

Letter to Eric Pickles

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

IN THE CENTRAL LONDON COUNTY COURT

Claim No: 2CL02772

BETWEEN

***(1) CCFON LTD t/a CHRISTIAN CONCERN
(2) ANDREA WILLIAMS***

Claimants

-and-

***(1) SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(2) THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II CONFERENCE CENTRE***

Defendants

Dear Mr Pickles,

We are enquiring as to whether you would be prepared to give evidence on behalf of Christian Concern *against* your own Department. This is an unprecedented request but the situation we are currently experiencing in the United Kingdom is unprecedented.

We made this request to your lawyers asking them to call you but we were told that '*you should not give evidence*'. We doubt you were informed about this and this is why we are writing to you directly.

We believe that it is imperative that you give evidence in this important case so that the British public can know the true position of the Government regarding discrimination against Christians. The British public has the right to know whether the expression of Christian belief and values on the subject of marriage (and other issues) is '*inappropriate*' to be heard at a venue run by your Department.

If you decline to support us we would ask you to give evidence supporting the position of your Department and thus enable the Court to adjudicate upon the Government's policy. You are the Minister responsible and should answer for the policy of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

Cancellation of Christian Colloquium on Marriage:

In May 2012, *Christian Concern* was involved in the organisation of a high profile Colloquium to debate the merits and de-merits of same sex marriage. Many high profile speakers agreed to speak, including, inter alia, a High Court Judge, Christine Odone of the *Daily Telegraph* and

Mr Phillip Blond of *Respublica*. Many varied views, not just Christian views, were going to be expressed at this conference.

The Colloquium was due to be held at the *Law Society* but they cancelled the event. This claim has been settled, and no more will be said.

The Colloquium was moved to the *Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre*, for which you are responsible. At 4pm, the day before the Colloquium was due to begin it was cancelled because we were told by the Chief Executive of the Centre that it was *'inappropriate'* to have such an event at a Government venue. The *Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre* has raised a number of defences, but they focus on one quote from a website (taken in isolation) from one of the organisations involved whereby a Biblical view on sexual morality was expressed.

Your Department is fighting the Claim strongly using a significant amount of public monies (that could be spent on nurses and doctors). Further, we believe your Department is using the *'tool of costs'* to break or damage Christian organisations that promote Christian belief and values.

We believe that the Government is actively discriminating against Christians and, in effect, is prohibiting the expression of Christian belief and morality in the public square.

Government Discrimination against Christians

For example: the Government has fought tenaciously at the European Court, against the right of Christians to wear Crosses. In the relevant employments (*British Airways* and *Exeter Hospital*), the Cross was banned but the Hijab permitted. The Government argued in the European Court that a Christian should leave employment/resign (i.e. be unemployed) if such an employee wishes to exercise any conscience in relation to their Christian faith.

It appears to Christian Concern that the Government has a particular disregard and disrespect for the Christian faith. Christian preachers are arrested on the flimsiest grounds but radical Islamic preachers have free speech.

Lady Hale in her lecture at Yale Law School on 7th March 2014 recognised that it *'is not difficult to see why Christians feel their religious beliefs are not been sufficiently respected'*. Furthermore, she has indicated that the *Equality and Human Rights Commission* (funded by the Government) should not just *'prosecute'* Christians, but should assist Christians if they were discriminated against. Unsurprisingly, they have declined to assist in this case of discrimination against Christians. We are not surprised by this decision of *Equality and Human Rights Commission* as this Governmental body has previously described Christian beliefs on sexual morality as akin to an *'infection'*.

Establishing Islam as the 'moral voice' in the United Kingdom?

Whilst the Government appears to fail to uphold and protect Christian freedom and expression, Government Ministers have previously attended events such as the *Global Peace and Unity Conferences* promoting radical Islam. The attendance of high profile politicians gave the Conference *'legitimacy'* and endorsement.

As Government Ministers spoke in 2010, the attendees were able to purchase items glorifying terrorism (See: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/andrewgilligan/100060960/minister-spoke-at-event-with-terrorist-accessories-on-sale/>). Many of the Islamic speakers at this conference have expressed (or are linked) with some of the most extreme and unpleasant speech on homosexuality, Jews and violence to women.

The Deputy Prime Minister has attended previous conferences because he believes in free speech. The former Conservative MP Paul Goodman described the event as the *'Royal Ascot of the Islamist Calendar'*.

Why are these views not criticised by the Government if a mainstream Christian organisation is prevented from speaking on Government property?

Conclusion

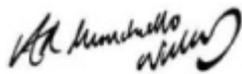
We believe that the loss of Christian faith and values in Britain will mean the weakening of tolerance, the rule of law and the protection of minorities.

It appears that the Government wants to vanquish Christianity and its great virtues and impose a *'chilling effect'* on any Christian or Christian organisation that challenges the new political orthodoxy. Conversely, the Government appears very sympathetic to other faiths.

We would like to discuss this case with you as a matter of urgency. We propose to attend with an eminent cleric such as a Bishop.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Minichiello Williams'.

Andrea Minichiello Williams.