



**OBSERVATORY ON
INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE**

Report 2014

EUROPE: THE PROBLEM OF INTOLERANT EQUALITY LAWS

2014: CASES OF INTOLERANCE
OR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS

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MAIN EDITOR:
Dr. Gudrun Kugler, MTS

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Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe
Möllwaldplatz 5
A-1040 Vienna, Austria
www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu

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WHO WE ARE

The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians is a registered non-governmental organisation in Austria. The Observatory which monitors and catalogues instances in which Christians and Christianity are marginalised or discriminated against throughout Europe. The Observatory focuses mainly on the European Union and accession countries). The Observatory briefs international government organisations and offers its findings especially to politicians, NGOs, journalists and interested individuals through our website. The Observatory is a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU-Fundamental Rights Agency.

Its work aims at encouraging victims of intolerance and discrimination to tell their stories, and to raise awareness among all people of good will that the phenomenon ought to be taken seriously and is in need of a common response.

Report to us!

Have you been discriminated against on account of your Christian faith? Have you been verbally attacked and silenced when stating a Christian position? Do you know someone who has been mistreated in any way because he or she is Christian?

Please email us your story at
observatory@IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu



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INTRODUCTION

2014 was a terrible year for religious freedom. Inconceivable suffering was inflicted upon Christians and members of other religions by Islamic militants.

The Observatory's task is to analyse the situation of Christians in Europe. Not in order to compare or diminish what is happening elsewhere. But to stay vigilant when it comes to the protection of human rights, be it even in a subtle way.

Therefore we would like to draw your attention to interesting facts regarding Freedom of Religion which arose in 2014:

In June, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg underlined the importance of the institutional dimension of freedom of religion. This judgment is a step towards reasonable accommodation of faith in contemporary society and will hopefully serve as a model in similar debates and decisions in the future (<http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/report-document/the-european-court-of-human-rights-reaffirms-autonomy-of-religious-organisations.html>).

In September, a Christian registrar who had been dismissed for indicating she would not be willing to perform same-sex marriages, was finally reinstated after a successful appeal in which it was ruled that her employer had failed to take a "balanced view" of her religious beliefs (<http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/report-document/uk-marriage-registrar-reinstated-to-accomodate-religious-beliefs.html>).

In November, the international Catholic charity and Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) published a report entitled Religious Freedom in the World Report 2014, which was first presented on November 5th, 2014. It expressed explicit worries about the deterioration of religious freedom in Germany, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (<http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/report-document/acn-religious-freedom-report-2014-seven-european-countries-worrying.html>).

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) published its annual report on hate crimes in the year 2013 on November 17, 2014. The report provides an overview of data collected on hate crimes, and of responses to hate crimes and portrays countless hate crimes against Christians. The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe submitted a 170-page report to this OSCE/ODIHR publication (<http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/report-document/observatory-submits-170-page-report-on-hate-crimes-in-europe-to-osce.html>).

A study published in November 2014 said that while 30% of the population agree, 67% disagree with the de-christianisation of religious and cultural traditions, 47% of Germans think that Germany is not self-confident enough with its Christian traditions (<http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/report-document/47-of-germans-say-germany-is-not-self-confident-enough-with-its-christian-traditions.html>).

While awareness regarding religious freedom is growing, legal projects are under way to place restrictions on religious freedom especially for Christians. A key concern is the so-called horizontal equal treatment directive which is being pushed at the level of the European Union and partly also nationally. In the following, we explain the scope and the associated problems of such legislation (chapter 1). Afterwards we provide key examples (chapter 2), before we conclude this report by portraying in short the 150 most striking cases of intolerance or discrimination against Christians in Europe in 2014 (chapter 3).

Dr. Gudrun Kugler
Vienna, April 2015

CHAPTER 1: THE PROBLEM OF INTOLERANT EQUALITY LAWS

By Gudrun Kugler

Equality has become a major principle of political and legal thinking. Equality before the law which was achieved over centuries of liberation movements has turned into equality of moral choices, equality in statistics of how men and women live, and equality of how individuals treat each other. These understandings deviate quite far from the original meaning of equality before the law, which we rightly hold on to. Yet, this development remains largely unchallenged. It currently mounts in the adoption of intolerant anti-discrimination legislation being debated at the EU - level especially in the context of the so called horizontal equal treatment directive, and at many European national levels. A number of human rights are at stake and religious freedom and freedom of conscience - especially of Christians in Europe – is in great danger.

The current EU - equal treatment directives, which are already binding in the entire European Union, contain for the private sector “only” the prohibition of discrimination in the area of employment, in the area of gender and race and ethnicity they cover also the provision of goods and services. The proposed horizontal equal treatment directive does not meet approval for good reasons: the extension of the ban on discrimination in the provision of goods and services in the private sector on the additional grounds of sexual orientation, as well as religion and belief would have dramatic consequences. While this subject matter requires unanimity in the Council of the European Union, it is expected that under the Dutch presidency in 2016, the horizontal directive might advance. It must be noted that while unanimity makes it harder to find consent, it makes it virtually impossible to withdraw the legislation once agreed upon.

The object of discussion is the prohibition of unequal treatment on the grounds of religion or belief, age, or sexual orientation, concerning the provision of goods and services by the private sector. Depending on the legal details of the directive: Would a Christian printer still be able to decline printing a disrespectful images? Would a Jewish hotel owner have to rent out his assembly conference rooms to a militant Muslim society? Would a homosexual landlord still be able to sublet his house to homosexuals only? Would a private rail traffic company still be allowed to give exclusive discounts to the elderly? Would a Catholic matchmaking agency which is specialised in bringing together people who share the same faith, have to open its doors to people of other faiths? Would a couple, whose daughter had been estranged through the scheming of a radical sect be able to deny a member of that sect to rent an apartment in their house?

Would an evangelical graphic designer have to design an invitation to the celebration of a same-sex union if requested? Would a Christian photographer have to take their pictures, the pastry chef to bring a special cake created for the event? And so on and so forth. Why would a graphic designer, a photographer and a pastry chef not want to work for the celebration of a same-sex civil partnership? Not because they reject homosexuals. But because they do not want to support such a marriage-like event for religious and conscientious reasons. Jean-Jacques Rousseau writes: “I have never thought, for my part, that man's freedom consists in his being able to do whatever he wills, but that he should not, by any human power, be forced to do what is against his will.” Differential treatment could be legitimized if a judge deemed it to be “appropriate and necessary.” The

Area	Employment	Provision of Goods and Services
Gender	X	X
Race or Ethnicity	X	X
Religion or Belief	X	Proposed
Handicap	X	Proposed
Sexual Orientation	X	Proposed
Age	X	Proposed

consequence would be private entrepreneurship regulated by judges, implying costly lawsuits and a lack of legal certainty, impeding long term business planning. The proposed reversal of the burden of proof contradicts our legal system and brings forth further difficulties. Instead of the “benefit of the doubt” the equal treatment legislation allows for the “benefit of the victim of discrimination” only. Times are hard for small businesses as it is, why impose additional sorrows and constraints? For the government itself, controlling the compliance with these regulations imposes a significant additional effort. All of this in the end paid for by society at large.

A Christian religious high official was recently looking for a secretary. His legal advisor wisely asked the commission for equal treatment before publishing the job advertisement: would they be able to reject a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman? The answer was no. On the basis of the first four equal treatment directives,¹ European law allows a distinction due to religion in church employment only when there is a “genuine, legitimate and justified occupational requirement”, such as when it comes to preaching to the faithful.²

Just imagine a member of this Christian official's church entered the office: The obviously Muslim lady in the reception area could create quite a bit of confusion. This particular church dignity decided not to publish the job advertisement, choosing instead to look for someone unofficially. The many locals qualified for the job who never had the chance to apply paid the price of for the current system of anti-discrimination legislation.

Extending the prohibition of discrimination to the private sector would have similar consequences. Services that are publically advertised today would seek to reach their customers in less public ways – and others potentially interested would never hear of them. This would cause a rise of prices. The “protected groups” might get shunned due to fear of lawsuits. In the end it is the consumer who pays for this legislation. Though surprising at first glance it is important that discriminatory behaviour be permissible in the market, despite its possible immorality or social undesirability. Granted, a rejected customer must look

for another provider of the service he is seeking. But this hardship ought to be carried in the name of freedom, including the freedom to take wrong or unpleasant decisions. This complies with Voltaire's notion of tolerance: Being of an entirely different opinion but at the same time defending the other one's right to their view “until one's last breath”. With this idea we are all invited to learn to live with imperfect behaviour of other people.

Is it really the government's job to enforce an alleged advancement of society through educational laws and police force? How much does the governmental legislature believe its citizens to be in need of education? Socially and morally motivated legislation leads to dishonesty and lawlessness. The era of prohibition in the United States, which made the mafia powerful, is a good example.

The proposal for the horizontal equal treatment directive of the European Union is nothing else but an unacceptable patronisation of the people. The German Centre for European Policy (CEP) talks about “threatening with state intervention” aimed at a “re-education of society”.³ Interestingly, it is those who legitimise the state and who pay for its existence, whom the state seeks to re-educate with arbitrary morals.

THE HIDDEN BIAS OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAW

Equal treatment legislation is phrased in an impartial way. But practice shows that it is very often Christians who are taken to court. Some examples: A Spaniard paid 12'000 Euros of administrative penalties because he was not willing to make his restaurant available for the celebration of a same-sex union.⁴ A couple in Britain running a private bed and breakfast had to pay up to 4'000 Euros of compensation fees because they denied a double room to an unmarried couple.⁵ A US - Christian dating agency was forced to add the search option “I am a man looking for a man”. Equal treatment laws create irresolvable moral conflicts for Christians by forcing them to choose between their belief and their business. In some countries equal treatment laws foresee

1 Clf. Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation.

2 Article 4(2) of directive 2000/78/EC.

3 http://www.cep.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Kurzanalysen/Gleichbehandlung_ausserhalb_des_Berufs/KA_Gleichbehandlung.pdf

4 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/madrid-restaurant-fined-for-refusing-to-host-gay-wedding-reception.html>

5 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/christian-b-b-owners-fined-for-denying-a-room-to-a-homosexual-couple.html>

administrative penalties, in others compensation fees. Explanatory materials to the laws often advise “painfully high” fines.

Practically, the prohibition of discrimination in the provision of goods and services can cause an insoluble dilemma: to quit one’s job, or one’s religion.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission of the United Kingdom presented a study in March 2015 saying that ‘people reported being mocked for their beliefs, including Christians, who said their colleagues assumed they were bigoted. Some Christian-run services or businesses said they felt in turmoil about behaving in ways that they feared might breach the Equality Act 2010, which protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in access to goods and services.’

Experience has shown that equal treatment laws lead to strategically motivated lawsuits.⁶ In the UK it is a common occurrence that radical lobbies look for interaction with companies led by people with convictions conflicting with the law – for example practicing Christians – with the plan of launching law suit. Litigation Associations readily come in for support: They receive parts of the compensation fee and use this money to seek further lawsuits – the higher the compensation fees, the more remunerative the role of the victim.

WHERE IS THE NECESSITY FOR EQUAL TREATMENT LAWS?

The great political philosopher Charles de Montesquieu advised that if it was not necessary to make a law, it was necessary not to make one. According to that, laws have to be necessary, adequate and proportionate.⁷ Despite its egalitarian wording, equal treatment laws create privileges for certain groups. Bestowing privileges upon one group of people can be necessary in certain situations - but the reasons have to be very compelling, and there must not be a more lenient means available. In the course of the debate, there has been talk of the theoretical possibility of a homosexual man being hindered from entering a bar. If this were actually the case, why would the people not

boycott the place? Journalists point their finger on them? If a boycott was not successful but instead the problem would spread even more, should the government not discuss incentives and disincentives and plan awareness campaigns? Only if the discrimination against a particular group is so widespread and strong that the sole way to get it under control is by making a law, then temporary restrictions must be considered, within the limit of safeguarding freedom of religion. The burden of proof of such a necessity, however, lies with the supporters of equal treatment laws - and until now they have not succeeded.

