

# JAMAICA COALITION FOR A HEALTHY SOCIETY

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E-newsletter : July - Sept 2016

## Highlights

- **Belizeans reject Supreme Court ruling on buggery law**
- **UWI Mona –real movers behind the Belize case**
- **JUTC bus promoting same sex relationships?**
- **Science says no-one ‘born gay’**

## What’s been happening: BELIZE

### Belize Supreme Court decision

On August 10, 2016, the Chief Justice of Belize handed down his long awaited decision on the constitutional challenge to section 53 (s.53) of the Criminal Code (the ‘buggery law’) which states that “Every Person who has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any person or animal shall be liable to imprisonment for ten years.”

The case was brought by Caleb Orozco, a Belizean homosexual activist, against the Attorney-General of Belize. The Chief Justice ruled in favour of Mr Orozco stating that s.53 infringed Mr Orozco’s constitutional right to privacy, equality, freedom of expression and human dignity. The Judge then revised s.53 to exclude its application to consensual sexual activities between adults in private.

The Judge also re-interpreted the meaning of the word ‘sex’ in the Constitution’s non-discrimination clause, to include ‘sexual orientation’. Although the Constitution’s preamble states that “the Nation of Belize shall be founded upon principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God”, the Judge held that this was limited to freedom of religious belief and conscience, and that reference to God and the Creator did not ‘import religious principles into the interpretation of the Constitution.’

**The people take to the street:** Organised by several Belizean churches, thousands of citizens participated in prayer marches and public protests around the National Assembly and government administration buildings to demonstrate their disapproval and rejection of the ruling. The protestors called on the Government to appeal the Supreme Court’s decision however the Government initially announced that it would not challenge the ruling.

The three main utilities unions (water, energy and communications) then issued a press release, expressing their grave dissatisfaction with the Government’s failure to act and defend its people and urged it to reverse its decision.

The Unions also warned the people of the Caribbean to ‘wake up and realise that this is just the beginning [of ] a series of ‘well thought out and carefully orchestrated attacks on our way of living.’ The Belize National Teachers Union also issued a public statement of their concerns with the ruling, calling on the Government to “ensure that the matter is thoroughly ventilated.”  
<http://www.sanpedrosun.com/religious/2016/09/02/local-church-organizations-urge-the-government-to-appeal-section-53/>

Utilities union - <http://www.plustvbelize.com/utilities-union-calls-for-gob-to-appeal-s53-decision/>

TeachersUnion<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/133956>

**Government changes its mind:** The National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB) and the Roman Catholic Church also wrote to the Prime Minister urging him to appeal for the well-being of the nation. Following the massive public outcry, the Government then met with Church representatives and announced that it would partially appeal the decision.

On September 16, 2016, the Belizean Government filed an appeal on the Chief Justice’s re-interpretation of ‘sex’ to mean ‘sexual orientation’. The National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB) and the Roman Catholic Church have also appealed the full ruling of the case.

<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/133696>  
<http://amandala.com.bz/news/evangelical-churches-appeal-ruling-section-53-sodomy-law/>

**Significant funding appears:** The day following the ruling, it was reported that a Global Fund donation of USD3.4 million made to the Belize National AIDS Commission earlier in the year would now be used to hire 2 part-time lawyers, 1 at the Office of the Ombudsmen and 1 at the local LGBT activist group, UNIBAM (United Belize Advocacy Movement), with the sole focus of LGBT issues.  
<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/133414>

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## **Caleb Orozco calls on the UN to punish Belize :**

Participating at an LGBT side event at the UN General Assembly in New York, the Belizean homosexual activist called on every UN representative and government at that meeting to utilise its trade, development and technical assistance outreach to the Government of Belize, in order to push the LGBT Agenda.

<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/135334>

Mr Orozco's remarks:

[https://www.outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/FINAL\\_Caleb%20Orozco\\_UNGA%20Speech\\_9.2016.pdf](https://www.outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/FINAL_Caleb%20Orozco_UNGA%20Speech_9.2016.pdf)

**Who's the daddy?:** In a revealing video available on YouTube, University of the West Indies lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Ms Tracy Robinson explained the process which she led in the selection of Belize as the suitable CARICOM country in which to initiate the first challenge to the buggery law in the Caribbean. Ms Robinson is co-ordinator of the UWI Rights Advocacy Project (U-RAP) which gave legal support to the Belizean claimant Caleb Orozco through-out the case.

