditional food have to change for Christmas dinner? The school subsequently decided to provide both traditional and halal food at Christmas. (*Daily Mail 17/11/06, 18/11/06*)

- **Local authorities banned hot-cross buns as offensive**

At Easter 2003 numerous local authorities placed an outright ban on serving hot-cross buns in schools, for fear of offending non-Christians. The councils included Tower Hamlets, who said, "We are moving away from a religious theme for Easter and will not be doing hot-cross buns", and Liverpool, who claimed that the symbol of the cross had the "potential to offend".

The Muslim Council of Britain called banning hot-cross buns "very, very bizarre", and expressed concern that it could create a backlash: "...it is not very thoughtful. I wish they would leave us alone. We are quite capable of articulating our own concerns... British Muslims have been quite happily eating hot-cross buns for many years." (*Daily Telegraph 15/03/03, Sunday Telegraph 16/03/03, Daily Mail 10/04/07*)

Paganism is being promoted.

There is widespread exploitation of the pagan imagery of Halloween, which draws innocent children to aspects of witchcraft. The paganising process is evident in many places, particularly bookshops.

- **Halloween is now a multi-million pound industry**

British spending on Halloween has risen from £12 million in 2001 to approximately £120 million in 2006. (*Observer* 22/10/06)

### **5.3 Christian Influence in TV and Radio Broadcasting is Diminishing**

Although there have been some outstanding religious programmes in recent years, it is beyond dispute that there has been a substantial marginalisation and reduction of programmes with a Christian content. Ironically, this is at a time when there is a growing public interest in the spiritual dimension of life. Unfortunately, in religious programmes, the specifically Christian content is frequently diluted. The overall trend is disturbing.

The diminution of Christian influence has coincided with some broadcasters deliberately making overt attacks on the Christian faith.

- **BBC programme promoted Witchcraft**

In 1995, the BBC devoted a full hour to a programme which promoted witchcraft. The producer, an employee of the BBC, was herself a witch. The BBC invited listeners to telephone a number for further information, where they were given the address of the British Pagan Federation, the witches' organisation for Great Britain. The programme was broadcast under the aegis of the Religious Affairs department. (*Manchester Evening News* 21/06/95)

- **Channel Four vigorously derided the Christian faith**

In 2004 Channel 4 produced a lavish 70-page glossy magazine promoting their Christmas programmes. No mention was made whatsoever of the Christmas message. Instead, the emphasis was on the channel's Da Vinci Code programme, which was described as "essential viewing... for debunking religious crackpots". It said that the code showed that "Jesus wasn't the divine incarnation of God." The magazine included a double-page presentation ridiculing Christ at the Last Supper, showing him slumped over a table with a can of lager and a cigarette in his hands, with a tinsel halo.

The Christmas special of the Channel 4's "Teachers" show was presented as "rampant snogging, drunken debauchery and a donkey." Christmas Day itself was welcomed with the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre", a film about a serial killer who murdered women and used their body parts to make lampshades. On Christmas night they showed the film "City of God", which has nine-year-olds robbing, murdering and dealing in cocaine.

Promoting its Big Brother series, Channel 4 said, "If you are really clever you might even be able to devote some bits of your brain to thinking about celebrities while other bits ponder... the non-existence of God". Their brochure gave advance publicity to a broad range of programmes featuring sex and violence. Looking forward to Easter, it flagged up its programme "No Angels", asking "is un-nailing a psychiatric patient from a home-made cross the best way to celebrate Easter?" (*ITV Publication*)

- **BBC appointed a non-believer as Head of Religion**

In 2001, the BBC appointed a non-believer as Head of Religion. All previous Heads of Religion had been practising Christians, many of them ordained ministers. The BBC renamed the department "Religion and Ethics" and appointed Alan Bookbinder as its head. He described himself as "an open-hearted agnostic". His predecessor, Rev Ernest Rae, resigned seven months earlier, accusing the BBC of side lining religion and "dancing to a secular tune". (*Daily Telegraph* 12/07/01, 15/02/03)

- **Channel 4 appointed Muslim as Head of Religious Programmes**

In 2003, Channel 4 appointed a Muslim, Aaqil Ahmed, as its Head of Religious Programmes. This was the first time that such a position was filled by a member of the Islamic faith. The previous incumbent at Channel 4, Elizabeth Clough, said that she was not religious and insisted that it did not matter. (*Daily Telegraph* 15/02/03)

### **5.4 Our Christian Calendar is being Set Aside**

The name of Christ is being deliberately removed from our calendar.

- **Broadcasting Standards report recommended removing Christ from our calendar**

A report for the Broadcasting Standards Commission by Professor David Craig recommended that references to BC and AD be dropped. He said, “The sensitivities of Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs have to be taken into account in modern Britain.” *(Daily Mail 19/02/02)*

- **Department of Education abandoned Christian calendar**

The Department of Education produced circulars which abandon the Christian calendar, using a concept of “common era” to “avoid causing offence to other religions”. The new calendar is also being introduced into RE text books. *(Daily Mail 19/02/02)*

- **School banned pupils from using “BC”**

The Dorothy Stringer School in Brighton has banned pupils from using the terms BC and AD when writing dates because they are deemed unsuitable in a multi-faith society. The state school has only a few children from ethnic minorities, but admitted that it had replaced Before Christ and Anno Domini, which had been in use since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, with BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era). The Headmaster said, “It is not the job of the school to lead a pupil towards a particular faith: we teach about religion, not just one religion.” David Guest, Communications Officer for the Diocese of Chichester, said, “BC and AD have been used for centuries and not upset people. They do have Christian significance but historical significance as well.” *(Daily Telegraph 13/12/02)*

## **5.5 The Public Recognition of Christianity is being Attacked across a Wide Variety of Other Areas**

National institutions are succumbing to the de-Christianising process.

- **Register office removed pictures of married couples**

In 2005, the Superintendent Registrar at Liverpool Register Office replaced pictures of Victorian newlyweds with landscapes because “the new paintings are less likely to offend same-sex couples”. The editor of a gay publication was “fed up with being protected by busybodies from things that don’t trouble [gays and lesbians] in the least”. *(Daily Mail 12/11/05)*

- **Scout Association demolished forest chapel**

The Scout Association has demolished a chapel used for worship for almost 70 years in woodland at Belchamps Scout Centre in Hockley, Essex, in order to “turn it into a place of worship for all faiths and not exclude anyone from Scouting.” Its rudimentary cross and altar have been removed and it has been replaced by a campfire circle. *(Daily Mail 01/06/07)*

Humanist extremists are determined to remove all public signs and recognition of the Christian faith.

- **Humanists demanded ditching of Scottish flag because of “Christian symbolism”**

Some politicians and the Humanist Society have demanded that Scotland’s national flag should be ditched because of its “Christian symbolism”. A motion before the Scottish Parliament called for it to be replaced by a “rainbow flag” supposedly better reflecting the country’s cultural and ethnic diversity. Islamic groups and politicians from other parties described the idea as “insane”. *(Catholic Times 29/01/06)*

- **Atheists claimed Scouts’ Promise is religious discrimination**

The National Secular Society and the British Humanist Association have complained to the Equality and Human Rights Commission because the Scout Association has refused to change the Scouts’ Promise to “do their best to do their duty to God and the Queen.” The word “God” can be replaced by the names of supreme beings recognised by other religions, but the two secular groups want the Scout movement to recognise atheism. Scout leaders point out that Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, was a “muscular Christian” who believed that faith was an essential element in the development of young people. *(Daily Telegraph 01/01/08)*

Deliberate efforts are being made to prevent public Christian prayers.

- **University banned prayers at graduation ceremony**

Edinburgh University has banned prayers at graduation ceremonies. (*Daily Telegraph 16/02/07*)

- **National Association warned town council to stop prayers**

Bideford Town Council voted to continue having prayers before its meetings, after one member proposed that they be discontinued. However, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) then urged the Bideford council to stop having prayers, to “eliminate any risk” of a challenge in the courts. The NALC warning referred to Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, but that of course upholds the right of “Everyone... to manifest his religion or belief in... practice and observance.” (*Daily Telegraph 11/03/08*)

A Prime Minister’s aide disparages Christianity.

- **Aide prevented Prime Minister answering question on religion**

On one occasion when a former Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was asked a question about religion, an aide, Alistair Campbell, interjected, “We don’t do God”. This sums up the atheist politician’s antagonism to the Christian faith.

## 6. Discrimination against Christians

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Although the United Kingdom has a uniquely Christian heritage, we have now reached the stage where Christians in the UK are being disadvantaged, or even persecuted for their faith, in their own land.

Statutory bodies ranging from the NHS to local councils and public libraries, as well as companies and activist groups, are increasingly taking action against individuals attempting to apply Christian standards or offer Christian care in their day-to-day environment. Their actions range in seriousness from threats and stopping the funding of Christian organisations offering vital support services, to inappropriate “disciplining” and dismissal of staff from their jobs.

### 6.1 There is Increasing Discrimination against Christians in School, the Workplace and the Community

There are numerous cases of gross intolerance of Christian belief, and there is a movement beyond discrimination to persecution.

Since 1995, there has been growing evidence of Christians losing their jobs because of their faith.

- **Christian medical secretary sacked**

In 1995 Barbara Hannaway, a medical secretary, was sacked from Salford Health authority for refusing to deal with an abortion. (*Alton D, Life After Death 2002*)

- **Christian pharmacist sacked**

In Belfast, in 1995, Patrick McCrystal lost his job as a pharmacist after he was told to dispense the abortifacient morning-after pill, which he was unwilling to do. Mr McCrystal, despite being ready to dispense 98% of daily prescriptions, has since been unable to obtain anything other than a few days’ local work. (*Alton D, Life After Death 2002*)

- **Christian scientist sacked**

In 1996 Stephen Clark, a 31-year-old scientist from Manchester, was sacked after he refused on grounds of conscience to monitor emissions from hospital incinerators used to burn aborted fetuses. (*Alton D, Life After Death 2002*)

- **Christian doctor discriminated against**

North Glasgow University’s Hospital Trust told Dr Everett Julyan that his stance on abortion “let him down” during an interview. He called on the NHS to stop discriminating against religious beliefs. (*Daily Telegraph 10/10/00*)

- **Employees forced to work on Sundays**

Argos has issued a new contract that can oblige its employees in Scotland to work on Sundays. The Press and Journal reported that nine Argos workers in Aberdeen had been given notice for refusing to work on Sundays. (*Church Times 5/07/02*)

- **Christian social workers removed from their posts**

In November 2002 two Christian social workers with unblemished records and 50 years’ experience between them were forced out of their jobs by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council because they were opposed to adoption by same-sex couples. Each was threatened with dismissal, but was reinstated in a different post. (*Sunday Telegraph 11/05/03, Daily Telegraph 05/10/03*)

- **Christian employee sacked**

In 2003 Stephen Copesey was sacked by WBB Devon Clays after refusing on religious grounds to work on Sundays. (*Daily Telegraph 14/02/04*)

- **Christian magistrate penalised**

In March, 2007, Andrew McClintock, a Justice of the Peace since 1988, lost his case to have his freedom of religion recognised whilst practicing as a magistrate. Mr McClintock was forced to preside over cases involving the adoption of children by same-sex couples, even though it contravened his religious beliefs, and he had applied to the Chairman of the Family Panel to be screened from such cases (*Lawyers' Christian Fellowship Press Release 02/03/07*). Note: The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed Mr McClintock's appeal in December 2007. He is currently taking his case to the Court of Appeal.

- **Christian registrar penalised**

Lillian Ladele, who has worked in the Registration Service for nearly 16 years, is asking an Employment Tribunal to confirm that she can be exempted by Islington Council on grounds of conscience from forming same-sex unions. She holds orthodox Christian views about marriage and same-sex unions, which are similar to those commonly held among Jews and Muslims. The council had refused to exempt her, even though it allowed her colleagues to choose not to work with her because of her religious beliefs.

Elizabeth Thatcher, a Christian registrar who works in Kent, told the tribunal that, while many local authorities had reached agreements with staff whose religious beliefs prevented them from conducting same-sex ceremonies, in other cases registrars were "terrified" of being vilified and losing their jobs. (*Christian Institute 18 & 20/05/08*)

There is a widespread sense among Christians that they are facing victimisation or bias at work because of their faith.

- **Firefighters disciplined for boycotting gay parade**

Nine members of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue were disciplined when they refused to obey orders to hand out leaflets at a Pride Scotia gay parade in Glasgow. Some argued that leafleting the event contradicted their moral beliefs, while others claimed it would be embarrassing for them to attend the event in uniform. (*The Guardian 29/08/06*)

- **A quarter of Christians have suffered bias at work**

A poll by the BBC "Heaven and Earth Show" found that one in four British Christians feel discriminated against at work, and one in five claims to suffer bias in the community. One in three feel that media reporting is biased against Christianity. The Rev Malcolm Duncan, of Faithworks, said, "The Christian Church is suffering more than all the other faiths in Britain." (*Daily Telegraph 19/03/07*)

Those who legitimately express their Christian views are increasingly subjected to organised opposition, ridicule and even commercial boycotts by very highly organised pressure groups.

- **Gay activist urged boycott of Christian's company**

Brian Sauter, a Christian businessman who runs Stagecoach bus and train services, gave money to a campaign to maintain the law that homosexuality should not be promoted in schools. Richard Kirker, a member of the "Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement", urged users of Stagecoach to stop doing so. He claimed that Mr Sauter was "supporting bigotry". Mr Sauter responded that "This is an important issue of democracy. It is not homophobic." (*The Times 15/01/00*)

There have been a number of pioneering and highly successful rehabilitation projects in prisons. Far from being encouraged, some of these have been closed down because they are based on the Christian faith.

- **Pioneering Christian prison wings closed**

Work at The Vern Prison in Dorset, High Point Prison in Suffolk and Swaleside Prison on the Isle of Sheppey funded by the Kainos Community, a charity specialising in rehabilitation programmes based on Christian principles, and praised by an independent study for "promoting standards of decency, humanity and order in prison", is to be terminated.

Prison chiefs recently told governors that “It would not be appropriate to provide public money at either local or central level to support this or other religiously based intervention.” Barry Wilson, the Chairman of the Prison Officers’ Association at The Vern, believed that the closure was political and based upon a fear of offending Muslim leaders. He said, “Someone is not telling the truth here. It is a totally unjustified and horrendous decision.”

Geoff Hebborn, a manager at The Vern who has been closely involved with the project, said that before the Kainos Community arrived, D Wing, with 72 inmates, was “horrendous” – destructive, dangerous, demoralising, and impossible to police. He said that “to describe Kainos as a failure is an outrage. The idea was simple: to change the hopelessness and despair of a violent institution into a caring Christian community.” Governors and other senior staff have been ordered not to talk to the press about the issue. (*Daily Telegraph 15/11/01*)

- **Christian rehabilitation programme for prisoners blocked**

A Christian rehabilitation programme called “Innerchange” led to reoffending dropping from 55% to 8% for prison inmates who participated in it in the USA. It was introduced at Dartmoor Prison in early 2005, and worked equally well. However, when PSO 4350 accreditation for the course was sought, it was blocked on “equality” grounds. The prison service suspects that such restrictions are applied to Christianity but not to Islam. (*Daily Telegraph 08/07/06*)

Growing intolerance is being shown towards Christians who defend the dignity and sacredness of human life.

- **Officials opposed staff requesting Christian burial for late-stage aborted babies**

For many years private abortion clinics macerated fetuses and the remains of aborted babies before discharging them into the local sewers. This was stopped, and clinics began to pay Health Authorities to incinerate the remains in hospital incinerators. Some health workers objected to handling these human remains on grounds of conscience, and the provisions of the Conscience Clause were extended to cover them. Unfortunately, ancillary workers were unsuccessful in persuading the Government that the bodies of several highly developed unborn babies, which they refused to handle at Salford Hospital in 1991, deserved a Christian burial.

The role of Christian NHS chaplains has been diminished by official denial of access to previously available admissions information.

- **NHS trusts denied hospital chaplains access to terminally ill patients**

NHS chaplains were being denied access to terminally ill patients because several NHS trusts were “over-zealous” in applying the Data Protection Act. Up to 10 NHS trusts, affecting approximately 300,000 patients, have stopped giving chaplains details of patients' faiths. (*Daily Telegraph 24/07/04*)

There is often national mobilisation of opposition to those who conscientiously uphold Christian standards.

- **Registrars opposed to civil partnerships received death threats**

In 2005-6 the Western Isles Council received hate mail from around the world because its registrars had refused on moral grounds to conduct civil partnership ceremonies. The Council backed the registrars’ decision, and said it would fulfil its legal obligations simply to register partnerships, but would not offer wedding-type ceremonies, which are not required by law. One e-mail said that the registrars should be “hanged from the nearest tree”. (*The Scotsman 20/12/05*)

- **Activists funded employment tribunal claim against Bishop**

In 2006 the militant “gay-rights” group Stonewall funded an employment tribunal claim by a youth worker whom the Bishop of Hereford had turned down for a job because of his homosexual lifestyle. While certain elements of the claim were dismissed, the tribunal found against the Bishop, and he was fined £47,000. (*Christian Institute 12/02/08*)

- **Activists sought inheritance tax penalty for earl opposed to civil partnerships**

Lord Devon, a Christian, does not wish to allow homosexual civil partnership ceremonies at his family home, Powderham Castle, one of the oldest family houses in England. To avoid breaching the 2007 Sexual

Orientation Regulations, he therefore decided to stop having weddings at the castle, which had been one of the most popular venues for civil marriages in Devon. This will cost the estate up to £200,000 a year.

The castle has an exemption from inheritance tax because it is open to the public. However, although the castle and its grounds remain open to all members of the public, regardless of their sexual orientation, and civil ceremonies have been stopped without discrimination, the homosexual lobby group Stonewall is challenging the inheritance tax exemption and claiming that it should be withdrawn if the premises are not accessible to all members of the public without exception. Critics of Stonewall's complaint describe it as malicious and unfounded. (*Daily Telegraph 29/05/08; Christian Institute 30/05/08*)

Increasing pressure is being brought against Christian couples seeking to foster or adopt children.

- **Council attempted to ban Christian couple from fostering**

Derby City Council rejected an application by Eunice and Owen Johns, a Christian couple, to be foster parents because they refused to tell any children in their care that homosexual lifestyles were acceptable. The adoption panel was also unhappy that the couple was adamant that any child in their home (they had offered respite care to children under 10) would have to go to church with them on Sundays. After intervention by the Christian Legal Centre and extensive media coverage, together with support from the Mayor of Derby, Derby social services agreed to reinstate the Johns' application. [Its approval or otherwise is not yet decided.] (*Daily Telegraph website 26/02/08; Christian Concern for Our Nation 6/03/08*)

- **Council banned Christians from fostering over child discipline**

A Christian couple in Taunton, David and Heather Bowen, who have been married for 11 years, have a nine-year-old daughter. A second child died with a rare condition shortly after birth. They have been unable to conceive further children, and applied to foster.

Their application was approved by their social worker, but Somerset County Council's foster panel took issue with fact that, like the vast majority of parents in the UK, they believe in smacking their "birth-child" as a last resort, when they consider it to be in her best interests, in accordance with their beliefs and UK law. Despite the fact that the Bowens agreed from the outset that they would not smack a looked-after child, the panel rejected their application in December 2007, and again in March 2008.

David, a Chartered Surveyor, is a parent governor at a local school. Heather works for the school PTA, has been a special needs careers advisor and now works in the school, and both assist with children's work at their local church. (*Christian Legal Centre Case News 8/04/08*)

There is an inbuilt resistance to Christian music in the popular music industry.

- **Radio stations blocked musical version of Lord's Prayer**

Cliff Richard launched a musical version of the Lord's Prayer to celebrate the Millennium. It was blocked by all the major radio stations until finally they were obliged by public demand to broadcast it, and it became a best seller. (*BBC 3/12/99*)

- **BBC refused to broadcast popular Christian band**

A British band called "Delirious?" has sold more albums in America than Robbie Williams, but because they are Christians BBC Radio One will not broadcast the band. (*Telegraph Magazine 30/11/02*)

Development agencies and local authorities are increasingly penalising Christian initiatives and disadvantaging local churches.

- **Development agency reneged on promise to church**

The Kingsway International Christian Centre (KICC), a very large black Pentecostal church in London, agreed to move from their premises in Hackney because they were within the area designated for the 2012 Olympic Park. The very powerful London Development Agency (LDA) told them that they would get land in Essex in return for releasing their Hackney site.

KICC made their planning submission for a new £70 million, 8,000-seat church to Havering Council and the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC) in conjunction with the LDA. The LTGDC then rejected KICC's application.

A Christian councillor said that the decision by the LTGDC to reject KICC's application was "the direct result of Machiavellian manoeuvring by... [the] London Development Agency... the LDA is knowingly

culpable. They have deliberately left this thriving church swinging in the wind... there were no legitimate planning grounds to refuse the application... [This] is... a perfect illustration of the authorities' prejudice against Christianity. If KICC was an entertainment complex, you can be sure they would have been treated more sympathetically – especially if its management was white.”

Grants for important projects run by churches and Christian organizations are being withheld. The Chief Executive of one community foundation which distributes DfES funding said,

*“It is difficult for any faith-based group to get funding ... we have to follow strict guidelines and would be in trouble if we breached them.”*

Secular influences in local government are increasingly seeking to exercise control over Christian prayer.

- ***Council opposed Christian grace being said***

In May 2005 Norfolk County Council warned a Christian-run shelter for the homeless that it would not receive its £150,000 funding unless it stopped saying grace at meal times and providing Bibles for use by guests. (*Daily Telegraph 03/05/05*)

## **6.2 A Climate of Intolerance is Being Created**

Although some of these illiberal actions might be considered petty, some are substantial. They are all significant, and they contribute to a pernicious climate of intolerance of Christian practice and belief. Such intolerance is antithetical to a free society, and threatens the effective action of thousands of Christian charities, organisations and individuals across the country who have dedicated their lives to serving the most vulnerable and destitute.

## 7. The Restriction of Christian Freedom of Speech and Action

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Legislation is increasingly curbing the fundamental human right of freedom to hold, express and act upon Christian beliefs. Misuse or misunderstanding of the law is further restricting Christian freedom of speech and action.

Police forces and activists frequently seek to prevent individuals expressing Christian teaching and values in the public place. Their actions range in seriousness from threats and inappropriate “investigation” to improper prosecution. The result is a “chilling effect” – the self-censoring of Christians in public life and elsewhere who become wary of the possible consequences of giving voice to their convictions.

The right to hold, express and act upon Christian beliefs is protected under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the UN Convention on Human Rights, but today we are witnessing the insidious relegation of religious freedom to the bottom of a hierarchy of rights by a range of legislative instruments, including laws, guidelines and regulations. These include *inter alia* (i) official guidance on “hate crime” and “hate incidents”, (ii) interpretations of Section 4a of the Public Order Act 1986, and (iii) erroneous use of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

In addition to this there is serious concern regarding the Sexual Orientation Regulations, which, despite being designed to apply only to the provision of goods and services, are ambiguous enough to be exploited for the censure of Christian expression.

In addition, the Charities Act 2006 has removed the legal presumption that charities established for the advancement of religion have purposes that are for the public benefit. “Public benefit” is not defined in the Charities Act 2006, and it has specifically been left to the Charity Commission to consult on the matter. Over 60% of responses to the consultation expressed concern that the Charity Commission has said it will interpret “public benefit” in the light of “modern conditions”. This could mean that Christian bodies that exist for evangelism or which promote traditional Christian teaching on family and life issues may lose their charitable status. This further reinforces the perception that religious freedom is being pushed to the bottom of a hierarchy of rights.

The Government protests that there is no such intention, but the Joint Commission on Human Rights has confirmed its existence in its consideration of the Sexual Orientation Regulations. It clearly recommends only the bare minimum of exemptions to protect breaches of Article 9, and champions the idea that the core tenet of religious freedom is a matter of belief. Both religious expression and the manifestation of religious belief in action can be curtailed when in conflict with another “fundamental right”.