In people’s minds, anti-discrimination laws in the provision of goods and services are often legitimized by imagining a monopoly situation: the only hotel, the only fountain, etc, in the desert. In most legal systems, however, and for sure in the European countries, monopoly situations are already regulated for all customers in a satisfactory manner: no matter what “group” they belong to.

ENTERPRISES' GOOD REASONS AGAINST THE HORIZONTAL DIRECTIVE

The Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry raised its voice against the horizontal equal treatment directive⁸ saying that it would bring about “additional administrative burdens” and “less legal certainty”. They also mentioned as reasons to oppose the draft directive the restrictions on freedom, the “factual discrimination of people who do not fit the criteria” and simply the lack of a problem significant enough to adopt such a law.⁹

Also, the German Umbrella Organisation of Skilled Crafts and Trades objects strongly to the directive: “Massive intrusions in the constitutional freedom of contract and the freedom to conduct a business are bound to occur. In the future the entrepreneur will have to make sure that he and his employees respect the prohibition of discrimination while contacting customers and prospects, from the greeting to information and product offers, the conditions,

the counselling interview or the negotiation up to the point of closing the deal. Not only does this create a mass of bureaucratic burdens and legal uncertainty, it can also result in situations where companies avoid legal deals with people who are possible victims of discrimination in order to avoid allegedly imminent legal trials. The intention of the proposed directive to integrate could reverse into the opposite.”¹⁰

The German Centre for European Policy (CEP) fears a general “obligation to enter into contract” as the result of exceptional cases and goes on to talk about a “threatening with state intervention” aimed at a “re-education of society”.¹¹

Especially for small businesses entrepreneurial freedom will turn from rule to exception, under the horizontal directive. Compliance with these rules is expensive and time-consuming, correspondences with customers and new marketing strategies would frequently have to be cleared with attorneys.

A HUMAN RIGHT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION?

Non-discrimination and equal treatment is often discussed as if they were a requirement of human rights. But this is far from the truth. One does not have to hold a law degree to detect the political intention, based on the widely known patience of human rights when being stretched by lobby groups. The prohibition of discrimination in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 2) and in the European Convention on Human Rights (Art. 14) refer only to the rights enumerated in the respective document. This is equivalent to the principle of equality before the law which is essential to our legal systems.

In the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 26), non-discrimination refers to the law in general – but not to the relationship of private people or entrepreneurs amongst each other.

The EU – Charter of Fundamental Rights phrases the principle in a more comprehensive way and the European

Court of Justice has not interpreted Art. 21 yet. But even if Art. 21 was to be understood as a substantial right instead of as a mere principle of interpretation of the pronounced rights, the Charter of Fundamental Rights is not universally applicable: it binds EU – institutions and member states only when they apply EU law.

In a nutshell: nowhere is there to be found a human right for everybody to be treated in exactly the same way as everybody else.

The contrary is true! It is equal treatment laws which restrict human rights! At stake is the private autonomy of every person as the foundation of and the reason for human rights. After all, human rights are the fruitful soil of personal freedom. The freedom to conduct one’s business emanates from the right to property (whose restrictions need to be necessary, adequate and proportionate). The right to privacy means that the government must not interfere in personal decisions. Equal treatment legislation encroaches furthermore on freedom of religion and conscience: when a businessperson is forced to offer his services in a way that he cannot square them with his religion or conscience.

To give an example, in the Austrian debate on a similar equality bill, which was defeated in 2012, it was often argued that “the UN recommended” such a law. The alleged argument of UN – recommendations,¹² upon more detailed scrutiny, did not hold what it promised. What was being talked about was the result of the universal periodic review of human rights through the UN Human Rights Council, consisting of 47 countries. Dozens of measures are routinely recommended – not by “the UN” but by individual countries. Interestingly, only a small number of countries demanded stricter anti-discrimination laws of Austria: Honduras, the UK and Canada, Norway – and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Well, Canada and UK have their own political agenda when it comes to anti-discrimination legislation. Both countries have massive issues with and considerable domestic resistance against these laws.

Norway and Honduras might want to stand out with great pro-activity, underlining opinions of committed individuals. And the Islamic Republic of Iran? Oh well ...!

6 Coleman, Paul; Kiska, Roger, ‘The proposed EU “equal treatment” directive: How the UK gives other EU member states a glimpse of the future,’ IJRF Vol 5:1 2012 (113–128).

7 For more information upon the principle as applied to legislation in different European legal cultures see: A. Stępkowski, Zasada proporcjonalności w europejskiej kulturze prawnej. Sądowa kontrola władzy dyskrecyjnej w nowoczesnej Europie, Warszawa: Liber 2010, p. 169-175, 194-200, 265-273, 281-285.

8 Summary of concerns on <http://www.europeandignitywatch.org/reports/detail/article/the-equal-treatment-directive.html>

9 <http://www.dihk.de/themenfelder/recht-steuern/eu-internationales-recht/recht-der-europaischen-union/positionen/archiv-positionen-europa>

10 http://www.biv-kaelte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/schlagzeilen/SZ_08_2008/19082008_Antidiskr_kompakt.pdf

11 http://www.cep.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Kurzanalysen/Gleichbehandlung_ausserhalb_des_Berufs/KA_Gleichbehandlung.pdf

12 http://www.upr-info.org/database/index.php?limit=0&f_SUR=10&f_SMR=All&order=&orderDir=ASC&orderP=true&f_Issue=All&searchReco=&resulMax=25&response=&action_type=&session=&SuRRgrp=&SuROrg=&SMRRgrp=&SMROrg=&pledges=RecoOnly and http://www.menschenrechte-jetzt.at/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Stellungnahme_UPR_Empfehlungen.pdf

These alleged UN recommendations are in fact not the opinion of the international community but merely non-binding proposals by individual states, which partly are welcomed, partly ignored by the country concerned. In no way do they dictate contents nor substitute a national parliamentary process.

Recommending equal treatment legislation between private citizens in the name of human rights puzzles the beholder. It was shown above that there is no human rights basis to do so. The question arises whether the UN Human Rights Council oversteps its competency knowingly and deliberately - or in error. Neither interpretation sheds a good light on the council.

WHO IS MORE EQUAL?

Behind the slogan "protection from discrimination" hides in fact privileges for a few. Why just them? Equal treatment laws generally privilege the properties gender, race and ethnical origin, religion and belief, handicap, age and sexual orientation. Other groups however, may be discriminated against to the heart's content: for example snowboarders, redheads, hunters, smokers, ugly people, commoners, the rich or the poor and so on.¹³ Why are privileges only bestowed upon a few? Shouldn't everyone be privileged? Or rather no one? Jobs at a bank counter aren't denied to women in general, just to those that do not fit a certain ideal of beauty. Why aren't they protected? One cannot but fear arbitrariness.

How far will equal treatment requirements go? What will be next, after the regulation of the provision of goods and services? Their demand? Is the Chinese restaurant owner not offended if one always eats Italian? What will the heterosexual hairdresser think if a customer only asks for appointments with his homosexual colleague? When laws seek to educate - why should they stop with the provider?

A highlight of this illogic lies in the demand not to discriminate against different grounds of discrimination. Providers of the private sector are at this point only obliged not to discriminate gender and race, which presented a

discrimination against other "protected" groups, as critics bemoan. But must all privileged groups really be measured by the same yardstick? Not at all: there are profoundly different causes for difficulties and the necessary political solutions vary. People with special needs for example need assistance to find housing and employment that suit their demands, while people with migration backgrounds might be treated less favourably due to prejudices or a lack of language skills. For women concrete problem might have to do with the ability of child bearing. Older employees might not be considered for jobs due to their higher salary expectations. Children are not welcome in some service providers because they are noisy, Muslims might suffer from media-fuelled prejudices, and so on. For every possible ground of discrimination it is necessary to check where the problems lie and how best to tackle them, and which proceedings are necessary, adequate, and proportionate. That different issues call for different solutions is not a form of unjust discrimination - but an imperative of justice and common sense.

WHAT IS TO COME NEXT?

Back to the pigeonholed horizontal EU - draft equal treatment directive.¹⁴ What is not succeeding at the EU-level, is being attempted nationally. The attention of the lobby groups shifts towards what is called "levelling up" by transposing the not-yet agreed upon EU-directive into national law. For the inattentive national decision maker the difference between binding EU - laws and transposing drafts fades away into a common "Brussels wants it". It is crucial to point out, that currently there are no - zero - European Union obligations to adopt an anti-discrimination law in the provision of goods and services for the grounds of religion and belief, age and sexual orientation.

The question of national consent to the draft directive touches the core of democracy: Who is being consulted? Does the public know anything about this? What if there were no national consensus in favour of such equal treatment legislation? It seems that such decisions depend solely upon the ministry in charge. The ministry is controlled by a particular political party, as agreed upon by the

winning parties after an election. Politically motivated civil servants take socio-political decisions of vast dimensions and become more powerful than parliaments. For the most part we do not know their names. There is no public debate on the issue. The public knows nothing about this - even though many will be affected tremendously. There is nothing else for the public to do but to invoke the civil servants' sense of responsibility not to consent to something in Brussels which was not agreed upon in their home countries.

CONCLUSION: LOOKING FOR EQUALITY

Equality has become a largely unquestioned dictum of our time. The principle of equality as in equality before the state has already long been passed. Excessive equal treatment legislation is a therapy which generates the very disease: According to a 2009 Eurobarometer poll,¹⁵ it is the Swedes who feel most and the Turks who feel least discriminated against.¹⁶

It seems that anti-discrimination laws as an alleged solution produce bigger problems than the original problems were in themselves. In history, freedom was hard-won. We ought not to give it up so carelessly. Side effect or reverse discrimination might be intended or unintended. It shows that religion is treated like a step child in Europe: The result is inequality in the name of an apparent equality.

¹³ Cf. Cornides, Jakob, *Fiat Aequalitas*, in: *Exiting a Dead End Road, A GPS for Christians in Public Discourse*, edited by Gudrun and Martin Kugler, Kairos Publications, 2010 (<http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/publications/exiting-a-dead-end-road-hardcopy.html>).

¹⁴ Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle for equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (COM (2008) 426), see http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/human_rights/fundamental_rights_within_european_union/em0008_en.htm

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_317_en.pdf

¹⁶ Cornides, Jakob, *Three Case Studies on 'Anti-Discrimination'*, *European Journal of International Law* 2/2012, <http://www.ejil.org/article.php?article=2280&issue=111>

CHAPTER 2: PROBLEMATIC CASES ON THE BASIS OF INTOLERANT EQUALITY LAWS

By Paul Coleman

The following section outlines cases in which non-discrimination laws, particularly in regard to the provision of goods and services, have had a negative impact on other fundamental freedoms, particularly freedom of religion. As non-discrimination laws relating to the provision of goods and services have only been around in Europe for a short period of time, it is anticipated that more cases will appear in the future.¹⁷

(A) BUSINESSES

GUEST HOUSE OWNERS

Guesthouse owners were successfully sued by a homosexual couple for refusing to give them a double room.¹⁸ Mr and Mrs Bulls own a guesthouse which runs out of their own home and have had a policy in place since 1986 which stated "...as Christians we have a deep regard for marriage (being the union of one man to one woman for life to the exclusion of all others). Therefore, although we extend to all a warm welcome to our home, our double bedded accommodation is not available to unmarried couples – Thank you."¹⁹

In 2009, a homosexual couple was refused a double room and as a result, the police were called, the incident was registered as a "hate incident" and the couple subsequently issued a civil claim for allegedly being discriminated against on the ground of their sexual orientation. The homosexual couple's case was backed by the Government-funded Equality and Human Rights Commission and following the Court decision, Mr and Mrs Bulls had to pay the homosexual couple £3,600 in damages. Furthermore, after the Court hearing the elderly Christian couple was besieged by abuse from homosexuals and now their business faces closure.²⁰ Other Christian guesthouses are facing a similar outcome.²¹

PRINTING BUSINESS

In Canada a Christian printing business was sued after the owner, Mr. Brockie, refused to print material for a homosexual advocacy organization. Mr. Brockie believed that he should not assist in the dissemination of information intended to spread the acceptance of homosexuality but he had no problem acting for customers who were homosexual. After six years of legal proceedings he eventually had to pay \$5,000 in damages.²²

In the Netherlands a company was sued for refusing to print bath towels that advertised an organization that promoted homosexual behaviour. The company had made it clear on its website that it would not do any work that was blasphemous or offensive to the morals of the company.²³

WEDDING-RELATED BUSINESSES

In the US a wedding photography company was sued after it refused, for religious reasons, to photograph a same-sex couples "commitment ceremony." The court ordered the company to pay over \$6,000 to the same-sex couple and seven years after the incident, the legal proceedings remain on-going.²⁴

Similar cases are now appearing throughout the Western world, as business owners such as florists²⁵ and bakers²⁶ are refusing, on the grounds of religious conviction, to provide their services to same-sex ceremonies.

