

Morality Forum Update

Standing up for family values in society

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A NEW CHARTER FOR MARRIAGE:

Reconsidering the Foundations of Marriage for 21st Century Secular and Multifaith Britain

By Don Trubshaw

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

In this document we intend to set out a view on the place and nature of marriage, in light of our conviction that it is the foundation stone of family life and a fundamental institution of civilisation in every culture and every age. We do so in the face of fifty years of decline of marriage in the UK and in other Western countries, believing that this trend should be reversed and that the state, religious bodies, schools, voluntary organisations and other social institutions have an important role in this reversal. We believe that the decline of marriage has contributed and continues to contribute significantly to the social troubles of our time, such as family breakdown, abuse of partners and children, poverty, illiteracy, innumeracy and inarticulacy, low educational attainment and hence employability, abuse of alcohol and other substances, delinquency and crime in general, depression, poor health and lower life expectancy in advanced countries, amongst other things. The growing number of low-occupancy households also contributes to the housing shortage and therefore has an environmental consequence. Believing that marriage has innumerable advantages for individuals and societies, we want to clarify what marriage is and should be, and explain its importance in human society, particularly as the UK government is proposing to accord the same status to couples in civil partnerships as married couples presently enjoy. The need for clarification in this area of human life also comes from the potential conflict

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Media Standards

The Jimmy Savile scandal has highlighted the declining standards at the BBC over the past decades. It is surely poetic justice that the BBC is facing such criticism. There is still far too much gratuitous sex, violence and bad language on all the TV channels. There is a so-called comedy programme on the BBC called *Mrs. Brown's Boys*. The 'f' word is frequently used on this programme which is broadcast at 9:30 pm on Monday evenings. The audiences can be heard roaring with laughter every time the 'f' word is used! Other programmes which have been strongly criticized recently are The BBC programme *Mock the Week* and Channel 4's *The Big Fat Quiz of 2012*. Vulgar jokes and humiliating and disparaging comments about relevant people are the norm on such programmes. Even vulgar jokes were made recently on the Fat Quiz programme about the Queen! In reality it is pathetic that such programmes are made and classified as entertainment. The TV channels should look at the Savile scandal as a wake-up call and stop fuelling the permissive society and the yob culture with offensive programmes which appeal to the baser instincts of people, as well as sending out all the wrong messages, especially to our young people. To make a complaint please go to www.parentport.org

Violent Video Games

A study at Ohio State University has shown that playing a violent video game for an hour over 3 days is enough to increase aggressive behavior. The study involved 70 French students who were each asked to play either a violent or a non-violent game for 20 minutes a day for 3 days. One of the violent games was the best selling *Call of Duty 4*. After playing each game, the students were told the beginning of a story then asked to list 20 things the main character would do or say. Those who played the violent games were more likely to think the characters would react with aggression. The lead author Prof. Bushman stated that: "a single cigarette won't cause lung cancer, but smoking over weeks or months or years greatly increases the risks." There are various examples of people copying the violence they had seen in films and committing murder. The recent

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massacre at the school in the USA was carried out by a man who regularly looked at violent videos. The time is long overdue for action to be taken to curtail the production of gratuitous violent films and video games.

Stonewall

Stonewall the homosexual lobbying group have been warned by the Barclays and Coutts banks that their sponsorship of the Stonewall awards will be withdrawn unless they drop their "Bigot of the Year" category at their annual dinner. Stonewall has been accused of "intolerance and intimidation" by including the award. This is another case of poetic justice as anybody who tries to defend traditional moral and family values in relation to the homosexual issue, is branded as a "bigot" and a "homophobe." by the homosexual lobby. Cardinal Keith O'Brien was one of the people nominated for the "award". He has stated that same-sex relationships are "harmful to the physical, mental and spiritual well-being" of people. Cardinal O'Brien has pledged to "declare war" on marriage equality. The former leader of the Christian People's Alliance, Alan Craig, was also nominated. Mr. Craig has compared the homosexual equality lobby with Nazi Germany by using the word "Gaystapo" to describe their aggressive tactics. Simon Lokodo the Ugandan ethics and integrity minister and Lord Maginnis formerly of the Ulster Unionist Party were also nominated. Mr. Lokodo said homosexual people were seeking to "pervert" children. Lord Maginnis referred to same-sex marriage as "deviant behavior". Congratulations to Barclays and Coutts for taking a stand against distasteful and offensive conduct by Stonewall.

