

Daily media briefing

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Tue, 7 Nov 2023

[Over 600 'inclusive evangelicals' urge Church of England bishops to allow priests to enter same-sex marriage](#)

A newly formed network within the Church of England is appealing to the House of Bishops to allow priests to wed their same-sex partners as part of the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process.

Premier Christian News

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[Charity Commission 'examines' British mosques that hosted pro-Hamas hate preachers](#)

Sermons made since terrorist group's October 7 attack include calls to 'destroy Israel', 'kill the Jews' and 'wage your war for Allah'.

The Telegraph*

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[Former Hamas chief 'behind pro-Palestine Armistice Day protests'](#)

A former Hamas chief is behind one of the groups organising the pro-Palestine Armistice Day protests, The Telegraph can disclose.

The Telegraph*

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Man guilty of mosque worshippers' attempted murders

A man who set fire to two elderly worshippers after they left mosques has been convicted of attempted murder.

BBC

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Islamic centre 'must be investigated' over alleged links to Iran

A Scottish outpost of an Islamic Centre accused of promoting "extremism and radicalisation" must be investigated over alleged links to the Iranian regime, politicians and exiled dissidents have said.

The Times*

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Nobel prizewinner Narges Mohammadi begins hunger strike in Iranian prison

The rights activist is being denied medical treatment for not wearing a head covering.

The Times*

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France: Le Pen's anti-Islamism and support of Israel seen as attempt to obscure antisemitic past

In 2015, Le Pen expelled her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, the party founder, after he reiterated comments belittling the Holocaust, for which he has several convictions.

The Guardian

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Uganda's Yoweri Museveni hits back over expulsion from US-Africa trade pact Agoa

The US had previously said it might take such action after Uganda passed a tough new anti-homosexuality law.

BBC

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'Saudi Arabia hosting the World Cup would tell LGBTQ+ fans we don't matter'

"Saudi Arabia continues to criminalise consensual same-sex intimacy, both male and female, and the maximum punishment for breaking these laws is the death penalty."

Metro

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Mon, 6 Nov 2023

Revealed: plan to brand anyone 'undermining' UK as extremist

Leaked documents spark furious backlash from groups who fear freedom of expression could be suppressed.

The Guardian

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Met Police cuts ties with adviser Attiq Malik after chant video emerges

Mr Malik, a lawyer, is the chair of the London Muslim Communities Forum, a body that advises the Met.

BBC

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Israeli minister suspended for suggesting nuclear bomb on Gaza a 'possibility'

Eliyahu, a member of the Jewish Power party, has been suspended from all government meetings until further notice.

The Times*

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GP in jihad storm said Islam 'not religion of peace'

After Rigby was murdered in Woolwich in 2013, the activist disagreed with the notion that Islam was peaceful, according to a report on 5 Pillars, a website that has espoused Islamist views.

The Times*

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Jewish and Muslim charities report continued abuse

United Synagogue, the Central Oxford Mosque Society and Wiener Holocaust Library have all reported that they had been the victims of abusive incidents.

Civil Society*

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Zaghari-Ratcliffe: More action needed over jailed Scot

She said both she and Jagtar Singh Johal, from Dumbarton, should have been better protected by the UK government.

BBC

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Shamima Begum's lawyer quits over 'unfair' secret terror hearings

The lawyer who represented Shamima Begum before the UK's secret anti-terrorism hearings has quit, accusing ministers of failing to support the process.

The Times*

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'Mike Johnson, theocrat: the House speaker and a plot against America'

"Second-in-line to the presidency, the Republican makes claims about the constitution and Christianity, and his wish to impose his faith on others, that do not withstand serious scrutiny", writes Marci A Hamilton.

The Guardian

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US: Boston activists demand pardons for all 'witches'

The Massachusetts Witch-Hunt Justice Project is calling for apologies to the almost 200 people accused of being witches.

The Times*

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Spain: A new Museum of Prohibited Art shows how censorship evolved

Artworks taking on Islam tend to be more restrained than those targeting Christianity.