(B) FAITH-BASED CHARITIES

ADOPTION AGENCIES AND FOSTER CARE²⁷

In 2007, there were fourteen faith-based adoption agencies working throughout the UK, accounting for a third of all adoptions within the voluntary sector.²⁸ These adoption agencies were widely recognised as providing an excellent service to the community and they played a crucial role in finding homes for, in particular, the "hard-to-place" children.²⁹ However, after the law changed in 2007, agencies that refused to place children with homosexual parents would be in breach of the law and as a result, would lose public funding.

EXPERTS (2010) p.67.

24 Elane Photography, LLC v. Willock, Case. No. CV-2008-06632, (N.M. Court of Appeals, No. 30,203, May 31, 2012).

25 Ben Johnson, Elderly Christian florist faces thousands in fines for refusing to provide flowers for gay 'wedding', LIFESITENEWS (April 10, 2013).

26 Ivan Moreno, Colorado gay discrimination alleged over wedding cake, THE GAZETTE (June 6, 2013).

27 See 'Adoption Agencies Shut under 'Equality' Laws', The Christian Institute, April 2009.

28 House of Commons, Hansard, 21 February 2007, col. 110WH.

29 Furthermore, the breakdown rate was just 3.6% - one of the lowest of all the agencies. See Id.

The faith-based adoption agencies were then faced with a very difficult choice – they would either have to remove their religious ethos and become secularized in order to keep their funding,³⁰ or they would have to withdraw their adoption services altogether.³¹ Despite providing an excellent service for many years, 12 of the 14 faith-based adoption agencies were unable to keep their religious ethos and keep their funding.³² In April 2011, the Charity Tribunal found against the last remaining Catholic adoption agency in England.³³

The Tribunal pointed out that "religious conviction in the sphere of personal belief is protected in both domestic and European equality law, so that acts of devotion, worship, and prayer (including ceremonies) are exempt from equality obligations." However, the Tribunal went on to state that there is an "essential distinction between private acts of worship...and the provision of a public service such as an adoption agency."³⁴

In Australia a Christian charity, the Wesley Mission, was sued after it refused the application of a same-sex couple to become foster carers on the basis of their homosexual lifestyle. The same-sex couple complained of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the Administrative Decisions Tribunal originally found against the Christian charity because it believed monogamous heterosexual marriage was not a doctrine of the Christian church as a whole.³⁵ Although the charity eventually won its case, it took seven years and multiple court hearings to defend itself.

ELDERLY CARE HOMES³⁶

In 2008 a Christian care home had its funding removed for refusing to promote homosexuality to its residents.³⁷ After the non-discrimination laws were passed in 2007, the local Council contacted the care home and said that in order to continue receiving a grant, the home must:

- Provide statistics on the sexual orientation of each of their 17 residents (all aged in their 80's and 90's);
- Promote homosexuality by including photographs of same-sex couples in its publications and by giving an express statement affirming the acceptance of same-sex relationships;

30 9 of the 14 agencies have done this. For example, Catholic Caring Services in Lancaster has changed to Caritas Care and cut its ties to the church. See The Observer, 21 Dec 2008 and Third Sector Online, 11 March 2009.

31 The Catholic Children's Rescue Society and Westminster Catholic Children's Society have withdrawn from offering adoption services. See Adoption Agencies Shut under 'Equality' Laws', p.16.

32 St Margaret's Adoption and Child Care Society in Scotland was able to successfully change its charitable objects and continue to act in accordance with its Catholic ethos and Cornerstone (North East) Adoption and Fostering Service already had a charitable instrument that required prospective adopters to adhere to the evangelical Christian faith. See 'Adoption Agencies Shut under 'Equality' Laws', p.17.

33 Catholic Care v. The Charity Commission for England and Wales, CA/2010/0007, 26 April 2011.

- Publicise homosexual events taking place in the area, and;
- Make it compulsory that staff attend training on homosexual issues.³⁸

The care home refused to meet these demands as they believed the promotion of an activity contrary to Christian teaching was in direct conflict with its Christian ethos and would distress the residents. The Council, citing the new laws, withdrew the £13,000 per year grant.³⁹ A Council Spokesman said: "The Government specifically states the home must be open to the gay and lesbian community and that it must demonstrate this to qualify for funding. In the absence of any willingness to do this, funding has been withdrawn".⁴⁰ After more than a year of internal appeals—costing the home £21,000 in legal fees—the Council eventually backed down. It did not offer to pay any of the charity's legal fees.

(C) RENTING PRIVATE PROPERTY

In 2008 the Earl of Devon, a devout Christian, refused to allow a homosexual couple to hold a civil partnership ceremony at his family home at Powderham Castle.⁴¹ As a result, the local Council revoked the licence for hosting civil ceremonies, meaning that heterosexual marriages could no longer take place at the castle either. A lawyer for the Council wrote to the Earl and stated that: "your refusal to accept civil partnership ceremonies amounts to discrimination and this leaves the county council with no option but to revoke the licence for the castle." The lost revenue equated to around £200,000 per year and as a result, the Earl has had to sell off family items to make up the deficit.⁴²

(D) PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Private educational establishments have also been impacted by non-discrimination laws. In 2005 the Károli Gáspár Calvinist University in Hungary was sued by the Háttér Support Group for Gays and Lesbians after the University dismissed a student for engaging in homosexual

34 Id., at para 60.

35 OV and OW v QZ and Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) (No. 2) [2008] NSWADT 115 (1 April 2008) ¶ 126.

36 For more information, see 'Care home suffers under 'equality' laws: How traditional Christian beliefs cost an elderly care home a £13,000 grant,' The Christian Institute, May 2009.

37 The residents are looked after in "a family setting, with a distinctive Christian ethos" and in order to maintain this ethos, the residents must sign up to a doctrinal basis. See Id.

38 Id., at p.5.

39 Id., at p.10-11.

40 The Daily Telegraph, 28 December 2008.

17 Much of this research is taken from the following two publications: Coleman, P. 'Sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' at the UN: From obscurity to primacy in ten years, IJRF Vol 6:1/2 2013 (127–141) and P Coleman and R Kiska, 'The Proposed EU "Equal Treatment" Directive: How the UK gives Other EU Member States a Glimpse of the Future', International Journal for Religious Freedom, Vol. 5:1 2012 (113–128).

18 Hall and Preddy v Bull and Bull, Case No 9BS02095, 18 January 2011.

19 Id., at para 11. The policy was applied equally to unmarried heterosexual couples.

20 The Daily Mail, 21 January 2011.

21 See the case of Mr and Mrs Wilkinson. The Daily Telegraph, 15 May 2010.

22 Brockie v. Ontario (Human Rights Commission) [2002] O.J. No. 2375 (Sup. Ct. J. (Div. Ct.)).

23 See ETC 2010-32 of 9 March 2010. For more information, see European Anti-Discrimination Law Review No. 11 – 2010, EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LEGAL

behaviour and subsequently published a declaration stating that: "The church may not approve of the education, recruitment and employment of pastors and teachers of religion who conduct or promote a homosexual way of life."⁴³ The case went all the way to the Supreme Court before the University was cleared, although subsequent amendments to Hungary's non-discrimination legislation mean that a different decision could be reached on similar facts in the future.⁴⁴

(E) MARRIAGE REGISTRARS

Ms. Ladele was a registrar over births, deaths and marriages. Before laws legalising same-sex civil unions came into effect, Ms. Ladele explained to her manager that registering homosexual civil partnerships would conflict with her religious beliefs. On a practical level, Ms. Ladele's position could easily have been accommodated as same-sex civil unions accounted for a very small proportion of her work and there were many other registrars who could have swapped shifts with her. However, Ms. Ladele was forced to choose between officiating homosexual civil unions or giving up her job.

Although the case largely revolved around other non-discrimination laws relating to employment,⁴⁵ the Court of Appeal emphasised that the newly enacted non-discrimination laws relating to the provision of goods and services only served to re-enforce the position of the secular employer over the employee who sought to act on their religious convictions.⁴⁶

Hence, it was stated that: "however much sympathy one may have with someone such as Ms Ladele, who is faced with choosing between giving up a post she plainly appreciates or officiating at events which she considers to be contrary to her religious beliefs, the legislature has decided that the requirements of a modern liberal democracy, such as the United Kingdom, include outlawing discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation, subject only to very limited exceptions."⁴⁷ Therefore the Court held that "it is simply unlawful for Ms. Ladele to refuse to perform civil partnerships."⁴⁸

43 Háltér Társaság a Melegekért v. Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem (2005). See András Kádár, Report on Measures to Combat Discrimination Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC Hungary Country Report, EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LEGAL EXPERTS (2011) p.93.

44 Similarly, in the US a New York court held that because of non-discrimination laws, a private, religiously affiliated university could not prohibit same-sex couples from living together in university housing. See Levin v. Yeshiva Univ., 754 N.E.2d 1099 (N.Y. 2001).

45 The Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003.

46 Ladele v London Borough of Islington [2009] EWCA Civ 1357 paras 68-72.

47 Id., at para 73.

48 Id., at para 71.

49 See Opinion No 2008-40, available at <www.cgb.nl>. For an explanation of the case, see Rikki Holmaat, Netherlands Report on Measures to Combat Discrimination: Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC, EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LEGAL EXPERTS (2008).

50 Motie van Gent c.s., Tweede Kamer 2010-2011, 27017, nr 77.

Similarly, in 2008 the Dutch Equal Treatment Commission (Commissie Gelijke Behandeling) ruled that, contrary to its previous decisions, civil union registrars were required to celebrate same-sex marriages and public authorities must play an "exemplary role" in combating discrimination.⁴⁹ This position was solidified in legislation in 2011.⁵⁰

CHAPTER 3: INCIDENTS OF INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE IN 2014

We provide these incidents in the order of time by giving a short summary. Hyperlinks in the title and a link below each case lead to the Observatory's website offering detailed information, further links, and sources.

Please use our „advanced search“ to find over 1450 individually documented cases. Search conveniently by country, timeframe, area, tag, cause, specific rights, etc. Follow the Observatory on Facebook and Twitter to be notified about new cases (Twitter: OIACEurope, Facebook: OIACEurope). <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/advanced-search.html>

January 2014

Belgium: Nativity Scene Vandalised in Hainaut

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/nativity-scene-vandalised-in-hainaut.html>

A nativity scene set up in front of a church in Belgium was vandalised overnight. A shepherd was dismembered, the figure representing baby Jesus was lying on the ground and Mary and Joseph had been taken away. A fence which had been erected to protect the scene did not deter the vandals.

Italy: Nativity Scene in Foligno Targeted by Vandals

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/nativity-scene-in-foligno-targeted-by-vandals.html>

The crib of the Nativity of St. Felicianetto was set on fire. Already several days before, the figure of Baby Jesus had been stolen.

Spain: Four Churches in Spain Targeted with Graffiti and Vandalism

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/four-churches-in-spain-targeted-with-graffiti-and-vandalism.html>

Four Catholic churches in Malaga, Spain, were targeted with pro-abortion graffiti and vandalism. Some of the slogans read: "Saca tus rosarios de mis ovarios" (Get your rosaries off my ovaries) and "Maria queria abortar" (Mary wanted to abort) as well as "Iglesia = Dictadura" (Church = dictatorship). Vandals also dropped balloons containing red paint, into a church, which burst and damaged a ceramic alter piece depicting the Virgin Mary.