Pornography

Research carried out by the *Times Educational Supplement* has revealed more appalling and shocking facts about the very negative impact pornography is having upon our society. Three-quarters of teachers believe that access to porn is having a "damaging effect" on their pupils. Teachers said that rising numbers of pupils were using derogatory language and that boys watching porn had led to "awful" behavior towards young women. Other teachers stated that girls as young as 11 were dressing like "inflatable plastic dolls" and described pupils who "couldn't get to sleep without watching porn." Children are coming under "lots of pressure to perform sexual acts". The study also revealed that erotic novels such as *Fifty Shades of Grey* and TV programmes such as *The Only Way Is Essex* were also blamed for the increased sexualisation of children. More than 500 teachers were surveyed as part of the study. Almost 37% said that they believed that the majority of their pupils regularly saw hard-core pornography. A further 74.6% said that easy access to it was having damaging consequences for pupils at school. These shocking statistics make it all the more difficult to accept the government's policy on protecting the public from porn. Academic evidence and statistics show conclusively that pornography is a deeply corruptive and insidious commodity which should have no place in a civilized society. A study at Calgary University in Canada by Research Director Professor Violata reveals that: pornography leads to behavioral, psychological and societal problems. "Our study involved more than 12,000 participants

and very rigorous analysis. As a society we need to move towards eradicating it." The government's recent decisions concerning parental Internet Controls in relation to porn sadly fall far short of what is needed overall to deal with the issue of porn in our society. For instance there are around 6 pornography channels available for viewing without subscription on Freeview digital TV. Please write to your MP and Ofcom about these freeview channels and also mention how the government needs to act much more decisively and quickly to protect our young people from the highly negative and destructive impact of pornography in our society.

Letters and Emails received

Dear John, Thank you for the encouraging e-mail of Ann Widdicombe's speech. We would like to write and thank her for the support she is giving for the coalition for marriage so could you please let us know how we may contact her. Thank you. Yours sincerely, George & Pauline Phillips [information was sent]

Hello John. How are you? Thanks for your continued correspondence and remembering to keep me informed... may GOD bless you always. Angie Clark

Dear John, Thank you for forwarding this to us [Update] and for all your support... Christian Concern Supporter Services

Thank you very much for this, John. The letter from Stephen Stacey is really helpful,-my MP (for Barnet) is very much against redefining marriage, and has said he will definitely vote against it. I have written to him a couple of times, and he always replied and said there would be no way he would support the re-definition of marriage. He seems a very good person. However, I might try to use this letter to send to David Cameron's office, if possible. -- I think he needs to know how much people are against what he is trying to do. Thank you again Anne

You are right my friend and I wonder how such Leaders can take part in such an act!!!! Imagine, if this is right? And all the next generation will take up this route, same sex marriage, then who shall have children?? It is a formula for a Disaster; it is a formula of termination to our kind. It is a betrayal to our country as we fail to regenerate. No one shall carry our name after us, and no one shall inherit the fruits of our hard work! It is a timed Bomb. Also the Marriage is to create a family and work very hard to care and provide for it. It is a development of Fatherhood and Motherhood based on Loving, sharing and hard work to provide and support your family. It is a process of developing responsible couples who may sacrifice their time and efforts for the sake of their family. The Family network has been the Foundation of all communities with such strong ties to create a healthy and continuous community. The Biological link is the strongest and the natural link as the Creator of Human Race wanted it to be. Furthermore, our country will be taken over by immigrants as we shall be desperate for their work force more than ever before. How can our politicians act irresponsibly like this? I would like to see what the Professors of Sociology and Human resources have to say about this nonsense? It is truly a huge mistake and we should all March together against it. (From Manchester Islamic Centre)

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between the traditional views of many immigrant communities on this issue and the secular views of a large part of the native population in the UK.

The Decline of Marriage in the West

There are two aspects of this decline: lower uptake of marriage, many choosing never to marry or remarry but to remain single or cohabit; and a high level of divorce. There are a number of reasons for this decline, but chief among these are: 1) The decline of religious belief, particularly Christian belief, and observance has removed many of the theological, moral and social pressures to marry and, once married, to stay married. It has also removed many of the inhibitions and social taboos against alternative lifestyles.

- 1) Greater social mobility means that the support of an extended family or stable local community is no longer a part of many people's life.
- 2) Economic necessity and social pressure to achieve a high economic standard of living means that families have less time to spend together and that their interaction, and even *raison d'être*, is increasingly seen to be economic.
- 3) The prominence of negative and satirical views of marriage in popular culture, the emphasis in sex education on the inevitability of pre-marital sexual experience, the prevalence and celebration of unmarried romance in music, films and novels, all achieve the decoupling of sex and marriage in the popular imagination.
- 4) The economic and social emancipation of women has had a double effect on marriage. First, it has given women the option of a career other than being a housewife and mother. Secondly, being freed of economic dependence on a man has meant that women have come to expect more of a prospective husband than just ability to support a family.

