

JAMAICA COALITION FOR A HEALTHY SOCIETY

Education. Advocacy. Ministry.

E-newsletter: MARCH 2014

Who we are

A group of Jamaican individuals and organisations concerned about promoting and defending Judeo-Christian principles as the basis for enriching the social, spiritual, mental, physical and emotional health of the Jamaican society. We serve with others as cultural watchmen for our society and bearers of God's truth and love.

What we do

Raise the public's awareness and understanding of current issues facing Jamaica and the Bible's relevance in addressing these issues.

Confront the prevailing culture with the immutable and infallible truth of the Bible. Lobby those in positions of political, economic and social influence to garner support in safe-guarding and promoting justice and truth. Mobilise churches and allied groups to further the work of the Coalition through its various activities.

Direct interested persons who have intentionally or unintentionally deviated from a Biblical standard in any of the moral issues above to counselling resources.

What's been happening: JCHS

❖ Presentations at churches and media interviews

❖ Publication of articles in the Jamaica Gleaner

JCHS Director Dr Kay Bailey, published an article in the Sunday Gleaner of March 9 2014, entitled '*Atheism in Public Policy: a rat is a pig is a dog is a boy*'. She advocated that morality presumes a moral law-giver. Under atheism, there is no transcendent objective moral standard to which all are accountable, man then becomes his own rule-maker and everything becomes permissible. The article may be viewed here: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20140309/focus/focus7.html>.

This elicited comments from atheists, Hilaire Sobers and Udo Schüklenk, <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20140316/focus/focus4.html>

and a return reply from Dr Bailey: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20140319/letters/letters7.html>

❖ Uploaded to JCHS website. www.jchs.org.jm

Presentations from some speakers at the JCHS and LCF December 2013 conference on 'International law and the Welfare of the Family'.

What's been happening: Jamaica

Jaghai v Attorney-General of Jamaica

In February 2013, Javed Jaghai, a Jamaican homosexual man filed a case in the Supreme Court, claiming that the 'buggery law' as contained in sections 76,77 and 79 of the Offences against the Person Act, denies his right to privacy and equality and is therefore unconstitutional. The right to privacy is found in sections 13 (3) (U) (i-iii) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act of 2011. The right to equality is found in s.13 (3) (g) of the same Charter.

The Attorney-General of Jamaica is the defendant in this case. A number of other entities such as the JCHS have been accepted to participate in the case as 'interested parties' seeking retention of the 'buggery law' in order to protect the Jamaican society from the negative restructuring that will result from favouring the homosexual lifestyle; that is, repealing the buggery law will open the way for the union of two men or two women to be considered and treated as good as and as normal as the union between a man and a woman.

These parties also assert that there is sufficient evidence from other societies that acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle will have an adverse impact on the institution of marriage, the education of children as well as stifling the freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of conscience of anyone who opposes the homosexual lifestyle.

Between February and March 2014, these interested parties and the Attorney-General filed their position statements on the case. The Attorney-General did not express support for or against retention of the 'buggery law'. Rather, it submitted the historical records of the debates (1991- 2008) on amending the Constitution to introduce a new charter of rights. These records include papers and letters submitted by members of the public such as J-FLAG, Jamaica Teachers Association, Operation Save Jamaica and the Lawyers Christian Fellowship.

The trial date has been set for November 2014.

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❖ Visit to UWI by pro-homosexual rights lecturer

Invited by the University of the West Indies, Robert Wintemute, a pro-homosexual rights professor of Human Rights Law at King's College London, gave a series of public lectures at the UWI Faculties of Law in Cave Hill, Barbados (February 7), Mona, Jamaica (February 10) and St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (February 12). The topic: **"Lesbian and Gay Human Rights in the Caribbean: Would Decriminalisation Restrict Religious Freedom?"**

In a jam-packed lecture theatre on the Mona campus, Professor Wintemute advocated as possible, the co-existence of sexual freedom with religious freedom, and that Caribbean states' buggery laws were exceptions to global trends and likely to be shortly overturned. He equated LGBT minorities in the society to Christian minorities in predominantly non-Christian countries and thus deserving of equal respect and legal protection from the 'tyranny of the majority'. Supporting Professor Wintemute from the audience was Lord Anthony Gifford and Carolyn Gomes among others.

Members of the JCHS in attendance sought to refute his statements. UNAIDS global statistics were cited showing that removal of buggery laws was neither necessary nor sufficient to reduce HIV/AIDS rates. A JCHS member and UWI law lecturer unconnected to JCHS, queried the logic of the lecturer's stance that a homosexual union was valid between consenting adults in private, yet incest between consenting siblings in private was 'biologically wrong and harmful'. A law student, unconnected to JCHS described the Professor's presentation as akin to Nazi propaganda. Another JCHS member called the international efforts of a liberal elite and LGBT activists to impose their restrictive minority preferences on the majority, fascist and neo-colonialist in nature.

❖ EYE ON THE UN: PANCAP 'Justice for All' programme

Sponsored by the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP) with the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the programme aims to achieve the elimination of *'stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV by 2015 and to uphold the human rights and dignity of all'* (UN High Level Meeting Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS (2011)).

It involves a series of national consultations from a cross-section of stakeholders- the judiciary, civil society, the private sector, faith based organisations (FBOs) and youth organisations, between November 2013 and March 2014, across the Caribbean. A regional event is to be held in Jamaica in April 2014.

The desired outcome is a Pan Caribbean Declaration with actionable recommendations to be put to CARICOM Heads of Government in June 2014 with subsequent implementation by member states. Several JCHS members participated in the FBO consultation (March 17, 2014) and experienced overt attempts by the organisers to push for, recognition of sexual orientation as a valid ground for non-discrimination, and support for repeal of buggery laws, despite strong objections by the majority of participants.

The JCHS is of the view that the CARICOM Heads must be presented with an accurate reflection of the Caribbean public's position on these controversial points. If laws are changed resulting in the suppression of freedoms which we now enjoy, the 'Justice for All' programme intends a privilege for a few, an injustice for many.

How you can help:

Please pray for:

- Healing and strengthening of family life in Jamaica and the promotion of God's design for sex, marriage and family as the only and best design for a healthy society. Government policies and laws that will preserve, not undermine God's design for family.
- Deliverance, healing and salvation for those bound, affected and hurt by sexual sins. Reversal of efforts to propagate lies about homosexual attraction, identity and behaviour.
- Wisdom, boldness and divine guidance for the Judiciary presiding over the case. Wisdom, clarity, coherence and unity among lawyers of the interested parties defending Judeo-Christian principles and virtues.
- Boldness by Christians in Jamaica and around the world, especially media and key Government positions and those with influential access to national leaders, to share God's truth and love with them.

Your financial support:

We welcome contributions in any amount, whether as a one-off donation or a regular contribution. *One, one cocoa fill basket!* Contributions can be deposited to:

The Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society
Scotiabank, 82-84 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10
Savings Account # 936 361 Transit # 60145
Swift Code NOSCMJKN

**Our humble thanks for your kind donations so far !
May the Lord richly bless you !**

Please send your comments, questions or suggestions to:

Philippa Davies
Advocacy Officer
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(876) 779-6219
www.jchs.org.jm

View the JCHS documentary: **'Sex Lies and Rights: a seduction of law, medicine and politics'**: [https:// www.youtube.com/jchsadvocate](https://www.youtube.com/jchsadvocate)

"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