France: Desecration of Altar of Church in Paris

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/desecration-of-altar-of-church-in-paris.html>

A man approached the altar of Saint-Odile Church in Paris and through violent acts desecrated and destroyed the candle holder and hammered down the statue of St Therese of the Child Jesus. He also opened the baptismal fountain and spilled the water used for baptisms. The police were called but they arrived only an hour later after the man had already walked away. Witnesses said that the tall young man looked very determined in his actions.

Switzerland: Muslims Distribute Intolerant Writings in Basel

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/muslims-distribute-intolerant-writings-in-basel.html>

Every first Saturday of the month, five Muslim men from the Islamic Central Bureau of Switzerland (IZRS) distribute Muslim texts at the Claraplatz in Central Basel. One of the books they distribute, the „Book of Simplified Comment“, suggests to murder Christians and Jews, and to take their money

France: Church's Main Gate Covered with Graffiti

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-s-main-gate-covered-with-graffiti.html>

Obscene, Satanist and anti-Christian graffiti was spray painted on the church door of Saint-Pierre-et-Saint-Paul in Haute Garonne. The police were notified and collected evidence.

United Kingdom: Street Preacher Arrested for Mentioning "Sexual Sin" in Scotland

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/street-preacher-arrested-for-mentioning-sexual-sin-in-scotland.html>

Tony Miano, a street preacher addressing lunchtime shoppers at Dundee High Street, Scotland, was arrested and held in custody to appear before the Dundee Sheriff Court. He was talking about "sexual sin" including "adultery, promiscuity and homosexual practice". A woman called the police, who on arrival snatched away the camera of a friend who was filming the preaching and arrested the street preacher.

Spain: Graffiti on Walls of Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Yecla Murcia

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/graffiti-on-walls-of-basilica-of-the-immaculate-conception-in-yecla-murcia.html>

Graffiti threatening religious freedoms of Christians was spray painted on the walls of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The words, "Si no nos dejáis abortar, no os dejaremos rezar" ("If you do not let us have an abortion, we will not let you pray") were written there in addition to different anarchists symbols.

France: Deliberate Arson of a Chapel

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/deliberate-arson-of-a-chapel.html>

The chapel of Aibre, France was found on fire. Police were called to the scene but the doors had already been damaged by the fire. They investigated and found bits of wood used to start the fire as well as remains of a product used to spread the fire more quickly.

Italy: Theft and Vandalism in Church in Palaia

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/theft-and-vandalism-in-church-in-palaia.html>

The parish church of Villa Saletta in Palaia was devastated by vandals who stole alms and damaged consecrated hosts. They also stole a fold chain that hung around the alter of Our Lady and a chalice from the tabernacle.

Sweden: Midwife Lost Job Because of Her Views on Abortion

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/midwife-lost-job-because-of-her-views-on-abortion.html>

A Swedish midwife did not get a job she was promised because of her "wrong view" regarding abortion. The woman who worked at Highland Hospital in Eksjö was promised summer jobs and other temporary positions after completing further training in January 2014. However, after

explaining to the department manager that she was not able to perform abortions because of her faith, she was told she was no longer welcome to take the jobs.

France: Church Vandalised in Gensac

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-vandalised-in-gensac.html>

The windows of the church of Our Lady in Gensac, France, were reported to have been vandalised.

France: Church of Saint-Georges in French Guyane Repeatedly Desecrated and Vandalised

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-of-saint-georges-in-french-guyane-repeatedly-desecrated-and-vandalised.html>
Intruders entered the church of Saint-Georges through a window. They pulled down and destroyed a large statue of Christ on the cross and stole two electric fans. When the sisters came for Mass in the morning they were shocked at what they found. This is the second time this month that the church has been the victim of vandalism.

United Kingdom: Scottish Secularists Want to Curb Churches' Role in Education

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/scottish-secularists-want-to-curb-churches-role-in-education.html>
Secularists in Scotland have called on the government to remove religious representatives from education committees. Under the Local Government Act 1973, local authority education committees are required to appoint three representatives from religious organisations and the Edinburgh Secular Society wants to see a change in the law.

Germany: Cemetery Desecrated in Bavaria

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/cemetery-desecrated-in-bavaria.html>
A cemetery in the district of Pöiting in the city of Neumarkt was desecrated. Crosses of several graves were pulled up and put back in upside down. Police suspect that this was done by young Satanists.

Italy: Church in Historic District of Prato in Tuscany Vandalised

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-in-historic-district-of-prato-in-tuscany-vandalised.html>

A stranger entered the San Pietro church in Prato, Tuscany, and broke a basin and tried unsuccessfully to break another one before fleeing.

France: Church in Haute-Saône Targeted by Vandalism

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-in-haute-saone-targeted-by-vandalism.html>

The Notre-Dame-du-Haut in Haute-Saône, was damaged by vandals who broke a painted window into thousands of pieces. They also damaged the inside of the chapel.

Italy: Vandalism at Church of St. Francis in Prato

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vandalism-at-church-of-st-francis-in-prato.html>
(January 2014, Italy) Vandals destroyed a marble font in the courtyard and targeted the Cathedral, where they tried to destroy the century pulpit which is located to the left of the main altar as well as the church of San Pier Fiorelli where a statue depicting St. Joseph was destroyed.

France: Chapel Vandalised in Schlierbach, Alsace

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/chapel-vandalised-in-schlierbach-alsace.html>
(January 2014, France) Vandals attacked the Chapel of Our Lady of the Valley of Tears in Schlierbach and damaged the polygonal roof of the small sanctuary. They ripped off and stole copper plates and other pieces of metal.

Italy: Invaluable Relic of Pope John Paul II Stolen from Chapel in the Region of Abruzzo

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/invaluable-relic-of-pope-john-paul-ii-stolen-from-chapel-in-the-region-of-abruzzo.html>
Thieves broke into the church of San Pietro della Ienca in the Abruzzo region breaking the protective iron bars and forcing their way in through a window. They left the collection box but took a crucifix and invaluable relic which contains a piece of gauze once soaked in the blood of the late Pope John Paul II.

Germany: Serious Desecration of Church in Baden-Württemberg

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/serious-desecration-of-church-in-baden-wuerttemberg.html>
On the night of January 27th, a unknown perpetrator broke into the Catholic church, Saint Georges which is located in a district of the city of Freiburg in Breisgau. Using a hammer the perpetrator vandalised the church causing damage which estimates more than 12,000 euro. The tabernacle was also vandalised and the chalice and consecrated hosts stolen.

France: Church Vandalised for the Third Time in January

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-vandalised-for-the-third-time-in-january.html>
The church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Montceau-les-Mines, France, was vandalised for the third time this month. Dozens of candles were broken and the crib was taken. Clay pots and trees and other items were broken and crushed.

Sweden: Mass in Catholic Cathedral in Stockholm Interrupted by Feminists

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/mass-in-catholic-cathedral-in-stockholm-interrupted-by-femen.html>

Three Femen activists burst into the Catholic Cathedral of Stockholm, during Mass, just as the attendants were singing Salve Regina. The activists were bare-breasted and one had a sign reading: "Catholic Church out of my body" and written on her chest in Spanish, "Abortion is sacred." Church staff managed to bring them under control. The Feminists told the press that they are not done with the Catholic Church and will continue their attacks.

France: Desecration and Vandalism of Church in Charleville-Mézières

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/desecration-and-vandalism-of-church-in-charleville-mezieres.html>

Dozens of candles were burned and destroyed, three chairs were broken and urine left by vandals in the church of Saint-Remi in Charleville-Mézières. Cans of beer were also left on the floor, curses were written on the guestbook. Obscene drawings were scribbled into the book of prayers.

February 2014

Germany: Aggressive Left-Wing Activists Interrupt Demonstration of Parents in Stuttgart

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/aggressive-left-wing-activists-interrupt-demonstration-of-parents-in-stuttgart.html>
A protest of parents who were not happy with a new educational plan seeking to implement "sexual diversity education" had to end early due to massive opposition. Protesters were physically attacked and it was felt that the Police failed to protect the parents' basic right of assembly.

Spain: Hate Incident Against Cardinal on Question of Abortion in Madrid

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/hate-incident-against-cardinal-on-question-of-abortion-in-madrid.html>
When Cardinal Antonio María Rouco, Archbishop of Madrid and President of the Spanish bishops' conference, was walking from his vehicle to enter the parish of Santos Justo y Pastor, on Palma street, Madrid, five Femen activists attacked him. With stained red underwear and naked chests they shouted "Abortion is sacred". The Cardinal, escorted by priests managed to enter the parish but the shouting continued outside as they celebrated the Eucharist.

International: Catholic Church Told by UN Committee To Change Its Teaching

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/catholic-church-told-by-un-committee-to-change-its-teaching.html>

The UN-Committee on the Rights of the Child has asked the Vatican to change its teaching on abortion and homosexuality and on changing the interpretation of a bible verse. The Vatican has responded calling the requests of the UN Committee an interference with Church doctrine and a violation of religious freedom.

Spain: Criminal Investigations Opened Against Cardinal For Mentioning Treatment Options for Homosexuals

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/criminal-investigations-opened-against-cardinal-for-mentioning-treatment-options-for-homosexuals.html>

Cardinal Fernando Sebastian of Málaga commented in an interview with the local newspaper SUR that homosexuality "can be normalised with treatment". Consequently the Málaga Provincial Prosecutor's Office opened criminal investigations against him. His comment was understood to undermine Spanish legislation which protects the fundamental rights of dignity and non-discrimination in Articles 18 and 14 of the Constitution and therefore to constitute a "clear incitement to hatred and discrimination".

France: Church Statue Vandalised in Beaumont-du-Périgord

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-statue-vandalised-in-beaumont-du-perigord.html>
Two cleaning ladies arrived at the church Sainte-Marie Bastide in Beaumont-du-Périgord, Dordogne, and were shocked to find the statue of Joan of Arc had been vandalised. The base of the statue which was about two meters high had been broken and the statue knocked over.

Spain: Pro-Choice Group Disrupts Catholic Liturgy in Palma

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/pro-choice-group-disrupts-catholic-liturgy-in-palma.html>
A group of 30 young activists interrupted a Catholic service in the Church of Saint Miquel de Palma in Spain, shouting slogans in favour of abortion. They were protesting the government's plans to change the abortion law, carrying a banner with the slogan "Rosaries out of our ovaries" and chanting "Abortion – free and legal."

United Kingdom: Elderly Street Preacher Falsely Arrested and Assaulted by Police

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/elderly-street-preacher-falsely-arrested-and-assaulted-by-police.html>

73-year-old Bill Edwards was ordered by a police constable to stop preaching outside the Magistrates Court House in Banbury as some people in the building found his preaching "offensive". He refused to move and was arrested and charged with assault and breach of peace. In the police station Mr Edwards was grabbed by six officers and pinned to the ground.

Ireland: Hate Mail Received for Disagreeing with Same-Sex Marriage

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/hate-mail-received-for-disagreeing-with-same-sex-marriage.html>

Breda O'Brien, an Irish teacher, journalist and pro-life feminist has been receiving hate mail from people because of an article she wrote disagreeing with same-sex marriage and discussing homophobia and liberal intolerance.

France: Fire in Church of Sainte-Marie in Le Boulou

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/fire-in-church-of-sainte-marie-in-le-boulou.html>

A fire broke out around 10 am in the church of Sainte-Marie Le Boulou. A large figure of Christ which was made of wood and plaster and installed in the entrance of the church caught on fire and was burning for hours. The fire department and police are investigating.

Ireland: Religious Fundamentalism Used As A Legitimation of Threatening and Exclusion, Says David Quinn

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/quotation/religious-fundamentalism-used-as-a-legitimation-of-threatening-and-exclusion-says-david-quinn.html>

(27.02.2014) David Quinn, director of the Iona Institute, writes in the Irish Catholic: "Around the time of the Savita Halappanavar controversy [whether to legalise abortion in Ireland] I received an expletive-ridden phone call condemning the Catholic Church and telling me I should be hanged on O'Connell Street. Around that same time I was in the Henry Street area of Dublin city centre and I was stopped and attacked as a 'Catholic toe-rag' by a very angry looking man."

