

AN INTRODUCTION TO



*Changing Society to put the
Hope of Christ at its Centre*

www.ccfon.org



Who we are

“CCFON is a coherent and cohesive voice for Christians who want to stand up publicly for Biblical truth”

Christian Concern For Our Nation Limited (CCFON) is a grass roots organisation which exists to serve the Church by enabling Christians to stand up for truth in the public arena.

CCFON was established to inform and empower Christians who want to speak out against ungodly and unjust laws. CCFON believes that Christians who speak up for righteousness and justice can have a dramatic impact on our nation for good.

CCFON draws on the skills and expertise of Christian lawyers so that Christians can be updated on how laws and policies will affect their ability to proclaim truth. CCFON is also dependent on the support of thousands of Christians in churches across the UK who want to see the nation turn back to God.

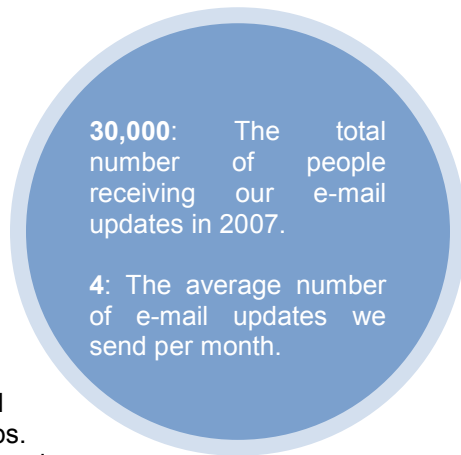
Full details about CCFON can be found at www.ccfon.org

What we do

“We believe it is increasingly important that all Christians are kept informed about the action they can take if they wish to stand up against laws and judgments which threaten Biblical values and Biblical truth”

Lawyers at CCFON monitor and scrutinise British legislation and case law as it develops. They then explain to those in Government where those laws depart from Biblical principles and go against God’s Word. CCFON believes that all laws in this nation should glorify God.

CCFON focuses on mobilising the powerful collective voice of its supporters. Our website and regular e-mail updates explain the implications of new laws which will impact on Christians and their ability to express their faith. CCFON gives practical advice so that Christians are equipped to speak out about these laws.



Media coverage

Media coverage can be a powerful tool in standing publicly for Christian truth and freedom. Working with our professional media advisors we are able to place many stories in national newspapers and on television. This provides a wonderful platform to be a witness to millions of people, as well as helping to put pressure on the Government and other decision-makers, to ensure that they act justly.

40: The number of national television appearances we have made in the last 18 months.

25: The number of national radio appearances we have made in the last 18 months.

60: The number of BBC local radio appearances we have made in the last 18 months.



40: The number of times we have been quoted in national newspapers in the past year.

36: The number of Press Releases we have produced in 2007 (figure projected from the first 6 months of 2007).



Current campaigns

Abortion

In July 2008 we are facing the most sweeping attempt to liberalise abortion law in the last 18 years. Amendments have been tabled to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill that would allow abortion on demand in the first 24 weeks of pregnancy and nurse-led abortion with completion at the woman's home. We are supporting and resourcing pro-life MPs who are resisting these amendments.

CCFON is an alliance member of Alive & Kicking, and we played a leading role in collecting tens of thousands of signatures in Spring 2008 in a campaign to persuade the Government to make abortion rare and to introduce a requirement that women contemplating an abortion should be given independent information and advice about the options open to them.

In October 2007 CCFON joined with other pro life groups to commemorate the **fortieth anniversary of the Abortion Act**. Two thousand people gathered to speak on behalf of the unborn and to call on the church to show compassion for the many women affected by abortion. Speeches from Jim Dobbin MP, Julia Millington and Andrea Williams, and personal testimonies from a lady who had been through an abortion and a teenage girl who was almost aborted enabled our message that 'enough is enough' to be heard loud and clear.



The day's events, which included a rally outside Parliament, a march to Westminster Cathedral and services at Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Chapel were well publicised in the media. Andrea Williams, director of CCFON, gave many interviews about the need for the church to care for the woman with an unwanted pregnancy.

Visit <http://www.ccfon.org/ccfontv.php> to view media coverage of the day's events.



Current campaigns

Bioethics

The **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill** is currently being debated in Parliament. The Bill **strikes at the heart of what it means to be human** by proposing to make it legal to create animal human hybrids. **God's creation order has been rejected** as the government push ahead with plans to advance this area of scientific research. The Bill also **attacks our understanding of family** as it removes the need for fertility clinics to consider the child's need for a father or for a mother. The new Bill also broadens the scope for **'saviour siblings'**. Existing law allows **embryo selection** in order to treat existing children who suffer from life threatening conditions. This process involves the destruction of countless healthy embryos. Proposals in the Bill will extend the law so that embryos can be selected to help children with a 'serious illness' too. As there is no legal definition for 'serious illness', it could include anything which treatment providers feel should fall within the definition. **Children will be created and treated as commodities**, providing donor tissue and parts of organs.

