EUROPE:
THE PROBLEM OF
INTOLERANT EQUALITY LAWS

2014: CASES OF INTOLERANCE
OR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS
Special thanks to Paul Coleman (United Kingdom) and Karina Walinowicz (Poland) and many others for making this publication possible through their time and skills.

MAIN EDITOR:
Dr. Gudrun Kugler, MTS

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

Impressum:
Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe
Müllwaldplatz 5
A-1040 Vienna, Austria
www.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).

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 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 unanimity makes it harder to find consent, whatever he wills, but that he should not, by any human power, be forced to do what is against his will.\textsuperscript{2} 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 image? 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?

The proposed reversal of the burden of proof contradicts our understanding of freedom and lawfulness. The era of prohibition in the United States, and morally motivated legislation leads to dishonesty and lawlessness. The French revolution claimed that the state would protect the freedom to think and speak as he wants, whatever he wills.

Differential treatment could be legitimized if a judge pays for its existence, whom the state seeks to re-educate with arbitrary morals. Interestingly, it is those who legitimise the state and who 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”.\textsuperscript{2} Interestingly, it is those who legitimise the state and who pay for its existence, whom the state seeks to re-educate with arbitrary morals.

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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{4} 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

\begin{table}[ht]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
Area & Employment & Provision of Goods and Services \\
\hline
Gender & X & X \\
Race or Ethnicity & X & X \\
Religion or Belief & Proposed & \\
Handicap & Proposed & \\
Sexual Orientation & Proposed & \\
Age & Proposed & \\
\hline
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2 Article 4(2) of directive 2000/78/EC.
4 http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/madrid-restaurant-fined-for-refusing-to-host-gay-wedding-reception.html

By Gudrun Kugler
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. In the UK it is a common occurrence that radical lobbyists 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. Despite its egalitarian wording, equal treatment laws create privileges of people can be necessary in certain situations – but the 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.

ENTREPRISES’ GOOD REASONS AGAINST THE HORIZONTAL DIRECTIVE

The Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry raised its voice against the horizontal equal treatment directive 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.

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 companies avoiding 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.”

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

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 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, further 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 …!
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 deliberatley - 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. Why are privileges only bestowed upon a few? Shouldn’t everyone be privileged too? 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 costumer 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. Elder 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. What is not succeeding at the EU-level, is being attempted nationally. The attention of the lobby groups today 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, it is the Swedes who feel most and the Turks who feel least discriminated against.

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.

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) and for life-long monogamous union. 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 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.20

PRINING BUSINESS

In Canada a Christian printing business was sued after it refused, for religious reasons, to photograph a same-sex couple “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.21

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.22

WEDDING-RELATED BUSINESSES

In the US a wedding photography company was sued after it refused, for religious reasons, to photograph a same-sex couple “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.23

Similar cases are now appearing throughout the Western world, as business owners such as florists24 and bakers25 are refusing, on the grounds of religious conviction, to provide their services to same-sex ceremonies.

(B) FAITH-BASED CHARITIES

ADOPTION AGENCIES AND FOSTER CARE26

In 2007, there were fourteen faith-based adoption agencies working throughout the UK, accounting for a third of all adoptions within the voluntary sector.27 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.28 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.

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,29 or they would have to withdraw their adoption services altogether.30 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.31 In April 2011, the Charity Tribunal found against the last remaining Catholic adoption agency in England.32

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.”33

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 that homosexual marriage was not a doctrine of the Christian church as a whole.34 Although the charity eventually won its case, it took seven years and multiple court hearings to defend itself.

ELDERLY CARE HOMES35

In 2008 a Christian care home had its funding removed for refusing to promote homosexuality by including photographically by including homosexual issues.36 As a result, the local Council revoked the licence for hosting homosexual couples, meaning that homosexual marriages could no longer take place at the castle. 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 amounted to £220,000 per year and as a result, the Earl has had to sell off family items to make up the deficit.37

(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 Hatter Support Group for Gays and Lesbians after the University dismissed a student for engaging in homosexual relationships;
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,47 the Court of Appeal emphasised that the newly enacted non-discrimination laws relating to the provision of goods and services only served to re-erect the position of the secular employer over the employee who sought to act on their religious convictions.48

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 legislature in a modern society, include outlawing discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation, subject only to very limited exceptions.”49 Therefore the Court held that “it is simply unlawful for Ms Ladele to refuse to perform the duties of her position could easily have been accommodated as same-sex civil 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, case, specific rights, etc. Follow the Observatory on Facebook and Twitter to be notified about new cases (Twitter: OIDACEurope, Facebook: OIDACEurope).

http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/advanced-search.html

January 2014

Belgium: Nativity Scene Vandalised in Hainaut

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

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

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 = Dictatura” (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

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 statues of St Theres 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 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

Every first Saturday of the month, five Muslim men from the Islamic Cultural Bureau of Switzerland (IZIS) 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

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.