France: Tabernacle in French Alsace Target of Break-in

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/tabernacle-in-french-alsace-target-of-break-in.html>

A chapel in the French city of Mulhouse was broken into,

and it appears that the tabernacle was the intended target. Nothing was vandalised, but the lock on the tabernacle shows signs of an attempt to open it. The perpetrators did not succeed, however, the lock is now broken and must be replaced.

European Institutions (EU, ECHR, et.al.): Member of European Parliament Seeks Exclusion of Christianity

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/member-of-european-parliament-seeks-exclusion-of-christianity.html>

Belgian socialist Member of the European Parliament, Veronique De Keyser called in an e-mail to all MEPs and all assistants for "general mobilisation against obscurantism". With "Obscurantism" she seems to mean Christianity, as she continues to say: "A Europe which is open and respectful of all beliefs and philosophical convictions cannot be one that puts Christian roots to the forefront. This is not Europe! Europe is one of Enlightenment, a Europe of free thinking, a Europe of separation of state and church."

France: Desecration of the Chapel of the Olympic Village in Grenoble

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/desecration-of-the-chapel-of-the-olympic-village-in-grenoble.html>

In the morning when a faithful arrived to prepare the religious services, he found damages to the chapel of the Olympic Village. Furthermore, the ciborium containing the consecrated hosts had been stolen. The intention of the perpetrator is not known.

France: Communist Candidate Wants to See Parish in Bordeaux Disappear

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/communist-candidate-wants-to-see-parish-in-bordeaux-disappear.html>

Vincent Maurin, a Communist candidate of the Left Front in the city of Bordeaux, not only opposed the opening of a Catholic School in a district of Bordeaux in December but in February the construction of a church in the same area also. A new election propaganda leaflet included a list of changes to be made in Bordeaux under Vincent Maurin, one item being the disappearance of the parish St. Eloi, which he described as a "stronghold of religious fundamentalism". The word "fundamentalism" is printed in red.

France: Cross Desecrated in Rennes

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/cross-desecrated-in-rennes.html>

A large cement monument of a cross was covered in graffiti during a left wing "Antifa" event on 8 February. It

remained covered in graffiti for weeks despite services clearing up the city in preparation for another event. It seems that desecrated religious buildings and sites do not enjoy the same respect as other parts of the city.

United Kingdom: Government Seems to Discriminate Against Religious Education

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/government-seems-to-discriminate-against-religious-education.html>

The failure of the government to provide bursaries for those wishing to teach Religious Education (RE) has been described as "rank discrimination" by a leading RE body. Childcare minister Elizabeth Truss MP confirmed this month that no bursaries would be offered for religious education teachers in training this year. This cut in the bursaries has made it increasingly difficult for those studying to teach RE

France: Church in Rennes Target of Shaving Cream Graffiti

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-in-rennes-target-of-shaving-cream-graffiti.html>

The church of Saint-Germain in Rennes was the target of vandals who "painted" the words "Raser l'Eglise" with shaving cream onto the exterior wall of the church. The translation of these words is either "Shave the church" or, alternately, "Demolish the church". The same church had been the victim of vandalism at the beginning of January when its Nativity scene was burned.

March 2014

France: Obscene Graffiti on the Basilica of Saint Nicholas in Nantes

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/obscene-graffiti-on-the-basilica-of-saint-nicholas-in-nantes.html>

Obscene graffiti was found on the church of Saint-Nicolas in Nantes, France. The graffiti, located near the entrance of the church, said "Jesus Fucked." The media was silent on this subject.

France: Church in Brie-Comte-Robert Robbed of Consecrated Hosts

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-in-brie-comte-robert-robbed-of-consecrated-hosts.html#servatory>

Upon arriving at the church on a Monday morning, one of the priests in charge of serving the parish of Saint-Étienne discovered that the door to the chapel was open and the tabernacle had been robbed. The hosts that had been stolen were consecrated ones, considered by Catholics to be sacred. The tabernacle was the only thing

robbed. Police rapidly intervened and dusted the area for fingerprints. The community reacted in a spiritual way, organising a prayer session.

France: Graffiti on Church of Saint-Sernin in Toulouse

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/graffiti-on-church-of-saint-sermin-in-toulouse.html>

Anticlerical graffiti was found on the church of Saint-Sernin in Toulouse. One of the inscriptions read "Fuck the Church."

France: Propaganda Film Offensive to Christians

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/propaganda-film-offensive-to-christians.html>

The short propaganda film, "14 Millions de Cris", produced by Liza Azuelos, speaks out against forced marriages of under aged children, but turns offensive when it uses the Christian milieu as its setting. Many Christians find it derogatory to portray Christians in this film as forcing their children into early matrimony. This might be more common in Muslim countries, but to place it in a Christian setting in France is an indication of discrimination.

United Kingdom: Christian Claims he was Denied a Job at a Country House Hotel near Colchester on Account of His Faith

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-claims-he-was-denied-a-job-at-a-country-house-hotel-near-colchester-on-account-of-his-faith.html>

Graphic designer Jamie Haxby was interviewed for a job at Prested Hall Hotel near Colchester in the United Kingdom. He says his interviewer, Celie Parker, asked him if he was Christian, to which he answered in the affirmative. On looking through his portfolio and seeing that he had done previous work with churches and Christian groups, she commented that she and other members of staff were atheists and that they could never work with a committed Christian. She is also reported to have apologized for wasting Haxby's time.

France: St. Peter's Church in Pléhédél Vandalised

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/st-peters-church-in-plehedel-vandalised.html>

A church in Pléhédél, Brittany, was vandalised on Sunday, March 16th. The candles were smashed into the carpet and fire damaged the carpet and the cloth tabernacle altar covering as well as the steps leading up to the altar. It is reported that some youths were spotted at the time.

France: Montmartre Basilica of Sacré-Cœur in Paris Graffitied

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/montmartre-basilica-of-sacre-coeur-in-paris-graffitied.html>

The forecourt and pillars of the Basilica of Sacré-Cœur in Paris were found graffitied with phrases such as "Fire to the chapels," "Neither God, nor master," "Fuck tourism," and "Down with all the authorities." The last, along with the phrase "Solidarity Monica and Francisco," could be an indication that the vandalism was committed by an anarchist group. Monica Caballero and Francisco Solar were two militants imprisoned in Spain after the attempted bombing on the Spanish basilica of El Pilar.

Belgium: Public Urinals Installed Against the Church of Saint Catherine in Brussels

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/public-urinals-installed-against-the-church-of-saint-catherine-in-brussels.html>

The City of Brussels installed public urinals on an exterior wall of the church of Saint Catherine in Brussels. A petition has been started to remove them by those who consider it a disgraceful lack of regard for a place of holiness.

France: Sacré-Cœur in Paris Again Victim of Vandalism

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/sacre-coeur-in-paris-again-victim-of-vandalism.html>

The Sacré-Cœur basilica in Paris, after having been marked with graffiti indicating anarchist origins, was again found graffitied within a few days of the previous vandalism.

Germany: Perpetrators Urinate in Holy Water Vessels in Two Churches in Memmingen

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/perpetrators-urinate-in-holy-water-vessels-in-two-churches-in-memmingen.html>

Unknown perpetrators urinated into the holy water vessel in the Assumption church and in the St. Josef's church in Memmingen on Saturday, March 22. They also meddled with different objects in both churches.

France: Tabernacles in Churches Pouancé and Bouchamp-lès-Craon Robbed of Hosts

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/tabernacles-in-churches-pouance-and-bouchamp-les-craon-robbed-of-hosts.html>

At the end of March and the beginning of April, two churches were vandalised in France and the consecrated hosts were robbed from the tabernacle. One was the church in Pouancé and the other that in Bouchamp-lès-Craon.

Germany: Christian Demonstrations Violently Attacked by Left Wing Radicals in Baden-Württemberg and Cologne

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/christian-demonstrations-violently-attacked-by-left-wing-radicals-in-baden-wuerttemberg-and-cologne.html>

A new governmental sex ed curriculum of Baden-Württemberg has caused outrage among Christian parents. Several manifestations suffered serious attacks by left wing activists which were later identified as LGBT activists. Eyewitnesses reported in shock to the Observatory

France: Man Apprehended for Fifteen Acts of Vandalism in Morbihan

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/man-apprehended-for-fifteen-acts-of-vandalism-in-morbihan.html>

A series of vandalisms in the region of Morbihan has finally been explained with the arrest of a 34-year-old man who admits to fifteen acts of vandalism since June 2013 including the destruction of religious symbols and several attempts at burning a chapel. He was identified by his DNA and now awaits trial, although, there is some question of his mental balance; apparently he spent some time in a psychiatric hospital.

Netherlands: Doctoral Student in the Netherlands Denied the Right to Thank God in His Thesis

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/doctoral-student-in-the-netherlands-denied-the-right-to-thank-god-in-his-thesis.html>

Dutch PhD student Jerke de Vries inserted a clause into his doctoral thesis in which he gave thanks to God. At the Wageningen University, religious statements are not allowed in theses unless they are the subject of research. Although De Vries' thesis advisor was not so strict, the doctoral committee would not allow his thesis to pass unless he removed the phrase, leaving de Vries to cut out the page from over a hundred copies of his thesis which had already been printed

France: Church of Sacré-Cœur in Lourdes Attacked

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-of-sacre-coeur-in-lourdes-attacked.html>

"Robbers" entered the Church of Sacré-Cœur in Lourdes sometime during the night of March 27-28, 2014 and broke open the poor boxes. More importantly, they broke open the tabernacle and stole the ciborium with the consecrated hosts that it contained. The parish priest responded by organising a prayer session.

Belgium: Glowing Mary Statue Elicits Negative Response

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/glowing-mary-statue-elicits-negative-response.html>

A statue of the Virgin Mary belonging to a couple in Jalhay, Belgium, began to glow at night and caused such a stir at the couple's house that Catholic authorities suggested moving it to a church. Not everyone, however, reacted so positively. On the Facebook page of the Radio Télévision Belge Francophone (RTBF) show "C'est vous qui le dites", comments were made such as "Let's crucify them...that will get rid of their desire to propagate such tricks".

France: Film Discussing the Problem of Pornography and Prostitution Canceled in Tours

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/film-discussing-the-problem-of-pornography-and-prostitution-canceled-in-tours.html>

The Cinéma National Populaire (CNP) canceled a showing and debate with the Swiss producer Philippe Decourroux on his DVD "Prostitution et pornographie, enjeu de société?" Which translated means, "Prostitution and Pornography, Concern of Society?" The producer denounced this move as anti-Christian. According to Decourroux, the CNP thought the film to be an attempt of Christian "proselytism".

Austria: Four Churches in Vienna Heavily Vandalised

link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/four-churches-in-vienna-heavily-vandalised.html>

On Saturday, March 29th, St. Stephen's cathedral, the parish church of Breitenfeld (Josefstadt), the parish church of Neuottakring (Ottakring) as well as the Lazaristenkirche (Neubau) were vandalised. The spokesperson of the diocese said the attacks have never before been so hard.

France: Catholic Private School Graffitied in Périgueux

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/catholic-private-school-graffitied-in-perigueux.html>

The Catholic private school Saint-Jean de Périgueux was graffitied with the phrase, "Quand je serai grande, je serai gouine" which means, "When I grow up, I'm going to be a dyke" (a crude way of saying lesbian).

France: Church in Mayenne Robbed of Hosts

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-in-mayenne-robbed-of-hosts.html>

The Church of Saint Peter in the community of Bouchamps-lès-Craon in Mayenne was robbed of its ciborium and the Eucharistic hosts inside. The police arrived on scene on

Sunday, the 6th of April, and the bishop of Angers intends to celebrate a mass of reparation

Belgium: Church in Havré Vandalised

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-in-havre-vandalised.html>

St. Martin's Church in Havré became again the victim of vandals who destroyed some of the area around the entrance, tearing off some slate from above the door.

France: Local Priest in Trèbes Reproached for Wearing a Cross

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/local-priest-in-trebes-reproached-for-wearing-a-cross.html>

One of the officials working at a voting station in the town of Trèbes, France, reproached the local parish priest for wearing a cross around his neck saying that it was too ostensible a sign of religious adherence.