The decline in marriage, though problematic in its own right, has to be seen as part of a larger social picture, which is a change in fundamental values and expectations in the developed world during the last fifty years. Society is more egalitarian and less deferential, and a great many people have come to believe that their personal happiness is a fundamental right. Expectations of marriage and within marriage have naturally come to reflect these changes. The question of happiness within marriage centres largely on love.

Marriage, Love and Romance

The interrelationship between marriage and love is not straightforward and this complexity has expressed itself in all cultures. Marriage customs are different throughout the world, but share in common a commitment between a man and a woman to each other and any children that are born of their union. This commitment is made before a figure or group representing a higher earthly authority, the tribe or the state. Traditionally, but less so now in the West, a representative of a religion, signifying a spiritual authority, consecrates the marriage. Marriage has been seen in every society as a way of regulating sexual desires, not only to prevent the socially destructive power of infighting and jealousies, but also to

ensure the socialisation and enculturation of the next generation through a recognised kinship structure. Thus marriage can be seen to lie at the centre of a complex nexus of cultural concerns. Love is an altogether more difficult proposition. It is said that in some cultures there is no word for love. That is probably not true, but it is probable that the significance and connotation of the term are different for an average Chinese person compared with an average American or Iranian. Just consider the range of meanings that love has within the context of Western civilisation: there is the love that parents feel for their children and children feel for their parents, there is love between friends, love of country and the love of God that mystics speak of. Then there are the feelings, frequently considered baser, such as lust, possessiveness and attachment, yet which are often described as loves. The love between a man and a woman can be like any of these or a combination of any or all, and more beside.

In cultures where marriages are frequently arranged, love is not seen as a prerequisite for a marriage to take place. British Asians, amongst whom arranged marriages are commonplace, frequently state that love is seen as something that should ideally emerge over time in a good marriage. This, though, may be an adaptive idea in relation to the ubiquity of Western ideas and images. For the majority of historic cultures love has not been seen as central to marriage; marriage has had, principally, a social function. Even in the West marriage has frequently been seen as antithetical to nobler aspirations, of calling or of a higher 'untainted' love. But Europe is undoubtedly the origin of the modern notion of romantic marriage. In medieval Europe, mirrored to some degree in other civilisations, a tradition of romantic love began, marked by passion, eroticism, anti-authoritarianism, anti-traditionalism and anti-clericalism, and frequently - almost invariably - tinged with tragedy. Over the centuries this idea has taken root in our culture, though its fortunes have ebbed and flowed according to the social trends, until today when romantic love has become the prevalent mode of our thinking about love.

Nevertheless, there is a paradox at the heart of romantic love. While its very intensity brooks no argument as to its authenticity, that same intensity, which is at one with its inherent rebelliousness, means that it has no context within which it can be renewed save that of opposition to the established order, specifically marriage. Romantic love is, therefore, doomed to be transitory and, as such, cannot actually lay claim to authenticity. The liberation from marriage, achieved under the banner of 'free love', is unlikely to result in greater social freedom; perversely, it is more likely to invite further insidious intrusions of the state into family life as it attempts to prevent social meltdown. This does not mean that the idea of a love marriage is wrong. If there is one positive outcome of the decline of traditional marriage, it is that there has emerged a consensus that if a relationship between a man and a woman is to be meaningful and ongoing it must be based on enduring love or 'true love'. True love is categorically, though, not the same thing as romantic love. For a start, true love must be reciprocated in a relationship between lover and beloved. Being based on feeling alone, romantic love may assume, but does not predicate, reciprocity. Unrequited love is in fact one of the strands of romanticism, though we tend to view it

Standing up for marriage and families

By Rick Santorum

Since the 2008 presidential campaign, when then-Sen. Barack Obama told the Rev. Rick Warren that he supported traditional marriage defined as the union of “one man and one woman,” the president’s position on this topic has “evolved,” and now, of course, has reversed. Indeed, Mr. Obama not only has strayed quite a distance from his original position, he has done everything he can to undermine traditional marriage. What’s more, he has sat by idly while activist judges have decided how marriage should be defined. This is bad for marriage and bad for America. The president’s refusal to defend marriage at the federal level has been an abdication of his constitutional responsibility to execute and enforce the law.

Our nation’s first economy is the family. For America to be strong, we must have strong families.