Italy: Theft and Vandalism in Church in Palaisa

The parish church of Villa Saletta in Palaisa 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

A Swedish midwife did not get a job she was promised because of her “wrong view” regarding abortion. The woman who worked at Hälsingland Hospital in Umeå 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

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

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

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

A cemetery in the district of Pölling 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

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

France: Church in Haute-Saône Targeted by Vandalism

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

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 Florelli where a statue depicting St. Joseph was destroyed.

France: Chapel Vandalised in Schlirbach, Alsace

February 2014, France. Vandals attacked the Chapel of Our Lady of the Valley of Tears in Schlirbach 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

Theves brazenly entered the church of San Pietro della Lecca 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

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 estimated more than 12,000 euros. The tabernacle was also vandalised and the chalice and consecrated hosts stolen.

France: Church Vandalised for the Third Time in January

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

Three Feminists 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 Charlieu-Mézières

Dozens of candles were burned and destroyed, three chairs were broken and urine left by vandals in the church of Saint-Remi in Charlieu-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

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 estimated more than 12,000 euros. The tabernacle was also vandalised and the chalice and consecrated hosts stolen.

France: Church Statue Vandalised in Beaumont-du-Périgord

February 2014

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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: Criminal Investigations Opened Against Cardinal For Mentioning Treatment Options for Homosexuals
Link: http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.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”.

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Spain: Pro-Choice Group Disrupts Catholic Liturgy in Palma

A group of 30 young activists interrupted a Catholic service in the Church of Sant 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.”

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

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.
United Kingdom: Elderly Street Preacher Falsely Arrested and Assualted by Police

73-year-old Bill Edwards was ordered by a police constable to stop preaching outside the Magistrates Court House in Barlinny 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

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: Tabernacle in the French city of Mulhouse was broken into,

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.

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

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 Legitimisation of Threatening and Exclusion, Says David Quinn

David Quinn, director of the Iona Institute, says-david-quinn.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 means to Christian, 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

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

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: Church in Rennes Target of Shaving Cream Graffiti

On 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

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: Propaganda Film Offensive to Christians

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

He was denied a job at a country house 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 for work previously he had found 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 Pléhédel Vandalised

A church in Pléhédel, Brittany, was vandalised on Sunday, March 24th. 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


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

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


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


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


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


A series of vandalism 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


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


“Robbers” entered the Church of Sacré-Cœur in Lourdes sometime during the right 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


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 dîtes”, 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


The Cinéma National Populaire (CNP) canceled a showing and debate with the Swiss producer Philippe Decouroux 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 Decouroux, the CNP thought the film to be an attempt of Christian "protestantism”.

Austria: Four Churches in Vienna Heavily Vandalised

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 (Neuubau) were vandalised. The spokesperson of the diocese said that the attacks have never before been so hard.

France: Catholic Private School Graffitied in Périgueux


The Catholic private school Saint-Jean de Périgueux was graffitied with the phrase, “Quand je serai grande, je serai gogne” 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


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 Hâvre Vandalised


St. Martin’s Church in Hâvre 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 Tébess Reproached for Wearing a Cross


One of the officials working at a voting station in the town of Tébess, 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/last-supper-represented-offensively-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 Mureș Targeted for Graffiti


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

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


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.
**April 2014**

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


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**


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**


Bibin’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, “Catholic is Hitler.” Implying that a Catholic is like Hitler.

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


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 publicly 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**


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 plunger 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**


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 box, but most importantly, the tabernacle was opened and the ciborium tampered with.

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


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, three 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**


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 disciplined 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 Hvisvæl**


A 48-year-old Christian convert seeking asylum in Denmark wasknifed several times by an unknown assailant in the kitchen of the Asylum center in Hvisvaell. 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**


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**


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 on Good Friday, the other times on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

**Switzerland: Church Vandalised in Region of Neuchâtel**


A church in Chaux-de-Fonds in the region of Neuchâtel was vandalised during the railway by a man who damaged the organ, destroyed the Easter decorations, and ripped up the prayer books scattered on the floor. The police was able to catch them because of the traces of their shoes.

**France: Muslim Disrupts Easter Mass**


In the region of Jura, France, during a celebration of Easter Mass in the community of Notre Dame de Dole, a Muslim entered, and put 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 Locmari**


Near the entrance to the chapel of Locmari, 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 Sècher, filed a complaint with the local authorities.

