

Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC)

FOR LIFE, FAMILY AND FREEDOM AT UN – EU – OSCE

AND

STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC TIES (NL(EUR)-US/CAN)

Support Proposal for a 3-year Project

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‘Sustaining Freedom, Preserving Justice’

Submitted by the



Transatlantic Christian Council
Building Bridges between Europe and America

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Executive Summary

Inspired by the ideals of Judeo-Christian based Western civilization, the Founders of the US and the Netherlands worked to establish a legacy of limited government, the rule of law, and human dignity. Just as important, they articulated the importance of religious freedom to the growth and flourishing of the new nation. Today, however, sincere Christian belief is often derided as delusional, intolerant, and narrow-minded. Christians face isolation, even litigation for embracing traditional values and being so bold as to live them out in the public square.

In doing so, people increasingly lose their grip on and control over the dignity of life, their family and liberties, especially if these stem from a Christian view of man and the world. On a small scale, this can be seen in merging associations, schools and municipalities especially in the Netherlands, and on a larger scale in power-expanding organizations such as the UN and the EU, of which countries are members. Increasingly, international organizations are involved in formulating policy and (human) rights in a cross-border and guiding way. In this way, national sovereignty is increasingly being transferred and directed towards shady agreements negotiated at a supra-national level. With this democratic deficit we cannot sufficiently control, nor can we hold the unelected administrative elite responsible for what they do by means of voting or elections. Issued guidelines or decisions threaten or are increasingly at the expense of the right and freedom to live or strive for the Christian faith.

We are not alone in this struggle. Our neighbors across the Atlantic face similar hardships and have done so for far longer than we have in the United States. Worse yet, Europe faces the aggressive imposition of progressive values by the European Union. There is tremendous value in learning from and encouraging one another—and that is to which the Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC), more than any other organization today, is deeply committed.

TCC has experienced considerable success in building these bridges since its founding in 2013, and we are poised to capitalize on that track record with an exciting, three-year project entitled *For Life, Family and Freedom at UN, EU and OSCE and Strengthening Transatlantic Ties*. The effort will entail strategic issue advocacy and vibrant Transatlantic cooperation and exchange of views in various ways. These components will strengthen the work and boldness of Christians and conservatives in the public square on both sides of the Atlantic, advancing in tangible ways the principles that mean a great deal to many Business people from a Christian background and to us.

The budget for the first year is about €300,000, the second year €400,000 and the third year €500,000. (Total €1.2 million). We would appreciate it if you would consider a serious contribution to this work and support the first year of this 3-year project 2021-2023 (and if possible annually).

About the Transatlantic Christian Council so far

The TCC works to develop a transatlantic public policy network of North American and European Christians and conservatives in order to promote the civic good, as understood within the Judeo-Christian tradition. We seek to protect the greatest achievements of our political systems – limited government, individual liberty, religious freedom, freedom of education, and the family as the foundational building block of society – by influencing policy on both sides of the Atlantic.

By bringing together leaders from think tanks, law, business, journalism, philanthropy, education, and other institutions in the public square, the TCC functions as a transatlantic hub

for first, analyzing contemporary policy and trends, and second, inspiring action among influential individuals involved in public life.

Since our establishment in 2013, we have positioned ourselves for influence while advancing freedom and human dignity on several fronts. The TCC has:

- Been granted consultative status as an NGO in the United Nations, European Union, and other international bodies, allowing us to block the efforts of global activists to impose their secularist vision on the world;
- Become a respected source for information and analysis, as our leadership are sought-after speakers in the U.S. and Europe on global governance, Christian engagement in public life, and the Christian response to postmodern society;
- Held conferences on both sides of the Atlantic, featuring speakers such as social critic Os Guinness, Congressman Frank Wolf, and *National Review* Editor-at-Large John O’Sullivan.

With office and tax-exempt status in the Netherlands (US later), TCC seeks to establish itself as a lasting force for good in North America and Europe. With your help, we will strengthen our mutual democratic heritage by building a consensus for life, family, and freedom.

Secularism on the March

It can be difficult to remain hopeful about the future of our nation. Business owners are forced to participate in activities that violate their religious principles. Students and teachers are subject to disciplinary action for participating in Bible study even outside of school hours. Military personnel face hostility for voicing their support for traditional values. At the same time, the federal government amasses more and more power, threatening the fundamental values that have upheld Western civilization for centuries.