He has signaled clearly that if re-elected in November, he will continue this abuse of power to redefine marriage. The people of Maryland, Minnesota, Washington and Maine have the opportunity to affirm core traditional American values by voting to support traditional marriage on Election Day, Nov. 6. Voters in those states can join the 31 other states that have voted “yes” to preserving marriage through a state constitutional amendment, honoring marriage between a man and a woman now and for future generations. Marriages have decreased and continue to decrease, and the number of newly married couples is at a record low. Like most Americans, I believe children need both a mom and a dad. If our elected leaders continue to undermine marriage, fewer and fewer children will experience the benefits of a mother and a father working together to create a safe and loving home. While there are many heroic single moms and dads doing the work of two parents, children do best with both parents. Redefining marriage cheapens the centuries-old definition of marriage and undermines the cause of strong families, which are foundational to a healthy society. Like Obamacare, it is the wrong prescription for America.

Social science provides overwhelming evidence of the benefits of marriage to children and society. In what other area of public policy would government be neutral when the benefits are so overwhelming? We know work and marriage are antidotes to poverty. Under Mr. Obama, poverty has risen to historic levels with 1 in 6 Americans living in poverty and 1 in 4 children on food stamps. A 2009 Brookings Institution study reported that if Americans do the following three things, they are much less likely to live in poverty: work, graduate from high school and wait to have children until they are married. Do all three, and you will have just a 2 percent chance of living in poverty and a 74 percent likelihood of being middle income (defined as an annual family income of \$50,000 or more). The president has chosen to neglect the issue of marriage.

There is a liberal logic to this because, as marriage declines, government expands to try to fill the gaps for children and society. No government program can produce the same positive outcomes for children as marriage. Healthy marriages and involved fathers are some of the best poverty-fighting

strategies out there after getting a job. We need a president who will address the importance of marriage and the challenge of absent fathers head-on, because doing so makes sense for our society and our economy. Today, more than 25 million American children, including 64 percent of black children and 36 percent of Hispanic children, live in father-absent homes. In 1964, when the federal government launched its war on poverty, 6.8 percent of births nationally were to single mothers. Research tells us that low-income children without a father at home are five times more likely to remain poor. In 2010, 31.6 percent of households headed by single women were poor, while 6.2 percent of married-couple households lived in poverty. When marriage is not an option, fathers need to step up, be courageous and be active in the lives of their sons and daughters. Children desperately want and need this. I support state and local solutions that strengthen marriage and responsible fatherhood to the benefit of the family. Our nation’s first economy is the family. For America to be strong, we must have strong families. Not every kind of conduct or institution can or should hope for public governmental affirmation. However, the essential role and special dignity of marriage demand the full support of the government. That’s why even when it wasn’t popular, I stood up and spearheaded the debate on the federal marriage amendment in 2004. Many states have passed amendments affirming and protecting marriage since then. It is critical to have judges and justices who respect the constitution and understand the proper role of the judiciary. On Nov. 6, vote for candidates who will vote to give our children what is their right and our country what we need - traditional marriage. *Rick Santorum, a senator from Pennsylvania, was a candidate for the 2012 republican nomination. He is the founder of patriot voices, an organization committed to promoting faith, family, freedom and opportunity. source: the washington times - commentary page b1 - october 30, 2012 www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/oct/29/standing-up-for-marriage-and-families/*



Obituary:

Finbarr Murphy

Sadly, on January 21st Mr. Finbarr Murphy passed away. He was suffering from cancer and had other serious health issues. He was 81 years old. He was a very loyal supporter of the Morality Forum. He took part in numerous campaigns initiated by Morality Forum and other moral groups such as

SPUC and Safermedia etc. Even at the age of 80 Finbarr was still coming out knocking on doors and standing on the street supporting signature campaigns, distributing literature etc. He held strong views in particular about issues such as abortion-on-demand and immorality and he was willing to play his part whenever some issue occurred. He also helped to raise thousands of pounds for many good causes by his annual bike ride which continued even until he was 80 years’ old! He also for many years was a regular participant in the annual Westminster Interfaith Pilgrimage. Finbarr will be missed by all who knew him. We thank him for leading a good life and setting such a good example.



True Family Values
(compiled by **Frank Van Der Stok**,
continued from previous issue)

What is Heaven's Blessing?

A. The blessings of Heaven.

1. Blessings are founded in God's true love, His absolute living for the sake of His children.

2. God's children can inherit them through making their own effort in the same direction of true love.

3. There are three categories of God's blessing (Gen 1:28)

- He blesses us with perfected individuality (a mature, fruitful personality)
- He blesses us with an eternal marriage and wholesome family life.
- He blesses us with a secure, pleasant and abundant environment, physically and spiritually.