We also face denial of the right to conscientious objection. During the passage through Parliament of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, which contained a number of measures repugnant and unacceptable to Christians (and to many other people), the Government attempted to whip its peers and MPs to support the Bill. After strong protests, it suggested that MPs could abstain on parts of the Bill, but only if its passage was not threatened. In other words, the Government intended at that point to allow MPs “to uphold their religious principles only if doing so was totally useless”. (*Melanie Phillips 24/03/08*).

## 7.1 Introduction of “Hate Crime”

The newly introduced concept of “hate crime” is already causing confusion, and will undoubtedly inhibit freedom to promulgate Christian faith.

In recent years Christians have begun to face threatened or actual police action after supposedly “being motivated by hate or prejudice” to commit a “hate incident”. The guidelines issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office (which have never been approved by Parliament) effectively reverse the long-recognised presumption of innocence until proved guilty, as the “prosecution” do not have to meet a specific burden of proof.

The guidelines define a “Hate Crime” as:

*“Any incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”*

and a “Hate Incidence” (sic) as:

*“Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”*

*(Hate Crime: Delivering a Quality Service, Home Office, March 2005, p9, emphasis added)*

Defining a hate incident as any incident “*which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate*” gives rise to the extraordinary, and untenable situation that on the basis of the testimony of any one person who may not have even been in the vicinity of the supposed offence, police must investigate. Failure to do so, according to the guidelines, constitutes “*secondary victimisation*”. *(Ibid p11)*

Alarming, this legislative threat to the “*freedom of thought, conscience and religion*” and the “*freedom of opinion and expression*” (Articles 18 and 19, Universal Declaration on Human Rights) has not been promulgated by elected and publicly accountable Members of Parliament. It is not a law, but a pseudo-law. In the words of one constitutional lawyer, “*When is a law not a law? When it’s made by the police. It looks like a law. It’s enforced like a law. But it’s not a law. So the police are acting unlawfully.*” *(Bennion, 2006, New Police Law Abolishes the Reasonable Man (and Woman))*

This pseudo-legislation has had the effect of limiting people’s sense of freedom to express Christian views publicly.

The guidelines are also illogical and difficult to police. Perception is not a sound foundation for dealing with a criminal offence. Complaining of a homophobic hate incident might, in and of itself, constitute a faith-related hate incident. Such a situation is untenable.

- **Police community support officer threatened Christian evangelists**

Two Christian evangelists distributing Christian tracts and discussing the Bible with four Asian youths in Alum Rock Road, Birmingham, on 19 February 2008 were challenged by a police community support officer (PCSO). The PCSO warned the evangelists, who are both engaged in full-time ministry work, that they could not preach the Gospel in Alum Rock Road as it was a Muslim area. He went on to allege that the evangelists were committing a hate crime by inviting Muslims to convert to Christianity, and said that he was going to take the evangelists to the police station, and radioed his colleagues for assistance.

Although the evangelists remained calm, the PCSO became threatening and intimidating, and argued with the evangelists about the Bible and the Qur’an. To defuse the situation, the evangelists decided to leave the area. As they did so, the PCSO said, “You have been warned. If you come back here and get beat up, well you have been warned.” Alum Rock Road is not noted as a violent area.

The West Midlands Police refused to apologise to the evangelists but said that the PCSO would be given verbal advice and receive training on hate crime and communicating with the public. (*Daily Telegraph* 2/06/08; *Christian Institute website accessed 10/06/08*)

Church leaders are being harassed and threatened.

- **Police harassed Anglican bishop**

In November 2003 Bishop Peter Forster was investigated by Cheshire Constabulary after an interview in which he mentioned research showing that some homosexuals “re-orientate” through therapy. A gay-rights activist had made a complaint and the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement supported it. The police eventually concluded no crime had been committed. The Chief Constable made an astonishing public attack on the Bishop, even suggesting his remarks could lead to violence. (*BBC News* 9/11/03)

- **“Gay-rights” activist harassed Catholic archbishop**

In January 2006 the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow, Mario Conti, expressed concern that the institution of marriage was being undermined and that the family was being marginalised. He criticised the Civil Partnership Act for “dangerously weakening” the uniqueness of marriage and pointed out that Pope Paul VI in his *Humanae Vitae* “warned about the dangers of separating conjugal love from procreation”. The Green MSP and “gay-rights” activist, Patrick Harvie, wrote to the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police asking him to investigate the Archbishop's remarks, believing that he should be prosecuted. Patrick Harvie said, “What he [Conti] said was clearly homophobic. This is a matter for the police.” (*The Times* 14/01/06; *Sunday Herald* 15/01/06; *The Catholic Herald* 20/01/06; *Scottish Catholic Observer* 20/01/06)

Priests, ministers and pastors are increasingly having pressure put on them to restrict what they say and write.

- **Police interviewed priest over parish newsletter item on Muslim veil**

In October 2007 Father John Hayes, 71, one of whose main priorities was “bringing people together”, was interviewed by police for more than an hour “on suspicion of inciting racial hatred” for commenting in his parish newsletter on the case of a Muslim girl who went to court over her wish to wear a full veil in her school class.

A sergeant and community support officer turned up without warning at his presbytery, next to St Mary's Church, Hornchurch, after an allegation was made to a Scotland Yard “hate crimes” unit. The visit prompted a furious row about policing priorities. In the past 12 months there have been five murders, 33 rapes, 424 robberies and 2,267 burglaries in the local borough of Havering.

A source at the Metropolitan Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, said, “What happened is a gross error of judgment and possibly even an abuse of power. The senior officer who decided on this course of action should be called to account. It is yet another example of the political correctness which is blighting the Met.” (*Daily Mail* 15/10/07)

We are beginning to see the emergence of “thought police” and others trying to control what can be said on radio and TV, and threatening those who express Christian views.

- **Police warned Christian broadcaster**

In 2006, Lynette Burrows, an author and mother of six children, spoke in a discussion programme on BBC Radio Five Live. She said that placing boys for adoption with two homosexual men was as obvious a risk as placing a girl with two heterosexual men. She was contacted by a policewoman who said that a homophobic incident had been registered against her. Ms Burrows said, “The constable only told me that it wasn't a crime because I asked her straight out. Otherwise I could have been left thinking, ‘Well, I must have missed this legislation, it must have gone through Parliament without me noticing, and now I've broken the law.’” Ms Burrows believes we now live in a police state. “We really do,” she said. “Somebody, somewhere, can decide that they don't like your opinions, and in response the police will either lean on you or threaten you. It is insidious, it really is.” (*Daily Telegraph* 10/12/05)

- **MP reported to police for expressing her beliefs on homosexual conduct**

On 6 June 2008, Iris Robinson, DUP MP for Strangford, took part in BBC Radio Ulster's “Nolan Show”. She said that the Bible describes homosexuality as an “abomination”, and that homosexuals should seek counselling. John O'Doherty, Co-chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board LGBT Reference Group, has

made a formal complaint to the police about her remarks. He said, "People like Mrs Robinson need to learn that their comments have consequences". (*Christian Institute website 9/06/08*) Note: Mr O'Doherty's complaint and comment were made after Lord Waddington's "free-speech" amendment to the "gay hatred" Bill had been accepted in Parliament.

It is very important to recognise that Christians who disapprove of "gay" practices nonetheless love, in the name of Jesus, those who engage in them. Sadly, some militant gay extremists increasingly seek to vilify Christians and Christian belief. This damages relationships between homosexuals and the rest of the community. People are entitled to their own views about the ethics of homosexual behaviour.

- **Gay Police Association implied Christian link to homophobic crime**

The Gay Police Association placed an advertisement in a supplement to "The Independent" newspaper which depicted a Bible beside a pool of blood, with the words "In the name of the Father", and claimed that there had been a 74% increase in religiously motivated "homophobic crime". Scotland Yard rejected the 74% figure as not being supported by their statistics, and the Advertising Standards Authority upheld complaints against the advertisement on the grounds of decency, truthfulness and substantiation. (*The Times 21/08/06, ASA website accessed 11/03/08*)

Christians expressing legitimate and conscientious concerns on homosexual practices are increasingly being demonised by militant gay activists and also subjected to intimidation by the police and local authorities.

- **Police threatened Christian pensioners**

In 2006, Wyre Borough Council was among several local authorities running a campaign to offer assistance to gay and lesbian people so as to win the Navajo Charter Mark for Equality and Diversity. This involved the display of "gay rights" leaflets on council premises. Mr Joe Roberts, aged 73, and his wife, felt this offended their Christian beliefs, as did the use of the council's theatre for ceremonies under the Civil Partnership Act 2004. They told the council this, and asked if they could display Christian literature alongside the gay rights leaflets. The council reported Mr Roberts to the police, who visited them at his home. His account of the visit was, "They warned me that being discriminatory and homophobic is in line with hate crime. The phrase they used was that we were 'walking on eggshells'". (*The Times 6/09/06*) Note: The couple subsequently won their appeal against this injustice.

- **Homosexual students reported Cambridge Christian Union to police for distributing Gospels**

In February 2004 the Cambridge Intercollegiate Christian Union was reported to the police for distributing copies of St John's Gospel and hosting an evangelistic meeting where the Dean of Sydney Cathedral put forward "a traditional Biblical view on homosexuality". Some homosexual students claimed that they were being "targeted", which was denied by the Christian Union. A letter in the University newspaper urged homosexuals to give "whoever offended you" the choice of giving a written apology or being reported to the police. (*Church Times website accessed 16/06/06*)

## **7.2 Misuse of the Public Order Act 1986, the Police Act 1996 and other Legislation**

Regrettably, police officers and council officials have misused the Public Order Act 1986, the Police Act 1996 and other acts to inhibit public expression of the Christian Faith.

- **Policeman ordered women to stop preaching in public**

In 1999 three women were preaching in public. Some of the crowd were showing hostility. Fearing a breach of the peace, a police officer ordered the three women to stop preaching. When they refused, the police officer arrested all three for a breach of the peace. One of the women was subsequently charged with obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty, under Section 89(2) Police Act 1996, and convicted.

The ruling was overturned by the Divisional Court. Lord Justice Sedley ruled that the threat of disorder or violence came not from the preachers but from the passers-by. He stated that no one had to stop and listen, and that it was both illiberal and illogical to assume that preaching about morality, God and the Bible

meant that violence was going to erupt. (*freeBeagles.org website accessed 17/06/08*) This finding, *Redmond-Bate v Director of Public Prosecutions (1999)*, is the current legal authority on these matters.

Section 4a of the Public Order Act states:

“A person is guilty of an offence if, with intent to cause a person harassment, alarm or distress, he (a) uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour, or (b) displays any writing, sign or other visible representation which is threatening, abusive or insulting, thereby causing that or another person harassment, alarm or distress.” (*Public Order Act 1986, Chapter 64*)

- **Street preacher assaulted, but himself arrested by police**

In October 2001, John Hammond, an elderly street preacher who suffered from Asperger’s syndrome, displayed a sign which said, “Jesus Gives Peace, Jesus is Alive, Stop Immorality, Stop Homosexuality, Stop Lesbianism, Jesus is Lord”. An angry mob of around 40 people surrounded Mr Hammond, forcing him to the ground and pouring mud and water on him. Two police officers arrested Mr Hammond after he was reported for “causing undue alarm or distress” to passers-by. The police took his photograph, fingerprints and palm prints and DNA samples. He was charged under the Public Order Act, found guilty and fined. The police did not arrest any of his assailants. (*English Churchman 14/12/01 and 21/12/01, et al*)

- **Police blocked display of Bible verses**

On 26 October 2005 Mr John Banda, a Zambian in his 70s and former accountant to the Church of Zambia, was displaying an A3-size poster, hung on a cord around his neck, near London Bridge, London. Police approached Mr Banda and said that he was to take his poster off or face arrest under Section 4a of the Public Order Act, 1986. Mr Banda’s small poster contained two short quotations from the Bible, “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians, Chapter 2, verse 11) and “Repent therefore and be converted so that your sins will be forgiven” (Acts of the Apostles Chapter 3, verse 19). (*Mr Banda and British Transport Police complaint enquiry team*)  
Note: After representations on Mr Banda’s behalf by the Maranatha Community, the police force concerned issued corrective instructions to its officers.

Public statements about the central tenets of the Christian faith have been proclaimed in the UK for centuries. Both of the two examples above are in clear contradiction of *Redmond-Bate v Director of Public Prosecutions (1999)*.

To interpret the expression of deeply held religious beliefs as a public order offence or breach of the peace has no sustainable foundation: the threat to public order or the Queen’s peace does not come from those exercising their freedom of expression but from those reacting inappropriately to such expression.

Even where legislation clearly offers specific exemption to protect the fundamental right to religious freedom, Christians are now facing threats, police action and harassment. For example, the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 specifically exempts the distribution of printed matter for the purposes of a religion or belief.

- **Police stopped distribution of Christian literature**

In 2005 members of at least two churches were stopped by police officers in Newcastle city centre and prohibited from distributing free literature promoting the Christian faith. In one case the church leader concerned checked with Newcastle City Council Licensing Department. They themselves advised that the police officer was mistaken and was acting outside his powers. The legislation in force in Newcastle prior to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA) contained an exemption for charity literature which covered the churches. (*Christian Institute May 2007*)

In 2007 an official from Carlisle Council told an evangelist with Open-Air Mission (OAM) that he could not hand out Christian literature in the city centre without their permission, claiming that they were acting under the CNEA. He had been doing so for three years. When OAM pointed out that religious literature was exempt, the Council responded with an immediate apology. (*Christian Institute May 07*)

- **Police stopped woman praying in public**

In 2006, three police officers surrounded a woman facing Parliament and saying the Lord's Prayer, and prevented her from continuing to pray. When she told the police that she thought we had the freedom to preach the Gospel in Britain, one of the policemen responded, "Times are changing, madam". (*British Church Newspaper* 17/02/06)

- **Police stopped street preacher preaching and distributing Bibles**

Rev Roland Parsons, who has worked for Gloucestershire County Council for more than 42 years and is part of the project management team for the city's new bypass, has been a street preacher in Gloucester for 23 years. He was stopped by the police and told that if he continued to preach he would be prosecuted under Section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972. Mr Parsons was not causing any trouble or obstruction and was distributing free copies of the Bible and Gospels. He described his brush with the law as "straight out of the old totalitarian Soviet Russia".

The police have confirmed that the byelaw cited against Mr Parsons only applies to "for-profit" leaflets, and not to the material he was distributing. They confirmed that no further action would be taken against him, and that he would not be prevented from preaching and distributing literature. (*Weekend Citizen* 7/07/07; *British Church Newspaper* 3/08/07)

### **7.3 Collusion between Police and Crown Prosecution Service**

There is great danger in police and the Crown Prosecution Service endeavouring to prevent truth about Islamic extremism being publicised.

- **Police put pressure on Channel 4 over legitimate documentary**

Channel 4's "Dispatches" programme "Undercover Mosque", screened in 2007, showed Muslim clerics preaching hatred and violence. One said, "Young girls should be hit if they do not wear hijab" and that homosexuals should be thrown off mountains. Another said, "Allah created the woman deficient". A Birmingham cleric said that the killer of a British Muslim soldier in Afghanistan was "a hero of Islam". Many viewers felt that the preachers featured in the programme were inciting hatred. The West Midlands Police were called in to investigate, but after six months dropped the enquiry.

To the astonishment of members of the public, the police then turned on Channel 4, asking the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) whether they could be charged for stirring up racial hatred. There was further public astonishment when the police and CPS claimed that the programme had distorted the views of the Muslim clerics, and the programme risked undermining "community cohesion". The regulator, Ofcom, rejected the complaints and triggered an avalanche of criticism of the police handling of the case and the way in which they failed to deal with Muslim extremists.

The police and the CPS refused to withdraw their accusation, and therefore Channel 4 took them to the High Court, alleging libel. In the High Court, the CPS and West Midlands Police apologised unreservedly. They will have to pay damages and costs for their unsustainable allegations that the documentary was misleading. Kevin Sutcliffe, the deputy head of current affairs at Channel 4, said that "This is a total vindication of the programme team in exposing extreme views being preached in mainstream British mosques. The programme's findings were clearly a matter of important public interest. In its report last year, Ofcom said that "Each and every quote was fully justified by the narrative of the programme and put fully in context." (*The Guardian* 12/08/07; *The Daily Telegraph* 20/11/07; *The Independent* 15/05/08)

There is public alarm that the police and the CPS should ever attempt to close down legitimate journalistic investigation. This is a radical departure from the previously understood parameters of the maintenance of law and order in this land. It is a warning to everyone who values freedom of speech.

## 8. Aggression against Churches, Clergy and Christian Families

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There is increasing evidence that clergy and Christian families are targets for assault and harassment. This is a new development.

- **Harassment of Christian family led teenager to suicide**

A Salvation Army family in Allerton, Derbyshire, was tormented by a group of young bullies. Although complaints were made to the local council, the gang continued to torment and abuse the family, and three days later their 13-year-old girl committed suicide. (*The Times 30/09/97*)

- **Vicar harassed and parish church vandalized over teaching on homosexuality**

In 1999, Jesmond Parish Church, Newcastle upon Tyne, was extensively daubed with obscene phrases, pornographic drawings and slogans against its vicar after he upheld traditional Christian beliefs on homosexuality. The attack followed a local meeting organized by the militant “gay-rights” group, Stonewall, at which one of the audience advocated action against the church. (*Daily Telegraph 23/10/99*)

- **Clergy and churches attacked**

In 1999 there were 462 attacks on clerics. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which dealt with 20,674 claims in 1999, estimates that one in five churches will be attacked each year and ten different churches will be victims of a crime each day. (*Daily Telegraph 16/06/00*)

- **Asians attacked church and pelted vicar**

The Revd Tony Tooby, an Anglican vicar in Bradford, was pelted with stones and racially abused when he prevented up to 60 Asian youths from burning down his church.

Mr Tooby, in his car, disturbed the gang while taking wood to a bonfire attended mainly by Asians near St Philip’s Church, Gillingham. He became suspicious of a group some way from the bonfire, and found that they had kicked the church doors open and let off fireworks inside, setting fire to a chair and burning the altar cloth. Liquid had been poured on the floor and prayer books strewn around. He drove around the corner and dialled 999. While he was speaking to the police, a gang, some wearing masks, appeared behind him, chanting, “Get the white bastard”, and a stone broke the rear window of his car.

Mr Tooby, a former miner, said the gang would have known who he was, but that “99% of the Asian and Muslim community are superb... they have shown me nothing but kindness and love” and that “Monday’s attack was the work of mindless yobs.” An Asian man came while the police were at the church and said he was ashamed of what had happened. (*Daily Telegraph 06/11/01*)

- **Attacks on clergy created no-go parishes**

The Archbishop of York, the Church of England’s second most senior bishop, said that attacks on members of the clergy have increased at such a rate that some parishes have become “no-go” areas, and posts there are becoming difficult to fill.

Violence against clergy had increased by a third over the past four years and was still rising. There were also increasing numbers of break-ins and thefts: one in 10 churches was expected to report a loss this year. Urban and deprived areas were the worst-hit, but nowhere was immune.

In one parish there were 35 incidents in six months. In another, a priest went to talk to some young people hanging around his church, was attacked, and ended up in hospital with quite serious flesh wounds. “We had one vicarage in Middlesbrough that was almost completely trashed. And when I visit churches, someone has to stand outside and watch the car, otherwise there will be no wheels when I come out, or even no car.”

Even nuns have been grabbed by the hair and threatened with knives. (*The Times 11/03/03*)

- **“Goths” subjected vicar to extreme harassment**

Southampton Crown Court heard how two men and a woman subjected the vicar of St Mary the Virgin Parish Church at Eling, near Southampton, Rev Chris Rowberry, and his wife and two children, to extreme harassment. The men drank each other’s blood, and all three made howling noises in the church yard late at

night, posted obscene material on the parish notice board, let off fireworks and made nuisance calls. One of the men told the jury that he saw himself as a “psychic vampire” who absorbed energy from other people, and he had been interested in this subject since he was a child. He and his friends were “goths”, dressing in black and crimson clothing and meeting in places such as churchyards. Judge John Boggis said he regarded their behaviour as “utterly appalling. I hope you have seen the effect you have had on your victims as they took to the witness box to give evidence”. (*Daily Telegraph* 18/10/03)

- **Report urged clergy to drop dog-collar to reduce risk of attack after five clerics killed in 10 years**

Paul Bennett, the vicar of St Fagan’s Church, Trecynon, near Aberdare, was the fifth cleric to be killed in 10 years. A report commissioned after his murder recommended that clergy abandon their traditional dog-collars to reduce the risk of attack. Research has shown that half the attacks against clergy take place on the street or in the church, when the priest is on his own. More attacks are carried out on priests than on probation officers and GPs. Between 1997 and 1999, 12% of clergy were assaulted and 7% abused or threatened. (*Daily Telegraph* 8/10/07)

- **Rector beaten up in “faith-hate” attack**

Canon Michael Ainsworth had to go to hospital after he was beaten up in his churchyard by three Asian youths. He was found slumped in the churchyard of St George-in-the East in Stepney. The youths had taunted Canon Ainsworth about his Christian faith and hit him about the face and body. Parishioners said “There was blood everywhere.” The police are treating the incident as a “faith-hate” attack and said the gang made “remarks insulting his occupation” before fleeing. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century church has regularly had windows smashed by youths; one occasion they shouted, “This should not be a church, this should be a mosque”. The parish has a large Muslim population. A survey of London clergy by National Church Watch (NCW), which provides personal safety advice, found that nearly half said that they had been attacked in the previous twelve months. NCW suggested that vicars should consider taking off their dog-collars when they are on their own. (*Sunday Telegraph* 16/03/08)

For many years, churches have been left open for the public to enter and pray. Unfortunately, a new situation has developed, and sacred places and vicarages are no longer safe.

- **Thefts from and attacks on churches have increased steeply**

Thefts and other attacks on churches have risen by more than 50% in the past eight years. On average there are 17 attacks every day on churches. Across Britain one in three churches annually will suffer some form of arson, theft or vandalism. (*The Times* 30/09/97)

- **One thief raided 517 churches**

Christopher Coulthard raided 517 places of worship during a nine-month campaign of theft. He was jailed at Swansea Crown Court for four years. (*Daily Telegraph* 04/01/03)

- **Vandals destroyed gravestones**

Vandals destroyed more than 300 gravestones at a small cemetery in Withernsea, East Yorkshire. Police believe at least 20 people helped to carry out the attack. (*Daily Mirror* 10/07/04)

- **Vandals targeted church and vicarage**

Roger Smith, of St. James’ in Haslingden, has had to build a 10-foot security fence around his vicarage after he and his elderly sister had been terrorised by a series of incidents. A youth tried to kick down the door of the vicarage, and a gang of eight threw stones at the church’s 18<sup>th</sup> Century stained glass windows. Youths pelted the vicar’s house with eggs, graffiti was sprayed over the church entrance, and part of the wooden fence that previously surrounded the vicarage has been stolen. Mr Smith said the church and vicarage were targeted at least once a month and more often in summer. He said they had suffered a decade of vandalism. Ecclesiastical Insurance say that a crime wave against ecclesiastical property will see one in five churches damaged this year. It paid out more than £4m last year for 3,500 claims of arson, malicious damage and theft in churches. (*Daily Telegraph* 31/05/06)

- **Fourteen-year-old caused £5 million fire damage to church**

A boy of 14 pleaded guilty to using a lighter to set fire to an oil tank behind St Thomas's Church, a 131-year-old Grade II listed building, in Newhey, Rochdale, on 21 December 2007. Repairs to the church are estimated to cost £5 million. (*Manchester Evening News 24/12/07, BBC News website 19/03/08*)

# 9. The Abandonment of Christian Sexual Morality

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## 9.1 The Sexualisation of Society

There has been an explosion of sexualisation of society, with sex increasingly being presented on television, in magazines, in newspapers and, especially, on the Internet. There has been a huge increase in the availability of pornography. The United Kingdom now has a daily pornographic newspaper available from most newsagents. There is a string of sex shops across the land selling pornographic films.

By the mid-90's around 80% of internet traffic was pornographic and by 2003, there were over 260 million pornographic websites. The sex trade in the United Kingdom is now a multi-million-pound business.