**France: Church in Villers-Cottetrots Robbed**


On returning from the Easter Vigil, the local priest in Villers-Cottetrots discovered that someone had forced entry into the church. The sacristy was in disarray, and the poor box had been recently emptied.

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


A group called KUL, founded in 2009 by Christian youth organisations, has written a letter to the Government in ljubljana to question whether or not such attempts will be successful in future years.
Zoran Janković violating human rights and promoting intolerance against Christians in Slovenia?" after Zoran Janković violating human rights and promoting intolerance against Christians in Slovenia?" after Zoran Janković violating human rights and promoting intolerance against Christians in Slovenia?" after Zoran Janković violating human rights and promoting intolerance against Christians in Slovenia?”. The man was found guilty in April while the monument was being cleaned, but rest silent as to the origin of this act of vandalism.

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

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

France: Church of Saint-Michel Vandalised in Lomé/Miquel’ (Bretagne)


On the 30th of April, in the afternoon, the church of Saint-Michel in Lomé/Miquel’ 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


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.

France: Chain Store Uses Christian Symbol With Offensive Twist


The chain store “Camping” (Camer) 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 streetfront 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: Anarchist Attack on Church in Vorarlberg


Unknown offenders started a fire at the entrance of the church in Vorarlberg. At 1:30 a.m 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


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: Bassica of St-Sernin in Toulouse vandalised


The Basílica de St. Sernin was defaced 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 Basílica. The CREW G2M is already known in Toulouse since 2010, the Basílica was also sprayed in March.

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


According to Senator Guido de Padt, the Minister of the Interior Jollee Miquet 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: Basílica of St. Nicolas in Nantes Vandalized Again


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

Germany: St. George and Catharine Church Vandalised in Traunstein


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


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


Two adolescents at the age of 14 and 15 were caught vandalizing a Catholic church. They broke the paschal candle, pulled off 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


The association “White cross” (Welles 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


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 suggest 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.

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


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.intoleranceagainstchristians.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. S**t... You teach our children to cast stones and kill homosexuals..." "When you decide to move your corpses and seize our children in schools to teach them the puke of creationism, wait for us to siege you in your corpses and violate freedom of assembly."

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

Link: http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.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 Professional Family Demonstration in Vienna


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


On 14th June 2014, anonymous vandals sprayed paint the portal of St. Clement inscription: “Help thy neighbor!”

Germany: Vandalism at St. Oswald Church in Traunstein


An unknown person vandalised the church where Pope emeritus Benedict XV 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


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


The Christian community “Papa Giovanni XIII” 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 Maria” and hurt the feelings of the faithful and violate freedom of assembly.

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


Police advice 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


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


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


When the sicario wanted to close the doors of the church in Saint-Enemie 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-Enemie had been vandalized.

July 2014

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


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 their illegal discrimination’.

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


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


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


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


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


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


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-Furon


The renowned Christian pilgrims’ hostel Beneté-Fontaine in La Roche-sur-Furon 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


The Saint-Pierre Church of the province and the Diocese of Liege in Belgium was vandalized once more. 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


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


An unidentified vandal destroyed a Calvary statue of Christ on the Mount of Olives of 200 kg weight in the Pfarrkirche 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


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 held that her employer had failed to take a “balanced view” of her religious beliefs.

Austrian Vandalism and Death Threats at Church in Leoben


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


The regional council of the Left party in Tübingen (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


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/italy-cross-removed-from-cemetery-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”


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


A graffiti on the ground on a popular walkers’ and bikers’ promenade outside Augarten park reads: “Occupy all churches. We will rise.” (“Beseit alle Kirchen. Wir werden aufstehen.”) This is an outright threat to Christians in Vienna.

Germany: Church Set on Fire in Berlin


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


On Sunday, 5th of October, silent demonstrations against “gay marriage” took place throughout Italy under the name “a bus indicating the “phallic line 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 been taken to hospital.

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


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: International Human Trafficking Conference Cancelled Because Organizer Is Christian Abortion Opponent


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


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


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 exhibit-in-madrid-museum.html

December 2014

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


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 red. 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.intoleranceagainstchristians.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 motor saw in Groß-Enzersdorf, Lower Austria. A Muslim of Egyptian origin whose property was located close to the motor saw in Groß-Enzersdorf, Lower Austria.

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


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


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 “Weihnachtsmarkt” (Christmas market) is from now on to be called “Winterfest” (winter festival).

France: Topless Protester Lifts Baby Jesus From Vatican Nativity Scene


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 figure 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 figure from near him and raised it above his head while shouting slogans against the Catholic Church. Police intervened.

November 2014

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


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: Devastation of the Nativity Scene in Pecq


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


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


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 figure 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 figure, and raised it above his head while shouting slogans against the Catholic Church. Police intervened.

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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.

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