



"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice,
we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison (1943-1945)

A letter to Pastors and Congregational Leaders: "Once Gay" Film Premieres

30th January, 2019

"Once Gay" film Premiere - An Opportunity to Stand for Christian Truths in the Sexual Revolution – London 11th and Belfast 14th February, 2019

Sometimes it's difficult for churches in the UK to know what to do to help overturn those forces determined to end the Judeo-Christian foundations of our society. We pray harder, try to live godly lives and proclaim Christ. According to Revelation 12:11 it is by the word of our testimony proclaimed without fear of death that we overcome the enemy. Here's a way you can help resist the tide.

Last year, Matthew Grech shared his testimony in his X-factor (Malta) interview which included leaving homosexual practices and was personally attacked for doing so by the country's Equality Minister, Helena Dalli. His church stood with him, because they regret not having opposed Malta's ban on "Conversion Therapy" when it was enacted in 2016. Matthew's choice to leave the LGBT community, and the resistance he experienced when doing so, is a story shared by many in the UK.

As the UK's LGBT strategy is increasingly centralised in Government functions, schools have little option but to knuckle down and promote the new sexual mores and values and, according to many, the Gospel is increasingly undermined by liberal activists in many churches. Bans on therapeutic choice (aka "Conversion Therapy") will simply prevent individuals from choosing to leave unwanted sexual practices and feelings. Speaking about the ban in Malta, Matthew Grech said:

At the time, I feel like we simply made sure that this law wouldn't affect us as a church. However, looking back I think it would have been important for us to look deeper and fight for the right of everyone to choose any therapy they believe to be helpful to get rid of unwanted same-sex attraction ... Countries should either prevent a ban on therapy or work towards removing the ban¹.

We believe that the UK church will also regret not fighting the Government's intention to ban "Conversion Therapy". The reality is that such therapy – defined by them as anything from "pseudo psychology to corrective rape" - isn't being practised by the churches and the ultimate danger is that this will lead to a ban on "conversion". How can we accept such a thing? The fact is that the "change" narrative central to the Gospel -

¹ <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/silenced-x-factor-malta-ex-gay-contestant-speaks-out>

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) – is actually what is being opposed and as churches allow such a policy to take root, the fundamentals of evangelical doctrine are under threat. We need to replicate the massive Evangelical church response in California to that state's attempt to ban therapy (and the Bible message) which led to Bill AB2495 not being tabled, and therefore not being successful. Will the Church in the UK just stand by and do nothing?

Would you and your church support us by encouraging and arranging attendance at the "Once Gay" Film Premiere in London or Belfast?

On Friday 8th February 2019 a film, "Boy Erased"², based on a book with the same name, and featuring high profile actors Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman, will be in cinemas throughout the UK. This film ignores the autobiographical details of its protagonist's very disturbed home life and downplays the fact that he was homosexually raped. The film is simply intent on showing homosexual orientation as fixed and unalterable. It will be used to dupe the unsuspecting public that banning "Conversion Therapy" is logical and necessary not recognising that Churches will be impacted by such a ban. This is something that churches in Malta are now discovering.

In response to the "Boy Erased" promotion, Core Issues Trust will screen its latest film "Once Gay – Matthew and Friends" the story of Matthew Grech who shared his testimony of change in Malta, despite a political climate that refuses to allow any alternative viewpoint to be aired.

Please support the Premiere Screening of "Once Gay" in London on Monday 11th February at 6.00 pm at the Emmanuel Centre ([London tickets here](#))³ and in Belfast Thursday 14th February at 7.00 pm ([Belfast tickets here](#))⁴.

Matthew Grech will perform live and lead congregational worship before the film is screened. The co-directors of Core Issues Trust ask you to consider coming and supporting this opportunity.

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² https://www.core-issues.org/UserFiles/File/news/Boy_Erased_by_Dr_Chrisphoer_Rosik.pdf

BOOKING DETAILS :

³ LONDON <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/premiere-screening-of-once-gay-matthew-and-friends-tickets-55023983215>

⁴ BELFAST <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/belfast-premiere-screening-of-once-gay-matthew-and-friends-tickets-55575795701>