The sexual revolution, with the provision of the pill to unmarried women and girls and condoms to children, has been part of the huge attack on marriage and the family. The rejection of basic Christian standards of sexual morality has led to a spawning of child abuse and child pornography. Sex clinics are now overcrowded and it is freely admitted that sexually transmitted diseases in the UK are out of control, with an epidemic of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis and the highest number of HIV cases ever diagnosed.

This has been the very high price paid for turning away from Biblical standards of sexual behaviour. The Bible speaks of righteousness, ie, right relationships. When wrong relationships are fostered and practised great harm results. The absence of Christian values has led to moral confusion and great human misery.

## 9.2 The Sexualising of Children

There has been a calculated effort to rob our children of the proper freedoms of childhood and the constructive guidelines of Christian morality.

- **Kinsey**

Alfred Kinsey, a fierce opponent of Christian sexual morality, was the author of reports which are now largely discredited, and even considered fraudulent. A paedophile, he regarded extra-marital sexual intercourse as desirable.

- **SIECUS**

The Sex Information and Educational Council of the USA (SIECUS) has had a profound influence on sex education in Britain over the past 40 years. In their guide "Sex, Science and Values", they stated, "The strict Judaeo-Christian codes inherited from the past in which chastity is prescribed are being challenged. Rational inquiry is replacing blind faith... a so-called new morality is being ushered in". They freely admitted that they "do not see right and wrong as eternal entities", rather they "distinguish between what is wise and foolish in actions that vary according to time, place and circumstance".

- **Mace**

A founder member of SIECUS, David Mace, who has strongly influenced British sex education, pressed very hard for children to be opened up to their sexuality. He said, "On reaching puberty, boys and girls would freely gratify their sexual urges as they arose and will be free to do so throughout the rest of their lives... it would be entirely proper to invite any other person of either sex or age group to participate in any kind of sexual experience – on a couple or group basis".

- **Cole**  
Dr Martin Cole, a genetics lecturer at Aston University and a strong antagonist towards the Christian faith, produced sex educational material which is widely used. He promoted youth camps where young people could be promiscuous provided they used contraception. He wrote, “I think teenagers should be promiscuous – it can be a very vital and important part of growing up”. His philosophy followed the teachings of Havelock Ellis, who defined progress as “a gradual emancipation from morals”.
- **Brook**  
When Brook Clinic produced their document “Safe Sex for Teenagers” in 1978, they said, “We must be prepared to challenge established attitudes that sexual activity in young people is dangerous... there are still too many workers in birth control clinics who believe consciously and unconsciously that sex before 16 is sinful”. Brook deliberately avoided giving any moral guidance to children and simply stated their job to be that of helping young people to “make informed choices”.
- **Secularists**  
The National Secular Society, a campaigning anti-Christian group, produced a booklet, “The Erroneous Zone”, which strongly opposed what was called “moralistic approaches” to teenage sexual behaviour. It was included in the FPA booklist and said, “We have to remove the anti-sex attitudes of a traditional moral code and particularly the influence of the churches”.
- **Humanists**  
The Student Humanist Federation produced a booklet, “Sexual Morals”, which accepted the principle of multi-partnering and which totally rejected the Christian ethic.
- **Family Planning Association**  
The campaign “Sexualise Children” was intensified by the Family Planning Association (FPA), whose former press officer, Wendy Smith, wrote in a teenage magazine, “There is no reason why a girl shouldn’t carry a sheath around with her all the time so that if the situation arises when she wants to sleep with a boy, she can ensure that he wears one”.
- **Health Education Council**  
A sex education manual entitled “Make It Happy” (Virago Press) was endorsed by the FPA and promoted by the Health Education Council, even though the book, commenting on incest, said, “When this is between sisters and brothers it can be a loving sexual relationship”. Referring to group masturbation, the book said, “If that’s how you enjoy it, there is nothing wrong in sharing sex in this way”.
- **Paedophiles**  
The de-Christianising process was further developed in the sex manual, “Boy, Girl, Man, Woman”, by Bent Glaesson, in which paedophiles are described as being generally “kindly people who treat the children tenderly and affectionately”.
- **Health Education Authority**  
The publicly funded Health Education Authority published a sex education booklet, “Your Pocket Guide to Sex”. Written by the Agony Aunt of a teenage magazine, “Just Seventeen”, it contained information on the use of vibrators, oral sex and masturbation and stated that “the number of people who you have sex with is much less important than how you have sex”.  
Children are no longer taught the sanctity and advantages of the marriage-based family. There are no references to husband and wife, and the teaching of chastity is banned. The Health Education Authority said in 1999 that children should be taught “that there are strong and mutually supported relationships outside marriage”. (*Love Life – Sexual Health for Young People, HEA; Your Pocket Guide to Sex, HEA*)

The concepts of fidelity and modesty, and the need for respect for others and self-restraint, together with most other Christian virtues, are dismissed by many people in the sex education business, who do not believe anything is intrinsically right or wrong.

- **FPA**  
The FPA, in their booklet “4 Boys”, boldly state “your body is yours to share with whom ever you choose”.

- **Stopes**

Marie Stopes International, in their publication “Our Passport to Sexual Health”, actively promote sexual activity amongst the young, telling young people, “A foreign holiday still holds promise of sun, sea and sex”. It urges young holidaymakers always to take condoms with them in order that they should fully enjoy the holiday.

- **Healthwise**

Sex education promoters such as Healthwise sweep aside Christian moral standards, and in their pack “The Primary Schools Sex and Relationship” (1999 edition) say, “In the past some people have suggested narrow moralistic aims for sex education. This has included suggestions such as promoting marriage and family, dissuading children from having sex before marriage, telling children what is right and wrong, etc, in a manner which has more to do with propaganda than with education”.

- **LDA**

In the book “Knowing Me, Knowing You”, published by LDA Learning, teachers are advised that to teach about the traditional family “might well be downright offensive to some”.

Sexual relationships are thus being presented to children as a recreational activity with no further significance, debasing the fundamentals of human relationship. The truth is, of course, that the humanist sex education campaigners are themselves engaged in fierce propaganda to influence children.

Christians have always put great importance on providing children with teaching about stable life-long family environments. Many of the sex educationists are deliberately preparing children for a life of promiscuous sex. Rarely, if ever, do they warn of the immense physical, emotional and social consequences of this. Immature children are now bombarded with images of sex on all side. There appears to be an unholy alliance between libertarianism and consumerism, with innocent children inevitably being the victims, freely exploited regardless of the consequences.

There is a high price to pay for the rejection of basic Christian teaching. Christ himself warned that “whoever harms the least of these little ones, it would be better for him to be thrown into the water with a millstone around his neck”.

Children are having children, and children are having abortions – in many cases without the knowledge or approval of their parents or their doctors. The de-Christianising of our nation is more evident among children and the young than anywhere else. Promiscuity is promoted, teaching about chastity is banned.

- **Educationists promoted corruption of children**

A Scottish Executive approved reading list includes a teaching guide, “Taking Sex Seriously”, which recommends teachers to encourage children as young as 11 to think about “all the different sexual activities that two people can do together”. The booklet suggests sado-masochism, group sex and unnatural sexual practices as suitable subjects for discussion. The National Executive Officer of the NASUWT Teaching Union said, “This is encouraging deviancy among our children and is morally bankrupt.” The Scotsman commented, “We believe the vast majority of parents – who have not, of course, been consulted in the matter – will find [this] utterly unacceptable, and will be outraged that the proposals have got as far as they have.”  
*(The Scotsman 29/03/01)*

- **Human-animal sex presented to children**

Upbury Arts College in Medway, Kent has withdrawn a school worksheet in which pupils were asked to debate the merits of sex with animals and dead people, after parents complained. Rebecca Linnell, 13, said, “We shouldn’t be taught things like that.” *(The Times 17/01/03)*

- **Primary school children corrupted**

Mothers who were shown just the first 15 minutes of a sex education series entitled “Living and Growing” by Channel 4 were horrified and condemned it as “virtually pornographic”. They begged teachers not to use it, saying that it would encourage sexual experimentation.

Officials want to use it in primary schools by September. Five-year-olds would be shown illustrations of a naked man and women and asked to label parts of their bodies. A film for slightly older children shows an animation of a couple having sex. It then discusses masturbation, gay and lesbian relationships and the purpose of condoms. Thousands of packs of this course have been sold.

Julie Anne Luisis, whose five-year-old daughter Charlotte attends the Cambell Infant School in Dagenham, said it would encourage younger children to experiment. She said, “Some parents were virtually in tears.” Michelle Heggarty, a mother of three, said, “They should not be taught sex education at that age.” Another mother said, “I have seen the video and it is virtually pornographic. Whoever said it was OK to educate children needs their head examined.” (*Daily Mail 19/07/03*)

- **Celibacy group banned**

Sex-education advisers in East Sussex have told head teachers who invited a Youth Theatre Company to promote a message of sexual abstinence not to repeat the invitation because the message is “unsuitable for the pupils”. Abstinence teaching is growing in popularity in America but is opposed by the UK Government’s Teenage Pregnancy Unit and the Sex Education Forum, part of the National Children’s Bureau. The Sex Education Forum has issued a report entitled “Just Say No – To Abstinence Education”. The East Sussex area has a high rate of teenage pregnancies.

Also, the PSHE team in East Sussex has issued a leaflet for teenagers called “Dare to Be Different”, about being homosexual and “coming out” to friends. (*Daily Telegraph 03/04/02*)

- **Teachers told not to encourage chastity among children**

Teachers have been told not to suggest to ten-year-olds that sex before marriage is wrong. The Family Planning Association has said that such an attitude is “judgmental” and primary school teachers should “respect the diversity” of society when teaching about sex and relationships.

The FPA brochure “How Much? How Soon?”, aimed at teachers of children aged nine to ten, says, “To say that sex outside marriage is always wrong will inevitably contradict the experience of some pupils with regard to their own parents/carers’ lifestyles.” Teachers should take into account the lifestyles of some parents “regardless of the position adopted by the school”, and teachers should feel free to discuss gay relationships with under-tens: “talking about homosexuality does not constitute ‘promoting’ it.”

The advice comes as the rates of STDs among teenagers soar. MP Ann Widdecombe said that children should be taught to save sex until they are married. “I think the FPA are being profoundly irresponsible,” she said. “They are saying sex before marriage is acceptable. Organisations like the FPA shouldn’t be giving information to schools.” (*Daily Mail 17/04/04*)

- **Sex propaganda imposed upon children**

A pilot scheme involving 14 schools in the North East, the South-West, London and the Midlands is introducing books dealing with gay issues to children from the ages of four to eleven. It is being argued that the books, one of which is a fairy-tale featuring a prince who turns down three princesses before falling in love with and marrying a man, are necessary to make homosexuality seem normal to children. The “No Outsiders” project has received nearly £600,000 in funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, and backing from the National Union of Teachers and the General Teaching Council. A spokesman for the Christian Institute said, “The predictions of those who said the repeal of Section 28 would result in the active promotion of homosexuality in schools are coming true.” (*Observer 11/03/07*)

- **Young children invited to act as homosexuals**

Children as young as four are being taught about same-sex relationships using puppets, plays and fairy tales in a Government-funded scheme. Pupils are being invited to act the parts of gay characters during after-school arts clubs as well as in some literacy and drama lessons. A spokesman for the National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Associations said, “We are putting issues on young shoulders that actually don’t need to be there. This may be OK in the later years of secondary school but to try and deal with this in primary is really not on.” (*Daily Mail 22/05/07*)

- **Union opposed teaching of marriage**

The University and College Union has urged that schools should be banned from promoting traditional marriage and sex education lessons, for fear of discriminating against gay and lesbian children. The Union

criticised teachers who champion heterosexual wedlock for instilling “negative images” of same-sex relationships. The University and College Union says schools should prohibit any lessons which “negatively characterise” the identity and lifestyle of homosexual or bisexual teenagers. The Government’s existing sex education guidelines published in 2000 highlight “the importance of marriage for family life”. Last year Vincent Nicholls, Archbishop of Birmingham, said the classroom must not be a “morally neutral zone”. (*Daily Telegraph 31/05/07*)

- **Minister proposed banning of teaching that gay sex is wrong**

The Education Minister, Alan Johnson, said on BBC Radio 4’s “Today” programme that faith schools should not be allowed to teach that gay sex is wrong. (*BBC “Today” programme 01/06/07*)

- **Government guidelines told teachers not to use “Mum” and “Dad”**

New Government guidelines for schools launched by Ed Balls, the Children, Schools and Families Secretary, instruct teachers not to use terms like “mum” and “dad” when referring to pupils’ parents. They recommend that “Schools should make efforts to talk inclusively about same-sex parents”.

The guidance was produced by the homosexual lobby groups Stonewall and Educational Action Challenging Homophobia. It suggests that “relevant issues” should be considered in the context of a range of subjects including English, Geography, History, Art, Music, Drama and PE.

It has no statutory force, and has been issued despite the fact that a recent High Court judgement ruled that the Sexual Orientation Regulations do not extend to the school curriculum or lessons. (*LifeSiteNews.com 30/01/08; The Christian Institute 30/01/08*)

Our age will go down in history as a time when we sexualised the young. Children and young people have been opened up to the destructive influence of pornography and a cultural message which degrades human relationships and mocks marriage. Our schools are being used as instruments of social engineering; children are being taught the physical facts of sexual relationships without any moral guidance; they are being given condoms; they are becoming sexually active prematurely and in a moral and social vacuum; they are becoming parents and having abortions; and they are contracting sexually transmitted diseases. The teaching of Christian morality has been abandoned and the chief casualties have been our children.

# 10. Attacks on Life, Marriage and Family

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## 10.1 Abortion and Euthanasia

For the past 40 years there has been a drift towards the denial of the value of human life in the womb. Abortion has become acceptable, often as a form of birth control. The child in the womb is freely dismissed as foetal material of no value, whose disposal has little or no significance. The widespread and deliberate destruction of human life in the womb has enormous consequences, not least for the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the woman. Many women experience ongoing guilt and physical trauma after abortion. The womb, once considered the safest place in the world, has now become one of the most dangerous places.

After the destruction of nearly 7 million young lives, there is a growing unease that we are becoming a culture of death.

Similarly, there has been growing pressure for the introduction of euthanasia – the deliberate act of putting an end to a patient’s life. Euthanasia, which is rooted in the now discredited Eugenics movement, raises fundamental issues about the Christian belief in the sanctity of life. Dame Dr Cecily Saunders, founder of the Hospice movement said, “Very soon the right to die will become the duty to die”. Dr John Hapgood, the former Archbishop of York wrote in 1974, “Legislation to permit euthanasia would in the long run bring about profound changes in social attitudes towards death, illness, old age and the role of the medical profession”. \*

The issues of abortion and euthanasia raise fundamental principles about the inherent value of human life, which have been upheld for centuries.

## 10.2 The Family and Marriage\*\*

For the past 40 years there has been a steady drift away from the marriage-based family, often encouraged by tax and benefits policies.

- The number of divorces has nearly doubled since 1971. (*Social Trends 37, ONS 2007*)
- 53% of divorces include a child or children under 16. (*ONS/Divorce Online 2007*)
- Nearly half of all births in England, Scotland and Wales are outside wedlock. (*Social Trends 37, ONS 2007*)
- 24% of children lived in a single-parent family in 2006, compared with 7% in 1972. (*Ibid.*)

The family has always played a major role in the life of Christian nations and the Christian Church.\*\*\* Christians believe that marriage is both a gift from God and a responsibility from him, enabling men and women to build up healthy and satisfying relationships, which in turn create a stable and wholesome society in which the young may be nurtured and children and adults alike develop a proper sense of value and responsibility.

\*See Maranatha briefing paper on “Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide”, September 2003

\*\*See Maranatha submission “Choosing Health?” to the Secretary of State for Health, June 2004

\*\*\*See Maranatha report “Marriage and Family in the United Kingdom – An Overview”, October 2006

Within marriage, husband and wife find the love and security to cherish one another and to express ever more deeply their delight in sexual intimacy and their growth in relationship.

Marriage provides the opportunity and commitment for husband and wife to grow together in maturity and understanding.

Christians also believe that marriage is a gift from God and that the family is the framework within which children find the love and security they need to grow to healthy maturity. Within the family they experience how to give and receive. They learn by example and by positive discipline how to relate to other people and to the world around them. They learn the meaning of fidelity and the outworking of mutual forgiveness and responsibility.

Christians also believe that God has given us marriage and the family as a creative centre for wholesome community. The family enriches the locality in which it is set, reaching out in neighbourliness towards and concern for others, and building up a network of caring relationships. A happy, healthy family, where the members are in loving and right relationship with each other, creates a positive good which spills over beneficially into the surrounding community.

We derive our understanding of the family as the place where our deepest and longest-lasting human relationships are worked out from our understanding of God.

Efforts to destroy marriage and family have been strenuous and produced a grim harvest of human suffering, not least among children. It is beyond doubt that there is a direct link between family breakdown and social breakdown. The children of broken and dysfunctional homes are far more prone to anti-social behaviour and involvement in crime and drugs. The economic consequences of what is happening are alarming.

- The financial cost of family breakdown is estimated at £24 billion per year. (*Breakthrough Britain Report July 2007*)

Many problems of social disorder are rooted in families where there is no live-in father. Many, but certainly not all children, of single parent families suffer emotionally, physically, emotionally and educationally.

We now have huge numbers of children and young people not in education, training or employment. Their numbers have grown and many of them are the product of collapsed families.

The steadfast refusal of the state to promote marriage continues to have a devastating effect on society. The marriage-based family is the basic building block of Christian civilisation. We destroy it at our peril.

# II. The Public Denigration of Christ

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Jesus Christ is frequently falsely depicted, represented or described, in ways that are mocking, denigrating or belittling. This is often done under the pretext of “artistic expression” and is commonly supported out of public funds. The trend toward denigration has accelerated in recent years.

## II.1 Art

Art is a legitimate vehicle for social comment and protest, but sadly it is now being used for the vulgar abuse of Christ.

- **Royal Academy mocked Mary**

The Royal Academy, once a respected institution, presented grossly offensive exhibits in its “Sensation” exhibition. The exhibition included a portrait of the Virgin Mary surrounded by photographs of female genitalia from pornographic magazines. The Academy ignored protests from Christians about the exhibition.

The Academy also included in the exhibition a large picture of Myra Hindley formed from casts of children’s handprints, even though the mothers of two of the children she murdered pleaded for it not to be shown. They also included a grossly offensive sexually suggestive glass fibre model with an anal mouth and a penis nose.

The Royal Society’s exhibition secretary, Norman Rosenthal, claimed that “there is no such thing as art that is immoral.” (*The Guardian 19/09/97; Sunday Telegraph 21/09/97; Sunday Times 21/09/97*)

- **Artist represented Jesus as topless woman**

An artist, Sam Taylor-Wood, represented Christ as a topless woman in a photograph of her friends imitating Leonardo Da Vinci’s “The Last Supper”. (*The Times 02/07/98*)

- **Fashion designer mocked Christ**

A fashion designer presented a collection for Chanel which included a model wearing a gilt crown of thorns and a jockstrap. Some football shirts were emblazoned “Jesus Five and Galliano Religion”. The designer claimed that “Footballers... are the new gods. They are icons. And Jesus is one of the most beautiful men in the world.” (*Sunday Telegraph 13/10/00*)

- **Exhibition displayed pornography to Christian music**

An exhibition of photographs at the White Chapel Gallery included a slide show incorporating pictures of homosexual and heterosexual couples engaging in sexual activity, and pictures of young children watching adult sexual activity. Religious music composed by Sir John Tavener, one of Britain’s greatest living classical composers, was used without his permission, and to his distress, to accompany some of the pictures. The words, “Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me” were played to accompany pictures of a naked homosexual couple engaging in anal intercourse. (*Sunday Times 3/02/02*)

- **Arts Council project ridiculed Christ**

In 2004 the Arts Council funded the “Queer Story-Telling Festival” with £29,000 to tour England providing a platform for homosexual story-telling. The group’s main logo was a depiction of Jesus Christ in a sexual position with a naked devil. (*BBC website accessed 17/06/08*)

- **Photographic exhibition mocked Christ**

A photographic exhibition called “The Stations of the Cross” depicted Christ in a deliberately offensive manner. The first station (Jesus is condemned to die) showed a man wearing a cow’s skull with a crown of barbed wire, brandishing a kitchen knife in each hand. The 10<sup>th</sup> station (Jesus is stripped) showed a topless woman garlanded with barbed wire, and the 12<sup>th</sup> station (Jesus dies on the Cross) had cigarette butts glued to a cross. (*Daily Telegraph 01/05/04*)

- **Tate Britain mocked Christ**

In May 2004 Tate Britain exhibited a representation of the Crucifixion called “Christ You Know It Ain’t Easy”, made up of discarded Marlboro Light cigarettes. Alongside it was a display entitled “The Pursuit of Oblivion”, featuring a cow carcass, which ridiculed the Passion; the person responsible for this had earlier produced an item called “Jesus is laid in a tomb” showing Jesus lying in a cardboard box marked “Quality of this Product”. (*The Times 14/12/04*)

- **Madame Tussaud’s exhibited sacrilegious waxworks**

At Christmas 2004, Madame Tussaud’s exhibited sacrilegious waxworks of “Posh and Becks” as Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Joseph, with no regard for the feelings of Christians. (*Daily Mail 21/12/04*)

- **Channel 4 depicted Jesus as drunk**

A current Channel 4 brochure has a photographic spread of players from the current hit show “Shameless” in the attitude of disciples at the Last Supper, with the figure playing Christ turned forward drunkenly, with a beer can in one hand and a cigarette in the other. (*Daily Mail 21/12/04*)

- **Gallery displayed inappropriate sculpture of Christ**

The Baltic Gallery in Gateshead included a model of Christ with an erect penis in a display of characters ranging from Michelangelo’s “David” to “ET”. (*Sunderland Echo 16/01/08*)

## **11.2 Film and Drama**

Over the last 40 years numerous plays and films have mocked Christ.

- **Film showed Jesus as having sexual activity**

In 1988 the film, “The Last Temptation of Christ” was released for public viewing. It shows Jesus in a dream sequence as having sexual activity with Mary Magdalene. (*British Board of Film Classification 1988*)

- **Film showed crucified thief mocking Jesus falsely**

Monty Python’s “The Life of Brian” showed one of the thieves crucified with Christ singing to him on the Cross “Always look on the bright side”. (*Daily Mail 21/12/04*)

- **Play depicted Jesus as practising homosexual**

At the Pleasance Theatre in Holloway, a play called “Corpus Christi” depicted Christ and his disciples as practising homosexuals. It portrayed Jesus in an intimate embrace with Judas Iscariot, as his lover. He was called “King of the queers”, blessed a homosexual “marriage”, and was shown being crucified in Calvin Kline underpants. (*Evening Standard 07/10/99*)

- **Play presented Jesus as having sexual intercourse**

A play about Jesus entitled “AD”, written for a Glasgow-based theatre company, “Raindog”, presented Jesus as having sexual intercourse with a girl. As a consequence a daughter was born. (*Sunday Times Scotland 09/01/00*)

- **Play depicted Jesus as lusting after women**

One of the main items at this year’s Edinburgh Festival Fringe was a play called “Messiah”, which depicted Christ as a firebrand socialist who lusts after women and whose crucifixion was a publicity stunt that went wrong. The writer said he believed that “sexual power lay at the heart of Christ’s appeal to the people of Judah”. (*The Scotsman 14/06/00*)

## **11.4 Broadcasting**

Broadcasters regularly ridicule Christ. There is no doubt whatsoever that if they treated Mohammed in the same way there would be huge protests, and probably violence and even bloodshed. The broadcasters clearly apply double standards.