The Economist*

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Fri, 3 Nov 2023

St Monica's Maternity Home: 'They told me I was disgusting'

A woman who was sent to a church-run maternity home for unmarried women aged 15 has said she was made to feel she was "not worthy of anything".

BBC

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Revealed: The Iran-linked groups feared to be stirring up tension over Israel

British officials have identified more than half a dozen UK-based groups with direct ties to Tehran amid fears the hostile state is stirring up tension over the conflict in Israel.

The Times*

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Holocaust library condemns graffiti amid pro-Palestinian paint protests

Vandals spraypainted the word "Gaza" across a sign belonging to a Holocaust research library as a number of pro-Palestinian demonstrations took place across London.

The Times*

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Don't delay guidance allowing priests to be in same-sex marriages, say 44 bishops

A group of 44 bishops made a public statement on Wednesday afternoon expressing their hope that pastoral guidance allowing priests to be in same-sex marriages would be issued "without delay".

Church Times*

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Australia: NSW to consider action over Catholic church abuse legal tactics

The New South Wales attorney general, Michael Daley, has ordered an urgent briefing on the landmark high court decision over the Catholic church's tactics in abuse cases.

The Guardian

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Australia: Religious school backtracks on same-sex formal ban

A no-girlfriend rule at a Catholic girls' school formal has been rescinded, thrilling the woman who put the ban in the national spotlight.

Canberra Times

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Iran prison blocks Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi's hospital care over hijab refusal, family says

Iranian prison authorities have blocked jailed Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi's hospital care after she refused to wear a hijab, relatives say.

BBC

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Thu, 2 Nov 2023

Should groups that do nothing apart from promote religion get charitable status? – NSS quoted

"There's been a wave of hatred coming from a number of religious organisations in the UK, many of them registered charities. It seems only reasonable to question whether these groups should be allowed to reap the rewards that come with being a charity."

The Mirror

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Jewish chaplains' houses targeted in 'frightening' campaign on two university campuses

University Jewish Chaplaincy has said Jewish chaplains' houses are being targeted in a "frightening" campaign on two university campuses.

The Telegraph*

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'Our voices will be heard': survivors herald court ruling against tactics used by Australian churches to avoid abuse claims

Abuse survivors and lawyers have called on the Catholic church and other institutions to cease using permanent stays to shield themselves from abuse claims and for legislative reform to reopen past cases where the tactic has been used.

The Guardian

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'Justice for Australian victims of child sexual abuse is being blocked by a legal tactic – and it must stop'

In recent years, organisations that are the subject of claims related to historical child sexual abuse have latched on to the legal remedy of 'permanent stays' as a way of avoiding these claims. What is meant to be an "exceptional" remedy is being applied for regularly in the context of historical child sexual abuse claims.

The Guardian

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Vatican's silence on Holocaust was shaped by Antisemitism and caution, archives show

For decades, controversy over why Pope Pius XII didn't speak out against the Nazi Holocaust has troubled the Catholic Church. New research has revealed evidence that an antisemitic Vatican aide played a role in the wartime pope's silence, as did fear of provoking violence against Catholics under Nazi rule and against the Vatican itself.

Wall Street Journal*

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Iranian mother jailed for 13 years after denouncing death of son shot at protest

Mahsa Yazdani convicted of blasphemy and 'insulting supreme leader' as Iran regime targets families of those killed in protests.

The Guardian

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Afghan refugees forced to leave Pakistan say they have nothing

Pakistan has started to arrest Afghans as the country begins a nationwide crackdown on foreign nationals it says are in the country illegally.

BBC

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Wed, 1 Nov 2023

Isle of Man parliament backs bill to legalise assisted dying

The Isle of Man has moved a step closer to legalising assisted dying after its parliament backed a proposal to allow terminally ill, mentally competent adults to choose an assisted death.