International: Offensive Representation of the Last Supper on Cover of Music Album

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/offensive-representation-of-the-last-supper-on-cover-of-music-album.html>

The musical group Steel Panther released its new album "All You can Eat" on April 1, 2014. The cover portrays a group of band members in a Last Supper scene among whom are scantily clad women in provocative postures. Underneath is the name of the album, "All You Can Eat"

Romania: Catholic Church in Târgu Mureş Targeted for Graffiti

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/catholic-church-in-targu-mures-targeted-for-graffiti.html>

A Catholic church in Târgu Mureş, Romania, was found with the graffitied image of a swastika cross and suspicions lie with the extremist organisation called Noua Dreaptă (New Right).

France: Attempted Arson and Vandalism at Notre-Dame de la Plaine in Billere

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/attempted-arson-and-vandalism-at-notre-dame-de-la-plaine-in-billere.html>

On March 11th the church Notre-Dame de la Plaine in Billère in Southwestern France was vandalised: The diocese of Bayonne, Lescar and Oloron said that „one or more persons burned the altar shrine and the cross in the sanctuary". The police confirmed the vandalism and found some feces. The parish priest has filed a complaint and a police investigation is underway.

Austria: Religious Statues Broken in the District of Linz-Land

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/religious-statues-broken-in-the-district-of-linz-land.html>

Two saint statues were damaged between Friday, March 28th and Thursday, April 3rd. The statues had been located in a niche in front of the church of Hofkirchen im Traunkreis in the district of Linz-Land. The amount of damages was not officially known. The police have undertaken an investigation and are requesting leads in order to find the culprit(s).

Belgium: State Wants to Secularise Centrally Located Church of Saint Catherine in Brussels

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/attempts-to-secularise-the-church-of-saint-catherine-in-brussels.html>

A petition has been started by the "Friends of Saint Catherine" in Brussels to counteract the imminent cession of the church of Saint Catherine to the city. To add insult to injury, because the church is commercially very strategically placed, the state wishes to turn this place of worship into a place for selling fruits and vegetables even against the wishes of the locals.

Italy: Insulting Graffiti at the Vatican on Right Side of Bernini's Colonnade

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/insulting-graffiti-at-the-vatican-on-right-side-of-bernini-colonnade.html>

Bernini's Colonnade, which had been restored in preparation for the canonisation of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II, was found to have graffiti on the right side with the words, in poor English, "Catalic is Hitler." Implying that a Catholic is like Hitler.

Switzerland: Left-Wing Radicals Attack Peaceful Prayer Group in Zurich

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/left-wing-radicals-attack-peaceful-prayer-group-in-zurich.html>

In Zurich, during an initiative called "Yes to the Child," a pro-life rally was held in which those assembled prayed the rosary and various speeches were given on issues involving the protection of life. The date and location of the rally had not been publically announced, but near the end of the rally left-wing radicals attacked the group, throwing condoms at them. The police were quick to intervene. The spokesman at the rally initiated a prayer to pray for the attackers

Germany: German Father Imprisoned for Opting his Child out of Sex Education

Sources: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/german-father-imprisoned-for-opting-his-child-out-of-sex-education.html>

On Monday, April 7th, Arthur Wiens was jailed for opting his child out of a sex education class in which nine-year-olds are taught about sexual intercourse with a plush vagina and rubber penis. Wiens spent a week behind bars, and his wife is threatened with a similar punishment.

France: Chapel Saint-François in Rennes Vandalised

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/chapel-saint-francois-in-rennes-vandalised.html>

Unidentified people broke into the Chapel of Saint-François in Rennes on April 9th breaking open the door to the sacristy. They left lying on the floor the vestments, liturgical linens, and other sacred objects. The perpetrator(s) emptied the poor boxes, but most importantly, the tabernacle was opened and the ciborium tampered with.

France: Children Vandalized a Saint-Laurent de Rozoy-sur-Serre Church

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/children-vandalized-a-saint-laurent-de-rozoy-sur-serre-church.html>

Three children at the age between 7 and 11 vandalized the church of Saint-Laurent de Rozoy-sur-Serre in France. They turned the seats of the church, threw objects on the altar and the prayer books scattered on the floor. The police was able to catch them because of the traces of their shoes.

Sweden: Swedish Nurse Fired for Refusing to Assist in Abortion

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/swedish-nurse-fired-for-refusing-to-assist-in-abortion.html>

In January 2014 a Swedish nurse has filed a complaint of religious discrimination with Sweden's equality commission after the hospital where she interned as a midwife sacked her for refusing to assist in abortions. The Ombudsperson for Discrimination concluded that Mrs Grimmark has not been discriminated because her conscientious objection stood against the "availability of abortion care" and the "protection of health" of patients requiring abortion.

Denmark: Christian Convert Knifed in Hvalsoe

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-convert-knifed-in-hvalsoe.html>

A 48-year-old Christian convert seeking asylum in Denmark was knifed several times by an unknown assailant in the

kitchen of the Asylum center in Hvalsoe. The victim received blows with a knife in the neck, arm, and back. The victim said that he had previously received death threats for having converted from Islam to Christianity, but no safety measures had been taken.

Spain: Labor Union Mocks Holy Week Procession in Seville

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/labor-union-mocks-holy-week-procession-in-seville.html>

The Confederación General de Trabajadores (an anarchist worker's union) held a procession in Seville in protest of the dismissal of several bus workers at the Damas Bus Company. The procession was also an amalgamation of other groups such as feminists who were protesting a reform of the abortion law. The procession was a mockery of a Holy Week procession and was called the "Blessed Rebellious Pussy (vulgar word for female genitals) Procession and the Holy Entombment of Socio-labor Rights

France: Catholic Lay Blog Attacked

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/catholic-lay-blog-attacked.html>

The Catholic lay blog "Le Salon Beige" was put out of order by attacks against the server from an unknown source. This happened three times in four days, one time on Good Friday, the other times on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

Switzerland: Church Vandalised in Region of Neuchâtel

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-vandalised-in-region-of-neuchatel.html>

A church in Chaux-de-Fonds in the region of Neuchâtel was vandalised during the night by a man who damaged the organ, destroyed the Easter decorations, and ripped out the speakers. The perpetrator appears to have been mentally unstable and was later escorted to a psychiatric hospital. The church intends to keep its opening hours in spite of the event.

France: Attempts to Prevent Palm Sunday Precession in Morbihan

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/attempts-to-prevent-palm-sunday-precession-in-morbihan.html>

The parishioners of the church of Saint-Gildas in l'île d'Houat were the victims of a failed attempt by members of the Association of Freethinkers of France to prevent the Palm Sunday procession. These protestors tried to work within the legal framework, saying that the procession did not have the correct municipal authorisation also claiming

that it did not fall within any of the three categories of legal processions. Their attempt failed this year, but the question still remains whether or not such attempts will be successful in future years.

France: Muslim Disrupts Easter Mass

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/muslim-disrupts-easter-mass.html>

In the region of Jura, France, during a celebration of Easter Mass in the community of Notre Dame de Dole, a Muslim entered, and, putting his carpet next to the altar, began to read parts of the Coran and then proceeded to write in Arab in the parish registry. The same man had already disturbed the Palm Sunday liturgy in two different places, so the police had been warned, and when they showed up on the scene on Easter they calmly asked the man to leave.

France: Insulting and Blasphemous Graffiti Near Entrance to the Chapel of Locmaria

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/insulting-and-blasphemous-graffiti-near-entrance-to-the-chapel-of-locmaria.html>
<http://bretagne.france3.fr/2014/04/21/locmaria-des-tags-blasphematoires-sur-le-site-de-la-chapelle-463619.html>

Near the entrance to the chapel of Locmaria, which is part of the parish of Carnac, sometime during the night of Holy Saturday to Easter Sunday, graffiti was painted on a public signpost. This graffiti made blasphemous and insulting comments that made reference to Catholic fascists and a homosexual Jesus. The rector, Father Jérôme Sécher, filed a complaint with the local authorities.

France: Church in Villers-Cotterêts Robbed

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-in-villers-cotterets-robbed.html>

On returning from the Easter Vigil, the local priest in Villers-Cotterêts discovered that someone had forced entry into the church. The sacristy was in disarray, and the poor box had been robbed. This box had already been padlocked because of an earlier theft, but the thief still managed to break in, leaving damages amounting to 80 euros. The box had been recently emptied.

Slovenia: Article Questions Whether or Not Government in Ljubljana has Anti-Christian Agenda

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/article-questions-whether-or-not-government-in-ljubljana-has-anti-christian-agenda.html>

A group called KUL, founded in 2009 by Christian youth in Slovenia concerned with defending life and fundamental human rights, posted an article on their internet site on the 23rd of April, 2014 called, "Christianophobia: Is Mayor

Zoran Jankovi violating human rights and promoting intolerance against Christians in Slovenia?" after Zoran Jankovi's municipality had forbidden a mass to be celebrated for unborn babies at the hospital center of the public university of Ljubljana.

International: Two Catholic Parish Websites Hacked

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/two-catholic-parish-websites-hacked.html>

Two Catholic parish websites, the parish of Saint Louis of the French in Madrid, and the parish of Notre Dame de Nazareth in Paris, were both hacked by the same perpetrator. The picture (see below) could be found when one tried to access the website. The site of Saint Louis of the French has been restored. Both website are hosted by the Conference of Bishops of France.

Poland: Memorial of John Paul II Vandalised in Krakow

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/memorial-of-john-paul-ii-vandalised-in-krakow.html>

The monument to John Paul II in Krakow was graffitied with a star of David during the week before the Sunday canonisation of the late pope. The police set up a perimeter while the monument was being cleaned, but rest silent as to the origin of this act of vandalism.

International: Disney Excludes the Name of God in Movies

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/disney-excludes-the-name-of-god-in-movies.html>

In an interview on a National Public Radio program called Fresh Air, one of the Oscar-winning songwriters of Let It Go, from Disney's film Frozen, said that "one of the only places you have to draw the line at Disney is with religious things, the word God." According to The Guardian, "Lopez went on to say: 'You can say it in Disney but you can't put it in the movie.'"

United Kingdom: Muslim Interrupts Religious Remembrance Ceremony in Alfreton, Derbyshire

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/muslim-interrupts-religious-remembrance-ceremony-in-alfreton-derbyshire.html>

In Derbyshire, England on the 11th of November, 2013, a 52 year-old Muslim man named Mohamed Dar entered New Life Church in Alfreton as the community was holding a remembrance service for English World War I soldiers. He was shouting "turn to Islam" while wearing a scarf tied over his face and a kind of turban on which was written in Arab, "Allah is great." The man was found guilty in April 2014.

United Kingdom: Christian Worker in London Claims She was Fired for Refusing to Read Children's Books About Gay Couples

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-worker-in-london-claims-she-was-fired-for-refusing-to-read-childrens-books-about-gay-couples.html>

Sarah Mbuyi, 30 year-old nursery worker from north London will bring her case to court as she claims she was fired on the grounds of her religious beliefs because she said that she would have scruples about reading children's stories involving same-sex couples.

France: Church of Saint-Michel Vandalised in Locmiquélic (Bretagne)

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-of-saint-michel-vandalised-in-locmiquelic-bretagne.html>

On the 30th of April, in the afternoon, the church of Saint-Michel in Locmiquélic was once again the victim of vandalism. The candles were broken into several pieces and a hymnal was ripped apart. It was reported that adolescents were identified as having committed the crime.

May 2014

United Kingdom: Christian Conscientious Objectors to Morning-After-Pill Barred from Sexual Health Care Diploma

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-conscientious-objectors-to-morning-after-pill-barred-from-sexual-health-care-diploma.html>

British doctors and nurses who refuse to dispense the morning-after pill on grounds of conscience will be unable to receive a specialist diploma in sexual health care. Guidance issued by the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare states that medical professionals who, for religious reasons, refuse to hand out "emergency" contraception cannot receive the qualification. The diploma is considered to represent the "gold standard" of sexual health care training.