- **BBC broadcast “alternative” Nativity play**

The BBC are broadcasting an “alternative” nativity play on Christmas Day which shows Joseph complaining that he is being blamed for the Virgin Mary’s pregnancy and saying that his “mates” had advised him to “dump her”. He is shown carving a doll for the unborn child whom he “believes” (contrary to the Biblical account of what he knew) may be a girl. The BBC defended their decision to broadcast the play in the face of opposition to it by claiming that they were offering “a fresh and original take” on the events of Christmas. *(Sunday Telegraph 10/12/00)*

- **BBC mocked Holy Communion**

In the comedy show “Goodness Gracious Me”, the BBC showed an Asian taking Holy Communion and putting chutney on his communion wafer – as “lamb” sauce. When his friend was offered the Communion chalice, he asked for “two bottles of house red” instead. The BBC Governors’ Programmes Complaints Unit agreed that broadcasting the programme was “an error of judgement”. *(Daily Telegraph 22/03/00)*

- **Cable channel ridiculed Christ**

The cable channel Paramount displayed large posters throughout the country for a comedy entitled “Drop the Dead Donkey”, featuring the image of a donkey on the Turin Shroud with the word “Resurrected”. The Advertising Standards Authority took no action. *(Daily Mail 31/03/00)*

- **Channel 4 mocked Christ**

On Friday 20 December 2002 Channel 4 broadcast “Born Sloppy”, a programme featuring a mock popularity contest between Jesus and Father Christmas. It included jibes ridiculing Jesus, and the audience was encouraged to cat-call and shout at the “contestants”. Channel 4 then broadcast a “Christmas edition” of “South Park”, in which cartoon figures made a video Christmas card. The script included “Oh Jesus Christ” as an expletive, and throwaway lines such as “Jesus sucks” and “A lot of people don’t believe in the Jesus thing”, and references to “I’m the light of the world stuff”. *(Channel 4 20/12/02)*

- **ITV mocked Christ**

ITV has broadcast a drama series, “The Second Coming”, in which a Salford video shop worker announces that he is the Son of God. *(Sunday Express 26/01/03)*

- **BBC broadcast “Jerry Springer – The Opera” despite unprecedented level of protest**

In January 2005 the BBC broadcast “Jerry Springer – the Opera”, which depicted an infantile Christ-figure in a nappy claiming to be “gay”, and contained more than 8,000 swear words. The BBC received over 60,000 complaints, but these were ignored. The Governors’ Programmes Complaints Committee’s finding was that “the broadcasting of the programme was justified”. *(Finding by the Governors’ Programme Complaints Committee: Jerry Springer - the Opera, BBC Two, Saturday 8 January 2005, March 2005)*

- **Broadcasting Standards Commission Chairman admitted Christianity is “easy target”**

Lord Dubbs, the Chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC), has admitted that comedians and dramatists delight in “pouring scorn” on Christianity but were “timid” about disparaging Muslims. He acknowledged that Islam was accorded far more respect on television than other religions because satirists were “cautious” and “self-censoring” about causing offence to Muslims: “Christianity is... a more acceptable target.”

He admitted that the BSC had shown bias in favour of Muslims: “We have tried to treat the religions equally. I doubt we have succeeded. I think we have shaded a bit on the side of Islam.”

The BSC subsequently announced that it would impose one of the stiffest penalties at its disposal upon Channel 4 for re-broadcasting a reference to “Jesus f\*\*\*ing Christ”. Channel 4 claimed that it thought the audience at the time of the re-broadcast, 10 pm, would not be offended. *(Daily Telegraph 29/12/03)*

- **BBC report acknowledged marked bias against Christianity**

In 2006, the BBC Chairman convened a meeting of key executives, hosted by Sue Lawley. It was reported that within the BBC there was a marked bias against Christianity and a strong inclination towards pro-Muslim reporting among the networks executives and key anchors. Senior figures admitted that the BBC is guilty of promoting left-wing views and an anti-Christian sentiment. It was recognised that the BBC deliberately encourages multi-culturalism, and is more careful to avoid offending the Muslim community than to avoid offending Christians. Executives admitted they would happily broadcast the image of a Bible being thrown away, but would not do the same for the Koran. “The BBC is not impartial or neutral”, said Andrew Marr. *(The Mail on Sunday 22/10/06)*

- **BBC TV programme portrayed Christ as a “politically correct social worker”**

Canon Tom Wright, Canon and Theologian of Westminster Abbey, and an advisor for the BBC TV series “Son of God”, has attacked the BBC’s portrayal of Jesus in the series as a “politically correct social worker” and the BBC’s rejection of his requests that the series be modified.

Canon Wright said that Jesus “was saying that God’s new day was dawning and now everything was going to be different”, but the BBC didn’t want to know about that and claimed their audience wouldn’t understand it. They portrayed him as a “politically correct social worker”. (*Sunday telegraph 01/04/01*)

## **11.5 The Press**

The national press largely works to a secular agenda. Day by day humanist ideas are propagated; writers are often committed in their deep antagonism to the Christian faith.

- **“Observer” magazine article ridiculed Christ**

An article in the “Observer” magazine ridiculed Christ with phrases like “I am a bit bored with Jesus... the Son of God currently seem to rank lower in juvenile awareness than Britney, Ronan, Leonardo... compared to even the most bottom-rung celebrities, Jesus has become very small fry... Is Mary’s son under-performing? ...What young person would want to sit around thinking about God when, with one pop of a pill, they can actually see Him? ...Considering that so many celebrities like to swan around behaving like they’re Christ, maybe JC could retaliate by behaving like a celebrity. Start appearing in churches and demanding decent plonk be used as His blood, that sort of thing.” (*The Observer 15/04/01*)

## **11.6 Pop Music**

Many popular music lyrics contain messages of violence and blatant denials of Christian values.

- **Group’s satanist lyrics mocked God**

A song by the “Death Metal” group “Possessed” includes the lines, “God is slaughtered, drink His blood, Satan’s son is reborn, sworn to death, days of hate and days of pain, eternity for Satan’s reign”. (*Universe 10/02/02*)

- **Popular singer despised God**

Marilyn Manson (named after the mass murderer Manson) goes out his way to blaspheme God and ridicule Jesus. The chorus of one of his popular songs reads “Damn your God”. Another lyric declares, “I am the all-American anti-Christ”. Another proclaims, “God will grovel before me, God will crawl at my feet”. Significantly, others of his lyrics include the phrases “We are dead and tomorrow’s cancelled”, “We know that nothing is true”, and “Let’s sing the death song kids, because we’ve got no future”.

- **Black Metal bands generated violence**

In its programme on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1995 about Black Metal bands, BBC Radio One, spelt out how this music movement focused on the dark side of human nature and incited violence against Christianity. The BBC North’s Press Release in August 1995 reported that in 1994 four members of the Black Metal band “Necropolis” appeared in court for vandalising churches in Kent and causing £100,000 worth of damage, and their ringleader said he regretted not burning them down.

- **Popular singer extolled violence**

The pop singer EMINEM is known for being obsessed with death, violence and hatred and expresses anger and bitterness in his songs. He is strongly antagonistic to anything to do with the Christian faith. The following are phrases from his songs: “I got the machete from OJ. I am ready to make everyone’s throat ache”; “There’s a 4-year old baby lyin’ dead with a slit throat in your living room, ha-ha”.

- **Pop singer showed light-hearted attitude to Christ**

One of the Spice Girls who had a cross tattooed on her left arm has been wearing a sweatshirt with the logo “Elvis, Jesus and Co Couture”. (*Hotline [Virgin Trains magazine for passengers] 01/01/00*)

## 11.7 Commerce

Commercial influences often exploit familiar Biblical passages to sell their products, showing scant respect for scripture. Restraints, which were maintained for generations, are being thrown off in the interest of profit. Occasionally, excesses are dealt with but in the main policies go unchallenged.

- **Lord's Prayer used in advertisement with erotic images**

Jamella Ltd used words from the Lord's Prayer and Christian symbols such as a votive candle and rosary beads in conjunction with "eroticised images of women apparently in prayer" in TV advertisements for their GHD hair styler. The Advertising Standards Authority upheld complaints that the advertisements were likely to cause serious offence to Christians, and ruled that they "must not be shown again in their current form". (*Christian Institute 12/03/08*)

- **Performer re-enacted crucifixion of Christ as publicity stunt**

For many years, a female performer has called herself "Madonna", a name associated in the minds of many Christians and non-Christians alike with Mary, the mother of Christ. That in itself is offensive to many people. At a concert in Cardiff she re-enacted the Crucifixion by being fixed to a cross and wearing a crown of thorns. A Christian minister, Rev Dr Stephen Russell, commented that "Such a sacrilegious act can only be intended to cause offence. If she tried to defame Islam we would have another world war on our hands." Cardinal Ersilio Tonini, speaking with the Pope's approval, condemned her action: "How this woman can take the name of the Mother of Christ I don't know. Her show represents the rotten fruit of secularism and the absurdity of evil." (*Daily Express 25/05/06; Daily Telegraph 4/08/06*)

- **Video manufacturer set violent game in cathedral**

The entertainment giant Sony used images of Manchester Cathedral as the backdrop to a gunfight in an ultra-violent video game called "Resistance: The Fall of Man". Whilst this did not involve direct mockery of Christ, the Dean of the Cathedral called for Sony to withdraw the game and make a substantial contribution to the Cathedral's youth work in "resisting the culture of gun crime and other forms of violence in our society." (*TimesOnline 11/06/07*)

- **Teenager wore shirt insulting Christ**

A teenager has been given an 80-hour community-service order and charged £40 costs for wearing a T-shirt with a nun in a pornographic pose on the front and the words "Jesus is a C\*\*\*" on the back. (*Manchester Metro News 18/10/05*)

In March 2008 The House of Lords voted by 148 to 87 to repeal our blasphemy laws.

# 12. The Erosion of Christian Influence in Education

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A steady erosion of Christian influence is taking place in education, both at school and in higher education.

The School Standards and Framework Act of 1998, Schedule 20, Collective Worship, states that any community, foundation or voluntary school should provide a daily single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups. This is being challenged or ignored by schools and by at least one county council.

On the other hand, where a school that was challenged by Ofsted over its non-compliance with the law conducted thorough and responsible research, its expectation that Christian worship would be unwelcome to parents of Muslim children was shown to be unfounded. In other words, Christian worship in the school had been downgraded as a “safe option” entirely without cause (never mind the requirements of the law).

Children are commonly not taught about “virtue” and “vice” because that would be “judgemental”. Even though they are immature, they are encouraged to create their own moral framework rather than learning from the experience of their parents and elders. Thus an essential element of the educational process, the passing on from one generation to another of the knowledge and experience needed for living, is discarded. This further serves the humanist agenda by undermining of the relationship between parents and their own children.

In recent years a major assault has been mounted against Christian Unions in higher education.

- **St Andrew's University**

St Andrew's University Students' Union disallowed the university's Christian Union, one of the most active and popular in Britain, from using Students' Union facilities because of its attitude to homosexual conduct. (*Daily Telegraph 22/01/01*)

- **Warwick University**

Warwick University Students' Union Council disaffiliated the university's Christian Union because of its stand on homosexuality. The Christian Union cannot now operate from the Students' Union building or use its facilities. (*Daily Telegraph 22/06/02*)

- **Edinburgh University**

The Edinburgh University Christian Union was banned from teaching the “PURE” course on University premises. This course advocates sexual purity, and teaches that sex is only appropriate within the context of a marriage. Gay-rights groups claim that the course is homophobic because it states Biblical truth on homosexual practice. The University authorities have agreed with this view, stating that the viewpoints contained in the PURE course are contrary to its Equality and Diversity Policy, and have banned the course from the University premises. (*LifeSiteNews.com 22/11/06 et al*)

- **Heriot-Watt University**

The Christian Union at Heriot-Watt University was disaffiliated from the Student Association because of its requirement that members sign a Statement of Faith setting out basic, orthodox Christian beliefs. The Student Association have refused to allow the Christian Union to join unless they change that Statement of Faith. (*The Times 24/11/06 et al*)

- **Birmingham University**

In 2005 the Birmingham University Christian Union was disaffiliated from the Students' Union at Birmingham University because of its Statement of Belief. The students there are still seeking a resolution with the university authorities. (*The Times* 24/11/06 et al)

- **Hull University**

Hull University Students' Union disaffiliated the university Christian Union on the grounds that its Christian-only leadership policy was "discriminatory". (*Christian Institute News Release* 30/3/04)

- **Exeter University**

In 2006, after receiving just one complaint in 50 years, Exeter University Student Guild forced Exeter's Christian Union to change their name to the "Evangelical" Christian Union, froze its bank accounts, and banned them from using Guild premises. Jemma Percy, the Guild president, said the Union would regain its privileges only if it no longer required members to declare their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In July 2007, Mark Shaw QC, the independent adjudicator appointed by Exeter University, strongly criticised the Constitution of Exeter CU because it restricted the membership to Christians, even though its meetings were open to everyone, regardless of faith. (*Daily Telegraph* 18/11/06; *Exeter University Christian Union Press Release*, 17/07/07)

- **Bishops called for end to religious intolerance in universities**

Some of Britain's most senior religious figures have called for an end to "intolerant and unlawful" attempts to restrict the rights of Christian Unions on university campuses. Eight Church of England and Roman Catholic bishops are among those who in a letter to "The Times" call on student associations to take action to halt the discrimination. (*The Times* 24/11/06)

Key messages of the Christian faith are being diluted in schools.

- **Civil servant urged "global citizenship studies" instead of religious education**

Professor Michael Barbour, head of the Standards Unit at the Department of Education and Employment, has said that pupils should learn the ethics of "global citizenship" to replace crumbling religious values. Speaking at the Secondary Heads' Association Conference in Birmingham, he said, "Progressively over the last 200 years the belief systems which sustained Western societies have crumbled away. Christianity, which established ethical codes for most of the last 2000 years, has become a minority interest". Regarded as the Department of Education and Employment's leading thinker, he said that by the 1970s all that remained in Western countries was rampant consumerism and "the quicksand of cultural relativism" – an abandonment of the morality of right and wrong. He asked, "In the absence of God and Marx what are we to do?" (*The Guardian* 23/03/98)

In spite of the requirements of the law, Christian acts of worship in schools have been gradually run down, and there has been an emphasis on syncretism in worship (ie, the fusion and compromise of different belief systems).

- **County council urged end of school worship**

Worcester County Council proposed that daily prayer assemblies in schools should be replaced by "quality non-sectarian spiritual gatherings" two or three times a week. In June 2001 the council wrote to the Department of Education saying that the act of collective worship was no longer practical in many secondary and primary schools because many schools did not have halls large enough to take all pupils simultaneously, some teachers exercised their right not to take part, and religious diversity caused problems. The Council's leader and Chairman of its Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, who claims to be a practising Christian, said that "a change in the law that makes traditional assemblies mandatory was overdue". (*Daily Telegraph* 2/01/01, 19/06/01)

- **School research showed false assumptions behind downgrading of Christian worship**

Priestmead Middle School in Harrow has about 370 children. The majority are of Asian origin, but 20 ethnic groups are represented in all. The school's 2002 Ofsted report noted that its daily assemblies did not comply with the 1988 Act's requirement for Christian worship. It consulted parents, teachers and pupils about what should be done. The school's research recorded that "The findings of the parents (sic) were not what we expected. We thought there would be considerable opposition to having 51% of assemblies being 'broadly

Christian' but the opposite was the case. The parents... did not see this as a threat to their faith – they thought that Christian teachings would lead to a better society.” (*National Teacher Research Panel 2006*)

- **Welsh schools broke law by dropping school prayers**

In December 2005 the BBC reported that more than half of the secondary schools in Wales inspected in the previous four years broke the law by failing to pray every day. The 1944 Act put worship at the centre of school life, but a survey conducted by the BBC found that out of 149 secondary schools inspected, 81 failed to meet the legal obligation. The 1998 Education Reform Act strengthened the legislation, further defining worship in schools as wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. (*BBC News 23/12/05*)

Christian teaching in schools has been marginalised.

- **Education Secretary marginalised Christian education**

Charles Clarke, the Education Secretary, stated that religious traditions such as the Baha'i faith and Zoroastrianism should be studied in schools, and secular philosophies such as humanism should be taught alongside faiths such as Christianity and Islam, “to promote understanding and respect and to challenge prejudice”.

The Tomlinson Report on education at ages 14 to 19 spoke of “awakening moral and ethical awareness” but not spiritual awareness. The Rt Revd Kenneth Stevenson, the Bishop of Portsmouth, said that the Tomlinson Report referred to “learning to value other people’s religious and cultural traditions but said nothing about understanding and valuing a person’s own cultural and religious tradition... which [in Britain] is overwhelmingly Christian.” (*The Times 29/10/04*)

- **Government diluted religious education**

As part of a desperate £3 million drive to recruit graduates, the Government is promoting RE teaching as “no longer just about the Bible.” The posters used have images from a range of religions, including a monkey god from Japan and a Malayan fertility god, alongside images of Moses and Adam. Candidates are reminded there is no requirement whatsoever for them to practise a religion themselves. (*Sunday Telegraph 29/05/05*)

- **Pagans bid to join advisory body on religious education**

The pagan community in Cornwall has asked the County Council to allow it to be represented on the county’s Standing Advisory Council for Religious education. (*BBC News 08/06/06*)

- **County council recommended teachers to give less time to Christianity and more to Islam and Hinduism**

A new religious syllabus for schools in Buckinghamshire has recommended teachers to spend 40% of religious education on Christianity, and 20% each to give Islam and Hinduism. Just 10% is allotted to other religions, including Judaism, and the final 10% to “general concepts.” The proposal caused fury among church groups and politicians, and councillors accused authorities of a cover-up, saying that while the need to teach children about other world religions is obvious, the lack of education on Christianity in a Christian country was going too far. However, Buckinghamshire County Council insisted that Christianity remained the focus of the syllabus and that the new policies provided flexibility for the schools and promoted goodwill, seeking to inform rather than influence children. Critics reportedly insisted the nation’s religion was being turned into a sideshow in the name of political correctness. (*Daily Mail 04/12/06*)

- **Educationists shown as antagonistic to Christianity**

The Institute for Public Policy Research, which is closely linked to the Government, has issued a report urging the teaching of atheism in school as part of religious education. It says that lessons should be widened to include “non-religious belief systems” and it calls for equal weight to be given to agnosticism and humanism as to Christianity. It also says that children should also be taught about cults such as the Bahai, and even paganism.

It says that instead of accepting the Ten Commandments, children should be taught to question the plausibility of events and teachings of the Bible. Rather than referring to God, they should be taught “that there is a ‘divine being’ whose moral judgements are significantly more reliable than ours”. Children with strong religious beliefs should be encouraged to question and to ask what grounds there are for holding them. Pupils should be actively encouraged to question the religious beliefs they bring with them into the classroom, not so that they are better able to defend or rationalise them, but so they are genuinely free to

adopt whatever position on religious matters they judge to be best supported by the evidence. (*Daily Telegraph 15/02/07*)

- **Anti-Christian intolerance among teachers revealed**

An education web forum has revealed widespread anti-Christian intolerance among teachers. In the forum, published on the Times Educational Supplement website, teachers belittle Christian parents, ridicule their beliefs, describe Sunday School teaching as child abuse, and threaten Child Protection procedures for trivial reasons. The forum started on 19 April 2007 under the disparaging title "Some Parents". The thread descends into an anti-Christian rant, with Christianity described by one contributor as "a certain set of stories", "crazy", "unfathomable and idiotic", "an insane made-up myth" and "wanton mental abuse." What will shock many people, even non-Christians, is how shallow the level of debate is between those who teach our children. A couple of contributors to the forum make the point that no one would dare publicly rant against Islam or Mohammed in the way that they do about Christianity and Jesus Christ. (*Times Educational Supplement website*)

- **Teachers' union opposed faith schools**

The National Union of Teachers (NUT) claimed at the NUT's annual conference in Manchester that the spread of separate faith schools under Government reforms threatened to undermine community relations, with children taught in segregated groups. Officials said the predominance of Christian schools in England was "unjust and unsustainable" when growing numbers of Muslim families wanted their own religious state education.

A policy document, "In Good Faith", was formally adopted. It said "reasonable accommodations" should be made to meet the religious needs of all pupils and proposed a solution in which all state schools offer "religious instruction" to pupils who want it, from different faiths. NUT general secretary Steve Sinnott said, "I believe that there will be real benefits to all our communities and youngsters if we could find space for pupils who are Roman Catholics, Anglican, Methodist, Jewish, Sikh and Muslim to have more religious instruction in schools. You could have imams coming in, you could have the local rabbi coming in and the local Roman Catholic priest. If there were opportunities where they all talked together to the youngsters, what a fantastic example that would be."

Head teachers, secular campaigners and the Church of England criticised the proposals. A spokesman for the CofE said, "Religious instruction belongs with the religious institutions, the churches, the mosques, the temples." (*UK MSN News 25/03/08*)

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has affirmed the value of religious education:

- **Government report recognised the importance of religious education**

"Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions and other world views that offer answers to questions such as these." (*"Religious education – The non-statutory national framework", The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority 11/04*)

The churches have not stood up effectively to the erosion of Christian influence in education.

The de-Christianising process is particularly evident in the decline of the work with children in local churches. In 1905, 56% of the 13 million children under 15 in the UK attended Sunday School. By 2000 the figure had dropped to 4% of the 11 million children, and 41% of the churches in England do not have any children's or youth work.

# 13. The Growth of the Occult

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One of the most significant developments of de-Christianisation in the past 30 years has been the substantial growth of interest in the occult and in New Age. We are in danger of slipping into a resurrected form of paganism, superstition and Satanism.

Bookshops are bursting with hundreds of occultic titles, in contrast to very limited displays of Christian books. Daily and weekly newspapers carry substantial articles on astrology, and astrologers have become very well paid.

The darker side of the occult, with its interest in pagan and Satanic rituals, has caused immense damage. Children and young people playing with ouija boards frequently suffer after-effects, which are sometimes very serious. Christian churches all over the country report that they are seeing the serious consequences of people becoming involved in the occult.

## 13.1 Promotion of Occultic “Healing”

In spite of the serious consequences of becoming involved with the occult, strenuous efforts have been made to introduce occultic practices into the National Health Service and throughout the country through so-called “healers”. There are now numerous associations of so-called “spiritual healers” in the United Kingdom. These include the National Federation of Spiritual Healers, the Association of Universal Healers and Spiritualists, the Association of Spiritualists and Healers. There has also been an expansion of the occultic ‘Reiki’ movement, which is causing great concern to many.\*

## 13.2 Witchcraft Intrudes upon our National Life

There have been intensive efforts to legitimise witchcraft and paganism, invariably hiding the dangerous consequences of involvement in these occultic practices. Witches are now presenting themselves as harmless, and paganism is being presented as a religion equivalent to Christianity.

- **Witch entered the educational system**

Vivianne Crowley, who described herself as a wiccan high priest, was appointed as a visiting tutor to Heythrop College, part of the University of London and a leading Jesuit educational institution. (*Daily Telegraph 24/01/02*)

- **Pagans sought to enter education authorities**

Pagans are endeavouring to have their beliefs recognised as an accepted mainstream religion. A pagan community in Cornwall has asked to join a schools’ advisory body that works with local authorities on religious education. The committee says the decision will rest on whether paganism constitutes a “religious tradition” as envisaged in the 1988 Education Reform Act. (*BBC News 08/06/06*)

- **Pagans catered for in prison**

The Director of the Prison Service has issued prison governors guidelines on how to treat prisoners who wish to follow paganism. They will be allowed to keep artefacts such as hoodless robes, wands, incense and tarot cards amongst their personal possessions, although they will not be allowed to use the tarot cards to tell fortunes for other prisoners.

\*See Maranatha report “Reiki – A Warning”, April 2002

The guidance includes a complete guide to paganism. Prisoners will be allowed to practice paganism in their cells, including praying, chanting and reading pagan tracts and books. The pagan “priests” are to be allowed to use wine in ceremonies and to organise groups for “worship.” This guidance follows guidance issued previously on Buddhism, Sikhism and Mormonism. (*The Times* 17/10/05)

- **Witches claimed witchcraft is becoming mainstream**

Prominent witches claim that witchcraft is increasingly becoming mainstream in Britain, boosted by TV programmes such as “Sabrina, the Teenage Witch” and Harry potter mania. Maxine Saunders, “high priestess of the sacred mysteries” and a promoter of Wicca, claimed that “Witches are getting more and more in demand. People want a pagan wedding.” (*Reuters* 31/10/07)

- **Witches came out in public**

The owner of one of two pagan shops in Bishops Castle, Shropshire, Abbey Hemmings, is a practising witch and a pagan high priestess. She admitted of witchcraft that, “Some people do use it for the negative”. She also admitted that witchcraft is the practice of magic and involved “spell-casting”. She teaches youngsters “...it is important they... do not go off and dabble alone”. (*South Shropshire Journal* 29/10/04)

- **Witch entered politics**

Marina Pepper, 37, a former Playboy centrefold model and a practising witch, was adopted to fight the General Election for the Liberal Democrats in Brighton Kemptown. (*Daily Telegraph* 11/02/05)

- **Witch entered underground music business**

Caroline Robertson, the Managing Director of Westbury Music in south London and one of the country’s leading underground music publishers, was brought up as a Christian and was a regular attendee at Sunday School. However, she became involved in the use of tarot cards and developed an interest in the occult.

