

JAMAICA COALITION FOR A HEALTHY SOCIETY

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E-newsletter : December 2016 – March 2017

Highlights

- Int'l Human Rights Day Rally @ Emancipation Park
- Furore over Yellow Pages telephone cover
- UN votes for global LGBT enforcer
- Gleaner & Observer misrepresenting JCHS
- Lord Anthony Gifford for same sex marriage

What's been happening: Jamaica

On December 10, 2016, the JCHS hosted its 5th annual International Human Rights Day rally at Emancipation Park under the theme of **Hurricane Watch: Human Rights under Threat**. Through song, dance and poetry, praise and worship and prayer, the public celebrated God's perfect law as the perfect basis for human rights.



Information was shared on the danger of recognising and legally protecting the words '*sexual orientation*' and '*gender identity*' (SOGI).

A video display highlighted the harmful effects on the lives of ordinary citizens in the USA, Canada and the UK as a result of protecting these meaningless, borderless human constructed words.

These persons have had their constitutional freedoms of expression, conscience, religion and parental rights taken from them because they refused to accept the notion of SOGI.

Special guest speaker was **Pastor Scott Stirm from Belize**. He heads **Belize Action**, a mobilizing network geared towards awareness and action on laws, policies and national dynamics related to morality, family values, righteousness, and religious freedoms in Belize.



Pastor
Scott
Stirm

Pastor Stirm spoke about his ministry to build strong and healthy family life in Belize, and the dangers being faced by the Church and society from the LGBT agenda in Belize. During his week-long visit, Pastor Stirm also participated in a rally in Montego Bay hosted by Trumpet Call Ministries, as well as making a number of media appearances.

Yellow Pages gone red:

On December 1, 2016, the front page article of the Daily Gleaner claimed that a church lobby forced the Yellow Pages to find an alternative cover for its 2017 business directory for Kingston and St Andrew. The original cover issued was a painting depicting a dancehall scene.

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20161201/phone-book-backlash-church-lobby-forces-yellow-pages-find-alternative>

Advocates for the dancehall culture including UWI lecturers Professor Carolyn Cooper and Dr Donna Hope, commented in various radio discussions that the church's dislike of the artwork was evidence of Christian prudeness regarding sex as well as social and class prejudice as the 'objectors from the church' would likely remain silent on the graphic nature of Carnival, an event predominantly supported by upper and middle class.

See also, <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/commentary/20161204/carolyn-cooper-good-and-evil-yellow-pages>

The actual facts are that a private letter was sent to Mr Ian Neita, CEO of Yellow Pages, by the JCHS, Love March Movement and National Association of the Family. They expressed concern with the inappropriate message communicated in the artwork selected for the publicly available 2017 business directory. The groups indicated that research has shown the damaging effects of sexualised depictions in the media on the psychological development of children, the general perception and treatment of women in society and the desensitisation of society to incidents of sexual abuse. The Yellow Pages was called upon to demonstrate mature corporate social sensitivity and responsibility by replacing the cover with a more wholesome message.

The Yellow Pages CEO replied to in writing, thanking the groups for their 'thoughtful comments'. The company regretted any offence caused and 'unreservedly apologised' for this. The company also stated that "upon further reflection, we can now see where the choice for depicting the dancehall genre could be considered inappropriate."

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It was indicated that an alternate batch of directories with a more appropriate cover would be printed and distributed to schools, churches, libraries and such establishments.

The JCHS is unaware as to how this private communication came to the attention of the Gleaner. The JCHS maintains its position that sex is sacred, that there is only one proper context for its expression, that of covenantal marriage between one man and one woman. Furthermore, sexualised imagery outside of this proper context, is a neurological stimulus that can lead to cascading deleterious effects for individuals and society.

The JCHS encourages its supporters to request copies of the alternate directory from Yellow Pages.

UN institutes global LGBT enforcer

On December 19, 2016, a critical vote was taken at the United Nations in New York, USA, approving the establishment of the post of an Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Expert, Mr Vtit Muntarbhorn from Thailand, is a prominent 'gay' rights activist who has been given a broad mandate to push across the world, the acceptance of abnormal sexual behaviours, as normal.

The appointment was actively resisted by 54 African nations at the UN who requested a deferral of the appointment until its legal basis could be examined by the General Assembly.

Prior to the vote, the JCHS initiated a local lobbying campaign to encourage the Jamaican Government and its UN delegation to vote against the establishment of this office and to support the African group's request for deferral. The JCHS denounces violence against all persons however the words 'violence' and 'discrimination' are increasingly being distorted to mean any view that does not support the LGBT ideology. **We thank our many supporters** who called, emailed or tweeted the Prime Minister and/or the Minister of Foreign Affairs asking them protect Jamaica from UN activities that would negatively affect the security and freedoms of every Jamaican.

Jamaica did vote against the establishment of the post on December 19, 2016, however, the 7 votes needed to overturn the approval were not secured. The Expert's post was approved by 84 votes for 77 against, 18 abstentions. Unfortunately, 6 other CARICOM nations either abstained from the vote or voted for the establishment of the post.

Mr Muntarbhorn has since publicly announced his 5 point plan: **(i)** decriminalisation **(ii)** depathologization **(iii)** status recognition **(iv)** gender-diverse cultural inclusion and **(v)** empathization – teaching children to accept an all embracing concept of SOGI.