4. By striving daily to put the spiritual world above the physical, we can mature our personalities to become complete (living for the sake of others). When Jesus said that "you must be perfect" (Matt. 5:48), the Greek term for perfect means to reach maturity or completion. On that basis, God can bless us as His fruitful sons and daughters. This is the first blessing.

5. We then can receive God's second blessing, that of perfected marriage and family life.

6. This second blessing is the original family ideal. Adam and Eve did not achieve it, because they did not reach individual maturity, the first blessing. Hence this ideal must be recovered.

B. Recovery of the original family ideal through the Blessing of marriage.

1. In 1960, Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon established the first marriage completely free of sin, for the sake of granting this Blessing to all marriages.

2. They are called by God to grant the Blessing upon the marriages of all humankind. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world have received their Blessing.

3. Many are members of the Unification Church. Many are not; they belong to every religious faith.

4. The Blessing opens up a realm of life never before attained, the realm of the true family.

- To participate in the Blessing is an act of love based upon faith. Our faith is that God is working in and through Reverend and Mrs. Moon and that their ministry of Blessing is a culminating step for all religions. Therefore, people of all

religions are invited to receive the Blessing.

- The Blessing draws a man and woman as a married couple into the realm of God's holiness.

- Although individuals could aspire to holiness through religion in the past, it was only as individuals.

- It was never before available to married couples in their lives together, in their conjugal union.

- Hence it was never possible to multiply God's Blessing to the children within the family.

- By participating in the Blessing, the path to spiritual completion as parents is open.

- By co-creating our children with God, and rearing them with God, we share God's ultimate heart of a parent. Thus we can fulfil the image of God, as a couple and family.

- Through the Blessing, and our life to give God's blessings to others, our home becomes God's dwelling place (Rev. 21:3 "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them").

5. The Blessing opens the door to become a True Family.

- The Blessing comes from Reverend and Mrs. Moon, on the foundation of the Old Testament and New Testament, having expelled Satan and inherited God's love, life and lineage.

• By living according to the true family values, based on the Blessing, all couples can inherit this liberation from selfishness, and inherit God's love, life and family lineage.

6. God's true love can blossom in your family.

- The seed of God's true love is planted by the Blessing. It expands throughout your life and is bestowed to all future generations.

• If you tend this seed, by making effort to live with godly love in your family, it will grow and bear fruit in your lives and the lives of your children and grandchildren.

• Our families will become as God intended them to be, thriving in harmony with nature and universal law.

• God, who dwells within our conjugal love and family life, is eternal.

• Therefore, our family love is eternal. We live in heaven on earth and in the spirit world together as families and tribes.

7. Your religious faith is a foundation upon which to build life as a Blessed family.

- If you are a Christian, you already have found fellowship with God in Jesus Christ, as an individual. Jesus ordained Reverend Moon to deepen our relationship with God on the level of the family. The Blessing of Jesus and the Holy Spirit is present in Reverend and Mrs. Moon's Blessing.

• Likewise, every faith has enabled believers to experience God's holy presence as individuals. The Blessing is an added benefit, building upon the foundation of the faith you already have, to sanctify the family.

• All Blessed families, of whatever religious tradition, can attain the highest ideal according to their integrity, effort and devotion. The Blessing is not a cure-all, but an opening to a life of the greatest freedom to reach the ideal of True Love without hindrance.

(to be continued...)(from the book "True Family Values" by Wilson and Pak)(<http://www.hsabooks.com/books>)

The Results of Compromising With Sin and Evil

By John O'Neill

Avenir de la Culture is a French cultural organization that has long fought against declining media standards and moral degradation in France. They recently wrote to every Bishop in France asking them to stand firm on the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church and natural law, regarding homosexuality. This was in response to the Bishops' proposal for "improved civil unions" as being morally acceptable, with the view that this would mean the redefining of marriage by the French government would be cancelled. Avenir de la Culture find the Bishops' proposal for "improved civil unions" as being morally unacceptable and very damaging.

The Catholic doctrines consider homosexual acts as being grave depravations and intrinsically disordered. AdIC believe that the Bishops are sending out all the wrong messages to their churches and should be speaking out in defence of traditional Catholic teachings on the subject of homosexuality, stating: "Are we not disciples of a Master who commanded us not to place a candle under a bushel and Who sent us to preach from the rooftops".

History shows conclusively that you cannot compromise with sin and evil. Evil ideologies and standards may be predominant for a certain time but eventually will be defeated. Studies by various historians such as Professor J. D. Unwin from Cambridge University and Arnold Toynbee show that without a strong moral code being predominant in any society, based on traditional moral and spiritual values, decline and eventually destruction is inevitable.

