



*"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)

17<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Friends

Early this week I received notification of a Custody Warrant from the Courts and Tribunals Service in Belfast against Core Issues Trust (CIT). This means that all resources of the Trust are now deemed to be in the custody and possession of the Enforcements of Judgements Office, until an amount of £8,870.87 is paid.

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**Immediate Need (Target): £8870.87**

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Completed forms may be sent to our registered office: **102 Kinedale Park, Ballynahinch, BT248YS**  
or emailed by attachment to [info@core-issues.org](mailto:info@core-issues.org)

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I am further advised by the Christian Legal Centre that following payment of this initial amount, the Enforcement of Judgements Office in Belfast will then require payment in excess of £100,000.00.

Both costs orders relate to the London Bus case and the action CIT took against the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and Transport for London (TFL). We believe the costs to be punitive, and intended to cripple and silence both the Trust and myself with the intention of closing down our registered charitable work.



I want to pay tribute to the Christian Legal Centre and Christian Concern, who have stood by us – and continue to do so – unstintingly. I have insisted, however, that the financial responsibility for the consequences of this action do not belong to them and I am therefore beginning a financial appeal to help our cause on my own initiative. I'd also like to state that because of the growing number of those who seek help from the trust, it has been well worth the exposure to share our case and invite those who need help to contact us. We will continue to offer our services without charge.

I am fully aware that the action we took following the banning of our Bus advertisement in 2012 was not supported by many churches. Some Christians have spoken out in criticism of this action, and have felt they cannot associate with us because of it. I respect their views, and ask their understanding that we have different perspectives and understandings of scripture on the matter.

My own view continues to be that, as homosexual practices are normalised in the UK, the right to hold a contrary view in the public space needs to be defended. The new State Orthodoxy continues to make inroads into public life and into the church of Jesus Christ. The bus advert, to summarise its slogan, simply pointed out that “Some people *used to be gay*”.

The choice to parody Stonewall’s original advert (“Some People are gay. Get over it!”) was deliberate. Following the banning of our advert by Mayor Boris Johnson, the court proceedings revealed, and the Judges noted:

- (1) the inconsistencies in TFL’s application of its own procedures and by-laws in banning the CIT advert, but not the Stonewall advert, nor the British Humanist advert before it;
- (2) that those presenting an ‘ex-gay’ identity are fully protected under the Equality Act 2010 and that discrimination against this group is illegal; and
- (3) that Mayor Boris Johnson had been dishonest (by denying he had personally acted in banning the advertisement) but was not *legally* dishonest in doing so.

Despite clear acknowledgements that these legal points had been won in the High Court and Appeal Court cases between 2013 and 2015, Core Issues Trust and myself have had the full costs orders issued against us. Our opponents had access to public funds and made full use of Queen’s Counsel, Barristers at Law and a range of Solicitors able to access the public purse.

I am advised that there is an argument in law that might warrant an appeal being raised against these orders at the European Court of Human Rights. However, as a Trust we wish to avoid further costs and prefer to continue the work we are called to do.

Our work is to support those who are unwilling to affirm a categorical understanding of a same-sex attraction ‘orientation’ and who wish to preserve the right to try to change the patterning of sexual feelings they experience. This work is now in danger of being closed down.

I’m writing to you today to ask you to support our continued existence by contributing, however little, to this demand:

Within the next two weeks, before Christmas, I will be required to make payment of £8870.87. If the payment isn’t made, the Custody Warrant will remain in force, and therefore block the payment of funds in any direction – including payments to those working for the Trust, in any capacity.

**Immediate Need (Target): £8870.87**

Once this initial payment is made, our lawyers will continue to try and negotiate with TFL lawyers, attempting to reduce the costs liability set against us. At the moment, we are likely to be forced to pay a further £100,000 as the Courts seek to bankrupt us.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the increasing numbers of men and women who continue to give me the great honour of working with them through their deepest needs, hurts, longings and joys. These are the people who inspire and encourage me, and in whom I see the greatest hope for a return to values that support true marriage and promote the holy living that God intends for us all.

If you are able to support our need to make payment to the UK Government's action against us before Christmas, please use one of the three methods below to donate. Not everyone is able to give money and so we ask for your prayers at this time.

In His service and because of the joy of serving Him

Mike Davidson

### **(1) Payment to PayPal (PayPal account not necessary):**

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### **(2) Direct payments into the CIT Community Account may be made to:**

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Core Issues Trust

Barclays Bank Sort Code: 20-62-23 Account Number: 20833061

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or emailed by attachment to [info@core-issues.org](mailto:info@core-issues.org) Cheques and postal orders

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### **(3) Cheques and Postal Orders**

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payable to Core Issues trust and sent to:

**102 Kinedale Park, Ballynahinch, BT248YS**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO [GIFT-AID YOUR DONATION](#)** (UK tax-payers)

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