The Guardian

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'Islamism is a failed ideology. Muslims must embrace the West'

"Given praise they receive from Progressives, standing against democracy becomes a double prize for many Arabs and Muslims in the West: Loved in the old homeland, and acting like the poster children for authenticity and diversity in their new countries. What Arab or Muslim would not take such a win-win, support-Hamas, deal?"

The Telegraph*

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'When did journalism become a hate crime?'

"Is it now a hate crime to investigate Islamic extremism? The Lewisham Islamic Centre in London certainly seems to think so. It has reported Charlie Peters, GB News journalist and regular spiked contributor, to the police, after he made inquiries about an inflammatory speech that was allegedly given at the mosque."

Spiked

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Spain's bishops apologize for sex abuses but dispute the estimated number of victims in report

Spain's Catholic bishops on Monday apologized again for sex abuses committed by church members following a report by Spain's Ombudsman that accused the church of widespread negligence.

Associated Press

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Antisemitic graffiti in Paris worries French leaders

Stars of David have been found graffitied on buildings in the Paris area, in acts that political leaders have said "recall the 1930s".

BBC

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Catholic church loses landmark case over tactics that shield it from Australian abuse claims

The Catholic church has lost a landmark case over its controversial use of the deaths of paedophile priests to thwart survivors' attempts at justice.

The Guardian

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The FBI director warns about threats to Americans from those inspired by the Hamas attack on Israel

FBI Director Christopher Wray warned on Tuesday that Hamas' rampage inside Israel could inspire violence in the U.S., telling lawmakers that multiple foreign extremist groups have called for attacks against Americans and the West in recent weeks.

Associated Press

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Tunisia's Islamist party leader is sentenced to 15 months in prison for supporting terrorism

The leader of Tunisia's moderate Islamist party was sentenced to 15 months in prison for supporting terrorism and inciting hatred in the North African country, once seen as a model for democracy in the Arab world but increasingly authoritarian in recent years.

Associated Press

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UN experts call on the Taliban to free 2 women rights defenders from custody in Afghanistan

U.N. experts on Tuesday demanded the Taliban immediately release two women rights defenders who have been in detention for more than a month with no reason given for their arrest.

Associated Press

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Tue, 31 Oct 2023

Party of Islam registration rejected by Electoral Commission

A spokesperson for the commission said: "We refused the application. The proposed constitution did not satisfactorily set out the structure and organisation of the party."

EU Today

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Islamophobia awareness should be taught in every school – report

The effects of Islamophobia should be taught in every school in Scotland, according to a new report by a cross-party Holyrood group.

BBC

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Counter-terror chiefs on alert for Iranian activity in UK exploiting Gaza war

British counter-terrorism officers are monitoring closely if Iran will try to exploit the Israel-Hamas war for its own ends in the UK, amid wider anxieties that Tehran is an increasing security menace to dissidents and critics.

The Guardian

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Islamist news site editor calls for mobs to welcome 'Israelis at every airport in Muslim countries'

A UK-based journalist with the hardline pro-Islamist website 5 Pillars has sparked widespread anger and calls for police to investigate his social media post in which he demanded "ALL Israelis" be greeted by mobs "at the airports of Muslim-majority countries".

Jewish News

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Twenty Jewish schools in Paris reportedly evacuated after bomb threat

Students at multiple Jewish schools across Paris were reportedly sent home this morning after an anonymous bomb threat was called in.

The Jewish Chronicle

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'This war is prophetically significant': why US evangelical Christians support Israel

One strand of evangelical theology holds that the return of Jews to the region starts the clock ticking on a seven-year armageddon, after which Jesus Christ will return.

The Guardian

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Bible is my rule book says Mike Johnson, newly elected US Speaker

After his victory, the new Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, suggested that his election had been ordained by God.

Church Times*

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Kerala blasts: Man arrested after deadly attack on Jehovah's Witnesses

Police in India have arrested a man in connection with a series of explosions at a Jehovah's Witnesses meeting in the southern state of Kerala.

BBC

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