Oliver Letwin, Minister of State at the Cabinet Office has stated that when the redefining of marriage takes place in the UK, the Conservatives will lose around 25% of their voters who believe in traditional marriage and family values. The Party expects to gain enough new voters based on their "modernizing" and "progressive" policies, thus enabling them to obtain a majority at the next election. The government has acted in a very devious and underhand manner in the way they have used the homosexual issue to try to obtain more voters. This matter was not mentioned in either of the manifestoes of the Tories or the Lib-Dems. Also, the so-called consultation was a sham, because the government plans to steamroller the legislation through parliament whatever the opposition. Integrity and principles are put aside in the lust for power. It is very clear that homosexual relationships are against the natural moral order in the creation and also violate the relevant spiritual laws concerning such relationships. In the short term it may seem to be a wise and PC thing for the Conservatives to back the homosexual agenda. However, in the long term such a policy is ultimately destined to fail as is the entire homosexual agenda. Various acts of parliament have been passed in recent times in support of the homosexual agenda. Each of these acts should have been strongly opposed (not least for the well-being and protection of our homosexual brothers and sisters!) and we now face the appalling prospect of the redefining of marriage, just to suit a small minority of people. "Homosexual couples make up only 0.2% of households" (Government statistics, 2003) It is only recently here in the UK that key religious leaders have been speaking out very vocally and unequivocally, against the perverse idea of the idea of the meaning of marriage being redefined. Other key issues which should have been strongly challenged over the past decades include immorality, especially in relation to por-

nography and abortion-on-demand etc. It is never God's intention that mankind suffers. However if we ignore God's moral and spiritual laws we end up paying the price. It is therefore vital that before evil starts to predominate it is challenged. This is a very important and key point. You cannot make compromises with sin and evil. ***"A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within."*** - Ariel Durant



The following information is from 'The Family Watch'. "We see what the UN is trying to teach children across the world, and it is so ugly and so twisted and sick that we can't even print

it. We sometimes lay awake at night coming up with strategies to stop the aggressive sexual rights activists who are using the UN and school systems across the world to corrupt our children with destructive ideas and worldviews. We have seen the rich Western countries pressuring and even blackmailing the developing countries into advancing promiscuous sexual lifestyles through laws and policies that undermine the family and destroy the innocence of children. And many times we have been able to stop them in their tracks! We have found that when we shine light on darkness, the darkness cannot abide the light. Most people in the world are good, and when they really understand the underlying agenda that is being promoted, they will fight back against it. A great deal of our work is just bringing to light the hidden plans and agendas of sexual rights activists. The abortion agenda that we confront on a regular basis is also ugly. If men and women really understood what happens to an unborn child during an abortion and the gruesome procedure it entails, I believe many women would choose life instead. The abortion agenda at the UN is becoming even more blatant, and we need to be prepared to stop it from advancing further at a number of UN conferences in 2013."

Let us all pray for the success of the brilliant work being done by moral organizations such as The Family Watch. Prayer and repentance are very key components in the battle for Godly values to be predominant again in all relevant nations. Key prayer point: That a religious ethos will again become prevalent in our nation. I would like to quote again the deeply meaningful and relevant words from St. Augustine: "Pray as though everything depends on God. Act as though everything depends on you." If we all try our best to follow these words from St. Augustine we shall each surely have a very successful 2013. I sincerely hope that is the case.

Morality Forum Action

The Sex Education Bulletins from SPUC continue to be distributed to parents and religious organisations. The latest excellent Autumn edition of these Bulletins is now available. The Coalition for Marriage leaflets and petition forms continue to be distributed also. To order the CfM leaflets and petition forms and the sex education Bulletins, contact SPUC: Tel: 02070917091 Email: information@spuc.org.uk The Safermedia petition forms to protect children from online pornography also continue to be distributed. To order these forms contact Safermedia: office@safermedia.org.uk Tel: 02084676452. All the relevant items from both organisations are sent free of charge, but donations are always welcomed.