Slovenia: Anarchist and Feminist Graffiti on Church in Beltinci

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/anarchist-and-feminist-graffiti-on-church-in-beltinci.html>

In the night of the 1st to the 2nd of May, 2014, unknown perpetrators graffitied the church of Saint-Ladislav, in Beltinci, a region in the northeast of Slovenia and close to the country's border with Hungary. This is the fourth time in recent years that the church has been a victim of such vandalism.

France: Chain Store Uses Christian Symbol With Offensive Twist

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/chain-store-uses-christian-symbol-with-offensive-twist.html>

The chain store "Camping" (Camper) used a spin off of a traditional Christian symbol to advertise its new shoe line the "Sailing Collection." As depicted in the picture taken from a storefront in Paris, the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is depicted with the astronomical sign of Venus in place of the cross. This symbol is often used by feminist movements.

Austria: Arson Attack on Church in Vorarlberg

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/arson-attack-on-church-in-vorarlberg.html>

Unknown offenders started a fire at the entrance of the church in Vorarlberg. At 1:20 am people walking by discovered the flames and were able to extinguish the fire, but the two 52 year-old women had to be brought to the hospital as a precautionary measure. There were suspected injuries of smoke inhalation, however, they were soon discharged.

Austria: Karlskirche Vandalised in Vienna

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/karlskirche-vandalised-in-vienna.html>

During the night from Friday to Saturday unknown perpetrators vandalised the world famous Karlskirche in Vienna's fourth district. The perpetrators threw several bags of paint on the stonework and some statues in front of the church. Also the words „on repression follows resistance“ were smeared on the walls. The police suspect several perpetrators. The incident was noticed Saturday morning. The damage is severe.

France: Bascilia of Saint-Sernin in Toulouse vandalised

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/bascilia-of-saint-sernin-in-toulouse-vandalised.html>

The Basilica of St. Sernin was graffitied during the night by a group called G2M. The perpetrators sprayed on one of the portals on the court and on the wall of the Basilica. The CREW G2M is already known in Toulouse since 2010. The Basilica was also sprayed in March

Belgium: Senator Says Two to Three Thefts in Churches Each Day

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/quotation/senator-says-two-to-three-thefts-in-churches-each-day-in-belgium.html>

According to Senator Guido de Padt, the Minister of the Interior Joëlle Milquet reports that two to three churches

or chapels are robbed every day in Belgium and vandalism occurs, on average, more than once a day.

France: Basilica of St. Nicolas in Nantes Vandalized Again

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/basilica-of-st-nicolas-in-nantes-vandalized-again.html>

The Basilica of St. Nicolas in Nantes was again victim of vandalism. The perpetrators wrote on the door satanic and anti-Christian motives. In March obscene graffiti was painted on the same building.

Germany: St. George and Catharine Church Vandalised in Traunstein

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/st-george-and-catharine-church-vandalised-in-traunstein.html>

An unknown person attacked the St. Georg and Catharine Church in Traunstein, Germany. The invader broke a holy water vessel off the wall with a large stone. The motivation for the attack is unknown.

France: Arson in the Catholic School St. Mary Weg Riquet in Aubagne

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/arson-in-the-catholic-school-st-mary-weg-riquet-in-aubagne.html>

A fire broke out in a class room during the night of May 20th destroying four classrooms. The Police found out that many fires were set. The attacker is unknown. The St. Mary Weg Riquet School remained closed on the day after.

Switzerland: Notre Dame in Fribourg Vandalized by Minors

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/notre-dame-in-fribourg-vandalized-by-minors.html>

Two adolescents at the age of 14 and 15 were caught vandalising a Catholic church. They broke the paschal candle, pulled of one station of the cross, painted on the wall a leaf of cannabis and threw cigarette butts and papers around the altar.

Germany: Protests Against a Sexual Ethics Congress

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/protests-against-a-sexual-ethics-congress.html>

The association "White cross" (Weißes Kreuz) hosted a congress about sexual ethics between the 22nd and the 24th of May in Kassel, Germany. This congress was a target of strong general criticism, also by the representatives of the city of Kassel. Shortly before the start of the congress, the congress building was vandalized by red color paint as a symbol of disagreement.

Italy: Christian Feelings Hurt by Distortion of Last Supper by RAI-2

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-feelings-hurt-by-distortion-of-last-supper-by-rai-2.html>

Italian Christians are hurt by the TV Program "LOL" broadcasted by RAI-2 which shows Jesus, his apostles, and a woman at a table having a happy banquet meaning to be the last supper. The wedding music suggests that it was about a marriage between Jesus and the woman, but this misunderstanding clears up when Jesus kisses one of his apostles on the mouth. The broadcast is understood to be a promotion of same sex marriage. Many faithful feel strongly about the images of the last supper, and are hurt by this distortion.

June 2014

France: Defamation of and Threat against a Christian Pub in Paris by LGBT Person

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/defamation-of-and-threat-against-a-christian-pub-in-paris-by-lgbt-person.html>

Defamations and threats were sprayed on a Christian pub in Paris saying: "Today tags, tomorrow bombs" or "Death to holy fuckers". The claims were signed with LGBT.

Romania: Verbal Attacks on Christianity on Romanian National Television

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/verbal-attacks-on-christianity-on-romanian-national-television.html>

In the Epic Show, a one-man show broadcasted on a Romanian national television, PRIMA TV, the presenter attacked violently Orthodox Christianity. In his speech he expressed among other things: "You, filthy pieces of s**t, you want to lie to us regarding the existence of a bearded old man who created the world in 6 days and then got tired"...."you teach our children to cast stones and kill homosexuals"...."when you decide to move your corpses and siege our children in schools to teach them the puke of creationism, wait for us to siege you in your sh**y churches to teach you evolutionism with torches in our hands!"

Spain: Nude Women Chained Themselves to Main Altar of Madrid Cathedral

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/nude-women-chained-themselves-to-main-altar-of-madrid-cathedral.html>

Two nude female activists from the radical feminist group FEMEN chained themselves to the base of the crucifix at the main altar of the Cathedral of the Almudena in Madrid, Spain to protest against the limitation of abortion law in Madrid. They started chanting „abortion is sacred“ etc.

Austria: Left Wing Activists Block Registered Pro-Family Demonstration in Vienna

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/left-wing-activists-block-registered-pro-family-demonstration-in-vienna.html>

On June 14th, approximately 200 left wing activists hindered a pro-family demonstration of about 50 Christians to proceed on the registered route. After the police unsuccessfully tried to persuade the left wing activists to leave, they took their names. Five activists who refused to show their ID were briefly arrested.

France: Vandalism at St. Clement Church in Nantes

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vandalism-at-st-clement-church-in-nantes.html>

On 14th June 2014, anonymous vandals spraypainted the portal of St. Clement inscription: "Help thy neighbor?"

Germany: Vandalism at St. Oswald Church in Traunstein

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vandalism-at-st-oswald-church-in-traunstein.html>

An unknown person vandalised the church where Pope emeritus Benedict XVI celebrated his first mass as a Catholic priest in Traunstein, Germany. The perpetrator destroyed a statue of an angel and took off pieces of the altar. An arm and a foot of the corpus of the crucifix on the tabernacle were also broken off. The motivation of this attack is unknown. The motivation of this attack is unknown.

International: Anti-Christian Facebook Page Hurts Feelings of Faithful

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/anti-christian-facebook-page-hurts-feelings-of-faithful.html>

The Facebook page „Virgin Mary should've aborted“ covers images of the unborn Jesus as an abortion victim wearing a crown of thorns and blood flowing from his side while the Virgin Mary smokes a marijuana cigar. The content of this page is mostly anti-Christian, as well as pro-abortion. The statements on this page are spreading defamation and hatred against Christians and Christianity.

Italy: Pro-Life Christians Insulted by Pro-Choice Demonstrators in Bologna

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/pro-life-christians-insulted-by-pro-choice-demonstrators-in-bologna.html>

The Christian community "Papa Giovanni XXIII" prays every Tuesday in front of a hospital in Bologna to raise a voice for unborn life. At the same time left wing activists try to counter the manifestation by insulting their religion and singing so

loudly that the prayers cannot be heard by others. The attacks happen frequently on Tuesdays when Christians gather to pray in front of a hospital where abortions take place. The insults include: "Go back to your churches!" to "Away, away, with ave Marie" and hurt the feelings of the faithful and violate freedom of assembly.

United Kingdom: Police Advice 'Record Christian Street Preacher To Sue Them'

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/police-advice-record-christian-street-preacher-to-sue-them.html>

Police advise people to record a Christian street preacher Mr Michael Overd on a video if he makes offensive remarks as some passers-by in High Street were upset when he expressed his views about homosexuality and sex outside marriage.

Belgium: Vandalism and Theft in Saint Michael's Church in Leuven

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vandalism-and-theft-in-saint-michael-s-church-in-leuven.html>

A Portuguese student destroyed and damaged the interior equipment, among these were counters with leaflets, candles, and he also has thrown two stones at the images of Peter and Paul who were placed in front of the main altar. He also stole money from the poor box. An eye witness called the police but the young man was able to run away.

International: US Teacher Documents 300 Cases of Anti-Christian Acts by Gay Activists

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/us-teacher-documents-300-cases-of-anti-christian-acts-by-gay-activists.html>

Robert Oscar Lopez, a teacher for Literature and Classics in Los Angeles, documented 300 cases of overboarding responses of gay activists to opponents. These incidents mainly took place in Europe and the US. Some are directed against Christians, others are more of a political nature. Some cases might seem self-inflicted, many do not.

France: Vandalism of Church in Trebes in Languedoc-Roussillon

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vandalism-of-church-in-trebes-in-languedoc-roussillon.html>

When the sacristan wanted to close the doors of the church in Saint-Etienne in Trebes, he had the unpleasant surprise to find candles cut into pieces and scattered inside the ecclesia. Other candles were used to burn documents of the church office in the baptismal font. This was not the first time Saint-Etienne had been vandalized.

July 2014

United Kingdom: (Northern Ireland) Bakery Facing Legal Action For Not Support Gay Marriage

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/northern-ireland-bakery-facing-legal-action-for-not-support-gay-marriage.html>

A bakery is facing legal action for refusing to produce a cake decorated with Sesame Street characters saying 'support gay marriage' on grounds of their religious beliefs. While gay marriage is not legal in Northern Ireland, the equality commission demands from the directors of the bakery to „remedy your illegal discrimination“.

Poland: Doctor Fired in Abortion Incident for Refusal to Perform or Refer

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/doctor-fired-in-abortion-incident-for-refusal-to-perform-or-refer.html>

A Polish doctor was fired from his position as the director of Holy Family Hospital in Warsaw for refusing to perform an abortion on grounds of his conscience and for not referring the mother to a doctor who would do it. Dr. Chazan was dismissed by the mayor of Warsaw, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz.

United Kingdom: (Northern Ireland) Arson Attack on a Church in North Belfast

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/northern-ireland-arson-attack-on-a-church-in-north-belfast.html>

The Catholic church in Newtownabbey has been a target of several hate crimes already. On July 20th, it was an arson attack. The wooden doors of the church were damaged by flammable liquid.

August 2014

Germany: Muslim Chechens Attack Christian Syrians in Berlin Refugee Camp

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/muslim-chechens-attack-christian-syrians-in-berlin-refugee-camp.html>

Around 100 Muslim Chechens have beaten Christian Syrians in a refugee camp in Berlin, Marienfeld. The motivation apparently was religious hate. Five Syrians had to go to the hospital with serious injuries. 80 police men were finally able to get the situation under control, eight Chechens were allegedly taken to the police station for identification.

France: Vandalism against Sisters of the Lamb in Béthune

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/vandalism-against-sisters-of-the-lamb-in-bethune.html>

On Saturday, 9th August 2014, nuns of the Dominican Congregation the Sisters of the Lamb discovered that a caravan located in their premises that had been provided by a donor for various projects had been seriously vandalised. All of their tools were scattered on the floor, boxes of nails were overturned, there were several holes drilled in the roof, cabinets were ransacked etc. Books were piled under a bush indicating that the vandals were about to set a fire. Inscriptions on the door (their handwriting) give evidence that the vandals were probably young people.