She went to an evening class on witchcraft and then joined a coven. She said, “Over the next year, I slept with 12 men... I felt it was absolutely necessary”. She makes daily offerings to “the goddess Venus” and says that she wouldn’t be involved in witchcraft “if it didn’t produce results”. (*Daily Mirror* 07/09/99)

### **13.3 Damage to Children and Young People**

There is no doubt that children and young people who are turned away from Christian values and dabble in the occult are put at serious risk.

- **Educationalists worried by children’s interest in the occult**

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) says that children are being fascinated and disturbed by witchcraft found on web-sites dedicated to the occult. A poll of 2,600 pupils aged 11-16 found a quarter very interested in the occult and another quarter fairly interested. But 17% were worried by what they found, rising to 20% for girls and 27% for ethnic-minority pupils. (*The Guardian* 22/04/00)

Peter Smith, General Secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL), said that the ATL had a long-standing concern over children “meddling in the occult... increasing numbers of children are spending hours alone browsing the internet in search of satanic web sites, and we are concerned that nobody is monitoring this growing fascination.” (*The Observer* 04/11/02)

### **13.4 Promotion of the Occultic Healing and Practice**

There is widespread promotion of occultic practices throughout the United Kingdom.

- **Teenagers drawn into the occult**

The feature writer Marina Baker says that “The latest teen cult is the occult”, and attributes this to two of the most popular young people’s TV programmes, “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and “Sabrina the Teenage Witch”. She herself, a member of the Saltdean coven, has published a book called “Spells for Teenage Witches”.

Teenagers are setting themselves up as witches and forming covens with their friends or starting e-covens on the internet. There are thousands of websites about witchcraft. Adult witch and author Kate West claims to receive a hundred enquiries a month from young witches, of average age 13 for girls and 17 for boys. Harper Collins will shortly publish her book, “The Young Witch’s Handbook”.

West claims that “Religions such as Christianity are seen as too polarised, too much about good and bad with no room for compromise. Paganism offers a male and female deity and involves respect for individuals and the environment. It’s extremely attractive to the young.” She uses e-mail to tell teenagers where to find information on paganism. (*Independent 10/03/00, Daily Express 29/03/01*)

- **Satanism presented in mainstream television**

The BBC has featured Satanism at peak viewing time. On 19 April 2001, from 9 to 9.50 pm, BBC2 showed a 50-minute “documentary”, “Magic – The Art of Darkness” featuring putting curses on people, casting spells and conjuring up demons. One participant said he did the pentagram ritual every day and adorations to the sun, and spoke of an “agnostic mass” which involved eating a communion host doused in menstrual blood. (*BBC2 19/04/01*)

- **Kabbalah occult belief established in London**

A Kabbalah occult centre has opened in London. The Kabbalah Jewish occult system is being embraced by growing numbers of entertainers and celebrities. They include Jerry Hall, Mick Jagger, Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, Roseanne Barr, Barbra Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor, Courtney Love, Naomi Campbell and the performer “Madonna”. Kabbalah teaches that there are 50 levels of holiness, and that those who attain the highest level can talk directly to God.

A Kabbalah Centre has opened in Central London in a building bought by Madonna, who is a fervent disciple of Kabbalah, for a reported £3.5 million. Small bottles of “blessed” Kabbalah water are sold at the centre for £2.80. (*Daily Mail 16/01/03, Financial Times Weekend 20/12/03*)

- **Spiritist publicly honoured by Government**

Eileen Caddy, a spiritist and founder of the Findhorn Foundation, has been included in the New Year Honours List for “services to spiritual inquiry”. (*Daily Telegraph 03/12/03*)

- **Mainstream TV focused on séances and the occult**

Channel 4 admitted yesterday that a spoof séance conducted by its illusionist, Derren Brown, had attracted one of the highest numbers of complaints ever registered for a television programme. Twelve people were invited to “contact” one or more members of an alleged teenage suicide pact. The show attracted more than 700 complaints from viewers. (*Daily Telegraph 04/06/04*)

- **Reiki and psychic activities publicly promoted**

An occultic technique known as Reiki is being widely promoted, and its promoters are endeavouring to make it acceptable in the public place, in spite of the considerable evidence of the harm it does to vulnerable people. Public bodies frequently fail to see the dangers of psychic activities, and in 2007 Hope Hospital opened its consulting rooms and outpatients’ facilities to a weekend event involving spiritist mediums, tarot cards, Reiki, crystals and other occultic activities. The Daily Mail distributed a series of free CDs on Reiki and other controversial practices, claiming that Reiki was “a wonderful treatment based on ancient Japanese healing.” It made no reference to the calling up of spirits and the fundamentally occult nature of Reiki, and the consequential dangers. (*Daily Mail 13/01/07 et al*)

Increasingly over recent years, public entertainers have embraced the occult and Biblical warnings against its acceptance are being swept aside.

- **Entertainer publicly embraced the occult**

Marilyn Manson, the transvestite lead singer of an American rock band, is a self-confessed Satanist who sells himself as “the most evil man in America”. He propagates racist and Satanist views, and his brand of “black metal”, a fusion of violence, nihilism, Satanism and sexual perversion, is popular with young people who model themselves on him. He has said, “In my eyes all evil is good and that’s the message I want to ram into the heart and mind of every single person in Britain.” (*Independent 22/04/99, Daily Star 12/12/96*)

- **Public bodies helped to promote occultic activities**

The Arts Council and European Community have funded a Voodoo Ceremony. A full-length 6-hour voodoo ceremony, complete with a voodoo priest, is touring England sponsored by the Arts Council and the European Commission. It is the first time anything of its kind has been seen in this country. Various so-called ‘lowa’ are summoned to possess those present.

Edgard Louis, the voodoo priest, was initiated at a night-time visit to a graveyard, in order to summon up the most potent of the voodoo spirits. He described a ritual “summoning in a graveyard” and then said “You can then ask for everything you want. You can go out and grab hold of the person who has wronged you. You can haunt people.” In the performance, various girls are in turn possessed and take on the characteristics of particular spirits. The performance includes lewd dancing, convulsions and contortions. Louis claims “The lowa could kill you if they escape”.

The churches asked Camden Council, the licensing authority for the London event, not to grant an entertainments license. However, the authorities said that it was not its job to police issues of “faith and morality.” (*The Times* 16/05/98)

- **Public research project into voodoo**

The Department of Health has launched a study into voodoo in Britain. It has given £115,000 for the study. A research fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry at Maudsley Hospital, London, said that the findings will be crucial to the “beliefs and needs” of patients from African and Afro-Caribbean backgrounds. (*Daily Mail* 2/02/99)

### **13.5 Negative Influences of the Occult**

Occultic practices deliberately exclude God. Nevertheless, people are being led towards dependence upon them.

- **Books encouraged involvement in dangerous occultic practices**

Boxtree Publications have published a book which helps readers to make demonic curses – “The Little Voodoo Kit – Revenge Therapy for the Over Stressed.” It is sold with a voodoo doll with pins for people to use. (*Daily Record* 07/11/96)

- **More young women looked for spiritual dimension in the occult**

Cosmopolitan magazine editor-in-chief Lorraine Candy has reported that, from her correspondence, it seems that more women are praying than ever before, more women are joining the Alpha Course, but more women are phoning psychic lines or are going to tarot card readers. (*Sunday Telegraph* 30/11/03)

- **Occultic practice led to death**

Verity Linn, an active member of the Findhorn Foundation, a New Age group, died before reaching the end of a 21-day fasting programme advocated by Jas Muheen, an Australian cult leader and author of “Living with Light”, which claims that people do not need food or drink. Muheen, a former financier previously known as Ellen Greve, claims to be a messenger of the “Ascended Masters”. A spiritist, she teaches that there is a form of nourishment called “Pranic Light”.

Verity Linn managed the so-called “Cluny Hill College” in Forres. She was herself criticised last year when one of her followers, Lani Morris, from Brisbane, died after 10 days of a 21-day fast. (*The Times* 22/09/99)

- **Politician’s partner called upon the occult**

Peter Mandelson’s homosexual partner, Reinaldo Avila da Silva, has asked a witch doctor in Mexico to deal with Mr Mandelson’s political opponents. Mandelson and da Silva attended a voodoo ceremony in Mexico in which animal sacrifice took place. (*Daily Express* 29/03/01)

### **13.6 Violence Originating in the Occult**

Extreme occultic practices frequently involve or lead to violence.

- **Student murderer pursued the occult**

Two young college students stabbed their best friend to death and then burnt and dismembered his body. They had a preoccupation with violent videos, and one pursued the occult. (*The Times* 28/04/99)

- **Teenagers exposed to black magic murdered a friend**

Two boys who had watched a violent horror film at the home of a convicted drug dealer who admitted an interest in Satanism and witchcraft subsequently repeatedly stabbed a 13-year-old friend and left him to die.

The judge at their trial said that seeing the film and being exposed to knives and black magic combined to “blur the line between fantasy and reality” for the two boys. (*Daily Telegraph 7/08/99*)

- **Children suffered satanic abuse in Britain**

Valerie Sinason, an expert in treating victims of child abuse who is writing a report for the Department of Health has stated that children are being abused in satanic rituals in Britain. Of 76 patients she had seen at her Harley Street clinic, 46 claimed that they had seen the murder of children or adults, and 16 said they had seen abortions induced or babies killed. She said photographs showed horrific injuries to children, and ceremonial sites with the remains of mutilated animals. She added that there was evidence that children were not being registered, to make them “non-people” for grooming for abuse. (*Independent 10/02/00*)

- **Murderers learned about satanism in Britain**

Daniel Ruda, 26, and his wife, Manuela, 23, were convicted of murder after killing their victim “for sacrifice”, then drinking his blood and praying to Satan. At 16, Manuela had run away and lived in London, where she met other Satanists and went to “bite parties” where people drank each other’s blood. At Halloween 1999 she dedicated her soul to Satan and promised to serve him after her death.

At their trial in Germany for stabbing a friend, they said they killed him because the devil had told them to. After their conviction, they grinned at their victim’s parents and Manuela made a satanic sign, before they began 15- and 13-year terms in secure psychiatric units. (*Daily Telegraph 01/02/02*)

- **Child killed herself over witchcraft**

Laura Pendall, 14, was influenced by the TV series “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and believed she was a witch, and had a passion for Wicca (witchcraft). She hanged herself after being taunted at school about her connection with witchcraft. Her father said at her inquest that he agreed with his daughter that witchcraft was a force for good. (*Daily Telegraph 20/03/02*)

- **Horses hurt in occultic attacks**

Horses in six locations near Nottingham have had sticky plaits woven into their manes and tails, hair cut off and blood drained from their jugular veins. RSPCA inspectors found makeshift altars left in fields, and nails in the shape of a cross inserted into an animal’s hoof. There have been more than a dozen reports of animals being violated in England and Scotland during the last two months, and investigators have found black magic symbols, including pentagrams, in the vicinity of the attacks. The incidents have been occurring between Halloween and Easter for more than a decade. (*Nottingham Evening Post 27/11/02*)

In a 17-day period there were 17 assaults on more than a dozen horses in Derbyshire, with Celtic pagan signs being daubed on walls in horse blood and satanic designs being left on stones in fields where the horses had been physically and sexually violated. One horse died with a 14-inch gash in its stomach. Mrs Wavin, who runs an equestrian products business, experienced 76 incidents involving her three horses over one period. On one occasion a Shetland pony was tightly tied up in an electric wire fence, and in another a mare had pagan symbols drawn on its body. (*Daily Mail 01/07/03*)

- **Schoolboy influenced by Manson murdered his girlfriend in ritual killing**

On 21 January 2005, the Edinburgh High Court found Luke Mitchell guilty of murdering his girlfriend, Jodi Jones, when they were both 14. He was obsessed with “gothic” rock music, horror fantasies and drugs. They both belonged to a gang of “goths” who hung around the Greyfriars cemetery in Edinburgh, two of whom had been arrested in 2003 for digging up a tomb, severing the head of a corpse and using it to entertain other members of the gang. He was a fan of the rock singer Marilyn Manson. Police noted similarities between Jodi’s injuries and those of the 1940s Hollywood actress Elizabeth Short, whose murder was an obsession of Marilyn Manson. Jodi’s murder appeared to be a re-enactment of a painting by Manson of a mutilated corpse. (*Daily Telegraph 22/01/05, TFP Viewpoint 01/02/05*)

- **Teenager committed ritual murder**

In 2001, 17-year-old Matthew Hardman, who confessed to an obsession with vampires, ritually murdered elderly Mabel Leyshon. He dismembered her body and drank her blood. (*TFP Viewpoint 01/02/05*)

Paganism in all its various forms is invariably antagonistic to Christian belief and practice. Many pagans are committed to the destruction of Christianity. There are dire consequences to any involvement with occult practices.

# 14. The Challenge of Islam

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Whilst many British Muslims are peaceable and conduct their lives in an uncontroversial manner, militant Islamists pursuing world domination are quick to exploit weaknesses in a decaying Christian society, such as Britain's, to advance their own agenda.

The Christian approach to Muslims, and those of other religions or none, is unqualified love. Christians recognise that there is a variety of other beliefs, and stand ready to share their experience of the love of God with everyone who is willing to receive it. Christians recognise their responsibility to work for peace and reconciliation in all fields, including the relationships between people of different faiths. At the same time, however, they recognise the clear danger to our national identity, cohesion and foundational standards posed by militant Islam, and therefore stand equally ready to declare plainly the nature and degree of that threat. There is immense scope for goodwill, but no room for compromise.\*

The substantial increase in number of Muslims living in the UK in recent years, together with their high birth rate, raises a number of issues concerning our national culture.

- The report "Religious Trends" published by Christian Research in May 2008 forecast that the number of practising Muslims in Britain will outnumber worshipping Christians by 2035.

Many people's former confidence in so-called "pluralism" and multiculturalism is now being abandoned in the face of the fact that many Muslims are not integrating into British society. Their separate position is being confirmed in a variety of different ways, such as their establishment of Shari'a courts and their stated commitment of loyalty to Islam rather than to the UK. Widespread concern has been expressed that many Muslims in the UK support overseas movements with which the British Army is at war, and, sadly, many accept and support the activities of suicide bombers.

It is only gradually being recognised that Islam is a political movement with clear ambitions to Islamise our country. There is increasing evidence of Muslims actively seeking to convert others to their faith.

- There are already several Islamic TV stations broadcasting in Britain for this purpose, MTA (787), Islam Channel (813), Peace (823), Unity Television, and others.

Simultaneously, there is much evidence that Muslims in Britain who convert to the Christian faith suffer severe ostracism and even violence from other Muslims, in spite of the fundamental concept of freedom which is at the very foundation of our society.

Muslims form about 3% of the British population, about 1.5 million people, but their birth-rate is roughly three times higher than that of non-Muslims, and Muslim households are larger than those headed by someone of another religion. (*Office of National Statistics/The Times 6/05/07*)

Unfortunately, apostasy is still seen as punishable, and Christians who have converted frequently have to run for their lives. This is a comparatively new phenomenon in our national life which cannot be taken lightly in a free society. \*\*

\*See Maranatha document "An Open Letter", April 2008, responding to the open letter published by 138 Muslim leaders.

\*\*See Maranatha report "Apostasy – An Overview", September 2006

The incursions of Islam into fundamental areas of our British national life raise major issues for our society. Among the particular areas of concern are increasing Islamic influence in education, the introduction of Shari'a-compliant financial instruments, unreasonable demands to have Muslim preferences met, Muslim pressure to see Shari'a law introduced in Britain, and the increasing amount of violence perpetrated by Muslims.

#### **14.1 Increasing Islamic Influence in Education and Community Work**

There is increasing Islamic influence in education and community work.

- **Islamic schools and college societies have proliferated in London**

London has over 1000 Qur'anic schools, and nearly every university and polytechnic in the capital has an Islamic society which openly propagates Islam. More than a million of the city's residents are Muslim. (*Christian Herald 21/09/02*)

- **Muslim tutor appointed to teach Islam at Eton**

Eton College has employed Monawar Hussein, who has an MA in Islamic studies, to teach its 20 Muslim pupils about Islam. The college, which has 1290 pupils, has four Anglican priests, a Roman Catholic chaplain and a Jewish tutor. Monawar said, "It's important that Muslim pupils and all students have an understanding of Islamic culture. I want to hold debates about the Iraq war and Israel that will be open to the whole school." (*Daily Telegraph 19/04/04*)

- **Muslims targeted schools for education on Islam**

The Muslim Council of Britain is targeting schools across Manchester with a massive educational drive, encouraging parents and teachers to buy £250 interactive packs for use in religious education periods to overcome "a void in the national curriculum in the teaching of Islam" and "facilitate harmony and tolerance among Britain's diverse communities". (*Manchester Metro News 7/05/04*)

- **Muslims pressed for more Muslim culture in schools**

A report produced by The Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism, the Association of Muslim Social Scientists and the Muslim College UK, entitled "Muslims on Education", suggests that parents should be able to change the character of local state schools to reflect Islamic culture if the majority of pupils are Muslims. (*The Times 10/06/04*)

- **Children obliged to celebrate Muslim culture and belief in schools**

Rufford primary school in Lye, West Midlands, told all its teachers and pupils to dress up as Muslims to celebrate the Muslim festival of Eid, although it said that only two teachers in the entire school were Muslims. All 257 pupils, most of whom are Christian, and 41 teachers did so. The school held a morning assembly to mark the event, and an afternoon party for women only, in adherence to the Muslim tradition of wives not mixing with men other than their husbands. The head, Sally Bloomer, said, "It's all part of a diversity project to promote multiculturalism." (*Daily Mail 31/10/07, Christian Today 3/11/07*)

- **Non-Muslim children obliged to eat halal meat**

Rose Hill Primary School in Oxford switched to serving exclusively halal meat, which is obtained by cutting conscious animals' throats, without telling the parents. Many parents object strongly to the cruelty involved in the method of ritual slaughter. (*TimesOnline 09/01/08*)

- **Grant provided to train Muslim community workers**

A working group from the Home Office, the Learning and Skills Council (a quango) and eight members of the Muslim community has developed a course to enable Islamic clerics and lay helpers to work as community leaders, and has agreed to fund a £182,000 pilot programme to train 125 imams. (*Sunday Telegraph 7/12/03*)

## **14.2 Shari'a-compliant Financial Instruments**

Increasing provision is being made to introduce Shari'a-compliant financial instruments in this country.

- **Islamic banking facilities have grown in non-Islamic banks**

Islamic finance is growing in Britain at between 10 and 15% per year. It is available through wholly Islamic banks and some high street names which have Islamic operations. Worldwide it is currently worth about £250 billion. (*Metro.co.uk 3/12/07*)

- **Treasury prepared to issue Shari'a-compliant bond**

The Treasury has laid the foundations for the Government to issue a sovereign "Sukuk bond" within the coming year. This is a Shari'a-compliant financial instrument meant to attract Arab money to help finance the UK Government deficit. For the Treasury to issue Shari'a-compliant bonds, it would have to find Government projects to invest in which paid "rent" rather than interest. The cash flow would have to be separated from all other Government income in a separate "trust" which could not be touched for any other purpose. So both the Treasury and infrastructure projects would have to be restructured – at enormous cost. (*Jubilee Centre website 13/03/08*)

## **14.3 Unreasonable Muslim Demands**

Muslims are increasingly making unreasonable demands in British society. These inevitably generate social tension.

- **Muslims upset by puppy advert**

Tayside Police published an advertising card showing a puppy in an officer's hat. Some Muslims were upset by the image because they consider dogs "ritually unclean". Councillor Mohammed Asif of Dundee Council, who sits on the Joint Tayside Police Board, said the matter had been raised with the Chief Constable and said "the police should have understood". The police have now apologised, saying it was an oversight. A spokesman explained "We did not seek advice from the force's diversity adviser prior to distributing the postcards." (*Daily Telegraph 2.7.08*)

- **Muslim activists picketed British businesses perceived to have links with Zionism**

A Muslim activist group, "Action Alert", supported by the "Islamic Human Rights Commission", is campaigning against businesses in Britain which it perceives to have "links with Zionism", and is picketing stores such as Marks and Spencer. A representative said, "We may boycott Sainsbury's or Dixons... but... we have to make an impact one at a time." (*London Jewish News 15/12/00*)

- **Most young Muslims said they would not fight for Britain**

Sunrise, the Asian radio station, canvassed the opinions of 500 Muslims in Greater London, mainly of Pakistani origin and aged between 20 and 45. An overwhelming majority, 91%, believed the war was between the Christian West and Islam, and 98% would not fight for Britain. Forty-eight percent said they would fight for bin Laden or for Islam, and 79% said that they did not support Britain in its war in Afghanistan. (*Daily Telegraph 30/10/01*)

- **Muslim sought recognition of polygamy**

A Walsall Muslim, Medi Siadatan, wants the British legal system to recognise that a man has the right to be married to four partners. He wants the law to guarantee multiple wives the same rights as any other spouse, and is challenging British laws and taking his case to the European Court of Human Rights. His solicitor, Susan Vogel, says that the 1998 Human Rights Act could conceivably provide some justification for his case. He said "I decide during the day who I am going to be sleeping with. It depends how I am feeling... Occasionally, the four of us push the beds together". (*The Observer 20/02/02*)

- **Muslims allowed to claim state benefits to support polygamy**

Even though bigamy is a crime punishable by up to seven years in prison in Britain, the Government has decided that polygamous marriages can be formally recognised and supported here provided they took place in countries where they are legal.

Ministers launched a review of the benefit rules for polygamous marriages in November 2006, which concluded that allowing “customers” living with multiple wives to claim state benefits for all their partners provided no financial advantage for claimants in a “valid polygamous marriage”.

The review also concluded that the extra benefits should continue to be paid. The decision to continue giving these extra benefits was not publicly announced. As a result, a Muslim man with the four spouses permissible under Islamic law could receive £10,000 a year in income support alone. He could also be entitled to more generous housing and council tax benefits, to reflect the fact his household needs a bigger property. (*Daily Mail 4/02/08*)

- **Muslim girls insisted on wearing Islamic dress in the UK**

The Court of Appeal found in favour of a schoolgirl, Shabina Begum, who wanted to wear strict Islamic dress and accused Denbigh High School of discriminating against her. Almost 80% of the 1000 pupils at the school are Muslim, and the school permits girls to wear a less strict form of Islamic dress. Although the Muslim Council of Great Britain welcomed the court’s ruling, the leader of the Muslim Parliament for Great Britain, Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, commented, “This may be a victory for human rights, but it is also a victory for fundamentalism.” The Education Secretary is backing a counter-appeal by the school. (*The Times 30/07/05*)

A 19-year-old Muslim girl is suing a hair salon for discrimination after being refused a job, allegedly because she insisted on wearing a headscarf, which she claimed was “very important to my religion”. The salon owner said, “It has nothing to do with religion. I now feel I have been branded a racist. This girl is suing me for more than I earn in a year.” (*Daily Telegraph 9/11/07*)

- **Muslims demonstrated outside Christian church**

A mob of Muslim extremists gathered outside Westminster Cathedral on Sunday morning, chanting and waving placards as worshippers left after morning mass. Some wore camouflage gear and dark glasses, and other covered their faces. A group called “Muslims of the UK” were reported to have called for the Pope to be executed. (*Daily Telegraph 19/09/06*)

- **Muslim woman PC insisted on Islamic behaviour at police ceremony**

A Muslim woman PC told officers that her strict beliefs meant that she could not exchange the traditional congratulatory handshake with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, at a recent graduation ceremony for 200 recruits. In addition, she refused to be photographed with him, reportedly claiming that she did not want the image to be used as “propaganda” in Scotland Yard’s drive to recruit more Muslim women. A senior police source said, “This has never happened before, and there are serious issues at stake. There is an enquiry into the matter.” (*The Times 27/01/07*)

- **Muslim women get operations for religious reasons on NHS**

Women are being given controversial “virginity repair” operations on the NHS. Official figures revealed that taxpayers funded 24 hymen-replacement operations between 2005 and 2006. The operation is intended to be performed within a few days before an intended marriage. The trend has been condemned by critics as a sign of social regression driven by Islamic fundamentalists. Some countries have made hymen-reconstruction operations illegal.