<http://bangkok.ohchr.org/news/press/VititFullStatement.aspx/>

JCHS presenting papers at conferences:

- On International Human Rights, December 10, 2016, the **General Legal Council** hosted a continuing legal education development (CLPD) seminar for members of the legal profession in Jamaica. The topic was **same sex marriage and other pro-LGBT decisions**. Lord Anthony Gifford presented his paper *Redefining marriage- US Supreme Court and other related LGBT decisions*. Mrs Shirley Richards, Legal Counsel for JCHS and Ms Philippa Davies, Advocacy Officer countered Lord Gifford's paper in demonstrating the injurious effects to individual, society and the administration of justice resulting from the demands by a minority to re-interpret human rights to accept absolute sexual freedom. The continuing influence of the junk science of Alfred Kinsey in shaping laws even in the Caribbean was prominently illustrated.

- Representatives of the JCHS and National Association for the Family presented papers at a national conference, **Population Planning for Development in Jamaica Theory, Practice and Policy for the post 2015 Development Agenda**. The conference was hosted by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), UWI SALISES (Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Economic and Social Studies) and the UNFPA (UN Population Fund) on January 25-27, 2017 at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

The JCHS papers were on the themes of:

- *Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART): the implications for human dignity, the family and society, and*
- *Two is better than too many is leaving Jamaica with too few: the philosophy, goals and outcomes of population control programmes.*

Copies of the papers can be provided on request.

Dr Michael Coombs, Founder of the National Association of the Family presented on *The Foundational Importance of the Family in Population Planning and Sustainable Development*.

JCHS misrepresented by the Gleaner & Observer

On January 11, 2017, the JCHS issued a press release on the revelation of child sexual abuse and cover up by the Moravian church leadership. The press release was cited in a news report by the Jamaica Observer on January 13, 2017.

<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Moravian-leaders-step-down-as-church-reels-from-sex-scandal----- 86438>

The Gleaner did not print the release. On January 18, 2017 the Gleaner Letter of the Day was given to Michael Dingwall who berated the JCHS for its apparent silence on the issue. The letter caption was '*Christian coalition mum on church sex scandal*'. The Observer also printed Mr Dingwall's letter albeit editing the name JCHS to 'Christian Coalition'. On January 18, Gleaner columnist Michael Abrahams referenced the Dingwall letter and also commented on the silence of the JCHS in his column.

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The JCHS wrote to both newspapers pointing out that while the newspapers exercised stringent due diligence before printing advertisements submitted *by* the JCHS, this was apparently not done when publishing comments *about* the JCHS. The JCHS also wrote to Mr. Abrahams who immediately corrected his comments through his online column. He also posted the full JCHS release.

<https://www.facebook.com/michabe123/posts/1357904437614245>

The Observer eventually printed the release in full on January 21, 2017. <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/JCHS-recommends-systems-for-protecting-children-87123>

The Gleaner did likewise on January 25, <http://jamaicagleaner.com/article/news/20170125/jchs-speaks-out-sex-abuse-scandal>

Neither newspaper has taken responsibility for falsely representing the JCHS's position in this matter.

JCHS workshop on Child Protection Policies

On February 18, 2017, the JCHS hosted a well-supported workshop equipping church leaders to implement sound child protection policies and practices. Participants learnt about the provisions of the Sexual Offences & Child Care and Protection Acts, discussed preventative approaches and how to identify signs of child abuse and were provided a template checklist for creating a church policy. Presenters included representatives of the Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA), the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) and Hear the Children's Cry. The Wesleyan Holiness Church also shared their experiences in implementing its child protection policy, in force since 2015.

Cybercrimes Act

On March 20, 2017, the JCHS issued a press release regarding section 9 (1) of the Cybercrimes Act. Concern was expressed at the lack of clear definitions for terms such as 'harrass', 'harm' and 'apprehension of harm'. The JCHS has called on the Jamaican legislature to review the Cybercrimes Act to ensure that it is clear, precise and does not facilitate abuse of freedom of speech of all Jamaicans. <http://www.jchs.org.jm/press-releases.html>

What's been happening: Caribbean

The UWI Rights Advocacy Programme (URAP) which initiated the buggery law challenge in Belize, has expanded its legal support base across the Caribbean. According to a report in **Caribbean News Now**, over 40 lawyers from 13 Caribbean countries formed themselves into the *Caribbean Pro Bono and Social Justice Lawyering Group* in December 2016. Their focus is to provide 'high quality, legal representation and/or advice' to key populations primarily, people living with HIV, people who use drugs, prisoners, sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, and transgender people.

For more, please see:

<http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/topstory-Caribbean-lawyers-form-group-to-offer-social-justice,-pro-bono-services-32829.html>

...and in February 2017, a constitutional challenge against the buggery law was filed in Trinidad & Tobago. See more: <http://www.trinidadexpress.com/20170223/news/gay-rights-advocate-challenges-tts-homosexuality-laws>

ABOUT US:

The JCHS is a family advocacy NGO promoting Judeo-Christian principles as the most coherent framework for defining family, ordering society and building a flourishing society.

WHAT WE DO:

- Public education
- Public rallies
- Media intervention
- Lobbying Government and civil society stakeholders
- Legal and policy papers



Like us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter and Subscribe to our YouTube channel!

JCHS documentary: *Sex Lies & Rights: a seduction of law, medicine and politics.*
www.youtube/jchsadvocate

Previous JCHS newsletters:
www.jchs.org.jm/newsletters.html

PRAYER POINTS: Caribbean-wide prayer roster: Defending Family, Faith and Freedom. Repentance, Restoration, Rallying and Resistance.
<http://www.jchs.org.jm/documents.html>

With Thanks !
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*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,
and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."*
2 Cor. 10:4-5 KJV