Among the factors rendering Belize the ideal location was anticipated support by the Government. Ms Robinson said "You don't want to go somewhere the Government is going to use constitutional reforms to undo.... You want there to be strong support for litigation".

In her view, a positive ruling for Mr Orozco would "change the way people talk about this issue and that will have the sanction of courts for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Even if of limited precedential value, it will be an impetus for law reform [and] international action..."

This was and is the plan of the UWI for the Caribbean. The question to be asked, what or who next, and is the Jamaican case a part of the UWI plan? It should be noted that the decision is not binding on Jamaica or any other Caribbean nation, however the case must be watched closely by all Caribbean citizens.

**UWI video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpznIelfRX8>

## **What's been happening: JAMAICA**

**Stop the bus !** A Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) bus in the Kingston and St Andrew corporate area is displaying an advertisement in which 2 smiling cartoon females are depicted standing side by side along with the caption *Equality = Love*.

The advertisement was placed and sponsored by Equalities for all Jamaica Foundation Ltd. The Executive -Director of this entity is also Executive -Director of Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All Sexuals and Gays (JFLAG).

The JCHS has written to the Managing Director of the JUTC inquiring whether JUTC intends to endorse promotion of same-sex relationships, or if it is aware that the concept of 'sexual orientation' was rejected by Parliament as a ground for non-discrimination. The JCHS is awaiting a reply.

## **What's happening: USA**

**Science says it ain't so:** Claiming that someone is born a homosexual or a transgender has no evidence in science. This was a key finding in a special report in the Fall 2016 edition of the New Atlantis Journal, entitled *Sexuality and Gender: findings from the biological, psychological and social sciences*.

The report's authors Drs Mayer and McHugh from the Johns Hopkins University are well-known scholars in the mental health field. They were deeply concerned with the alarming mental illness statistics among LGBT persons, and the danger facing children by those promoting trans-genderism.

Dr Mayer stated that "*nearly all children ultimately identify with their biological sex. The notion that a two-year-old, having expressed thoughts or behaviors identified with the opposite sex, can be labeled for life as transgender has absolutely no support in science. Indeed, it is iniquitous to believe that all children who have gender-atypical thoughts or behavior at some point in their development, particularly before puberty, should be encouraged to become transgender.*"

<http://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/executive-summary-sexuality-and-gender>

In a separate publication, a lesbian activist Dr. Lisa Diamond, who is also co-editor-in-chief of the American Psychological Association (APA) Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology affirmed that gays are not "born that way."

<http://www.aoiusa.org/american-psychological-association-course-correction-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-not-fixed-after-all/>

The JCHS encourages you to read these publications.

## **COMING UP !**

Issachar Foundation Public Lecture  
**Wednesday October 19, 2016.**

6 p.m.

**Friends or Foes : Science and Faith**

Visit [www.jchs.org](http://www.jchs.org) for venue details

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## Useful Resources

### ❖ JCHS public policy briefs

Read: *Respect Jamaica*: a wolf in sheep's clothing  
[?http://www.jchs.org.jm/policy-briefs.html](http://www.jchs.org.jm/policy-briefs.html)

❖ Podcasts of *Connect Pray Act*, the radio discussion programme examining public policy affecting family faith and freedom on TBC radio 88.5 FM.

### Podcasts are Freely available !!!!!

[www.connectprayact.podomatic.com](http://www.connectprayact.podomatic.com)

### Interviews include:

- Sex Change Regret – testimony of a former transgender
- The United Nations - underhand, undermining, out of order
- Marriage – a public good for political, economic and social stability
- Is the buggery law really relevant ?

❖ **JCHS documentary:** *Sex Lies & Rights: a seduction of law, medicine and politics.*

[www.youtube.com/jchsadvocate](http://www.youtube.com/jchsadvocate)

❖ Previous JCHS newsletters:

[www.jchs.org.jm/newsletters.html](http://www.jchs.org.jm/newsletters.html)

❖ Other pro-family websites:

[www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org)

[www.christianconcern.com](http://www.christianconcern.com)

[www.familywatchinternational.org](http://www.familywatchinternational.org)

[www.massresistance.org](http://www.massresistance.org)

### 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

**PRAYER POINTS:** Caribbean-wide prayer roster 2016 :  
Defending Family, Faith and Freedom. *Repentance, Restoration, Rallying and Resistance.*  
<http://www.jchs.org.jm/documents.html>

### With Thanks !

**Your Financial support** to the JCHS:

Scotiabank, 82-84 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10  
Savings Account # 936 361 Transit # 60145  
Swift Code NOSJMKM

*“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*