Dr Magdy Hend, consultant gynaecologist at the Regency Clinic, Harley Street, London, said, “In some cultures they like to see that the women will bleed on the wedding night. If the wife or bride is not a virgin, it is a big shame on the family.” Most of his clients are in their teens or early 20s. An MP said she was “absolutely horrified” to learn of the phenomenon. She added: “We should be trying to protect girls from this... We have to also ask whether our National Health Service should be providing this sort of facility. I don’t think it should be available on the NHS.” (*Daily Mail 15/11/07*)

- **NHS trust proposed hospital should rearrange beds to face Mecca for Muslim prayers**

Mid-Yorkshire NHS Trust has considered ordering nurses at Dewsbury and District Hospital to stop medical work and move Muslim patients’ beds to point in the direction of Mecca for each of the five daily Muslim prayer sessions. In addition, it has suggested nursing staff provide fresh bathing water each time, in accordance with Islamic practice. The proposed policy was put forward after consultations to improve Muslim patients’ experience of the NHS.

An experienced nurse working at Dewsbury said that “It would be easier to create Muslim-only wards with every bed facing Mecca than have to deal with this... we have a huge Muslim population in Dewsbury and if we are having to turn dozens of beds to face Mecca five times a day, plus provide running water for them to wash before and after prayers, it is bound to impact on the essential medical service we are supposed to be providing.”

A medical campaigner who lost her father to the MRSA superbug pleaded for nurses to be allowed to “just do their job” rather than turn Muslim patients’ beds towards Mecca. Carol Maddocks said, “Surely there are more pressing needs on nurses’ time than moving beds in different directions. If staff spent more time getting basic procedures right, then dad’s death and others like it would have been easily avoidable. There is such a shortage of nurses and the more additional duties they are given ‘such as moving beds to face Mecca’, the less time they have to devote to medical care.” (*Daily Telegraph 5/12/07, Daily Express 5/12/07*)

- **Muslims wanted to broadcast calls to worship from mosque**

Oxford Central Mosque, which is situated in an area where the majority of residents are not Muslims, is seeking permission to make an amplified broadcast of the Islamic call to prayer three times a day, 365 days a year. A spokesman for the mosque claimed that church bells were comparably a call to prayer, but the two-minute prayer call is an explicit verbal theological statement in Arabic about Mohammed and his status as a prophet. (*Oxford Mail Online 20/12/07 et al*)

- **Muslim shop assistant refused to touch Bible**

Mrs Sally Friday went to Marks and Spencer’s to buy a book, “First Bible Stories”, for her children, and other items. When she was paying for the goods, the assistant dealt with the other items but asked Mrs Friday to put the Bible in the shopping bag herself. “She turned to another worker and said something about it being unclean... We are a tolerant Christian country and I could not see a Christian shop assistant refusing to touch something from another religion.” Marks and Spencer’s management were “very apologetic”. (*Daily Telegraph 16/01/08*)

The demands of Islamists may have a “chilling effect” on other people’s perceived freedom of action. There is a real danger of serious disruption to community cohesion.

- **School plays changed to avoid offending Muslims**

Kirklees Primary School has changed the title characters of Roald Dahl’s “Three Little Pigs” into three puppies to avoid offending Muslims. A speaker for the nearby Hanfia Mosque welcomed the thinking behind the decision, but considered it unnecessary: Islam does not ban the mentioning of pigs. The MP for Shipley described the decision as “a type of political correctness that makes people’s blood boil... it is perpetrated by white, middle-class do-gooders with a guilt complex...”. (*Daily Telegraph 16/03/07*)

- **Non-Muslim doctors and nurses urged not to eat in front of Muslims during Ramadan.**

The Scottish Executive and the Scottish NHS have advised hospital staff not to eat in front of Muslims during Ramadan, and to move food trolleys away. A Scottish Muslim consultancy has also sent the advice to teachers and police.

The Scottish spokesman for the Muslim Council of Great Britain, Osama Saeed, said, “My own experience when fasting is that non-Muslims do want to be sensitive about eating in front of those of us who are hungry”, and Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS denied that staff had been “banned from eating food at their workplaces” but said they had asked employees “to show consideration” for colleagues and patients observing Ramadan.

However, Mary Scanlon, Shadow Secretary for Health and Wellbeing in the Scottish Parliament, said the move was “a step too far” for political correctness, and unnecessary: “Scotland is a very tolerant, sensitive and welcoming country”, but “I don’t see it’s necessary for Ramadan to affect the lives of people of other beliefs. It would be like saying Protestants shouldn’t eat meat next to Catholics who want to eat fish on a Friday.” (*TimesOnline 14/08/07*)

- **BBC blocked popular programme featuring Muslim terrorists, but broadcasts one featuring invented Christian terrorists**

The BBC Editorial and Ethical Standards Department has blocked an episode of “Casualty” from being broadcast because it featured Muslim terrorists, in case it offended Muslims. This contrasts sharply with the BBC’s decision to broadcast “Jerry Springer the Opera” in the face of protests from 47,000 Christians, and an episode of the MI5 series “Spooks” featuring a so-called fundamentalist Christian sect determined to kill Muslims. (*Daily Mail 21/08/07*)

- **Fear of Islamic reprisals limited artistic expression**

Britain’s contemporary artists are feted around the world for their willingness to shock, but Grayson Perry, a Turner Prize winner and former Times correspondent said he had consciously avoided commenting on radical Islam in his otherwise highly provocative body of work, because of the threat of reprisals. Across

Europe there is growing evidence that freedom of expression has been curtailed by fear of religious fundamentalism. *(The Times 19/11/07)*

- **Police allowed over-sensitivity to Muslims to cost PC his job**

PC Rob Murrie, of Luton, has been made to resign after he gave a Muslim colleague a packet of bacon and a bottle of wine as a joke present during a Christmas party. The Muslim officer did not complain: he felt the packet of bacon “was a bit below the belt”, but believed it was “not meant in a malicious way, just a bit of banter”. Even so, senior Bedfordshire police officers said that “behaviour of this nature is not tolerated”. PC Murrie had served in the force for 6 years. *(Daily Telegraph 15/01/08)*

- **Government agency banned children’s books in case they offended Muslims**

Becta, the Government’s educational technology agency, has turned down the digital book “The Three Little Cowboy Builders”, which retells the classic fairytale “The Three Little Pigs” and is targeted at youngsters aged five to 11, for an educational award because it might offend Muslim groups. In fact, the book sends a moral message to young children, and encourages them to take advantage of a full education. *(Daily Express 24/01/08)*

There are signs that moderate Muslims are seeking to accommodate Islam in Britain into our democratic way of life. A new organisation has been launched entitled “British Muslims for a Secular Democracy”. Its co-founder, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, said, “The Government is pandering to Muslims by granting too many concessions, fuelling their separation from the rest of society... The perception is that Muslims receive a disproportionate amount of attention and funding, and that perception is justified. This ridiculous, distorted, exaggerated single identity has made us no friends. *(Guardian Unlimited 2/05/08)*

## **14.4 Mounting Pressure for Shari’a Law in the UK**

Muslims are applying mounting pressure for the introduction of Shari’a law in Britain.

- **Senior Muslims demanded Shari’a Law in Britain for family matters**

Senior Muslim figures met Community Secretary Ruth Kelly and made a series of demands which included the introduction of Shari’a law for family matters. Dr Sayid Aziz Pasha, Secretary General of the Union of Muslim Associations of the UK and Ireland said, “We told her that if you give us religious rights, we would be in a better position to convince young people that they are being treated equally along with other citizens.” Some of the 30 moderate Muslim leaders at the meeting told Ms Kelly that important days in their two main religious festivals should be made public holidays for Muslims. A recent poll suggested that a third of British Muslims would rather live under Shari’a law, and a third hoped that Britain would become a Muslim state. *(Daily Mail 15/08/06)*

- **Large numbers of Muslims want Shari’a Law in Britain**

A survey revealed that four out of 10 British Muslims want Shari’a law introduced into parts of the country. *(Daily Telegraph 20/02/07)*

- **Muslims have set up their own courts in Britain**

In Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, Muslim elders have set up their own Islamic court to impose Shari’a law in civil disputes within their own communities. Crucial issues such as divorce and child custody are settled by a panel of four senior Muslim clerics and scholars. Effectively, the integrity of British law has been eclipsed in parts of Dewsbury by quasi-judicial religious zealotry. There are now two legal systems in operation in civil matters, one for Muslims and one for the rest of the population. *(Daily Express 30/04/07)*

Dr Suhaib Hasan, who has been presiding over Sharia courts in Britain for more than 25 years, argues that British law would benefit from integrating aspects of Islamic personal law into the civil system: “If Sharia law is implemented, then you can turn this country into a haven of peace because once a thief’s hand is cut off nobody is going to steal. Once, just only once, if an adulterer is stoned nobody is going to commit this crime at all. We want to offer it to British society. If they accept it, it is for their good and if they don’t accept it they’ll need more and more prisons.” *(Daily Telegraph 19/01/08)*

## **14.5 Islamic Social Disruption: 1 – Violence in the Family**

There is increasing evidence of Islamic violence within the family in the UK.

- **Honour killings**

The police and the Crown Prosecution Service state that on average 10-12 women are killed in honour-based violence every year in the United Kingdom. However, the exact number of honour-killings in the United Kingdom is not known, because there is no clear definition of what constitutes an honour-killing and many believe the true figure could be higher. (*Crimes of the Community: Honour based Violence in the UK* Centre for Social Cohesion January 2008)

- **High level of Muslim violence and “honour killings” caused police concern**

Muslim Abdalla Yones stabbed his 16-year-old daughter with a kitchen knife 11 times, and slit her throat, because he disapproved of her Western way of life and Christian boyfriend. He was jailed for life. The police have identified 12 murders last year which they classify as “honour killings”, and the Metropolitan Police’s level of concern has led them to set up a unit to examine the scale of the phenomenon and help identify women at risk. Rita Rupal, Director of the Newham Asian Women’s Project in East London, has dealt with 44 cases of domestic violence against women in the past 12 months. (*Daily Telegraph 30/09/03*)

- **Muslim forced marriages caused suffering in the UK**

A Turkish Muslim girl, Ayse, was smuggled into Britain and forced to marry her cousin when she was only 14. In the two years before she reached 16, the sex her cousin had with her was statutory rape. “It was disgusting, awful. I used to scream and cry all night. I was too young, too tender. It killed me inside.” She lived in the local Kurdish Turkish community as his wife. She says, “Until I escaped, I didn’t even realise that marrying at 14 was illegal in Britain.” The Metropolitan Police is one of the few forces to admit that such marriages take place on its territory. Peter Cripps, head of the Community Safety Unit at Shoreditch police station said, “They’re happening and numbers are growing.” (*Observer 22/02/04*)

- **Young Muslim girl unlawfully killed for refusing forced marriage**

Ian Smith, the East and South Cumbria coroner, returned a verdict of unlawful killing on a teenage Muslim girl, Shafilea Ahmed, 17, who vanished from home after refusing an arranged marriage. He said she was the victim of a “very vile” murder. Her decomposed body was found washed up on a river bank at Sedgwick, near Kendal, Cumbria. She had been strangled or smothered. (*Daily Telegraph 11/01/08*)

- **Young wife beaten to death by family**

Four family members were convicted in Leeds for allowing a husband to beat his teenage wife to death at their home. Sabia Rani, 19, suffered 90% bruising to her body and 15 fractured ribs due to beatings by her husband, Shazad Khan, who was jailed for life. His mother, Phullan Bibi, 52, sisters Uzma Khan, 23 and nazia Naureen, 28, and Bareaen’s husband, Majid Hussain had denied the charge. (*Daily Telegraph 06.02.08*)

## **14.6 Islamic Social Disruption: 2 – Advocacy of Violence**

There is increasing advocacy of violence in the UK by Islamic extremists – many British born

- **Extremist Muslims allowed to advocate violence in the UK**

A group led by a prominent Muslim cleric who preaches at Finsbury Park Mosque, London, Abu Hamza al Masri, organised an Islamic camp giving “military training” from 24 to 26 December 1998. He openly supports a holy war to create a worldwide Islamic state, and has said that he has no objection to terrorists aiming to blow up British institutions. Another Muslim group linked to the mosque, led by a former leader of the mosque, Sheikh Omar Bakari Mohammed, endorses the use of violence. Sheikh Omar has said, “British man-made law is war against God... Islam will dominate the whole world.” (*The Times 12/01/99, 29/01/99*)

- **Muslims in Britain publicly celebrated atrocities**

An extremist Islamic group, Al-Muhajiroun, organised four rallies across Britain to commemorate the September 11 terrorists, whom it calls “The Magnificent Nineteen”. Posters and stickers carried pictures of the terrorists against a backdrop of the World Trade Center in flames and a smiling Osama Bin Laden.

A spokesman told the BBC that “the actions of the hijackers were completely justified” and “quite splendid”, and that any Muslim who thought otherwise was “as apostate”. Al-Muhajiroun has branches in 30 British towns and cities, and proposes an Islamic revolution in Britain and the establishment of the khilafah, a fundamentalist Islamic state. The two British suicide bombers who died in Israel in May, Omar Khan Shari and Asif Hanif, both had links to Al-Muhajiroun. (*Daily Telegraph 10/09/03*)

- **Muslim missionaries distributed Jihad literature in Britain**

“Milestones”, written by Islamic scholar Sayyid Qutb, proposes that most of the modern world – including much of the Muslim world – is utterly corrupt, and believers must wage jihad against it, forcing people to the right path by whatever means is necessary. Democracy and human rights are presented as raising a barrier between man and God, a barrier that must be destroyed.

These ideas appeal to many young fundamentalist Muslims, and the book is banned in many Islamic and Arab countries, but Muslim missionaries give it away free on the streets of London. (*Daily Telegraph 14/07/05*)

- **Muslim leader in Britain repeatedly justified violence against non-muslims**

Omar Bakri, who claimed to close down his Al-Muhajiroun group last October, lead the “Saviour Sect” (though he denied this), and its sister group Al-Ghuraaba. He ridiculed moderate Muslim leaders, and repeatedly justified war against “kuffar” (non-Muslims). The Saviour sect is a group of about 40 young men, mostly of Bangladeshi origin, who are jobless and live in council flats in East London. They use aliases, and have many ways of avoiding paying money into the “kuffar” system, for example by not paying for insurance and tax on cars, staying jobless and living on jobseeker’s allowance. Most new recruits are former heroin addicts. (*Sunday Times 7/08/05*)

- **Muslim extremists preaching violence allowed to march in British streets**

On 3 February 2006, 450 Muslims marched with police protection from the London Central Mosque to Knightsbridge. They carried banners bearing the following messages: “Behead those who insult Islam”, “Butcher those who mock Islam”, “Exterminate those who slander Islam”, “Freedom go to hell”, “Europe is the cancer, Islam is the answer”, “Europe you will pay, your 9/11 is on its way”, and “Europe, you will come crawling when the mujahideen come roaring, 7/7 is on its way”. Some of the participants were subsequently prosecuted.

The march was arranged by two extremist UK-based Islamist groups – al Ghurabaa and The Saviour Sect. On their website, al Ghurabaa published an article entitled “Kill those who insult the prophet Muhammad”. The article stated “The insulting of the Messenger Muhammad is something that the Muslims cannot and will not tolerate, and the punishment in Islam for the one who does so is death.” (*National press, radio and TV 3-4/02/06*)

- **Islamic violence posted on YouTube**

The British group ASWJ, and offshoot of Al-Muhajiroun, has posted extremist videos showing Islamic fighters with guns and rocket launchers on YouTube. (*7/11/07*)

- **Islamic preachers in moderate mosques filmed advocating extremism**

A forthcoming Channel 4 programme paints an alarming picture of how preachers in some of Britain’s most moderate mosques are urging followers to reject Britain’s laws in favour of those of Islam. At the Sparkbrook mosque, one of 45 in Britain maintained by UK Islamic Mission, which Tony Blair has said “is extremely valued by the Government for its multi-faith and cultural activities”, a preacher is shown praising the Taliban and saying of a British Muslim soldier killed in fighting the Taliban, “The hero of Islam is the one who separated his head from his shoulders.” Inside the Green Lane mosque in Birmingham, a preacher is recorded saying “God has created the woman deficient”. (*The Observer 7/01/07*)

## **14.7 Islamic Social Disruption: 3 – Terrorist Training and the Exploitation of Young Muslims**

There is increasing evidence of the exploitation of young Muslims by Islamic extremists, of UK Muslims being trained in terrorism, and of a growing threat of terrorism in the UK.

- **Militants exploited disaffected young Muslims**

Akbar Dad Khan, a 54-year-old Muslim community leader in Luton, said that second- and third-generation Muslims have not always found things easy, with 20% unemployment among young adult Muslims in

Luton, and young people felt poorly served by the education system. Although most wanted nothing more than to find a good job, and had no tolerance of extremism, militants had moved in to exploit the disaffected. *(Daily Telegraph 1/04/04)*

- **British-born Muslims became terrorists**

A British-born Muslim, Saajit Badat, who had trained in Pakistan and Afghanistan, admitted conspiring to blow up a passenger aircraft on a flight from Europe to the USA using an explosive device fitted into the heel of a shoe. *(Daily Telegraph 1/03/05)*

- **Police recognised dangers of UK Muslims being trained in Afghanistan**

Sir Ian Blair, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, has said that Britain now faces a potential terrorist threat from the “hundreds” of Muslim men returning to Britain after spending time in training camps in Afghanistan. It “is a very dangerous issue for us all.” The Commissioner and Hazel Blears, the Home Office minister, portrayed the threat as coming from people linked to misguided, extreme or false forms of Islam. *(Daily Telegraph 4/03/05)*

- **Risk of terrorism in the UK increased**

Aon, the world’s second-largest insurance broker, has calculated an increased risk of terrorism in Britain. Aon’s Chief Executive, Paul Bassett, said that radical Muslims recruited from Europe for a “tour of duty” in Iraq and recruiting others on their return has led to an increase in the risk of a terrorist attack coming from Europe. Six countries that were considered safe from attacks last year are now considered to be at risk. *(The Times 18/04/05)*

- **Many British Muslims disaffected**

A “YouGov” survey showed that although most British Muslims condemn the London bombings, 24% sympathise with the feelings and motives of the terrorists. While 48% felt “very loyal” to Britain and 33% felt “fairly loyal”, 18% had little or no loyalty to this country. The vast majority of Muslims, 88%, felt that Western society was decadent and immoral, and 32% felt they should seek to bring it to an end, though only 1% were prepared to use violence to do so. Generally, 66% of the Muslim community felt that they had a responsibility to help prevent terrorist crimes, and 73% would go to the police if they knew of someone planning an attack, but only 47% would do so about an imam or other religious leader preaching hatred against the West to young Muslims. *(Daily Telegraph 23/07/05)*

- **Muslim leaders admitted dangers of violence from young extremists**

Muhammad Abdul Bari, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, said that he fears continued negative aspects towards Muslims could provoke a vast and angry backlash. He said, “There are a few bad apples in the Muslim community who are doing terrible acts, and we want to root them out” but that “If you attack a whole community it becomes despondent and aggressive... If that demonisation continues, then Britain will have to deal with 2 million Muslim terrorists, 700,000 of them in London.” *(Daily Telegraph 10/09/06)*

- **British security head admitted danger of Islamic terrorism**

Dame Elizabeth Manningham-Buller, Director General of the Security Service, has warned that her agents are tracking around 30 serious plots and monitoring more than 1,600 suspects in the UK. She said that her staff had thwarted “five major conspiracies” in the UK since the 7 July attacks, and that the security services’ workload had soared by more than 80% since last year.

She warned that an estimated 100,000 British Muslims believed that the 7 July attacks were justified, and said that Al Qaeda agents in Pakistan and Britain are using “a sophisticated propaganda machine” to entice young Muslims: “Chillingly, we see the results here. Young teenagers are being groomed to be suicide bombers.” She warned of possible mass-casualty attacks in the future using chemicals, biological agents, radioactive materials and even nuclear technology.

The Prime Minister described her comments as a “wake-up call for the British people from someone who knows very well what the threat is”, and the Muslim Council of Britain described her speech as “a sobering warning” and said it would be prudent to assume that there were cells planning further outrages. *(Daily Mail 11/11/06)*

- **Multiculturalism bred extremist young Muslims**

Munira Mirza, the author of the Policy Exchange report “Young Muslims in Britain”, has stated that “The rise of multiculturalism, with its stress on ‘difference’ and the downgrading of Britishness, has led many younger Muslims to see themselves as separate from British society. The Muslim Labour MP for Perry

Barr, Birmingham, Kahlid Mahmood, said, “Our young people have been allowed to fall into the hands of fringe organisations who are getting at them at universities, schools, colleges and mosques. They are being manipulated. It is difficult for the Government to prescribe a way forward for the Muslim community... It is up to the mainstream national Muslim organisations, who frankly have failed.” *(Daily Mail 29/01/07)*

- **Young British Muslims indoctrinated and groomed to become terrorists**

Jonathan Evans, the head of MI5, has issued a warning that Islamists are “radicalising, indoctrinating and grooming young people to carry out acts of terrorism”. MI5 has set up eight counter-terrorism units around the country. It has identified 2,000 individuals who pose a direct threat to national security and public safety, but he warned that there could be 4,000 potential terrorists in this country.

He said, “Extremists are methodically and intentionally targeting young people and children in the UK. This year MI5 has seen individuals as young as 15 and 16 being implicated in terrorist-related activity. The UK needs to protect its children from exploitation by violent extremists... Al-Qaeda is conducting a deliberate campaign against us. It is the expression of the hostility to the UK that existed long before September 11th 2001.” *(Daily Telegraph 6/11/07)*

- **Textbooks brainwashed young Muslims in Britain**

A British Muslim school that is funded by Saudi Arabia has text books that describe Jews as “repugnant apes” and Christians as “pigs”. A former English teacher at the school has told an employment tribunal that some of the 1,250 pupils at the King Fahad school in Acton, West London, had been heard idolising Osama bin Laden and saying that they want to “kill Americans”. The teacher, Colin Cook, also claimed that a sister school in Bonn, Germany, also encouraged anti-Western views. Mr Cook had taught at the school for 19 years before being sacked. He claims that pupils as young as 5 years old are told that other faiths are “worthless”, and that text books state that Jews are cursed. *(The Sun 6/02/07)*

- **Organised Muslim extremist groups active in the UK**

MI5 and the police are attempting to monitor over 200 Muslim extremist groups in the UK. Security forces believe each network could involve over a dozen people, and some estimates put the total number of people involved across the UK as high as 3,000. *(Daily Telegraph 9/07/07)*

- **Government admitted danger of Islamic extremism in “ungoverned spaces”**

The Government is giving Muslim groups £70 million to help tackle extremism in “ungoverned spaces” such as internet chat rooms and snooker halls. Hazel Blears, the Community Secretary, defended the decision to give the money to Muslim groups rather than Christian or Jewish ones by saying that “...what we are about is saying that we have a problem in a small minority of areas and communities”. The money is to be spent on promoting community leadership to withstand extremist tendencies. £25 million will be spent on national schemes including training for English-speaking imams and setting up citizenship lessons in madrassas (mosque schools). *(The Times 2/11/07)*

- **Young Muslim extremist romanticised violence**

Samina Malik, 23, called herself a “lyrical terrorist” and wrote poems like “How to behead” and “The living martyrs”. She is a committed Islamic extremist, and kept “a library” of material useful to terrorists at her home in Southall. She said her favourite shows were videos “by Muslim brothers in Iraq... the beheading ones”. She was convicted of a large number of charges under the Terrorism Act 2000 and given a nine-month suspended jail sentence. *(Daily Telegraph 7/12/07)*

- **Stringent security measures introduced to protect British public from Islamic terrorists**

The Prime Minister unveiled measures to increase security on the transport network and in other public places which included defensive barriers, blast-proofing and vehicle-exclusion zones. There would be airline-style bag checks and body searches at railway stations. The measures, including a hearts-and-minds campaign among young Muslims, would cost £400 million. People entering or leaving Britain would be required to give up to 53 pieces of information about themselves. *(Daily Telegraph, quoted on Epolitix website 15/11/07)*

- **Foreign Muslim leader admitted the growth of Islamic extremism in the UK**

The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Dr Barham Salih, said that mosques in Britain are spreading a dangerous brand of extremism that would be illegal in Iraq. After visiting mosques in Lancashire, he said that “I am not surprised that you British are facing so many problems with extremists after what I saw in the mosques in Blackburn.” Intelligence expert Professor Anthony Glees warned that “This needs to be taken very

seriously, but the Government is turning a blind eye to it, which I believe is a grave mistake. It should be banned.”

The Shadow Culture Minister, Tobias Ellwood, said, “Many Muslims in Britain want to live peacefully and happily under the British rule of law, but hearing that from another Muslim, who is a leader from a Muslim country, summed up the situation in the UK.” (*Daily Express 23/01/08*)

## **14.8 Islamic Social Disruption: 4 – Persecution of Converts**

There is increasing evidence of Islamic persecution of British converts from Islam to Christianity, Jews, and non-Muslims who oppose Islamic ambitions in the United Kingdom.

- **Local Muslims assaulted British convert and his family and vandalise their home and car**

In February 2005 Nissar Hussein and his family were assaulted, his car set on fire, bricks thrown through his window and dogs set on his children. An estimated 3,000 converts to Christianity in the UK are routinely abused, harassed and persecuted by Muslims in their own communities and have to flee. (*The Times, 05/02/05*)

- **Muslim converts to Christianity in Britain in danger**

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, one of Britain’s most senior bishops, has warned that a sustained campaign by Muslim extremists to intimidate and attack converts to Christianity could end in murder. He said that the persecution of Christian converts from Islam is so widespread that it may be only a matter of time before there is an “honour killing” by relatives. He blamed Muslim leaders for not teaching their followers about the importance of freedom of religion in Britain. (*TimesOnline 16/09/07*)

- **Anti-Semitic attacks by Islamists increased**

The European Conference of Rabbis in Manchester has noted a massive increase in attacks on Jewish students. Rabbi Guttenburg, of Whitefield Hebrew Congregation, said that “Forms of Islamic extremism have been creating a hostile environment for Jewish students.” (*The Advertiser 01/11/07*)

- **Islamists threatened Christian councillor for opposing mosque**

Police have arrested a man who posted an “obituary” of Christian councillor Alan Craig, including his wife and daughters, on the YouTube website. The video, now removed, had links relating to Tablighi Jamaat. Councillor Craig said, “This whole episode has exposed the reality that some Muslims accustomed to using either violence, intimidation, or the threat of violence are linked to the idea of this mosque. It is being proposed by the controversial Islamist group Tablighi Jamaat, whose previous adherents include Glasgow Airport bomber Kafeel Ahmed, shoe bomber Richard Reid and the July 7 bombers Mohammad Sidique Khan and Shehzad Tanweer.” (*Christian Today 17/11/07*) Note: Councillor Craig is a prominent opponent of the proposed East London “mega-mosque”.

- **Converts from Islam in Britain faced rejection, physical assault, and death**

A British-born woman, 32, who converted to Christianity at 16, and who is the daughter of an imam, has been threatened with death by her own family. She has been forced to live under police protection for the past month since her home was attacked by a group of men armed with knives, axes and hammers in 1994, and her brother told her that he could not be responsible for his actions if she did not return to Islam. She has moved house 45 times since her conversion and uses a pseudonym. She said, “My faith means that I am not afraid to die... I am not going to let [the death threat] stop me from being who I am, from being a Christian... We are protected by the law in this country, which means I should be free to live the life God has called me to live.”

Earlier this year, a Policy Exchange study found that 36 percent of British Muslims aged between 16 and 24 believed that those who converted to another religion should be killed. (*TimesOnline 5/12/07, The Times 10/12/07*)

- **Young converts from Islam in Britain faced threats and intimidation**

Sofia Allam, of Dagenham, converted from Islam to Christianity and was threatened with death by her parents. Maryam Namazie, speaking for the Council of ex-Muslims of Britain, said that “Intimidation [of Muslim converts to Christianity in Britain] is very widespread and pretty effective... I get threatened all the time: emails, letters, phone calls... When I returned home this afternoon... there was a death threat waiting for me on my answering machine.” (*Daily Telegraph 12/12/07*)

# 15. Conclusions: Affirming or Rejecting our Christian Values

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We are moving from a culture with God at its centre to a culture with man at its centre.

As we have seen above, the present attack on the Christian foundations of our nation comes from two principal directions, one secular and one religious. Secular humanists have mounted a powerful assault on our spiritual, ethical and moral principles and practice over the last 50 years. More recently, Islam has emerged as an active threat to our Judaeo-Christian legal and social structure. The public profile of churches has diminished and congregations have declined.

The strongest efforts of these protagonists would have no force or effect if we as a nation were confident in our national character and identity, our family and social cohesion, our moral and ethical values, our personal worth, and our spiritual inheritance.

However, these essential values have been weakened and eroded to the point where many people have little or no sense of national identity, little or no sense of belonging to family and community, little or no sense of right and wrong, and little or no sense of personal worth.\*

## 15.1 Undermining the British Character

In 1955, Professor Geoffrey Gorer, an eminent anthropologist and psychologist, wrote a book exploring English character. He had studied other national groupings, and said, “In public life today, the English are certainly among the most peaceful, gentle, courteous and orderly populations the civilised world has ever seen... you hardly ever see a fight in bar... this orderliness and gentleness, this absence of overt aggression calls for an explanation”. George Orwell wrote in 1944, “An imaginary foreign observer would certainly be struck by our gentleness; by the orderly behaviour of English crowds, the lack of pushing and quarrelling...”. To be respectable and respectful was an inherent element of English life and the aim was to be of “good character”.

However, that decency, kindness and civility for which British people were once noted have been substantially undermined.

- **Morality**

In a Gallop Poll in 1996 four out of five people who expressed an opinion believed that British society was less moral than 50 years previously (*Daily Telegraph 5/07/96*).

On 23 March 2008, it was reported by BBC Radio Four that a public opinion poll which they conducted has revealed that 83% of British people believe the nation is in moral decline.

- **Crime**

In 1931 there were 3 crimes a year for every police officer. In 2001 there were 44. (*The Failure of Britain's Police: London and New York Compared, Dennis, Norman et al, CIVITAS London 2003*).

- **Behaviour**

In 2004, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said, “There is no doubt that behaviour has deteriorated over the past 20 years” (*The Welfare State We Are In, p335, James Bartholomew*).

\*See Appendix 4 for evidence of the consequences of our nation turning away from Christian beliefs and values.

## 15.2 Social Engineering – Manipulating Human Relationships

The founders of the movements pressing for a sexual revolution and the demolition of marriage and family were quite clear in their motives, and the sources of the ideology currently being imposed upon our children are easy to identify.

- **Christianity targeted**

Marie Stopes, most widely known as the proponent of contraception, declared, “I am out to smash the tradition of organised Christianity...”.

- **Christian morality rejected**

The most powerful pressure group worldwide is the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), based in London. It is heavily funded by Government and a formative influence on our children. Its founder was Margaret Sanger, a passionate critic of Christian belief and an admirer of Nietzsche for his attack on Christian morality. A supporter of eugenics and of Hitler, she unashamedly stood for “unlimited sexual gratification”. The IPPF has had a dominant influence on sex education in the UK in the past 40 years.

- **The family attacked**

Another powerful influence has been Wilhelm Reich. He was antagonistic to Christian morality and condemned the family as “the foremost breeding ground of traditional morality”, and was passionately committed to the undermining of marriage. He rejected the constraints of morality and clearly stated, “Any kind of moralism is life-negative” (*The Sexual Revolution, 1969*). He was in favour of children having sex and predicted that “in a few more years it will be as much a matter of course as is today the right of the unmarried woman to have a sexual partner”. Dr E S Williams says in his book *Lessons in Depravity*, “this prediction, which seemed ridiculous at the time, has now become reality”.

By these means, a policy of social engineering has been introduced into our schools. Words such as “husband”, “wife” and “marriage” are airbrushed out of the new sexual manuals by zealots committed not merely to their preferred form of political correctness but to a radical re-ordering of our society. Teaching about marriage and stable, life-long family environments has been deliberately excluded, and children are now being conditioned at school age for a life of promiscuous sex.

We have now reached the stage where condoms are freely distributed to children in schools without the knowledge or approval of their own parents, ostensibly to reduce teenage pregnancies. Whatever they might feel individually, the adults who do this are almost certain to be seen by the children as giving their approval to their use. Rarely, if ever, are children warned of the immense physical, emotional and social consequences of premature and non-marital sexual activity. Likewise, children are provided with abortion facilities without the knowledge or approval of their parents or even their family doctor. Rarely, if ever, are they warned of the dire consequences of the abortions which they are offered.

Thus what used to be recognised as abnormal is being normalised. It is increasingly being regarded as acceptable for children to have sexual intercourse with children. Indeed, it is commonly promoted as part of the educational process. Children are encouraged to have casual sex, and promiscuity is no longer discouraged.

This has led to extreme confusion among children and young people, and chaos in terms of relationships in society. Children are having children. Children are aborting children. Inevitably, there has been an explosion of sexually transmitted diseases among children and young people. This is a hitherto unknown situation.

The responsibility for this rests firmly on the shoulders of those who have overthrown Christian values and virtues and systematically and deliberately undermined the marriage-based family and directly encouraged casual sex.

We see, then, how sex education became a vehicle for the corruption of children and young people. Moreover, it is apparent that many of those devising sex-education programmes were aggressively committed to the de-Christianising of the educational process, and thereby the de-Christianising of the generations now growing up.

- **Leading headmaster condemned social engineering in schools**

Mr Rod MacKinnon, the head of the prestigious Bexley Grammar School in London, said, “There are those who wish to use children and schools as social engineers with a view to creating a different society but we should not even be trying to do such things: children need to be nurtured, educated and cared for not thrown into the front line of social reform. Muddled thinking is guaranteeing failure for the noble aspirations we all hold for the education of the young.” He said schools were being forced to shun traditional lessons as ministers manipulated the education system for the purpose of “social engineering”. (*Daily Telegraph 07.07.08*).

### **15.3 The Acceptance of Depravity**

With the rejection of Christian morality, we have seen the emergence of pornography as a huge industry, destroying healthy human relationships and creating havoc in countless lives. Modesty has been ridiculed, foul language treated as acceptable in national radio and television, and formerly unacceptable social behaviour made almost institutional.

In many parts of our national life, the social and medical situation appears to be out of control, with sexually transmitted diseases soaring, drug abuse abounding and anti-social behaviour escalating.

Instead of standing against destructive influences in society, those who should be upholding and protecting our national identity, character and standards are commonly giving way to those making intensive efforts to break down cultural standards by promoting pornography, drug taking and obscenity in books, magazines, radio, TV and the Internet.

### **15.4 Damage to Our Children and Young People**

We now face a grave situation in terms of the spiritual and social well-being of our children and young people.

As a group, British teenagers have the worst rates in Europe for smoking, drunkenness, drug-taking, conception, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases. Political attempts to deal effectively with these problems have totally failed.

- A UNICEF report has branded the UK as the worst country in the developed world in terms of children’s sense of their own well-being. (*Unicef report – Report card 7 - An overview of child well-being in rich countries*)

### **15.5 “Political Correctness”, Multiculturalism and Pluralism**

The old certainties have been replaced by uncertainty. Doubt is seen as more acceptable than belief, Christian convictions are presented as intolerant prejudice. All beliefs are presented as of equal value. We have even seen the emergence of an absurd concept of mixing all religions into one in a mish-mash of compromise.

There has been a determined effort to shrink the Christian presence. Christian prayer rooms in public places, such as hospitals and airports, are being redesignated as multi-faith spaces. In some cases, the Cross has been removed.

The overall trend has been towards the dilution of the Christian faith in our national life, and a refusal to accept that the foundations of our nation are essentially Christian.

We have seen in the preceding chapters that the UK is a nation and society that has lost its moral, spiritual and social direction and is in serious danger of losing its social cohesion.

This springs directly from the undermining of our Christian foundations and the widespread abandonment of the standards and principles that have previously governed our national life.

## **15.6 Moral Confusion**

Moral confusion abounds in our nation. Man, and not God, is now regarded as the ultimate authority.

With the rejection of so many moral constraints we have seen the development of a truly permissive society in which anything goes. We are paying the price for embracing so-called “situational ethics”.

Nothing is sacred. The words “ethical”, “moral”, “good”, “evil” and “sin” no longer play a regulating part in our language and national life. We no longer believe in judgement or personal responsibility for the consequence of our behaviour. Doubt and unbelief are elevated above belief. Modesty is ridiculed. Children are brought up to invent their own set of values because post-modernists are teaching them that there is no distinction between good or bad, right and wrong, true and false: it is all a matter of personal preference and interpretation.

## **15.7 A Culture of Self-indulgence, Dysfunction and Vulgarly**

The recognition that man is made in the image of God, and that therefore every human being, adult and child, is worthy of care and respect, is being replaced by a culture of self-indulgence, social dysfunction, and vulgarity. A new coarseness has emerged in popular entertainment with a ready acceptance of degrading behaviour.

Rampant individualism and the pursuit of individual gratification now widely dictate behaviour. Sound standards of respect, self-discipline, good order and propriety are widely discarded and treated as contemptible. Opinion-formers strive to make religion private and to make vulgarity, pornography and improper sexual activity acceptable and the norm.

The so-called sexual revolution continues to claim increasing numbers of victims – primarily women and children – but the libertarians who have been driving it refuse to face up to the truth about its consequences.

Nevertheless, there are signs that people are turning away from the numbing pursuit of physical and material comfort and non-stop amusement. The essential falsehood of the secular humanist philosophy is increasingly being recognised.

## **15.8 A Culture of Violence**

Lack of respect for others has been evidenced in the enormous increase in cases of road rage and also the number of people who run away from serious road accidents which they have caused.

In the past 20 years we have seen the emergence of new forms of violence, such as grotesque attacks on the helpless and disabled, the assault and rape of elderly people and serious personal assaults in which the assailant stamps on the head of the victim, often causing permanent and serious injury. In many cases assaults on innocent people do not receive serious attention by either the police or the courts. In addition to an escalation of

armed robberies, serious assaults and murders in urban areas with guns and knives have escalated and become a daily occurrence.

There is a need for a radical change of attitude towards violent behaviour and a deeper consideration of its roots. Unless this happens we will be facing disaster in many of our urban areas.

- There has been an increase of 72% in the levels of prosecutions for people possessing knives between 1997 and 2006. (*Daily Telegraph 7.7.08*)
- An average of 38 people a day are admitted to A&E Departments with injuries caused by knives and other sharp weapons. People treated in hospital for stab wounds has risen to 13,795, that is a 20% increase in five years – 446 of those treated were age 14 and under. (*Department of Health 7.7.08*)

## **15.9 Libertarian Fundamentalism**

We have allowed secular humanists considerable success in imposing their values on everyone else, and they have often been given considerable public funding in doing so. Values established and respected for centuries are being given the status of arbitrary opinions founded on a temporary consensus. The prevailing mixture of political correctness and moral relativism has created a culture in which individuals are often wary of being seen as out of step with supposed contemporary standards.

Words such as “multiculturalism” and “diversity” have been thrust upon the electorate. A culture has emerged which places “human rights” above human responsibilities. This has led to a dramatic growth of litigation, the threat of litigation, or even the possibility of it and has crippled many social initiatives. It has had a chilling effect on the proclamation of moral and spiritual truth. “Human rights” legislation is now, in fact, often robbing us of our human rights.

Under the guise of liberalism and in the name of free speech, the public is relentlessly assailed with foul language, the portrayal of violence, and pornography. As a result, both children and older people increasingly take these standards into their own lives or suffer the consequences of them in other people’s behaviour.

## **15.10 The Mocking of Christ after Centuries of Reverence**

A notable characteristic of contemporary British society is the way in which Jesus Christ is repeatedly ridiculed, mocked and scorned. In the “arts”, much of the mockery is publicly funded.

The people who show their contempt for Christ in these ways generally have no interest in mocking the sacred figures of other religions: their attacks are specifically directed against Christ and Christianity.

There would be outrage, and almost certainly violence, if Mohammed were to be treated in the same way as Jesus is treated. Ironically, this is a form of discrimination.

## **15.11 A Poor Projection of Christianity in the Media**

There has been a great diminution of Christian content in broadcasting. Religious broadcasting itself has largely been marginalised, whereas speakers from a liberal fundamentalist background are invariably given prominent platforms.

In contemporary television, with a few notable exceptions, there is a deep hostility towards orthodox Christian faith. Christians, and particularly priests, are commonly caricatured and stigmatised as negative and narrow-minded people. Christian values are commonly stereotyped as “old-fashioned”. Promiscuity and abortion are presented as normal and acceptable, as opposed to Christian marriage and the nurture of children by mother and father in a family situation.

The concept of a life-long covenant relationship in marriage has been deliberately abandoned.

### **15.12 A Spiritual Void – A Society in Crisis**

As our society is increasingly stripped of its Christian ethos, we no longer have a common code of shared values. Just as nature abhors a vacuum, so individual men and women, and society as a whole, cannot survive without core values. If Godly, spiritual values are removed, the void will be filled with ungodly, unspiritual ones.

Hence, many of our people are inventing their own values as they go along. The inadequacy of this as a basis for our society is amply demonstrated by the way in which we are increasingly being overwhelmed by deeply entrenched social ills. Many of them, such as drug abuse, alcoholism, problem gambling, venereal disease and crimes involving weapons, are getting further and further out of control. Evidence is mounting that there are consequences for any nation that turns its back upon God.

### **15.13 A Fourfold Attack**

#### ***Authority***

There has been a steady erosion of authority across society over many years. Christians recognise God as Creator, and the source of all legitimate authority. They recognise that man is a creature of unique value, created by God to live in relationship with him.

#### ***Marriage***

Christians recognise the Biblical parallel between the covenant of marriage between man and wife and the covenant relationship which God intends to be the foundation of man's life with him.

#### ***Relationships***

Christians recognise the all-important relationship between God and man which authenticates and illustrates the proper relationship between the human parent and child, and, further, authenticates parental responsibility and the child's proper acceptance of parental authority.

#### ***Community***

The Christian recognises our national responsibility for the safeguarding and protection of the local human community. Christians recognise the erosion of the nation-state as serious and undesirable.

Each of these fundamentals has been under attack in the United Kingdom.

- When the existence of God is widely denied, his authority is of course disregarded. Men and women, far from being treated as creatures made in God's image, precious beings who should take care of each other, become mere commodities. They are simply there to serve and gratify the other's interests and inclinations. Likewise, children can be treated as utilities for those who wish to deprave them.

- When the core human unit of relationship – the marriage-based family – is undermined, the degrading of the wider responsibilities and structures of our communities quickly follows, and the good order of society collapses into social breakdown.
- When parental responsibility for the protection and nurturing of the child in the womb, the infant in the family, and the adolescent in society is denied or abdicated, the core relationship between parent and child and between elder and younger in the community is broken. Again the consequence is social mayhem.
- This reaches its culmination in the destruction of the cohesive nation-state. The way is then open for its replacement by a non-accountable directing power which makes the people of the world subservient to it.

## **15.14 A Squandered Inheritance**

Something very precious has been lost. Most people recognise that we are a nation in decline.

God has been dismissed from our national life. All gods and beliefs must now be presented as equally valid. Boundaries have been moved. Our inheritance has been squandered.

We are seeing social fragmentation, often under the guise of the invented word of “multiculturalism”. We have moved into a culture of short-term thinking, instant gratification and limited-time-span concentration. It has become fashionable to be particularly tolerant of what is inherently evil. We have drifted into the acceptance of false religion, occultism and paganism and are starting to pay a very high price for it.

We have seen the destruction of the family, the disavowal of marriage, the corruption and abuse of children and young people, and widespread lawlessness, crime and drug addiction.

We have seen the emergence of a culture of death, in which human life is devalued and abortion and euthanasia are embraced as acceptable.

We have become a nation demanding “rights” but neglecting responsibilities.

Throughout the country there is a deepening unease. At the same time there is a profound frustration with the political process. A huge and widening gulf has developed between politicians and the electorate. In some elections, particularly for local councils and the European Parliament, the overwhelming majority of the electorate simply does not vote. The present UK Government has the support of only 22% of the electorate, a small minority. It received only 36% of the votes cast. Much legislation has been introduced against the will of the majority of the people. The political parties themselves are comparatively small and in many respects unrepresentative.

Political, educational and social developments in the last 50 years have reflected a deepening spiritual void in the life of the nation. We are a society in crisis.

We have seen the emergence of a ruthlessly intolerant form of libertarian humanism. There is growing discrimination against Christians and there is evidence of real hatred towards the Christian faith. We are seeing the emergence of a culture which insults, rejects and excludes God.

## **15.15 Conclusion**

The situation in the United Kingdom has not gone unnoticed elsewhere in the world.

These islands were renowned for sending vast numbers of Christian missionaries to the four corners of the world. Sadly, we are now seen, in the words of a recent African observer, as a “burnt-out volcano” – a “spiritually bankrupt nation”. We sent out missionaries but are now in desperate need of missionaries from lands we once evangelised.

The rejection of Christian values across our nation is already resulting in the moral disintegration of society, and the breakdown of social and community cohesion. The secular humanist experiment of the past 50 years is now being seen as a profound failure. Its fruit is bitter. It is of paramount importance that our national policy makers, and those involved at all levels of social management and the enforcement of the law, recognise that the disenfranchisement of Christianity and the removal of its core values from our national life is not merely a superficial exercise in “equality” or “non-discrimination”. On the contrary, it is undermining the bedrock of our society, and if unchecked will lead to disaster.

It is a matter of the utmost urgency that we face up to what is happening. There is a growing recognition of the importance of a spiritual dimension of living, and we may well now be approaching a post-secular world. This could create a vacuum which Islam stands ready to fill. The United Kingdom has already become a fertile mission field for Islam, yet there is still widespread ignorance among Christians and the general public about Islam’s basic beliefs and intentions.

Over the years, determined efforts have been made to relegate the Christian Gospel to the status of personal opinion and private choice. Christians believe with Lesslie Newbigin, however, that “The Gospel is Public Truth”. There is now, therefore, a fierce battle for the soul of our nation.

Within the Churches we are already seeing signs of an awakening, and numerous Christian initiatives are being taken, but time is short. The Christian Gospel offers a way of hope. The message of Jesus is a message of hope. It calls for new attitudes, new priorities. It calls for radical change. Above all, Christians are committed to personal and social regeneration.

Christianity can exert a major, positive and renewing influence in the life of our nation. The opportunity is in front of us to take bold initiatives, to avoid the destruction of much that we hold dear, and to reassert our core identity as a Christian nation.

