



# CAMPAIGN UPDATE

OCTOBER 2018





## PRIORITY #1: PROTECTING CHILDREN AND PARENTS

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The Government has undertaken a call for evidence on new guidelines which will dictate how all school pupils in England receive Relationships and Sex Education.

The final guidelines will determine at what age and how children encounter complex adult relationships – including same-sex marriage – in school.

At primary school age, Relationships Education lessons will be compulsory with no parental right of withdrawal.

We believe that these lessons must promote real marriage as a gold standard, instead of introducing alternative lifestyles to children at an age where they are too young to properly understand them.

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### WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Our guidance to assist responses to the call for evidence earlier this year was downloaded over 4,000 times.

The draft guidelines subsequently published by the Government included the statement:

*“Schools are free to determine how they address LGBT specific content, but the Department recommends that it is integral*

*throughout the programmes of study.”<sup>1</sup>*

Thanks to pressure from the Coalition and other groups, the Government is proposing that schools are free to teach alternative lifestyles as they see fit.

However making these lifestyles “integral” to the curriculum gives them a misplaced importance and would override the wishes of many parents.

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### WHAT IS NEXT?

The Government has now launched a public consultation on its draft guidelines. The Coalition will produce guidance

for our supporters on how to ask for real marriage to be at the centre of the curriculum.

<sup>1</sup> Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers, Draft for consultation, Department for Education, 2018  
See [bit.ly/2OuwEuQ](http://bit.ly/2OuwEuQ)



## PRIORITY #2:

# TELLING THE TRUTH ON TRANSGENDERISM

## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Governments in England, Scotland and Wales are proposing to change the law to make it easier for a person to become legally recognised as a member of the opposite gender.

At present, a person may only change gender at the end of a two-year medical assessment in which two doctors support the diagnosis of a medical condition. This system guards against spurious or malicious attempts to change gender.

A University of Oxford study found

that one concerning reason doctors sometimes withhold permission is to prevent child abuse.<sup>2</sup>

De-medicalising the 'sex-change' process could mean people changing gender at will, giving biological men the right to enter female-only spaces such as changing rooms with the full support of the state.

This is important for marriage. Campaigning for marriage between a man and a woman means arguing for the fixed, biological basis of gender.

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## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

We have produced guidance for our supporters enabling them to participate in the public consultation in Scotland.



Our contact details are also available to parents and grandparents who have sought our advice when worried about

the introduction of transgender issues in the classroom.

We have kept up a high-profile campaign in Westminster, putting the case for protecting women and children directly to MPs and other policymakers. Our campaigning has been featured in several national newspapers.

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## WHAT IS NEXT?

We will produce guidance to enable our supporters to participate in the consultation covering England and Wales.

Our staff will remain on-hand to offer practical support to parents.

<sup>2</sup> Saunders, K and Bass, C, 'Gender reassignments: 5 years of referrals in Oxfordshire', *The Psychiatrist* (2011)35, pages 325-327

# BBC

## 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 impartially. Yet 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 weaker divorce laws, BBC

stories often appear with little or no balance, skewing public debate against supporters of traditional marriage.

Our role is to ensure there is always a voice to speak for real marriage in the media debate, while also holding the BBC to account when its stories lack balance.

### WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

We have taken a number of complaints on the BBC's output through official complaint channels, going as far as the Executive Complaints Unit.

We have received assurances that the need for balance will be stressed to news editors. We have also ensured that misleading statements are corrected in the material of other media outlets like the

Times Educational Supplement.

In the year to date our spokesmen have appeared on BBC One, BBC Radio Four, ITV News at One, ITV's Tonight Programme (right), BBC regional radio stations, and in the Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph, The Times and The Sun.



### WHAT IS NEXT?

We will continue to hold the BBC to account over its coverage of marriage, ensuring that news and feature articles provide a reflection of the views of the many in this country who retain their belief in traditional marriage.

In addition we will continue to provide a strong voice for marriage in mainstream news outlets.



## PRIORITY #4: SUPPORTING FREEDOM FROM COERCION

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Traditional marriage supporters remain under sustained attack both from politicians and the media.

This year politicians in Westminster have called for the British Government to impose same-sex marriage on Northern Ireland, over the heads of elected Assembly members.

The many parents who object to transgenderism being pushed in schools

have been attacked by politicians of all political stripes as bigoted.

There have also been attempts to restrict the freedom of teachers to express their personal views on marriage through suggested changes to the Independent School Standards regime.



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### WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

We have ensured that pressure is applied to politicians to treat traditional marriage supporters fairly and with respect.

Our regular electronic newsletter to

supporters keeps them up-to-date with our campaigning as it happens and we aim for a strong media presence across broadcast and print media to state the case for marriage.

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### WHAT IS NEXT?

We will continue to strongly oppose any and all initiatives which threaten freedom of speech and conscience in respect of same-sex marriage.

Through our network of political and media relationships we will ensure that these attempts receive proper public

attention and scrutiny. We will also strongly refute any slur on the integrity of those who support real marriage.

Our active support of Northern Ireland's right to determine its own laws on same-sex marriage through the Stormont Assembly will continue unabated.





## PRIORITY #5: FIGHTING 'NO-FAULT' DIVORCE

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Divorce lawyers have mounted a campaign to persuade the Government to change the legal basis on which divorces are granted. This will leave any person in England and Wales free to walk out of a marriage without giving a reason for believing it has broken down irretrievably.

In September, the Government announced

that it would consult on these proposals with a view to making them law.

These changes would be a significant challenge to the notion that marriage is expected to last for life, reducing it to another form of civil partnership in the eyes of the law, one which can be dissolved quickly and without due cause.

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### WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

The Coalition has been the leading national voice speaking in defence of the presumption that marriage should be for life. Our spokesmen have appeared across much of the mainstream media to debate the issue.

We have also produced extensive independent research and campaign materials which we have circulated throughout Whitehall and Westminster.



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### WHAT IS NEXT?

We will encourage our supporters to participate in the consultation, as well as making a submission of our own. There are severe flaws in the method of assessment used by the Government when determining its policy in this area.

We will continue to use our media presence to speak up in defence of the existing divorce laws which, while flawed, do offer spouses some significant protections which would otherwise be lost.