



CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES 2017/18



PRIORITY #1:

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN AND PARENTS



WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Earlier this year, the Government passed the Children and Social Work Act. The Act represents a major change in the way children will be taught about adult relationships.

Under the new law, children between the ages of five and 11 in all schools, state and private, will now receive compulsory Relationships Education.

Parents will have no right to withdraw their children from these lessons. Faith schools will be allowed to adapt lessons to their faith but will still be required to teach acceptance of all types of adult

relationship, irrespective of whether this conflicts with their beliefs.

Instead of teaching children that traditional marriage is the gold standard in terms of adult relationships, Justine Greening, the Education Secretary, has used interviews to suggest that relationships education will be used to “push on with all of the [LGBT] agenda” and promote acceptance of homosexual and bisexual relationships, as well as transgenderism, to young pupils.

Ofsted also threatens to continue to penalise schools and teachers who speak out in defence of traditional marriage.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The precise content of these relationships education lessons is still undefined. By law, the Education Secretary must publish regulations in the coming year which dictate the scope of the curriculum ahead of the 2019 academic year.

A consultation is due later this year which will give the public an opportunity to have their say on the content of the guidelines.

It is vital that we campaign to ensure that parents and schools make their voices heard in the consultation exercise.


A strong voice for traditional marriage in the classroom will help ensure children understand and aspire towards the type of adult relationship which provides the greatest dignity, security and happiness.

It will also protect children from having to be exposed to a wide range of adult sexual behaviours and relationships at an age when they are not capable of critically assessing the information given.

We will write to all of our supporters once the consultation exercise is announced with details on how to make their voices heard.

PRIORITY #2:

TELLING THE TRUTH ON TRANSGENDERISM



Justine Greening,
Equalities Minister

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The Government has announced plans to make it much easier for a person to legally change gender. This is the culmination of a campaign to promote 'gender-fluidity', particularly to the young.

At present, a person may only change gender at the end of a medical assessment in which two doctors support the diagnosis of a mental disorder. Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education and Equalities Minister, has said that the Government will introduce legislation to make changing gender a matter of personal choice.

Supporting traditional marriage between a man and a woman means opposing biological same-sex marriage. If a man defines himself as a woman and is legally recognised as such then there is still a biological same-sex marriage if he is wedded to another biological male.

Given this, the right of jurisdictions like Northern Ireland to oppose same-sex marriage may come under fresh legal assault if one of the partners in a same-sex marriage decides to define themselves as a person of the opposite gender.

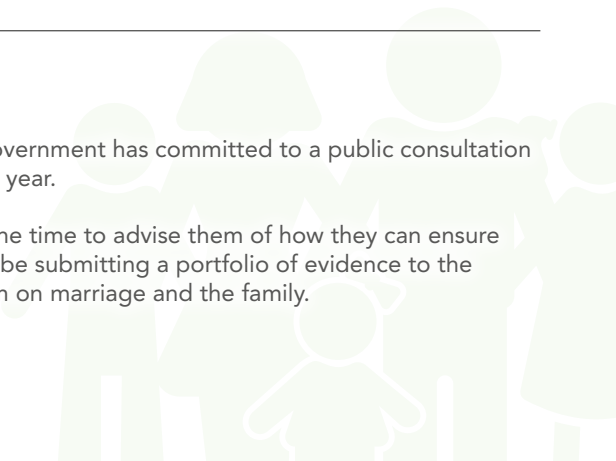
In addition, the promotion of 'gender-fluidity' particularly in the classroom confuses children and usurps the rights of parents to guide their children.

Already there are 800 children in England receiving puberty blocker drugs, some as young as 10. In Scotland, the number of children who say they are transgender has increased 500% in four years. Without a strong voice opposing the idea of choosing gender, we face the prospect of a generation of unhappy, confused children.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

As with Relationships Education, the Government has committed to a public consultation on its gender choice initiatives later this year.

We will write to our supporters nearer the time to advise them of how they can ensure that their voices are heard. We will also be submitting a portfolio of evidence to the consultation on the impact of the reform on marriage and the family.



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PRIORITY #3: HOLDING THE BBC TO ACCOUNT

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The BBC has a legal obligation under the terms of its charter to treat news stories with impartiality and fairness. In spite of this, issues impacting traditional marriage are frequently presented in a one-sided and hostile manner.

On a range of issues including attempts to introduce same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland and abroad, as well as on Government initiatives to promote transsexualism, BBC stories often appear with little or no balancing content, skewing the public debate against supporters of traditional marriage.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Holding the BBC to account through its complaints process is time-consuming and requires a substantial investment in research. However, we believe that it is vital to a fair and open debate in this country and will continue to do so.

We will also ensure that we are providing commentary and speakers on all major relevant stories over the year.

PRIORITY #4: SUPPORTING FREEDOM FROM COERCION

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Our supporters are a collection of individuals, families and organisations who bravely support traditional marriage despite the prevailing political orthodoxy.

We are regularly approached for support when these beliefs are threatened by bullying activists and bureaucrats determined to push a same-sex marriage agenda.

Through our campaigning for freedom of conscience and freedom from coercion when speaking about traditional marriage, we are committed to doing all we can to help defend our supporters and all of those who stand bravely on conscience on traditional marriage and related issues.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We will work with our supporters to help protect them. By funding Coalition for Marriage you allow us to provide help and guidance for our members through our dedicated campaign team.

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