# Appendix I. The Christian Foundations of Our National Institutions

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Christian belief, morality and practice undergird most of our national institutions:

- The Coronation Oath sworn by the Monarch is deeply Christian, and the Head of State is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England and “Defender of the Faith”.
- The Church of England and the Church of Scotland are “by law established.”
- Under common law, blasphemy of the Christian religion is a criminal offence (though this law is itself currently under attack).
- Christian oaths are taken by MPs, others in public life and witnesses in Court.
- Both Houses of Parliament start their daily proceedings with Christian prayers.
- Christian teaching and assemblies in schools are required by law.
- Major national memorial events such as Remembrance Day are primarily marked by Christian services.
- *“The notion of God’s right, of God’s justice, produced a network of divine, human and natural law which was the basis of a just ordering of society and also of a mutual sense of obligation ‘one towards another’. This influence is especially focused in constitutional arrangements, ( such as ‘the Queen in Parliament under God’...) which have the purpose of weaving the awareness of God into the body politic of the nation.”*  
Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali (Standpoint magazine, 06/08)

# Appendix 2. The Humanist Strategy

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The following summary of the aims, beliefs and strategy of humanism is derived from Chambers C, *The SIECUS Circle, A Humanist Revolution*, Belmont, 1977, with additional comments.

- Humanists deny that God is our Creator, and idolise man as the Supreme Being. The Humanist Manifesto II (American Humanist Association 1973) asserts that “no deity will save us; we must save ourselves”.
- Humanists do not believe in a life after death, do not believe in worship or prayer, and formulate values through supposedly “scientific” methods.
- Humanism strives for control of all human institutions in order to impose humanist principles. It aims to develop a new world order and system of world law based on a transnational federal government.
- Humanism aims to destroy traditional religions, nation states and their established governments, and recognised social structures including the family.
- Humanism affirms the “right” to complete sexual freedom, birth control, abortion, divorce, euthanasia and suicide.
- The specific objectives of humanists include:
  - Replacing traditional ethics and the concepts of “right” and “wrong” with situational ethics based on utilitarian principles.
  - Destroying traditional religion.
  - Destroying national governments.
  - Destroying the traditional concept of the family.
  - Legalising euthanasia.
  - Legalising abortion on demand.
  - Encouraging population control.
  - Encouraging variant sexual practices.
  - Legalising pornography.
  - Legalising the non-medical supply and use of drugs.
- The humanist approach to ethics rejects absolute standards and moral rules and invites individuals, including children, to decide for themselves what is right or wrong for them according to their circumstances and preferences.
- Humanism aims to create a one-world religion from a combination of Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, Unitarianism, Judaism and Christianity. There is a strong occult influence in humanism through the Theosophic Society and the Lucis (formerly Lucifer) Trust. Humanists have succeeded in having a substantial influence within some Christian churches.
- Humanism aims to undermine the authority of national governments and the integrity of nation states to open the way for the imposition of a single world order based on humanist principles.
- Humanist family policy advocates different kinds of “marriage” for different purposes at various times during life. Some humanists advocate merging or reversing the traditional roles of the sexes, “liberating” children from their families and having governments take over many of the traditional roles of the family.
- Humanists see euthanasia as “an acceptable alternative to the unnecessary prolongation of life. For humanists, it must be remembered that the dead, being non-existent, cannot regret being dead”.
- For humanists, abortion simply expresses their utilitarian view of life: if a developing child is not useful or convenient, he or she may be disposed of like a chair or a car.
- The humanist attitude to euthanasia and abortion intrinsically expresses the view that no-one has a right to life: life may only be retained if it is useful or otherwise acceptable to others. This approach opens wide the

door to eugenics and population control. If mothers can freely address their socio-economic preferences or concerns by abortion, the way is open for the state to pursue its agenda by compulsory abortion or sterilisation. If euthanasia is accepted, the next logical step is the “mercy killing” of anyone the state considers expendable, economically, socially or politically.

- The humanist approach to sex education and sexual practices is derived from the belief that man is merely an evolved animal. Sex education based on situational ethics, discounting moral principles taught by parents, aims to alienate children from their parents, instil a utilitarian view of life during children’s formative years, and to undermine family cohesion and the continuity of the traditional family. Humanists promote essentially any form of sexual activity, including pre-marital sexual relationships, promiscuity, adultery, and male or female homosexual activity. This approach engenders emotional, social and psychological disorders, as well as damaging marriages and families.

# Appendix 3. A Changed Vocabulary

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In a curious marriage between post-modernism and political correctness, we see efforts to change our perceptions of human relationships, values and belief systems by changing the use of language. Language is used as a social, political and spiritual weapon, particularly by politicians and those in the media. Totalitarian systems have long recognised this: “thought police” and spin doctors are adept at it.

- The child in the womb is called a foetus rather than a baby.
- Women hiring themselves for sexual activity are called “*sex workers*” rather than prostitutes. Diseases spread by promiscuity are not called venereal diseases but “*sexually transmitted infections*”.
- Married couples are not called husband and wife but “*partners*”.
- Obscene material is not called pornographic but “*adult*”.
- Abortion is not called destruction of human life but “*termination*” or even “*interrupted pregnancy*”.
- Euthanasia is not called killing or terminating life but simply “*assisted dying*”.
- Swear words are not called foul language but “*expletives*”.
- Dirty jokes are not called obscene but “*suggestive*” or “*blue*”.
- Those whose lives are messed up with drugs are not called addicts but “*substance abusers*”.
- Infidelity is not called adultery but “*extra-marital sex*”.
- Stealing is often called “*lifting*” or “*borrowing*”, terrorists are “*paramilitaries*” or “*freedom fighters*”, people with strong convictions are “*fundamentalists*”, unbelievers are “*tolerant*” or “*broad-minded*”, and believers are “*intolerant*” and “*narrow-minded*”.
- In place of the teaching about morals, children are taught about “*informed choice*”. Right and wrong behaviour are termed “*appropriate*” or “*inappropriate*”.
- Those who refuse to accept new moral values imposed upon them by the state are stigmatised as having “*phobias*”.
- Hooligans at illegal raves are called “*revellers*”. Young thieves who have stolen cars are described as “*joyriders*”. Serious assaults committed by thugs are referred to as “*happy-slapping*”. Multiple rape is referred to as a “*gang-bang*”.
- Arguments on spiritual or ethical grounds against questionable scientific experiments are dismissed as “*emotional*” or as attempts to “*skew the evidence*”.
- Churches are now called “*faith groups*”.
- Film and TV producers have progressively introduced the offensive “f-word” into common use, and they freely use the sacred name of Jesus Christ as an expletive.
- A Home Office document distributed to “key delivery partners” (sic), including chief constables, local authorities and Government offices, advises recipients to avoid expressions suggesting an explicit link between Islam and terror. Rather than “*jihadi fundamentalist*” or “*Islamic extremist*”, they should use terms like “*violent extremism*”, “*criminal murderers*” or “*thugs*”. (*pa.press.net 4/02/08*)

# Appendix 4. Factual Evidence about the State of our Nation

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There is a widespread concern among people of all beliefs and none about the state of our nation. The following information is presented as some indication of the seriousness of our national situation.

## I. Children

- Out of a survey of 21 rich nations in 2007, the UK was ranked bottom for the overall well-being of children and young people, including material, emotional, family and educational well-being. (*An overview of child well-being in rich countries, Unicef 2007*)
- Over 60,000 children live in care in England, of which 42,000 live in foster care and 6,600 in care homes, and 2,900 are placed for adoption. (*Dept of Health Publications and Statistics January 2007*)
- 25,900 children and young people were on the child-protection register for the year ending March 2005. (*Child Protection Register 2007, Dept of Children, Schools and Families*)
- 552,000 children in England alone were referred to social services departments, categorised as “in need”, in the year ending March 2005. (*Ibid*)
- By 2003, over 110,000 adults had convictions for sex offences against children. (*NSPCC Child Protection Helpline publication 2003*)
- In the school year 2005/06 there were 9,170 permanent and 343,840 fixed-term expulsions from schools in England – over 10% of the school population. (*Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions 2005/06, DFES 26/06/07*)
- 100,000 children run away from home every year. (*Beyond Refuge, NSPCC November 2006*)
- 1 in 3 (3.5 million) children are living in poverty, compared with 1 in 10 in 1979. (*Welfare isn't Working, Child Poverty, Reform 2007*)
- 16% of 15-year-olds and 5% of 13 to 14-year-olds in England attended NHS family planning clinics, and over 22,000 under 16 years attended for emergency contraception in 2005-6. (*Contraceptive Services, NHS Statistical Bulletin 2005/06*)
- In 2006, nearly 1.3 million children had parents with addiction problems. (“*Bottling it up*” campaign, *Turning Point May 2006*)
- There were 697 child abductions in Britain in 2006/07. (*Home Office Statistical Bulletin 2006/07*)
- 37,074 children rang ChildLine in 2005/2006 about bullying, 26% of all callers. (*ChildLine 25.8.04*)
- 19% of children under 15 were obese by 2004. (*Health Survey for England 2004*)
- One in ten children has asthma. There are 5.2 million people in the UK receiving treatment for asthma. (*Asthma UK 2007*)
- There are 1.24 million 16-24 year old NEETS (Young adults not in education, employment or training) in the UK, 15% higher than nine years ago. (*Cost of Exclusion Report, Prince's Trust April 2007*)

## 2. Marriage

- The number of divorces has nearly doubled since 1971, from 80,000 to 155,000. (*Social Trends 37, ONS 2007*)
- The UK has the third-highest divorce rate in Europe. (*Eurostat, Social Trends 34, ONS 2004*)
- 53% of divorces included a child under 16. (*NSO/Divorce Online 2007*)
- One in five people getting a divorce has had a previous divorce. (*Ibid*)
- The financial cost of family breakdown is estimated at £24 billion per year. (*Breakthrough Britain Report July 2007*)

## 3. Families

- 52% of all births in Wales, 47% in Scotland and 42% in England in 2005 were outside marriage, compared to 12% in 1980. (*Social Trends 37, ONS 2007*)
- 24% of children lived in a single-parent family in 2006, compared with 7% in 1972. (*Ibid*)
- 60% of fathers have little or no continuing relationship with their children after marital separation. (*Dame Elizabeth Butler Schloss, Family Law Division 2003*)
- 1 in 4 children affected by divorce are under 5, two-thirds are under 10. (*Social Trends 34, ONS 2004*)

- The UK has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe, 40% higher than Portugal, in 2nd place. (*Social Trends 33, ONS 2003*)
- 70% of young offenders identified by Youth Offending Teams come from lone-parent families. (*Youth Justice Board 2002*)

#### **4. Life**

- 46% of under-18 conceptions ended in legal abortion in 2005. (*ONS Teenage Pregnancy Unit 2007*)
- There were 6,628,203 abortions in England, Wales & Scotland between 1968 and 2006. (*Government Statistical Service August 2004, Dept of Health 2004/06 and NHS Scotland 2006*)
- There were 193,700 abortions in 2006, a rise of 3.9% on the previous year, and 87% were funded by the NHS. (*Dept of Health Statistical Bulletin 2006*)
- The highest rate of abortion was amongst 19-year-olds: 35 in every 1000. (*Ibid*)
- In 2006, nearly 1,400 girls under 18 had their second or third abortions. (*Minister of Health, cited by Christian Institute 20/03/08*)

#### **5. Need**

- Each year 140,000 people attempt to commit suicide. (*Community Care 9/10/03*)
- Every day 4,500 children call ChildLine. Since it was formed in 1986, it has counselled over 1 million children. (*ChildLine 2007*)
- In 2005 the Samaritans received almost 5 million contacts. 20% expressed suicidal feelings. (*Samaritans 2006*)

#### **6. Lawlessness**

- The prison population in England and Wales is at an all-time high of 80,205, an increase of 25,000 in the last 10 years and an increase of 2% on the previous year. (*Home Office Statistics 2007*)
- Less than 100,000 offences were recorded in England and Wales annually before the 1920s. By 1950 the level was half a million. By 1980 this had risen to 2.5 million and in 2006/7 the British Crime Survey recorded 11.3 million crimes. (*Crime in England & Wales 2006/07, Home Office 2007*)
- 36% of males aged 18-21 admit to committing an offence in the last year. (*Home Office Research Study 209*)
- 24% of people were victims of crime in 2006/07. (*Crime In England & Wales 2006/07, Home Office 2007*)
- Shoplifting theft totalled £205 million in 2006, an increase of 9% on the previous year. (*British Retail Consortium Retail Crime Survey 2006/7*)
- More than 54,000 pupils play truant every day. (*Dept for Children, Schools and Families Autumn 2006*)
- Each year an estimated 70,000 school-age offenders enter the Youth Justice System. (*HM Government, Reducing re-offending through skills and employment, December 2005*)
- The estimated cost of youth crime in Britain now exceeds £1 billion every year. (*The Cost of Social Exclusion – Prince's Trust 2007*)

#### **7. Violence**

- The number of deaths and injuries caused by gun attacks in England and Wales soared from 864 in 1998-99 to 3,821 in 2005-06 – that is more than 10 people injured or killed in a gun attack every day. (*Home Office/TimesOnline 2007*)
- The Metropolitan Police have identified 169 gangs operating on the streets of London, and say they are responsible for more than one-fifth of all youth crime. (*Metropolitan Police Report 2007*)
- Police recorded 5,023 serious knife crimes in England and Wales in the first three months of 2007, equivalent to about 400 offences per week. (*Ibid*)
- Attacks in which a knife was used in a successful mugging have soared, from 25,500 in 2005 to 64,000 in the year to April 2007. (*Ibid*)
- The estimated total cost of youth crime for Great Britain was in excess of £1 billion in 2004. (*The Cost of Exclusion Report, Prince's Trust April 2007*)
- The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised increased from 10,913 in 2000 to 15,981 in 2005. (*Annual Use of Firearms, Home Office 2004/5*)
- One in 22 NHS staff suffers violence. (*Press release, Dept of Health June 2006*)
- 10 children a day were expelled for assaults in 2003. (*DfES 13/07/04*)
- 1 in 5 children have experienced bullying at school in the 12 months to November 2004. (*National Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, November 2004*)

## 8. Drugs

- Over 800,000 people used cocaine in 2006. (*Drug Misuse Declared, British Crime Survey 2006/7*)
- If you start smoking cannabis before the age of 15, you are 4 times more likely to develop a psychotic disorder by the time you are 26. (*Cannabis and Mental Health, The Royal College of Psychiatrists August 2006*)
- The number of 11 to 15-year-olds taking drugs in England has doubled since 1998. (*Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use amongst Young People 2003, National Centre for Social Research/National Foundation for Education Research*)
- It is estimated that just over 11¼ million people aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales have used illicit drugs at some time in their lives. (*Drug Misuse Declared, British Crime Survey 2006/07*)
- 26,000 drug offences were recorded in 1987. In 2005/06 there were 178,502 offences recorded. (*Crime Statistics, Home Office 2006*)
- 1500 cannabis farms were found in London alone in 2005/06, and 60% of cannabis sold in the UK is home-grown, compared to 11% 10 years ago. (*Drugscope 2007*)
- Research in 2004 suggested that 60% of drug-addicted mothers and 85% of drug-addicted fathers no longer look after their children. (*Drug Misuse Research Project, Glasgow University 2004*)
- There were 189,032 seizures of drugs in the UK in 2005, a 42% increase on the previous year. (*UK Focal Point Report 2007*)
- In 2003 HM Customs and Excise seized 6.8 tonnes of cocaine, 2.7 tonnes of heroin, 6.7 million ecstasy tablets, 1.5 tonnes of amphetamines, 99 tonnes of cannabis and 80,000 cannabis plants. (*Seizure of Drugs in England and Wales, Home Office 2003*)
- The £8 billion-a-year drug trade has 300 big drug importers in the UK, as well as 3000 wholesalers and 70,000 street dealers. (*Home Office/TimesOnline 2007*)

## 9. Pornography

- The Metropolitan Police Obscene Publications Squad investigated sexually explicit photographs published by Christie's auction house in its catalogue and on the internet. Some of the photographs were by the person who sold a crucifix submerged in his own urine called "Piss Christ". For the first time in its 200-year history, Christie's put a warning about the content in its catalogue, but a spokesman claimed that it was for the art market, not Christie's, to determine whether some of the images were pornographic. (*Sunday Telegraph 21/01/01*)
- A national daily pornographic newspaper, which includes advertisements for pornographic DVDs and the services of prostitutes, is on sale in the UK. (*Daily Sport, any issue*)
- Commercial pornographic sites on the internet have increased by 1,800% in the last five years. Now over 260 million pages are classified as pornography. (*Press Release, N2H2 24/09/03*)
- BT is blocking up to 20,000 attempts a day to view child pornography. (*Pierre Danon, CEO BT Retail, BBC "Today" Programme 20/07/04*)
- 57% of 9 to 19-year-olds have come into contact with online pornography. (*UK Children Go Online, LSE April 2005*)
- The Internet Watch Foundation processed 18 times as many reports on illegal websites as in 1997, from 1,291 to 23,658. (*Annual Report, IWF 2005*)
- Liverpool Council and the local police have given the go-ahead for a sex club for "like-minded partner-swapping couples". (*Liverpool Echo 12/11/07*)

## 10. Social Costs

- Crime cost businesses £19 billion a year in 2003. (*British Chamber of Commerce 2003*)
- The cost to the Exchequer in Job-seeker's Allowance of youth unemployment and inactivity is about £20 million per week. (*Cost of Exclusion Report, Prince's Trust April 2007*)
- The productivity loss to the economy as a result of youth unemployment is estimated at £10 million every day. (*Ibid*)
- By 2003, 15 million working days were lost every year due to alcohol, costing the economy an estimated £2.3 billion. (*Drink & Work – A dangerous cocktail, TUC 2003*)
- Treating sexually transmitted infections now costs the NHS more than £1 billion a year. (*Family Planning Association July 2004*)
- By 2003, £460 million a year was being spent to reduce school truancy. (*DfES Press Notice 17/09/03*)
- The Government's total expenditure of the Drug Strategy for 2005/6 totalled £1.483 billion. (*Drug Strategy, Home Office 2006*)

- The cost of arson attacks on schools reached a record £73 million a year, with two school arson fires a day in the UK, in 2004. (*Arson Prevention Bureau 16/07/04*)
- The total cost of arson in 2004 was estimated at £2.44 billion, and the cost of FRS responses to malicious false alarms was estimated at £81 million. (*Economic Cost of Fire, Deputy Prime Minister's Office 2006*)
- In 2004, more than £2 billion a year was being spent on benefits awarded due to stress, depression or anxiety. (*Dept of Work and Pensions 2004*)
- Also in 2004, three teenagers in secure accommodation were costing taxpayers half a million pounds a year. (*Cambridgeshire Children's Services 23/11/04*)

## **I I. Promiscuity and Disease**

- In 2005, 7,450 new HIV cases were diagnosed in the UK. This was nearly double the number diagnosed in 2000. It was estimated that 63,500 adults aged 15 to 19 were living with HIV by the end of 2005. (*NSO 2006*)
- Genital chlamydia infection rose from 89,818 cases in 2003 to 113,585 in 2006. (*Health Protection Annual Report 2007*)
- In 2006 there were 2,766 diagnoses of primary and secondary cases of infectious syphilis. (*Ibid*)
- There were 19,007 gonorrhoea infections in 2006; 40% of those infected were female teenagers. (*Ibid*)
- Sexually transmitted infections totalled 621,312 in 2006, an increase of 2% on the previous year. (*Ibid*)
- The Scottish Government has recently run a consultation on whether the age of consent should be lowered to 13 between teenagers, provided that there was an age difference of two years or less. However, Scotland has poor sexual health, with a rising incidence of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and some of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Europe. (*Christian Institute 12/03/08*)

## **I 2. Television**

- Sex scenes on TV tripled over the 5 years to 2003. (*Report published by BSC, ITC and BBC, MediaWatch-UK Newsbrief Autumn 2003*)
- One child in five watched television after the 9 pm watershed in 2003. (*Study of Broadcasting Standards Council and Independent Television Commission 10/06/03*)
- In 107 films shown in 2006 Mediawatch identified a shocking 540 incidents involving firearms, 368 violent assaults and 180 incidents involving knives and other offensive weapons. (*Mediawatch February 2007*)
- 98% of the public agree that standards are slipping on terrestrial TV. (*Poll of 2,675 voters by ITV Teletext 20/01/03*)

## **I 3. Dishonesty**

- In 2006-07, benefit thieves stole an estimated £700 million from public funds. (*DWP 'No ifs no buts' campaign*)
- Overall card fraud for 2006 was £428 million. (*Home Office/Association for Payment Clearing Services 2006*)
- Fraud costs the economy an estimated £13.9bn a year. (*Home Office 2006*)
- Identity fraud cost the British economy £1.7 billion in 2006, an increase of 30% since 2003. (*Home Office 2007*)

## **I 4. Alcohol**

- The yearly number of alcohol-related deaths in all age groups more than doubled from 4,144 in 1991 to 8,386 in 2005. (*NSO November 2006*)
- 23% of adult males and 9% of adult females (a total of 5.9 million people) engage in binge drinking. (*Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology Report 2005*)
- On average, 3,500 people are killed or seriously injured each year. In 2005 over 90,000 people were convicted of drink driving. (*Greater Manchester Police 2005*)
- In 2004/05 there were around 35,600 NHS hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol. (*Dept of Health Alcohol Statistics 2006*)
- In 2006, 2,539 men and 1,238 women aged 35 to 54 died from alcohol-related causes, compared to 1,257 and 598 in 1994. (*ONS 2006*)
- Children as young as six are being treated for alcohol abuse, with one A&E department reporting "hundreds" of children admitted every week. (*Survey of 50 A&E Depts, BBC August 2003*)

- Heavy drinking costs the country £12 billion a year. (*National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Statement, Prime Minister's Strategy Unit March 2004*)

## **15. Tobacco**

- Approximately 1 million people die every 10 years in the United Kingdom through smoking. (*Action on Smoking and Health, March 2008*)
- In England in 2004/05 there were approximately 1.4 million NHS hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of a disease that could be related to smoking. (*NHS Information Centre Report 2006*)
- Smoking causes 5,000 miscarriages and 1,200 cases of cervical cancer every year. About a quarter of British men and women smoke. Smoking increases the risks of heart disease in women on the pill, causes an early menopause, reduces the chance of conceiving by about 40% and causes cervical cancer. (*BMA February, 2004*)
- In 2005, total UK household expenditure on tobacco was £15.7 billion. (*NHS Information Centre 2006*)

## **16. Homelessness**

- Approximately 400,000 people in the UK are homeless. (*Hidden Homeless: Britain's Invisible City, Crisis September 2007*)
- 107,200 homeless families now live in temporary accommodation. (*Crisis 31/03/06*)
- 156,000 young people become homeless in Britain each year. (*Shelter 2004*)

## **17. Care**

- 39% of all male prisoners under 21 years old have been in care. 70% of all prostitutes have been in care. (*Project Caleb 2004*)
- Those in care are 50 times more likely to be imprisoned and 60 times more likely to be homeless. 75% of them have no educational qualification. Those in care are 66 times more likely to have a child which will be institutionalised. (*Ibid*)

## **18. The Environment**

- It is estimated that cleaning up graffiti costs the UK over £1 billion per year. (*Encams 2006*)
- More than £250 million is being lost to the public transport network every year through vandalism and trespass. (*NACRO Report, August 2003*)

## **19. Debt**

- Total UK personal debt at the end of October 2007 stood at £1,409 billion, a growth rate of 9.5% for the previous 12 months. (*Credit Action January 2008*)
- Citizens Advice Bureau clients have an average debt of £13,000, 17.5 times their monthly income. It will take CAB clients 77 years to repay the debt in full. (*Ibid*)
- House repossessions for 2006 totalled 17,000 - 65% higher than in 2005. (*Council of Mortgage Lenders 2007*)
- 2007 proved to be the strongest ever year for gross mortgage lending, reaching an estimated £362 billion. (*Council of Mortgage Lenders 2008*)

## **20. Emotional Need**

- From 1991 to 2001, prescription items for anti-depressant drugs increased from 9 million to 24 million items. (*Social Trends No 33, ONS 2003*)
- 1 in 6 adults are mentally unwell. (*Ibid*)
- Those in their early 30s suffering depression and anxiety have doubled in the decade to 2004. (*London University Institute of Education Project 24/06/04*)
- Prescriptions for medicines for mental health problems in under-16s were up from 146,000 in the mid-nineties to over 631,000 in 2006. (*NHS Library for Medicines 23/07/07*)
- One incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every minute. (*Domestic Violence, Home Office 2007*)
- On average, 2 women a week are killed by a current or former male partner. (*Ibid*)