Germany: Christian Asylum Seekers Mobbed by Muslim Asylum Seekers

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/christian-asylum-seekers-mobbed-by-muslim-asylum-seekers.html>

Christians seeking asylum in Germany are reported to suffer anti-Christian attacks in homes for asylum seekers. Victims claim to be verbally abused and beaten by Muslim asylum seekers.

United Kingdom: Travelodge Removes Bibles from Hotel Rooms in Britain

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/travelodge-removes-bibles-from-hotel-rooms-in-britain.html>

One of biggest hotel chains in Britain, Travelodge, has decided to remove Bibles from the hotel rooms to avoid upsetting non-Christians. Travelodge bases its decision on 'diversity reasons' and explains that the country has become increasingly multicultural.

France: Theft of Consecrated Hosts at a Pilgrims' Hostel in La Roche-sur-Foron

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/theft-of-consecrated-hosts-at-a-pilgrims-hostel-in-la-roche-sur-foron.html>

The renowned Christian pilgrims' hostel Benite-Fontaine in La Roche-sur-Foron in France was burglarized during the night from 16th to 17th August 2014. Bottles of communion wine were drunk and the consecrated hosts were stolen from the tabernacle.

Belgium: Church in Liege Repeatedly Vandalized

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-in-liege-repeatedly-vandalized.html>

The Saint-Pierre Church of the Province and the Diocese of Liege in Belgium was vandalized again. Stones were

thrown through the windows of the church breaking ten of them. A trunk with candle offerings was also broken again.

Belgium: St-Pierre Church in Liege Vandalized Again

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/st-pierre-church-in-liege-vandalized-again.html>

Saint-Pierre Church of the province and the Diocese of Liege in Belgium was vandalized once more. Stones were thrown into the windows of the church and ten of them have been broken. Beside, a trunk with candle offerings was broken into.

Austria: Vandalism of a Statue of Christ in Krems

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/vandalism-of-a-statue-of-christ-in-krems.html>

An unidentified vandal destroyed a Calvary statue of Christ on the Mount of Olives of 200 kg weight in the Piaristen church in Krems. The damage amounts to 5.000 Euro. A similar act of vandalism took place 9 years ago, when a vandal was caught and condemned by court.

September 2014

United Kingdom: Marriage Registrar Dismissed for Refusing to Perform Same-sex Ceremony But Subsequently Reinstated

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/marriage-registrar-dismissed-for-refusing-to-perform-same-sex-ceremony-but-subsequently-reinstated.html>

A Christian registrar was dismissed for indicating she would not be willing to perform same-sex marriages. Finally, she was reinstated after a successful appeal in which it was ruled that her employer had failed to take a "balanced view" of her religious beliefs.

Austria: Vandalism and Death Threats at Church in Leoben

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/vandalism-and-death-threats-at-church-in-leoben.html>

The Stadtpfarrkirche, the main city parish church, of Leoben was vandalised and damaged in the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 2nd. The perpetrators ripped apart paintings, and destroyed crosses and candle holders. The altar was displaced despite its heavy weight, and on the altar cross the writing „death to priests“ was smeared. The parish priest was also personally threatened with the smeared words „Priest go home, otherwise we will burn down your church.“ A woman was identified a few days later who claims that voices told her to vandalize the church.

Germany: Pro-Life-Activists Called "Conservative Dirt" by German Left Wing Party

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/pro-life-activists-called-conservative-dirt-by-german-left-wing-party.html>

The regional council of the Left party in Thüringen (Landesvorstand der Linken Thüringens) called the March for life organized every year by the national association of right to life as „an anti-feminist, anti-emancipatory and conservative dirt“.

Italy: Attack Against a Nigerian Christian Woman

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/attack-against-a-nigerian-christian-woman.html>

A Muslim from Mali living in Italy was arrested for a physical attack at a Christian Nigerian woman in Italy. The Nigerian woman had been threatened with death because she was wearing a chain with a cross, later on she was stabbed and needed to be hospitalized with serious injuries.

Germany: Attack at a Church in Berlin and at Christians Assembled in March for Life

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/attack-at-a-church-in-berlin-and-at-christians-assembled-in-march-for-life.html>

A church in Berlin was seriously damaged because it offered its premises for abortion opponents. Also the Christians peacefully assembled at the so called "March for life" – a pro life manifestation in Berlin became targets of variety of attacks. Several German politicians criticized the event and described attending Christians as "religious fundamentalists".

Croatia: School Director Criticized for Displaying Madonna at School

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/school-director-criticized-for-displaying-madonna-at-school.html>

The Director of a primary school was heavily criticized for displaying a 1,2m high statue of Holy Mary in a hall of his school. It is claimed it infringes the principle of state secularity and the separation of state and church.

Italy: Cross Removed from Cemetery's Gate

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/cross-removed-from-cemetery-s-gate.html>

The municipality of Crotone has planned replacement of the entrance gate to a cemetery. At this moment there is a new gate but without a cross, officially not to disturb the sensitivity of Muslims and other non-Christian religions.

Germany: Pharmacy in Neukölln Vandalized for Refusal to Sell "Morning-After-Pill"

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/pharmacy-in-neukoelln-vandalized-for-refusal-to-sell-morning-after-pill.html>

In the night from 25th to 26th September a pharmacy in Neukölln was vandalized because of the owner's refusal to sell the morning after pill. Pharmacist Andreas Kersten refers to reasons of his conscience. The show window and the entrance room were painted all over by red color, the damage amounts to more than 500 Euro.

October 2014

Austria: Threat to Christians in Graffiti in Vienna

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/threat-to-christians-in-graffiti-in-vienna.html>

A graffiti on the ground on a popular walkers' and bikers' promenade outside Augarten park reads: "Occupy all churches. We will rise." (Besetzt alle Kirchen. We will rise.) This is an outright threat to Christians in Vienna.

Germany: Church Set on Fire in Berlin

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-set-on-fire-in-berlin.html>

A Coptic church in Berlin was set on fire by yet unknown perpetrators in the early morning hours of October 4th. A dustbin was moved to the main door of the church and set on fire. The fire spread from the dustbin to the historical wooden door which was seriously damaged.

Italy: Priest Hospitalized After Attack During Silent Pro-Family Manifestation in Rovereto

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/priest-hospitalized-after-attack-during-silent-pro-family-manifestation-in-rovereto.html>

On Sunday, 5th of October, silent demonstrations against "gay marriage" took place throughout Italy under the name "standing sentinels" ("Sentinelle in Piedi"). During the gathering in Rovereto a group of anarchists demanded that the Sentinels leave and started to attack them. Two people, a priest and a young woman, had to been taken to hospital.

Germany: Arson Attack on the Coptic Orthodox Church in Lichtenberg, Berlin

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/arson-attack-on-the-coptic-orthodox-church-in-lichtenberg-berlin.html>

In the early morning, unknown men pushed and lit a garbage can in front of the entrance of the Church of St. Anthony in Lichtenberg in Berlin. The fire spread to the oak door of the church. Fortunately, firefighters could prevent

the fire from spreading. Nevertheless, the entrance area of the church had been badly damaged.

Sweden: Internat'l Human Trafficking Conference Cancelled Because Organizer Is Christian Abortion Opponent

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/internat-human-trafficking-conference-cancelled-because-organizer-is-christian-abortion-opponent.html>

An international conference about human rights and human trafficking in Sweden and Europe was cancelled three days before it was supposed to take place by the Uppsala University. The reason was an article published in the Swedish newspaper "Aftonbladet" exposing Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers, and their President, Mrs. Ruth Nordström, as a defender of unborn life and freedom of conscience.

Kosovo: Islamist Graffiti on a Monastery in Kosovo

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/islamist-graffiti-on-a-monastery-in-kosovo.html>

A graffiti in support of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the Albanian National Army (AKSh) appeared on the gate of monastery Visoki Decani in Kosovo on 13th October early in the morning. Another such graffiti were found on some of the buildings inside the compound of the medieval monastery protected by UNESCO.

Spain: Anti-Church Exhibit in Madrid Museum

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/anti-church-exhibit-in-madrid-museum.html>

The Spanish museum of modern and contemporary art exhibits a rather peculiar piece: matches with a sign reading "The only church that illuminates is a burning one". This slogan had also been painted by vandals on the walls of the churches all over the country. The matches also say: "Contribute!" and there is a picture of a church in flames on the box of matches.

November 2014

United Kingdom: Pensioner Dismissed from Red Cross After Protesting Same-sex Marriage

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/pensioner-dismissed-from-red-cross-after-protesting-same-sex-marriage.html>

71-years-old Bryan Barkley was dismissed from the British Red Cross after his one-man protest in front of his church holding a placard saying "No same sex marriage" and "No redefinition of marriage". His views were found incompatible with the principles of impartiality and neutrality of Red Cross.

France: Topless Protest in the Strasbourg Cathedral against Visit of Pope in the European Parliament

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/topless-protest-in-the-strasbourg-cathedral-against-visit-of-pope-in-the-observatory>

An activist of the feminist group "Femen" climbed the altar in Strasbourg's cathedral topless and waved the EU flag. The words "Anti-Secular Europe," were written across her breasts, and "The Pope is Not a Politician" on her back.

Germany: Christmas Market Named "Winter Festival" by Law in Kreuzberg, Berlin

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christmas-market-named-winter-festival-by-law-in-kreuzberg-berlin.html>

Local Parliament in Kreuzberg district of Berlin states that "The district office agrees upon a principle that, there is no permission to be granted for the events of religious communities in the public space". As a result, the previously called "Weihnachtmarkt" (Christmas market) is from now on to be called "Winterfest" (winter festival).

December 2014

Austria: Services in St. Stephan's Cathedral Interrupted by Protest

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/services-in-st-stephans-cathedral-interrupted-by-protest.html>

When Cardinal Schönborn was about to read the gospel in the liturgy of festivity of December 8th in St. Stephan's cathedral, a performance artist stepped in front of the altar for a minute of silence dressed in read. Afterwards he marched out of the church together with about 20 activists to hand out leaflets picturing a naked nun eating icecream to protest celibacy. Police investigate on grounds of a violation of freedom of religious practice.

Austria: Wayside Cross Motersawed by Muslim

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/wayside-cross-motersawed-by-muslim.html>

An old wayside crucifix with corpus was cut down with a motor saw in Groß-Enzersdorf, Lower Austria. A Muslim of Egyptian origin whose property was located close to the cross said that he it had „annoyed him“. The cross had been a destination for pilgrimages for over 60 years.

Germany: Rioting at Christmas Service at Catholic Church in Rheydt

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/rioting-at-christmas-service-at-catholic-church-in-rheydt.html>

Four children and one teenager rioted at a Christmas service at Our Lady's Catholic church in Rheydt close to

Mönchengladbach. They entered the service and yelled: „Scheiß-Christen“ (shit Christians). Several news outlets reported that the congregation had identified the youth as young Muslim.

France: Devastation of the Nativity Scene in Pecq

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/devastation-of-the-nativity-scene-in-pecq.html>

The Nativity Scene at the parish church of St. Wandrille in Pecq was severely vandalized by unknown perpetrators. The Holy Family and the cradle were stolen.

France: Church in Aisne Vandalized and Desecrated

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-in-aisne-vandalized-and-desecrated.html>

The Church of St. Hilary of Berry-au-Bac in Aisne was devastated by vandals. The perpetrators have not only stolen valuable things, but also vandalized, defiled and profaned holy items of the church, including the church's tabernacles. The vandals remain unknown.

International: Topless Protester Lifts Baby Jesus From Vatican Nativity Scene

Link: <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/topless-protester-lifts-baby-jesus-from-vatican-nativity-scene.html>

A woman of the activist group Femen disrupted the nativity scene in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. The topless woman had 'God is a Woman' written on her torso. She stole a figurine of baby Jesus which had been unveiled by the pope the day before. The woman rushed to the manger in the center of the square, grabbed the Jesus figurine, and raised it above her head while shouting slogans against the Catholic Church. Police intervened.

www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu
Contact: observatory@IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu

Twitter: [OIDACEurope](#)
Facebook: [OIDACEurope](#)

OBSERVATORY ON
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AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE