



NEWSLETTER

No 97

October 2022

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EDITORIAL

Pro-life hero, Dr Dermot Kearney, spoke to Family Solidarity about the abortion pill reversal protocol, just before the March for Life in July. A packed room heard about how desperate mothers regretted taking the abortion pills and asked him for help. Dr Kearney has saved many unborn children in England thanks to a medical protocol that was initially developed in the US and has a significant level of success when the intervention is immediate. We also heard how Dr Kearney had to defend himself from false allegations coming from

pro-abortion activists, until the UK General Medical Council found nothing against him, clearing him of all spurious accusations.

We were honoured to have Dr Kearney speaking in Ireland, his homeland, for the first time. Hopefully, his experience will inspire Irish doctors to offer the same abortion pill reversal protocol here.

An audio recording of Dr Kearney's talk is available on our website. He will speak again in Dublin at the ProLife Campaign National Conference, on the 12th November.

Our AGM will take place on the 3rd December. You will find more details at the end of this newsletter. The guest speaker will be Dr John Murray, moral theologian and chairman of the board of the Iona Institute. He will talk about the Synod in Ireland, what has happened so far and what the next phases will be. Family Solidarity has been contributing to the Synod since it was announced but we find the process and the outcomes to date quite disappointing. We have written a letter to the Irish Bishops, which you will find in this newsletter, to express our dissatisfaction.

This is a difficult time for families, facing the costs of the energy crisis and the aftermaths of the Covid pandemic. As the war in Ukraine continues, and the international

community is facing even more sinister threats, we continue to pray for peace.

Angelo Bottone

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LETTER TO THE IRISH BISHOPS

***Family Solidarity* and the Synodal Pathway An open letter to the Bishops of Ireland**

Your Excellencies,

Since when the national and the worldwide synodal pathways were announced last year, Family Solidarity has been actively reflecting on these significant moments for the life of the Catholic Church.

In October 2021, we have hosted a webinar with *The Irish Catholic* journalist, Jason Osborne, on “The Synodal Church of the 21st Century”. Three months later, we organised an online conference on “Family and Synodality: a Call for Participation”, with Sr Natalie Becquart, under-secretary of the Synod of Bishops, and Dr Vincenzo Bassi, president of FAFCE, the Federation of Catholic Associations in Europe. In February 2022, we held a webinar on “The Irish Pathway” with Dr Nicola Brady, Chair of the Steering Committee, and Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick.

After a year, we must admit that both the process and the provisional outcomes of the synodal pathway in Ireland

are disappointing. At the local level, we have seen a lack of enthusiasm and poor levels of participation. Reading the diocesan reports, it is clear that many parishes have shown no interest in the national or in the worldwide synod.

As some of you are aware, no doubt, Family Solidarity was established almost 40 years ago. It is one of the founding members of the Federation of the Catholic Family Organizations in Europe (FAFCE), which now comprises 32 family organisations from 19 European countries. In June, we have celebrated 25 years of FAFCE with Pope Francis in Rome. Our international connections enable us to evaluate issues that are relevant to the family and the Church with a broad perspective.

Nevertheless, while individual members of our organisation have attended meetings in their parishes, Family Solidarity has not been formally invited to any synodal event nationally or at diocesan level. We find this disappointing.

In June this year, the pre-synodal Assembly in Athlone saw instead the participation of groups and individuals that publicly dissent from Church teachings but are well connected to some famous politicians or TV personalities. The views of those who were invited found expression in the National Synthesis.

Focusing on certain issues or inviting certain groups rather than others has predictable consequences for the outcomes of the synodal process. Who is responsible for those choices?

Take, for example, the report of a diocesan focus group. This involved a small number of people who do not accept what the Church teaches on moral matters. However, their view was presented in the National Report as though it was the voice of the faithful. Most of the group's participants did not even consider themselves Catholic.

The National Synthesis does not represent us and it does not represent what we have heard at the meetings in our parishes.

Pope Francis clearly stated that “what is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not traditional truths of Christian doctrine.” Still, the National Synthesis presents the request to change some immutable teachings of our Faith as inspired by the Holy Spirit. This is not only absurd but also blasphemous.

While we remain hopeful that our organisation will be included in future synodal events, we will continue to reflect on this important experience. Our next public event, which will be held on the 3rd December in Ely House in Dublin, will be dedicated to an analysis of how

the synod has been conducted in Ireland so far and of what we should expect from the future phases of the synodal process. We hope you will be able to attend.

Asking your Excellencies' blessing, I am,
Yours respectfully,

Angelo Bottone
(Chairman)

EXPLORING THE LINK BETWEEN FAMILY BREAKDOWN AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



When we see reports about anti-social behaviour and criminality – for example, the ramming of a garda car – no-one ever explores whether there might be a link with family breakdown. It would be surprising if this was not sometimes the case. Plenty of studies overseas have established such a link, but here the question seems to be taboo.

Former American president, Barack Obama, was willing to make the connection. When running for the presidency in 2008, he spoke about the issue. On Father's Day that year, in an address to a church in Chicago, he said: "We know the statistics — that children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioural problems, or run away from home or become teenage parents themselves. And the foundations of our community are weaker because of it." Was he wrong? Might the same thing be happening here? Is what he described playing out on our streets?

In August 2011, there were riots in London that ignited concern about family breakdown and the number of children growing up without a father. David Lammy, the Labour MP for Tottenham, said in response: "In areas like mine, there is none of the basic starting presumption of two adults who want to start a family, raise children together, love them, nourish them and lead them to full independence. The parents are not married and the child has come, frankly, out of casual sex; the father isn't present, and isn't expected to be. There aren't the networks of extended families to make up for it. We are seeing huge consequences of the lack of male role models in young men's lives."

Would a politician from any of the main parties say something similar here? Studies confirm what Obama and Lammy had to say. For example, a comparative review of the scientific literature on the family describes the conclusion that broken homes cause crime as “sturdy”. It said: “Meta-analyses consistently find that children who are raised in homes in which at least one biological parent is absent face a higher prevalence of adolescent delinquency.” (American Behavioral Scientist, Vol. 62 issue 11)

The authors of the study explored juvenile delinquency and found that “those who experience high levels of family instability (three or more transitions) are not only more likely to be arrested, but are also significantly more likely to experience incarceration in adulthood.”

A report from The Iona Institute, called “Mind the Gap: how marriage and family differ by social class”, found that in Ireland the most socially disadvantaged are the least likely to marry and the most likely to divorce.

The report, based on CSO data, shows that adults in professional occupations are more than twice as likely to be married as unskilled workers (65.7pc vs 31.8pc). Does this really have no social consequences whatsoever?

In 2011, David Lammy set up an all-party group on fatherhood, because he was worried the subject was not getting enough attention. In Ireland, it receives almost none. It's time to make amends.

WHY GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO FAMILY STABILITY



Almost half of children born in the UK in 2000 did not grow up with both of their biological parents throughout their childhood, according to a new report by the Children's Commissioner, Rachel de Souza. This is because so many are born to lone parents, or else see their parents (married or cohabiting) separate. This matters, because children benefit from being raised by their two birth parents in a stable, loving relationship.

The report, commissioned by the UK Government, is called 'Family and its Protective Effects'. It finds that while 44pc of those born in 2000 didn't live with both their biological parents throughout their entire childhood, the figure for those born in 1970 was 21pc. It says that 23pc of families in the UK are headed by a lone parent, compared with the EU average of one in 8. Since 2001, the percentage of families headed by a married couple has declined from 65pc to 63pc, while the percentage headed by a cohabiting couple has risen from 11pc to 14pc.

Some children might start life with married or cohabiting parents, who then split up, but then later the mother or the father finds a new partner or marries again so the child is back in a two-adult household. The 2011 census shows that 10pc of couple families with dependent children involve 'step' relationships.

Lone parent families, which are led by women in 90pc of cases, are more likely to be experiencing financial difficulties, according to the report. "In 2020, 49pc of children living in lone parent families were in relative poverty after housing costs compared to 25pc of children living in married or cohabiting families." (p. 17)

Married couple families are larger. Fifty-two percent of lone parents and 50pc of cohabiting parents have only

one dependent child, compared to only 3pc of married couples.

Marriage is particularly strong in families of Asian descent, who also have low cohabitation rates, but 57pc of 'Black Caribbean' and 44pc of 'Black African' families are headed by a lone parent and also have lower marriage rates, compared to the rest of the population.

There are many factors influencing those rates. For example, the report finds that if the mother is from a lower socio-economic group, she is more likely to be a lone parent, but significantly, "religion explains more of the variation in marriage rates than mother's age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, education, or region" (p. 20). In other words, religious people are more likely to be married.

If we consider families with dependent children, 55pc of non-religious households are headed by married parents, compared with 91pc of those who are Hindu, and 64pc who are Christians. Twelve percent of Christian couples with children are cohabiting, but only 1pc of Hindu couples and 2pc of Muslims. Among with those no religion, 23pc of families with children are cohabiting.

The report highlights the protective effect of the family in terms of the well-being of its members and long-term

positive outcomes for children. It acknowledges that children who suffer the separation of their parents are more likely to be disadvantaged across a range of outcomes including emotional well-being and education. It also notes that the impact of the parental separation depends on the level of conflict between parents. Referring to the studies of sociologist, Paul Amato, it says that when parental conflict is high, young adults have better outcomes if their parents separated, but when parental conflict is low, the reverse is true.

This newly published report offers a comprehensive picture of family life in contemporary UK. Its greatest limit is that, while it stresses the importance of the quality of the relationships within the family, it does not give sufficient relevance to marriage itself.

“The quality of relationships between family members is more important for well-being than family structure.”, it says. Yes, but good outcomes for children are consistently associated with having married parents, so perhaps the study is going out of its way to appear non-judgemental. Regardless of that fact, it would be good if the Government here had the wit to commission a similar study because a growing number of children in this country as well do not grow up with both of their parents throughout their childhood.

LIBERALS STILL IGNORE THE FACT THAT FAMILY STRUCTURE MATTERS



In England last year, a majority of births (51.3pc) took place outside marriage. In Ireland, the figure is now above 40pc. Some might say that this is a purely private matter, but it's not true, because family structure is important and the evidence remains that children tend to fare best when raised by their own two, married parents.

This much is borne out again by a recent study from the British-based Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) called 'Family Structure Still Matters'.

It quotes the British Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), which followed the lives of 19,000 young people in the UK. The study shows that children born to cohabiting

parents were far less likely to be living with both their parents by the time they were 5 years old, compared with children born to married parents.

This has an effect on children. As the CSJ reports says: “Children of married parents displayed the lowest rates of cognitive delay; the highest rates were found in children of stepfamilies. MCS children who had experienced family structure change had lower cognitive assessment indicators and higher behaviour problems at age 5, compared to those who had not”.

It continues: “Children model behaviours they observe, and challenging conduct may correlate with experiencing disrupted attachment and regular conflict in the home. Compared to children living with married parents, children who lived in other family types, including other stable families, were more likely to display externalising behavioural problems at age 5, even after adjustment for a range of socio-economic, demographic and health factors. Income, a common explanation for this difference, interestingly bore no correlation with behaviours.”

The issue of family structure is now completely neglected by liberals despite the evidence that it matters. Children born outside of marriage tend to perpetuate the family

structure they have experienced themselves, and this has long-term consequence on society.

“Parents are children’s first role models. Their relationship is the template children will copy. Boys who grew up with a single parent or who experience multiple transitions have a substantially higher likelihood of becoming fathers early, are less likely to marry and are particularly likely to become non-resident fathers.”, says the Centre for Social Justice.

Liberals don’t want to confront the consequences of their overemphasis on adult autonomy despite the detrimental consequences this can have for children. They prefer to ignore this inconvenient fact instead.

GOVERNMENT’S LATEST LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME BAD NEWS FOR PRO-LIFERS

The Dail is back in session. What are some of the issues we should be looking out for in the autumn term? One is the promised “hate crimes” bill which may affect freedom of religious expression. Another, not totally unrelated, is the proposal to ban pro-lifers from holding even silent vigils outside facilities where abortions take place. For now, the Bill to regulate Assisted Human Reproduction

has been paused, but mainly, it seems, to pave the way for international commercial surrogacy.



The so-called “Save Access Zones” Bill is listed as ‘Priority Legislation’ in the Government’s new Legislative Programme. It will ban pro-life activists from praying or protesting or holding vigils near hospitals and clinics that offer abortions. The General Scheme of this Bill was approved by the Government at the end of July. Once drafted, it will have to pass pre-legislative scrutiny and, probably before Christmas, it will be presented to the Oireachtas.

If and when it is passed into law, it will be one of the few such pieces of legislation anywhere. Other countries have more respect for freedom of protest. Even the Gardai Commissioner said that there was no need for such legislation as current laws can deal with whatever issue might arise.

The law will prohibit any activity that might ‘interfere’ with a woman’s decision to have an abortion, from coming within 100 metres of facilities that perform or facilitate abortions. This law was promised by the Government at the time of the abortion referendum in

2018 but it has been constantly delayed because it is possibly unconstitutional as it limits the right to expression and to protest.

The Bill on incitement to violence and hate crime will also be published in the Autumn by the Minister for Justice. This legislation will create new “hate crime” offences when certain offences are aggravated by alleged hatred towards a protected characteristic such as sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, nationality or religion.

The Iona Institute made a submission on the proposed legislation to the Department of Justice, highlighting certain difficulties in determining what is really “hateful”. In attempting to regulate “hate speech”, the law could have a chilling effect on freedom of expression, including religious freedom of expression.

What is missing from the Priority Legislation list is the Assisted Human Reproduction Bill, which covers a large number of issues such as surrogacy, IVF, gamete donation, embryo experimentation, etc.

The Bill has a long history. It was drafted in 2017 and presented to the Oireachtas with substantial changes in March this year. It has now been paused by the Government because the recommendations of the Joint

Committee on International Surrogacy have to be considered.

The Joint Committee wants the recognition of international commercial surrogacy, but the current draft AHR Bill does not allow commercial surrogacy in Ireland. Government officials told the Committee that this would create a double standard if we recognised it overseas but not here.

Commenting last week on the Joint Committee recommendations, Minister of State Mary Butler acknowledged that “The undertaking of surrogacy arrangements in other jurisdictions raises complex ethical questions ... There are also highly divergent views within the EU on this issue, with a number of member states prohibiting all forms of surrogacy.”

This has been interpreted as a suggestion that international surrogacy would not be part of the AHR Bill, causing a protest from those who want us to recognise commercial surrogacy in some form.

While Justice Minister Helen McEntee said that the Government will amend the AHR Bill to regulate international surrogacy, Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly speaking to the Dáil seemed to be less assertive on this issue.

Surrogacy of all kinds, but especially the commercial variety, is extremely problematic.

Overall, the Government's legislative programme is bad news for those who value the right-to-life, freedom of religious expression, and who oppose the commodification of children and women's wombs that is entailed by commercial surrogacy.

IRELAND RANKS WORST ACROSS OECD FOR 'PUBLIC FAMILY POLICIES'

Ireland ranks last of 38 developed countries when it comes to public family policies and second last on parental leave, a new study indicates.

The research by price comparison website confused.com found the average parental leave package across Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) states stands at 32.73 weeks for mothers and 4.73 for fathers.

However, Ireland was second from bottom with 7.6 weeks for mothers and just 0.5 weeks for fathers. Only the US, which has no paid parental leave, ranked lower. Romania came top for parental leave with 92.40 weeks for mothers and 4.70 for fathers.

The survey, which is based on figures from the OECD Family Database, also ranked Ireland worst of all OECD countries for “public family policies”, with the State scoring just 1.05 out of 10 when it came to spending on items such as family benefits and education.

THE COMING ‘DEPOPULATION BOMB’



A moral transformation, rather than social policies, will stop the de-population bomb claims Dr Nicholas Eberstadt, an expert in demography, in a new online interview called the ‘De-Population Bomb’ that you can find on Youtube.

For years we have been warned of the dangers of an increasing world population (the so-called ‘population bomb’), but what happens when it shrinks, instead? This is

already happening in many Western countries, he points out. Ireland has a fast-ageing population. Only large-scale immigration will stop it shrinking in the years ahead.

The United States, for example, was at replacement level (2.1 children per couple) or slightly above up to 2008. This means that there were sufficient births to compensate deaths, without taking into consideration immigration. Since then, the number of births per woman has gone down, particularly during the Covid pandemic. Ireland fertility rate is now about 1.7.

“If current trends continue, the United States would be on a track to shrink 20 percent for each generation”, warns Eberstadt, who a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and author of several studies on demography.

The European Union, Russia and China are experiencing the same demographic decline. So is all of East Asia, lead by Japan.

In Ireland, as Budget 2023 was being unveiled last week, the Department of Finance said that to maintain the current levels of public service we need an additional €8 billion in public expenditure each year by 2030. “An ageing population will involve significant fiscal costs simply to ‘stand-still’”, said a risk assessment document.

In simple words, we need more young people working for the rest, particularly for those who have retired. Ideally, the size of the younger generations should exceed older ones but our demographic trends are going in the opposite direction.

Dr Eberstadt claims that the US federal spending is becoming untenable. “Today’s consumption for seniors is being financed by the unborn”.

One solution is more immigration, he says, but, even without considering the morality of depriving poorer countries of their workforce, this population policy does not always succeed in its intended purposes. He comments on the European experience: “The work rates are lower for the foreign-born than for the native-born in most European countries, the educational qualifications of working-age Europeans are typically lower for the foreign-born, and “non-EU foreign-born” youth are far more likely to be neither employed nor in education or training. The EU’s assimilation problem also looks to be intergenerational: throughout Europe, children of non-EU immigrants are generally more likely than their parents — not less likely — to see themselves as victims of group discrimination.”

In other words, large sections of the immigrant populations of parts of Europe are experiencing

alienation, which often drives crime rates, and then voter backlash, as we have seen recently in Sweden. Assimilation works better in the United States, Eberstadt claims, but immigration cannot be the only population policy to maintain demographic sustainability.

Dr Eberstadt is sceptical about subsidies and tax relief for families. He claims that “incentives to boost birth rates are likely to be costly and to elicit only modest and perhaps fleeting demographic results”.

Referring to the Scandinavian experience, where birth rates are mostly high relative to the European average (but still below replacement level), he talks about the “Swedish roller coaster”, i.e. the birth rate goes up just after a new subsidy is introduced, but then it goes back further below where it was before. What has to be changed instead, he maintains, is the people’s desire about the size of their families.

The best indicator for fertility rates is how many children women want, but this does not depend on economic conditions. Richer people do not have more children. The most affluent and productive society that humanity has ever seen has also the lowest fertility rates. “Children are not convenient. We have moved into a world in which convenience is prized and in which constraints on personal autonomy are increasingly viewed as onerous”.

What is needed instead is a change in values. The desire for larger families depends on the appreciation of family values.

Dr Eberstadt believes that an ageing and declining population will experience the opposite: pessimism, hesitance, dependence, self-indulgence, resentment, and division. We can change the head count with immigration, but it will work only temporarily if immigrants embrace the same mentality that causes depopulation, he says. We need instead a moral transformation so that people are confident and brave enough to maintain a natural rate of replacement for society.

PARIS CONFERENCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE

The demographic imbalance is a reality in all the European Union: no country in Europe reaches the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman.

What determinants can explain this “demographic winter”? At the individual level, what are the obstacles encountered by families in their desire for children?

These questions were brought to the first General States of Birth in Italy in May 2021, opened by Pope Francis. The event contributed to raise awareness on the demographic change experienced in Europe and stressed the need to

develop ambitious family policies. France used to have a higher birth rate compared to other European countries. However, since 2020, the birth rate in France fell to 1.83 children per woman, entering into a similar trend of demographic winter and ageing population.

Nevertheless, for the past 10 years, French couples continue to want to have as many children: 2.39 children per person. One in two families declared they would have had one more child if it was possible. Obstacles to the birth rate are at all levels: individual, within the workplace, economic, social, cultural and even political.

How can public policies reduce the intergenerational imbalance?

How to support European families in their desire for children?

This first international edition of the General States of Birth in Paris (20th October) will gather demographers, philosophers, citizens and policy makers from all over Europe to assess the roots causes of the demographic deficit, and offer solutions for the future of Europe.

This conference is organised by The Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE) and the French National Confederation of Catholic Family Associations

(CNAFC). A representative of Family Solidarity will attend the conference in Paris.

MINDGEEK AND PORN LITERACY

If one were to look at the lists of top most visited websites in Ireland each month, one striking feature stands out. That is the ubiquity of pornographic material in the list. Even more striking are statistics showing that many of the users of those websites are children, some even under the age of 13.

A 2018 survey by NUI Galway found that 53% of boys under the age of 13 had been exposed to pornographic material online. The same survey found that almost 1/4 of girls between the ages of 10 and 13 had been exposed to the same material, much of it violent.

One would imagine that such statistics would lead to a crackdown on exposure to such materials from the government, but they have chosen to continue to allow such materials to fester.

When the survey in question was released, Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor claimed to be 'shocked' but then seemed to imply that it was families and children who merely needed to adjust, stating: "I am absolutely taken aback ... I know normally

politicians say they aren't shocked by findings, but I am actually shocked, and I think parents will be shocked. Pornography is not going to go away, so we are going to have to be computer literate and ensure that young people are guided through what they are seeing. And our beliefs and value systems, that they are able to check-in with their parents and schools to ensure they are coming away with the right messages".

As other nations clampdown on the violent and misogynistic pornography industry, the Irish government seems to be the only one preparing its citizens (especially its younger ones) to adjust to a society where such material is inevitable and unavoidable. Why is this? It could be because the parent company of the most nefarious pornography websites happens to be based in the centre of Dublin City. It also happens to pay a lot of tax.

Mindgeek is the shadowy organisation that is currently facing significant scrutiny across the world for its roles in human trafficking and profiting from videos of children being abused. In the United States, they have faced various lawsuits, with Visa becoming embroiled in a recent one after a victim of child abuse sued both companies for platforming videos of her abuse.

Incidentally, the head of Visa who was named in the court papers is Alan Kelly, who is allowed to hold several high profile church leadership roles in the Archdiocese of New York and in third level Catholic institutions. PayPal had chosen to terminate their contracts with Mindgeek after overwhelming evidence of abuse had occurred, yet Visa chose not to do the same, leading the judge in the case to state: "Visa made the decision to continue to recognize Mindgeek as a merchant despite its alleged knowledge that Mindgeek monetized child porn. Mindgeek made the decision to continue monetizing child porn, and there are enough facts supplied to suggest that the latter decision depended on the former."

In Ireland, Mindgeek is allowed to exist with virtual invisibility, under its various sub-companies such as MG Billing. In 2021, it was announced that Grant Thornton would no longer do accounts for the company after allegations had emerged. Why then does the government allow them to stay here? Certainly their tax bill helps, in 2018 MG Content RK Limited paid \$253,426 taxes on a profit of \$2.1 million.

In 2018, Irish schoolgirl Ana Kriegel was murdered in one of the most violent killings in the nation's history. The Irish Times wrote of how one of the killers had "12,500 images on two devices that gardaí found in his bedroom, the vast

majority of which were of a pornographic nature". It continued: "One image portrayed a man in a balaclava looking at a semi naked woman; another featured a man choking a woman as a second man looked on. The same boy had looked up "animal porn", "horse porn", "child porn"". The same article quote a cyber psychologist who said that: "Exposure to sexually explicit content is associated with distorted attitudes to sex, early sexualisation and the perception of women as sex objects".

Instead of tackling this at the source, misogynistic and exploitative pornographic capitalism, the Irish government is now rolling out plans for so called 'Porn Literacy'. The idea is to give the government plausible deniability when children access graphic and violent material on Mindgeek's websites, by simply throwing up their hands and saying that they told them not to access the so called 'bad content'.

In the United States, laws against human trafficking and child abuse have all been used to crackdown on such companies. It is time for the European Union to do the same, for the sake of its children.

Stephen Browne

FAFCE WELCOMES THE INCLUSION OF ‘GROOMING’ IN A RECOMMENDATION PROPOSAL AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

16 September 2022

The European Commission published on the 11th of May 2022 a proposal of Recommendation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse. This new piece of legislation aims to resolve the difficult implementation of the 2011 Child Sexual Abuse Directive by establishing a clearer and harmonised legal framework on preventing and combating online child sexual abuse. It will tackle the role and responsibility of providers of hosting or interpersonal communication services to ensure a safe, predictable and trusted online environment for all users, especially children.

Following the publication, the European Commission launched a public consultation to gather feedbacks from civil society on the proposed legislative text. FAFCE welcomed the promotion in the text of an “Option E” by the European Commission, which would require providers to detect not only ‘known’ child sexual abuse material (CSAM), but also new CSAM (*“material that potentially constitutes child sexual abuse material, but not (yet) confirmed as such by an authority”*), and grooming (solicitation of children for CSAM). Child sexual abuse can

take many forms, that should all be considered by legislators.

FAFCE wishes to add additional elements to consider when it comes to actions and phenomena that pave the way for child sexual abuse:

- 1. The general negative impact of online pornography on the protection of children**
- 2. The oversexualisation of children**
- 3. Children's self-produced sexual images and videos, also known as 'sexting'**
- 4. Access of children to online pornography, especially forced or unintended**

In addition, FAFCE reiterates its call to include parents and family associations in the fight against child sexual abuse. The European Union should of course work with national governments, the private sector, Internet companies and NGOs, but first and foremost with parents and family associations. They have the primary role and responsibility regarding the education and the protection of their children. Empowering them with effective tools of information and training is the first step to ensure children's protection from sexual violence. Parents and family associations should thus be consulted at all stages of the development of any EU legislation impacting children.

Thank you all who have paid their subscriptions and made donations to further our aims. We have put a return envelope with a subscription slip with all copies of the Newsletter as it is simpler than selecting those from whom we have not heard.

