

News stories: Freedom of faith, conscience and speech

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Compelled Sexual Affirmation in the School Bathroom

Public Discourse commentary by Gerard V. Bradley

December 01, 2019

The argument against these policies must be rooted in the civil liberties of objecting students and the right not be forced to be the object of another’s sexual gaze. Opening intimate facilities to anyone of the opposite sex imposes psycho-sexual trauma on countless non-consenting youths, and constitutes a form of sexual exploitation.

[Read more...](#)

CMA court cases: Good news and bad news

Freedom2Care blog by Jonathan Imbody

December 02, 2019

Left unchallenged by our lawsuit, this unlawful and ideologically driven mandate would have imperiled the careers of many health professionals, by denying the ability to follow medical judgment and conscience. This court victory now protects the religious freedom and medical judgment not only of CMA members but also of health professionals nationwide.

[Read more...](#)

Remarks at international conference highlight Christian persecution

USAID Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick

November 27, 2019

If we do not want history to repeat itself, we cannot afford to remain silent today when, as President Donald J. Trump said, 80% of the world's population lives in countries where religious liberty is threatened, restricted, or banned. The price of liberty, it has long been said, is eternal vigilance. More recently, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel observed that, "The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference."

[Read more...](#)

These 2 Cases Show Why Trans 'Rights' Could Upend the Rights of All

Daily Signal commentary by Nicole Russell

November 27, 2019

Another [student voiced](#) her concern with the new policy, saying, through tears: "I feel uncomfortable that my privacy is being invaded. As I am a swimmer, I do change multiple times naked in front of the other students in the locker room. I understand that the board has an obligation to all students, but I was hoping they would go about this in a way that would also accommodate students such as myself."

[Read more...](#)

Chick-Fil-A Orders Values to Go

Daily Signal commentary by Tony Perkins

November 22, 2019

This isn't about loving and serving the people who identify as LGBT, which the Salvation Army [has done](#)—and we're all called to do. This is about affirming the LGBT identity and the politics that go with it. Those are two very different things. As Christians, we're called to love—not affirm. "Chick-fil-A made a huge mistake thinking they can appease these people," Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said, "because they can't."

[Read more...](#)

Groups to Congress: Do not cosponsor "Fairness for All" legislation

Heritage, ADF, FRC, CMA, CWA, ACP

November 21, 2019

FFA would: 1) infringe upon medical professionals' conscience rights if they decline to administer puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and sex reassignment surgeries, including on minors; 2) subject foster children to medically unproven treatments imposed by transgender ideology; 3) reduce privacy and safety for females and destroy female athletics; 4) violate freedom of speech, conscience, and religion for countless businesses, charities, and citizens.

[Read more...](#)

63% Support Religious Freedom at Work, Survey Finds

Daily Signal

November 21, 2019

"Most Americans recognize that the freedom to live and work according to our beliefs is an unalienable human right," **Emilie Kao**, director of the DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation, said in an email to *The Daily Signal*. "All Americans lose when the government is empowered to punish citizens for living out their deeply held religious beliefs in the public square."

[Read more...](#)

Gen Z is the most accommodating generation on religion in the workplace

FOX News

November 20, 2019

"We are eager to contribute a new tool for understanding Americans' sentiments towards our first freedom," **Mark Rienzi**, president and senior counsel at Becket, told Fox News. The report lists three key findings: "Consensus in a polarized society, preference for hands-off government approach, and support for a culture of accommodation." The Index concludes that despite culture wars, religious freedom is still important to a vast majority of Americans, well above 70 percent, across political and religious divides. [\[Full report here.\]](#)

[Read more...](#)

Salvation Army 'saddened' by Chick-fil-A's decision

FOX News

November 19, 2019

The Christian organization — and Chick-fil-A itself — have been criticized for their stances toward same-sex marriage, and other issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community, with many accusing the brands of being anti-LGBTQ+. However, the Salvation Army has defended its practices as helping all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation. "We serve more than 23 million individuals a year, including those in the LGBTQ+

community. In fact, we believe we are the largest provider of poverty relief to the LGBTQ+ population."

[Read more..](#)

David Daleiden Deserves Justice

Americans United for Life

November 15, 2019

[Catherine Glenn Foster](#), President & CEO of Americans United for Life, said, "The ruling announced today forcing First Amendment champion David Daleiden to pay Planned Parenthood nearly one million dollars is a tragic miscarriage of justice. Planned Parenthood is America's deadliest nonprofit and routinely generates tens of millions of dollars each year to produce one product: a dead human being. The work of David Daleiden and his colleagues simply reveals the nature of Planned Parenthood's business—that after profiting from the death of a human being, they then profit again by the sale of her body parts. "

[Read more...](#)

Why Black Protestants and Evangelicals Still Preach Politics

Christianity Today

November 15, 2019

"While a misappropriation of the separation between Church and State has sometimes been used to suggest people of faith are the only people who can't consider their values when participating in politics, we know that both our faith and the demands of citizenship require that we bring our full selves to the project of self-governance," And Campaign leaders declared in their [2020 presidential election statement](#).

[Read more...](#)

From watchdogs to lapdogs?

World magazine

November 14, 2019

A commissioner on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is resigning in protest over what she says are attempts to muzzle the panel. Commissioner **Kristina Arriaga** cited a legislative attempt to "undermine the independence of the commissioners" to the point "where I can no longer be an effective advocate for religious freedom."

[Read more...](#)

A Report from the Religious Liberty Front Lines

Christianity Today

November 11, 2019

Luke Goodrich begins by offering a robust, Christian defense of religious liberty. He argues that God created men and women in his image, that he intends for us to be in relationship with him, and that this relationship must be freely chosen. Religious liberty is first and foremost a God-given right grounded in a biblical conception of justice, not a gift from the state.