Legalized prostitution significantly increases human sex trafficking: study

By Thaddeus Baklinski

LONDON, UK, December 12, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A study of the impact of legalized prostitution has found that countries where prostitution is legal experience larger reported human trafficking inflows than countries in which prostitution is prohibited. Professor Eric Neumayer of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a team of researchers analyzed data on human trafficking from a global sample of 116 countries in order to determine what effect a country's domestic policy on prostitution has on trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. The authors described international human trafficking as "one of the dark sides of globalization," where the victims, the vast majority of whom are women and girls, end up being sexually exploited through prostitution. Domestic policy on prostitution in countries of destination, the researchers found, has "a marked effect." "Most victims of international human trafficking are women and girls coerced into the sex industry abroad," said Professor Neumayer. "We wanted to find out if legalized prostitution increases or reduces demand for trafficked women." The researchers considered two opposing economic theories that could come into play to support their findings: the "scale effect" where legalized prostitution leads to an expansion of the prostitution market, thus increasing human trafficking, and the "substitution effect" that reduces demand for trafficked women as legal prostitutes are favored over trafficked ones. "One theory is that legalized prostitution reduces demand because legally residing prostitutes are favoured over trafficked ones after legalization," Professor Neumayer wrote. "However, our research suggests that in countries where prostitution is legalized, there is such a significant expansion of the prostitution market that the end result is larger reported inflows of human trafficking. While legalizing prostitution can have positive effects on the working conditions of those legally employed in the industry, it also appears to boost the market for this fast-growing global criminal industry."

The research team identified the contrasting domestic policies on prostitution of Sweden, Germany and Denmark as significant examples that were representative of their conclusions. In 1999 Sweden passed legislation that criminalized the buying of sex, and decriminalized the selling of sex. The principle behind this legislation is clearly stated in the government's literature on the law: "In Sweden prostitution is regarded as an aspect of male violence against women and children. It is officially acknowledged as a form of exploitation of women and children and constitutes a significant social problem... gender equality will remain unattainable so long as men buy, sell and exploit women and children by prostituting them." The legislation virtually wiped out prostitution and sex trafficking in Sweden. The Swedish government estimates that since 1999 only 200 to 400 women and girls have been annually trafficked into Sweden for prostitution, while in neighboring Finland the number is reported to be 15,000 to 17,000. Germany legalized prostitution in 2002. The researchers found that "Germany showed a sharp increase in reports of human trafficking upon fully legalizing prostitution in 2002." Moreover, reports from German authorities have shown that legalization has not had the expected "workplace" benefits

for prostitutes, nor has it improved the situation for German women at large. In 2005, news agencies around the world carried the story of a young German woman who had been told that she faced suspension of her government relief benefits if she refused to take a 'job' as a prostitute in a Berlin brothel. The unemployed woman, a qualified information technologist, had indicated her willingness to take jobs outside her field and had worked in a café. After refusing an offer to work as a prostitute in the brothel, she was told by the job centre that her benefits would be cut off if she did not go into prostitution. Under German law, any woman under 55 who has been out of work for more than a year can be forced to take any available job or lose her unemployment benefit, creating a situation where women can be 'sold' by the state into sexual slavery. The LSE researchers' examination of Denmark, where "self-employed prostitution" was decriminalized in 1999, revealed that the number of human trafficking victims was more than four times that of Sweden, although the population size of Sweden is about 40 percent larger than Denmark. The LSE study corroborates a 2003 study by the Scottish government on the consequences of prostitution policies in several countries. That study found that countries that had legalized and/or regulated prostitution had a dramatic increase in all facets of the sex industry, saw an increase in the involvement of organized crime in the sex industry, and found a dismaying increase in child prostitution, trafficking of women and girls and violence against women.

The LSE authors pointed out that "due to the clandestine nature of both trafficking and prostitution markets" the data that their analysis of human trafficking inflows was based on was necessarily incomplete, but noted that the United Nations estimated in 2008 that nearly 2.5 million people from 127 different countries had been being trafficked into 137 countries around the world. The study, titled "Does legalized prostitution increase human trafficking?" will be published in the January 2013 edition of the journal *World Development*.



from page 2 Letters and Emails received

Symington, Lanarkshire, 5th February, 2013 Dear Mr. Mundell, I write as a matter of urgency in relation to tomorrow's vote on the marriage bill. As your constituent, I am asking you to vote against the bill. I write because I see

redefining marriage as the unraveling of the very fabric of our civilisation. I do understand the need for tolerance and fair treatment for all, but it seems to me that civil partnerships already provide this freedom for those who do not believe that a family needs a father and a mother. My concern is this: has enough consideration been given to the fair treatment of children? While much is made of the rights of adults, this proposed change risks favouring the preferences of individual adults over the most basic life-support needs of every child. It also seems to me that a bill which was not in the governing parties' manifestos seems to be being hustled through parliament, as it were, "under the radar". Would it not be fairer to the people of this country to allow a full and comprehensive review of the implications of this bill? Sincerely, David Fraser Harris. Son, brother, husband and father

Study Finds Children of Same-sex Couples Disadvantaged Academically.

