

"If the world hates you,
keep in mind that it hated
me first... If they
persecuted me, they will
persecute you also."

John 15:18-20

Christians have always faced hostility, but in the UK and Scotland the challenges faced have become more severe in recent decades.

Some Christians have lost their careers, been ostracised and pilloried, and street preachers are routinely arrested. Persecution in other nations can be much more severe, but loss of livelihood and criminal prosecution are no small matters and things are getting worse.

Many Christians fear that saying what they believe could have serious negative consequences. The most dangerous topic is sexuality, but transgenderism, Islam and abortion are also extremely controversial.

Jesus instructed us to "**pray** for those who persecute you" (Matt 5: 44), but he did not tell us to **vote** for them!

Bad laws can be used to prevent or deter the expression of Christian truth. Government agencies such as schools, the Police and the NHS pressurise employees into affirming views contrary to their own. Career advancement can be jeopardised if dissent is expressed.



It is very likely that a conversion therapy ban law will be operational in Scotland soon. This will criminalise anyone seeking to help a person experiencing same sex attraction to live according to traditional Christian moral teaching. Many people move from homosexuality to heterosexuality and many people with homosexual desires remain celibate. A conversion therapy ban will make it illegal to encourage a person in these directions and help them achieve these goals.

CRIME SCENE

"Repent, then,
and turn to God"

Acts 3:19

CONVERSION THERAPY

Parents and church leaders will be particularly vulnerable to this law. This will be the first law for many centuries that prevents Christians from sharing Biblical truth, urging people to abide by it, and then supporting them as they seek to do so.

The law is also expected to criminalise anyone advising a person to leave behind a transgender identity and live as their real sex and supporting them in this process.

The assumption is that Biblical teaching is so damaging that people must be protected from it by law.

Every single MSP in the Scottish Parliament was elected on a manifesto that promised a conversion therapy ban.

Conversion therapy laws are designed to persecute Christians, so we recommend voting for a party that will oppose or repeal them.

Schools

We have heard shocking stories of children being mistreated in school by teachers and head teachers because they dared state their Christian beliefs about sexuality, gender and life.

Buffer Zones

Groups of Christians gather to pray near abortion clinics, witnessing to the value of every life and being there for anyone who wishes to speak to them. Such prayer vigils are now a criminal offense.

“Charities”

Government-funded “charities” routinely promote views at odds with Christian truth. While expressing Biblical values is becoming more risky, denying them is increasing well paid.

The Scottish Family Party is not a Christian party. It is a party with many policies that align with Biblical principles. While this leaflet is written for Christians in particular, we commend our policies to people of all religious faiths and none and welcome all who share our values.

"You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen,"

Ezekiel 2:7

We must expect persecution and we must not be silenced. But we should not express our support for persecutors on election day. We may throw up our hands in dismay when we hear the latest case of a Christian being mistreated for their views, but did we play a part by voting for a party that ignores or enacts persecution?

It can be tempting to think that we are wise enough to work around restrictions and avoid problems, but this approach usually leads to endless compromises. The history of the Church shows that violent persecution tends to strengthen a church, while more subtle persecution weakens it as people gradually compromise.

We must defend our freedoms fearlessly and never compromise on our right to speak out God's revealed truth.

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"they commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, 'Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him?'"

Acts 4:18-20



**Scottish
Family Party**