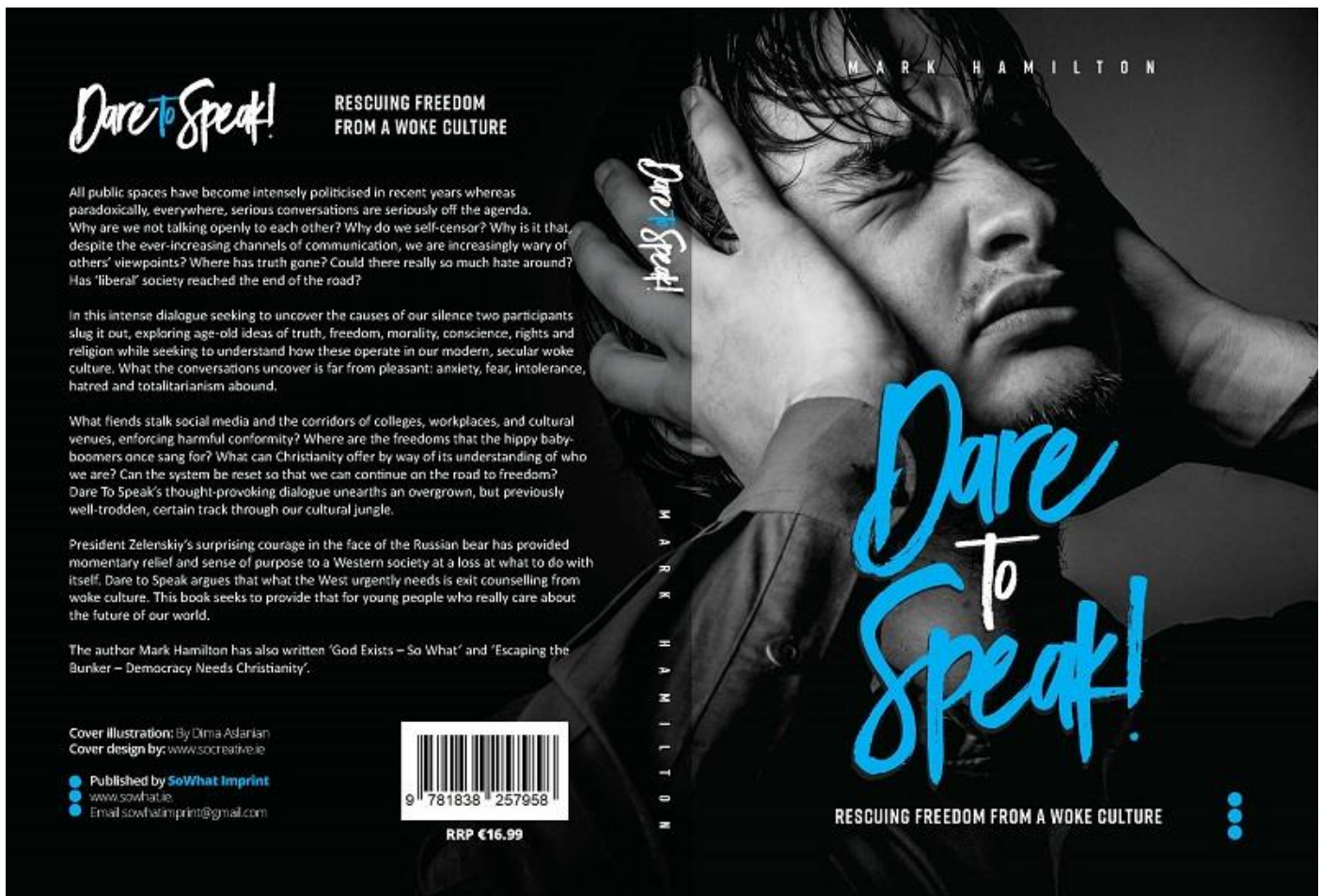
POPE CANONIZES 2 NEW SAINTS, DEPLORES SITUATION OF MIGRANTS TO EUROPE

“The two saints canonized today remind us of the importance of walking together and being able to give thanks,” Pope Francis preached during the Mass of canonization of St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini and St. Artémides Zatti, on the 10th October.

“Bishop Scalabrini, who founded two Congregations—one male and one female—for the care of emigrants, used to say that in the shared journeying of emigrants we should see not only problems, but also a providential plan,” the Pope said. “For his part, the Salesian Brother Artemide Zatti—with his bicycle—was a living example of gratitude. Cured of tuberculosis, he devoted his entire life to serving others, caring for the infirm with tender love.” “The exclusion of migrants is scandalous,” the Pope added. “Indeed, the situation of migrants is criminal. They are left to die in front of us, making the

Mediterranean the largest cemetery in the world. The situation of migrants is disgusting, sinful, criminal.

New book by Mark Hamilton: DARE TO SPEAK! – Rescuing freedom from a woke culture



With freedom of expression under constant threat in western society, one cannot underestimate the dangers of woke culture.

In this intense dialogue seeking to uncover the causes of our modern tendency to silence, two participants slug it out, exploring age-old ideas of truth, freedom, morality, conscience, rights and religion while seeking to

understand how these operate in secular woke culture. What the conversations uncover is far from pleasant.

As the author warns us: 'Ideas have consequences, including bad ideas, while ideas that are untested – due to the silencing of opposing voices – may produce the worst consequences of all.'

Dare to Speak argues that what the West urgently needs is exit counselling from woke culture. This book seeks to provide that for young people who really care about the future of our world. Cost: €16.99.

Reminder: We would be pleased to hear any records of our early days of Family Solidarity that you might have, and if considered sufficiently important or an only copy, permission to borrow it and copy it for return to you as you wish. We may be advised of any materials or recollections you may have by email or by post.

CATHOLIC HEART AT HOME

Catholic heart at home is a website that offers monthly activity packs for Catholic families, religion classes and homeschoolers. The beautiful designs are produced by two teachers based in Galway. For more information, visit their website: <https://www.catholicheartathome.com>

Notice of 2022 AGM

3rd December 2022

Ely House, Dublin 2 and on Zoom

11.00 Holy Mass

12.00 Dr John Murray: “The Synod in Ireland”

1.00 Lunch break

2.00 AGM

Agenda of the AGM

Minutes of the last AGM (4th December 2021)

Activity Report 2022

Approval of the Financial Report for 2022

Appointment of Auditors

Any other business

Those who cannot attend in person, can follow the talk by John Murray and the AGM on ZOOM. (Please register at **familysolidarityireland@gmail.com**)

Lots more to read on our website

<https://familysolidarity.org/>