According to the study, children of same-sex couples are 35 percent less likely to make normal progress in school than children living with their own married parents. Researchers said a similar study that claimed to have found no difference between children filtered the sample of children to obtain their result. Family Watch article| *Modified: December 6, 2012 at 12:50 pm.* Countering previous studies that found little difference between kids of same sex couples and those in a traditional marriage, a new report reveals that children of gay parents are 35 percent less likely to make normal progress in school than those living with their own married parents. Based on the largest sample to date for such a study, the new work from three economists raises anew the impact state laws approving of same sex marriage have on children. The new study provided to Secrets said: "Children of same sex couples are significantly less likely to make normal progress through school than other children: 35% less likely than the children of heterosexual married parents, 23% less likely than the children of never married mothers, and 15% less likely than the children of cohabiting parents." The study also looked at similar scholarly work that had determined no difference in children of same sex and traditional marriages. The authors said that those studies filtered the sample of children to get their result." The previous study claiming no differences between the children of same sex parents and other children had serious problems," said study co-author Douglas Allen, an economics professor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. That study, he said, "excluded children who were not biologically related to the household head, and children who did not live in the same place for five years. That threw out over half of the observations. When we put those children back into our analysis, but controlled for these factors, we found that the children of same sex parents are less likely to make normal progress through school." Allen's study was just published in the journal "Demography." He is a member of the Ruth Institute Circle of Experts, a group dedicated to traditional marriage. The other authors were Catherine Pakaluk of Ave Marie University and Joseph Price of Brigham Young University.

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today as a pathological condition. Secondly, true love, unlike romantic love, cannot be based on just the given feeling or the given attraction. Basing a marriage on that is equivalent to trying to remain solvent while living solely on savings or an inheritance; sooner or later they must run out, depending on how thrifty or profligate one is. True love requires commitment, investment in the relationship and the creation and recreation of the object of love. Thirdly, if true love is enduring love, then it cannot be, unlike romantic love, merely a feeling, for the measure of a feeling is its intensity not its persistence and no relationship can be maintained at a level of high intensity indefinitely; therefore, true or enduring love, as opposed to mere infatuation or inconstant attachment, must also be implicated into a human system that partakes of the universal values of a culture, such things as patience, loyalty, compassion, respect and companionship. No human

society has devised any such system with any stability outside of marriage. If true love emerges as a somewhat complex notion, it is this very complexity, like that of other complex phenomena, that gives it its robustness. At its core, though - and this is where the romantics are vindicated - there is a profound feeling that has both a mysterious and a transcendental character.

True Love as the Basis of Marriage

We have shown that true love needs to be embodied in an institution like marriage. We would also argue that marriage based upon anything other than true love is increasingly unviable. This is the starting point for our view of the nature of marriage: marriage as the context and expression of true love; for even though marriage in traditional societies and in religious cultures has been held to embody many virtues, which we would not wish to abandon, we believe those virtues must now be recast in light of, and based upon, the core value of true love. Marriage as the context and expression of true love reinvigorates the notion of marriage for the twenty first century. It brings together both the traditional and progressive ideas on the love between a man and a woman. This is not a cynical repackaging exercise, trying to make a worn out institution palatable for the modern world; rather, we have shown that, starting from either the institution of marriage or the heart's longing for true love, marriage as the context and expression of true love is a necessary, sufficient and coherent proposition. It would not be going too far to declare that there are no viable alternatives if we wish to live in a civilised society. In the next two sections we describe the principles of marriage and the character of marriage, respectively. The first outlines a just and equitable basis for marriage in keeping with the values and views of modernity, the second the characteristics of marriage drawn from the timeless perspectives of the world civilisations. We hope these prove useful in helping those who are contemplating whether or not to marry, social leaders who are called upon to advise young people on relations, to religious leaders in their desire to explain and propagate their traditions, to politicians who are apprehensive of taking correct but unpopular decisions, to policymakers seeking new ideas on an old problem, and to anyone who is confused about the value of marriage.

PRINCIPLES OF MARRIAGE

Preamble: Mindful of the scientific and academic learning about the nature of human nature and human life, but not limited to this, Applying an interpretation based on the wisdom of the great faith traditions and philosophies to the moral dimensions of human life, Five principles of marriage for the twenty-first century and beyond have been set out.

These principles acknowledge the limitations of the past and the weight of misery that too strict or narrow an interpretation of religious doctrines has placed on human life, particularly on the life of women, in traditional societies and their marriage customs and family obligations. But recognise that these traditions have also generated many virtues that sustain and illuminate the inner life of humanity.

(to be continued....)