



# PUNISHED FOR BELIEVING IN TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE: 30 CASES



# PUNISHED FOR BELIEVING IN MARRIAGE

Redefining marriage is sold as a permissive measure, but it will quickly become coercive. In fact, it already has. Too many people have already been punished for expressing their sincere beliefs about marriage. Wherever marriage is redefined, people are punished for their beliefs.



**Ashers Baking Company**, owned by the McArthur family, was taken to court by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland for declining to produce a pro-gay marriage campaign cake.<sup>1</sup>



**Lillian Ladele** was pushed out of her job as a registrar at Islington Council for asking her managers to accommodate her belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.<sup>2</sup>



**A teacher from London** was demoted to the role of support teacher after she refused to read a story book which promoted gay parenting. The school wanted to promote homosexuality, which included reading books in class.<sup>3</sup>



**All Roman Catholic adoption agencies** in England have been forced to close or abandon their religious ethos because of their policy of only placing children with traditionally married couples.<sup>4</sup>



The owner of **Daintree Paper**, a small stationery shop in Dublin, was driven out of business following a campaign by LGBT activists because he wouldn't display a wedding cake topper consisting of two grooms in his shop.<sup>5</sup>



**Young girls** at an orthodox Jewish school in England were questioned by school inspectors about whether they knew that two men could marry, despite same-sex marriage being contrary to Jewish teaching.<sup>6</sup>



Manchester housing manager **Adrian Smith** was demoted and had his salary cut by 40 per cent, all because he said gay weddings in churches would be "an equality too far". He wrote those four words outside work time on his personal Facebook page which was not visible to the general public.<sup>7</sup>



**Revd Brian Ross** was 'forced out' of his job as a volunteer chaplain for Strathclyde Police after officers complained about comments he made on his personal blog objecting to the attempted redefinition of the "God-ordained institution of marriage as between a man and a woman".<sup>8</sup>



**Elaine Huguenin**, a photographer from New Mexico, USA, was ordered to pay nearly \$7,000 of costs for declining to film a same-sex 'commitment ceremony'. The court said she must "compromise" her views on marriage as "the price of citizenship".<sup>9</sup>



A **Christian Concern** conference about redefining marriage was banned from using the Law Society HQ and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre because they claimed it breached 'diversity' policies. It took two years and legal action before both venues reversed their decisions.<sup>10</sup>



**Peter and Hazelmary Bull** were ordered to pay £3,600 in damages because their B&B in Cornwall had a policy of only allowing married couples to share a double bed.<sup>11</sup>



French Mayor **Jean-Michel Colo**, who has been in office for over 30 years, was taken to court by a gay couple after he declined to carry out their same-sex marriage.<sup>12</sup>



**Brendan Eich** was forced to resign as CEO of US-based computer firm Mozilla after a public backlash against a \$1,000 donation he made to a group campaigning for traditional marriage.<sup>13</sup>



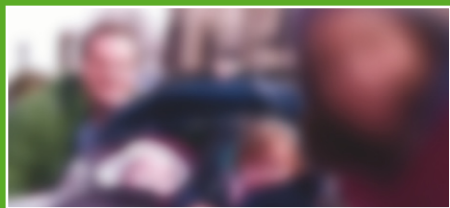
**Mario Conti**, the then Archbishop of Glasgow, was reported to the police by Patrick Harvie – a Green Party MSP in the Edinburgh parliament – after he spoke out in support of traditional marriage in a sermon.<sup>14</sup>



Nursery worker **Sarah Mbuyi** from London was fired for answering a question from a colleague about whether she believed in same-sex marriage.<sup>15</sup>



**A child** was reduced to tears after being berated by his teacher for expressing the belief that marriage was between a man and a woman, according to a report published by the English Equality and Human Rights Commission.<sup>16</sup>



**A couple** in England were blocked from adopting because of their views on same-sex marriage. Only after the couple contacted lawyers did the adoption agency have a change of heart.



**Chick-fil-A**, an American fast food chain, was warned not to open outlets in San Francisco, Chicago and Boston by mayors who did not agree with the firm's traditional marriage stance.<sup>17</sup>



**The UK advertising watchdog** investigated advertisements produced in support of traditional marriage following complaints of homophobia from gay marriage campaigners. The ad showed wedding photographs and a poll result showing that 70 per cent of people wanted to "keep marriage as it is".<sup>18</sup>



**Andrew McClintock** was forced to resign as a magistrate in Sheffield because he didn't believe placing children with same-sex couples was in their best interests. He lost his discrimination case at an employment appeal tribunal.<sup>19</sup>



Bus driver **Arthur McGeorge** faced disciplinary action by his bosses in northern England because he shared a petition backing traditional marriage with colleagues at work during his break time.<sup>20</sup>



**Dick and Betty Odgaard**, a couple from Iowa, USA, faced legal action and threatening phone calls because they refused to rent out their wedding venue for a same-sex marriage ceremony.<sup>21</sup>



Archbishop of York, **Dr John Sentamu**, received hate mail – some of a racist nature – after he spoke out against the UK Government’s plans to redefine marriage. North Yorkshire Police investigated the correspondence as hate crimes.<sup>22</sup>



Former MP and SNP leader **Gordon Wilson** lost his position on the board of Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau after other board members objected to his criticism of the Scottish Government’s attempt to redefine marriage.<sup>23</sup>



**Barronelle Stutzman**, a florist from Washington State, USA, has been fined \$1,000 for not complying with anti-discrimination laws when she refused to provide flowers for a gay wedding. She risks losing her home and business because of the costs.<sup>24</sup>



British Red Cross volunteer **Bryan Barkley** was dismissed after 18 years’ service for holding up a sign saying “No Same Sex Marriage”. The Red Cross said Mr Barkley’s views were not in line with their ‘neutral’ position on the issue.<sup>25</sup>



Marriage registrar **Margaret Jones** was fired by Central Bedfordshire Council because she held to traditional beliefs about marriage. An employment appeal later ruled that her employers had acted wrongly, and she was offered her job back.<sup>26</sup>



**David Burrowes MP** received death threats after he said redefining marriage is unnecessary because civil partnerships already give same-sex couples legal equality with married couples.<sup>27</sup>



**Dr Angela McCaskill**, a deaf Chief Diversity Officer at a university in America, was suspended because she signed a petition saying voters should decide whether marriage should be redefined.<sup>28</sup>



**Gilcomston Church** was prevented from holding its Sunday services in the Copthorne Hotel in Aberdeen because of the church's views on sex and marriage.<sup>29</sup>

## References

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Over **669,000 PEOPLE** from a wide variety of backgrounds, religions and traditions throughout the UK signed our petition.

C4M is standing up for marriage. Visit: **[c4m.org.uk](http://c4m.org.uk)**

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