CCFON are working hard to **lobby peers and MPs** about the serious issues that this Bill raises. In November 2007 supporters staged a 'cow boy' and 'bunny girl' demonstration outside Parliament to raise awareness about the government's plans to push ahead with legalising this research. We also staged prayer vigils in May 2008 as the Bill underwent its Second Reading.





Current campaigns

Incitement to hatred on the grounds of sexuality

Gay rights group Stonewall proposed an amendment to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act in order to make it a **criminal offence to incite hatred on the basis of sexual orientation**. As Christians we believe that one should not hate homosexuals or incite hatred against them, but should reflect the love of Christ to all people. However, the concern we had about this proposal is the danger it would pose to the freedom to speak openly about the Bible's teaching on sex and sexuality. Following a campaign by CCFON and like-minded organisations, the Government voted in favour of a free speech clause to the Act that will allow Christians to speak out against homosexual behaviour without being guilty of a 'hate' crime.

Government Consultations

We have recently responded to two Consultations on proposed legislation and guidance regarding trans-sexuality and charity law respectively. We were able to offer a legal perspective informed by Biblical values on the issues they raised and an understanding of the effects of such provisions on churches and Christian organisations. Trans-sexuality has now become a ground on which discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services is prohibited. We await the response of the Charity Commission to our submission regarding the new requirement that religious charities must prove their 'public benefit' or face intervention.

Mega Mosque

Plans are still underway to build a 'Mega Mosque' in East London in time for the 2012 Olympics. The terrorist links of the group planning to build the mosque, and the consistent refusal by the planning authorities to grant permission for churches to expand their premises in the same area, has led to various concerns about this proposed 12,000 seat mosque. We continue to work with other Christian groups to seek a full, independent public inquiry.

For more information on these and many other issues that we have dealt with, please go to www.ccfon.org



The future of CCFON

There is huge scope for expanding the delivery of CCFON's mandate to equip and empower all Christians to make their voices heard on matters relating to our legal and political systems. CCFON's primary method for fulfilling this mandate is through its e-mail network, which reaches tens of thousands of Christians, and through its heavily used website.

Our desire is to enlarge our network and see Christians across the UK act and respond together in unity so that the Christian voice, rooted in prayer and petition before God, will influence the political and legal landscape in this nation.

The demand for our help and our services constantly outstrips our ability to respond to such needs. When we are dealing with a major topical issue, we receive anything up to 150 e-mails a day requesting guidance on how to lobby effectively, asking for speakers to address churches, or wanting to clarify how the law will affect Christians in a given scenario. Trying to respond to these e-mails, as well as accurately analyse the law, provide politicians with constructive legal briefings, and run an effective media campaign, is often beyond our current team. We want to expand to meet this demand.

What we need

In order to continue and develop, our work is in urgent need of funding. In particular, we need funding for:

i) **Cases:** CCFON works in partnership with the Christian Legal Centre which is often the first port of call for Christians who, by continuing to proclaim biblical truth, are falling foul of the law. The Centre will refer cases to Christian lawyers who will support individuals throughout every stage of the legal process. Taking a case to court is very expensive, so we need funding in order to ensure Christians are offered the opportunity to defend their freedom to speak truth in the public arena.

ii) **IT:** A large proportion of our work consists of updating our website and providing a professional, comprehensive, 'one-stop-shop' of information for churches. This involves ongoing costs.

iii) **Lobbying Materials:** Some of our most effective lobbying tactics involve simple processes such as sending a legal briefing to all 600 MPs and 700 Lords. This too can be costly: such briefings which place Biblical values and the truth of the Gospel on the desk of every politician cost around £1000.

£500: The cost per week of CCFON employing a full time web-manager

£20, 000: The annual cost of CCFON employing a fully qualified Christian lawyer

£50-100,000: The cost of taking a case to the High Court

If you are interested in making a donation, please see the further details on the final page.

For further details about any of these matters, please call Andrea Williams on 07712 591164 or e-mail andrea@ccfon.org.

Sign-up for our e-mail updates at www.ccfon.org.



DONATIONS

Donations of any sum can be made to Christian Concern for our Nation online at <http://www.ccfon.org/home.php?id=145> or by sending a cheque payable to "CCFON Limited" to:
Christian Concern for our Nation, PO Box 655, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 9AT.

Gifts by way of standing order are particularly helpful in enabling us to budget for the future. If you wish to support us in this way, please fill in this **standing order form** and **return it to us** at the address given above.
(This form is to be sent to CCFON, NOT taken to your bank/building society)

To the manager of (insert the name of your bank/ building society) _____	
Branch: _____	Address: _____ _____ Postcode: _____
Name(s) of account holder(s): _____	
Address of account holder(s): _____	
Branch sort code (6 digits): _____	Bank or building society account number: _____
Instruction to bank or building society: Please pay: CCFON Limited, Barclays Bank, account number 93234878 and sort code 20 49 76 From the account detailed in this instruction, in accordance with the following: Amount: £ _____ on the first day of each <u>Month/Quarter/Year</u> (delete as appropriate) First payment to start on: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____

NOTES:

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying CCFON.
2. Please notify us if you change your name or address.