These developments point to troubling broader trends. Today’s society cherishes the radical autonomy of the individual, particularly where gender and sexuality are concerned. Our government, meanwhile, enforces a rigid ideology of false “rights” to protect this understanding—the right to marry whomever one loves, the right for women to make reproductive decisions without boundaries, the right to be recognized by one’s chosen gender identity, and so on.

Government is becoming our master, an ideologically correct administrative state that encroaches upon civil society and its institutions—including the family, schools, churches, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations. All the achievements of Western society are at risk, including the freedoms we as Americans enjoy every day.

But this fight is not ours alone. Our friends across both sides of the Atlantic share our rich Judeo-Christian tradition yet languish under the same maladies that afflict Europe and America today (e.g., social engineering, hostility toward religion, deeply centralized and secularized governments). The situation in Europe, however, is arguably worse: The European Union imposes its toxic ideology on a continental basis, violating national sovereignty to make controversial decisions shielded from the scrutiny of everyday people.

According to estimates, half to two-thirds of the laws and regulations to which citizens of EU member states are subject are made at EU level rather than by national governments that are accountable to voters. Around 60 percent of the regulations that, say, the Portuguese or the

Poles are subject to do not originate in the Portuguese or Polish parliaments, but come from the EU in Brussels.

The United States faces similar transnational threats—not through the European Union, but through bodies such as the United Nations. Europe’s response – particularly Britain’s repudiation of the status quo through Brexit – provides a helpful lesson as the U.S. navigates a brave, new, and globalized world.

At the Transatlantic Christian Council, we believe there is strength in solidarity. We believe that the U.S. and Europe will stand or fall together. And we believe that the West’s civilizational achievements – which together uphold human dignity and ordered liberty – are worth fighting for.

Program Plan 2021 - 2023

We are now looking to capitalize on this success with an ambitious three-year project that will return Christian perspectives to the very center of public debate in North America and Europe. The project, ***For Life, Family and Freedom at UN, EU and OSCE and Strengthening Transatlantic Ties***, will protect limited and democratic government, genuine freedom, and human dignity at a time when the Christian basis for these achievements erodes. The project will take place from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023 and will have two components which are detailed below. (Benchmarks for results are in a separate document).

First, we will use our consultative status at international organizations such as the United Nations, European Union and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to strengthen the protection of classical freedoms and reverse the onslaught of militant secularism.

We will focus on:

- *Amending international human rights declarations and agreements* to strengthen protection for the traditional family, marriage, parental rights and the right to life;
- *Lobbying member nations* to vote against measures that would promote militant secularism and undermine the Christian view of the human person;
- *Helping developing nations* to resist political and financial blackmail by Europeans and North Americans aimed at forcing them to accept their secularist agenda;
- *Shining a light on the attempts of politicized monitoring committees* that re-interpret international agreements to conform to the secularist agenda.

Second, we will, as indispensable allies, strengthen Transatlantic ties in various ways.

We will focus on

- *Emphasizing on Life, Family and Freedom from a Christian perspective (including security)* and work with partner organizations
- *Working together with like-minded officeholders and agenda setters both in the political and civil society world*, such as Secretaries, Members of Congress, Corps Diplomatique, European and National Parliaments, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders (media, civil servants, ...)
- *Strengthening of relations between like-minded (Christian) schools, business people, legal associations, etc.* by visits and exchanges of views, etc

- *Other possibilities which might occur and strengthen the cause can be taken on board*

Request

TCC is the *only* public policy organization that is both explicitly Christian and transatlantic. We are not generically “faith-based” or “religious,” but intentionally Christian as we work to preserve those achievements that arose from the West’s Christian heritage. As a transatlantic organization, TCC speaks to the fact that Europe and North America stand or fall together. We share the same Judeo-Christian heritage and exemplify that heritage to the world. We unavoidably exert a tremendous influence on each other for good or evil.

For Life, Family and Freedom at UN, EU and OSCE and Strengthening Transatlantic Ties will build on TCC’s strong foundations through activities that will advance key truths and principles in America and around the world. We would very much welcome your participation in the TCC Business Network in this effort with a gift.

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Kind regards, Henk Jan van Schothorst – founder and director of TCC and CCI