[Read more...](#)

Despite HHS Change, Christian Foster Agencies Still Fight LGBT Requirements

Christianity Today

November 08, 2019

But while the new policy will soon allow faith-based agencies to obtain government grants without setting aside their religious beliefs on sexuality, the same agencies face growing pressure from city and state governments. Regulations on prominent foster care ministries have resulted in several legal clashes over the past few years, with one case headed to the Supreme Court next week.

"Faith-based agencies ... still need help from SCOTUS," Becket Law attorney **Lori Windham** [said on Twitter](#).

[Read more...](#)

Leave Adoption Out of the Culture Wars

Town Hall commentary by Jeff Jacoby

November 06, 2019

In similar fashion, other would-be adoptive parents may prefer to work with agencies grounded in normative religious teachings — just as some birth mothers may choose to place their children for adoption through providers that share their faith. A biological mother who makes the deeply personal decision to let her child be adopted can hardly be faulted for wanting to know that her little one will be raised in a religious home, or in one with a mom and a dad. And faith-based providers often excel at recruiting suitable adoptive parents from religious communities.

[Read more...](#)

Will Gay Rights Trump Religious Freedom?

Town Hall commentary by Luke Goodrich

November 06, 2019

Now that the law recognizes same-sex marriage, conscientious objectors are asking for the same kind of protection. They argue that religion is a core aspect of human identity and that no one should be penalized because of his religious beliefs or practices. Protecting conscientious objectors ensures that religious people are not forced to violate a core aspect of their humanity.

[Read more...](#)

Judge overturns Trump-backed 'conscience rule'

FOX News

November 06, 2019

Sen. **Ben Sasse**, R.-Neb., called the judge's decision "absurd mush." "The point of the First Amendment — especially the free exercise of religion — is to protect the conscience rights of Americans. In this country, government doesn't get to tell you that your faith is fine on Sunday at church but not Monday at work. The Trump Administration ought to defend basic conscience rights all the way to the Supreme Court," Sasse said in a statement.

[Read more...](#)

CMA Vows to Press on After Court Ruling Endangers Conscience Protections

Christian Medical Association news release

November 06, 2019

Today's decision in the court case in which we intervened, [New York v. HHS](#), is disappointing, but the Christian Medical Association (CMA) remains committed to fighting for the conscience rights of the over 900,000 religious medical professionals in the United States. No one should be forced to violate their conscience or sincere religious beliefs. And society is better off when medical professionals who are motivated by their convictions are free to provide quality care without being forced to check those convictions at the door.

[Read more...](#)

New York judge tosses Trump administration's conscience rule

Politico

November 06, 2019

Backers of the rule say it protects health care workers from having to violate their personal beliefs, a sentiment echoed Wednesday by **Stephanie Taub**, senior counsel at the First Liberty Institute, which focuses on religious freedom cases. "This decision leaves health care professionals across America vulnerable to being forced to perform, facilitate or refer for procedures that violate their conscience," Taub said in a statement.

[Read more...](#)

Trump reverses Obama-era policy against faith-based adoption agencies

FOX News

November 04, 2019

Rolling back a last-minute regulation put in place under former [President Obama](#), the [President Trump](#) administration is being praised by Christian conservatives for defending religious freedom with a [newly proposed rule](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that would allow faith-based foster care and adoption services to receive federal funding even if they turn away couples because of their [religious](#) beliefs.

[Read more...](#)

From Masterpiece Cakeshop to Hands On Originals

Breakpoint commentary and podcast

November 04, 2019

However—and this is important—in his concurring opinion, Justice David Buckingham made clear that the Human Rights Commission “went beyond its charge of preventing discrimination in public accommodation and instead attempted to compel Hands On to engage in expression with which it disagreed.” He then cited the Supreme Court’s ruling in Masterpiece Cakeshop, adding, “the government may not regulate expression, either by prohibiting disfavored expression or compelling favored expression.”

[Read / Listen...](#)

HHS Rule Protects Faith-Based Adoption Agencies

Townhall commentary by Mary Beth Waddell

November 02, 2019

By eliminating burdensome and restrictive requirements placed on faith-based providers in the final days of the Obama Administration, President Trump is ensuring that faith-based adoption and foster care agencies will be able to once again focus on helping children in need, not using their resources to fight government attempts to shut them down. With this change, children will have the maximum number of diverse placement agencies working on their behalf.

[Read more...](#)

Global Persecution and Your Faith

Focus on the Family interview with Johnnie Moore

November 01, 2019

So the wife's brother sent a letter and said, "Come back to Syria and come back to Islam, or we are going to come to you. We know where you are. And we're going to crucify you, like your Jesus." And I'll never forget sitting with his mom in the top of this church in Lebanon as she told us this story, but I didn't expect the end of the story. She said, "We wrote them back." And she said, "Our letter said, Come. We're willing to die for Jesus. He died for us."

[Read/listen...](#)

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Laws Are Not Fairness for All

Heritage Foundation report by Ryan T. Anderson

October 30, 2019

Editor's note: Though originally published 11/28/18, this commentary takes on new relevance with the recent development of "Fairness for All" legislation.

In the United States of America, people who identify as LGBT are free to live as they want. But SOGI laws, including FFA, are not about freedom—they are about coercion. SOGI laws are about forcing all Americans to embrace—and live out—certain beliefs about human sexuality. This is one fundamental problem in equating coercive anti-discrimination laws with permissive religious freedom laws. And imposing a bad coercive policy on everyone while exempting select faith-based institutions is anything but fairness for all.

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