

Bishop Michael Burrows debates Anglican view of human sexuality with renowned theologian

Press release from Core Issues Trust

Bishop Michael Burrows to debate Anglican view of human sexuality with renowned theologian

June 10: Tonight at 8pm an invited audience will hear world renowned theologian Professor Gagnon of the Pittsburg Theological Seminary debate the Anglican view of human sexuality with the Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel and Ossory at a venue in Dublin.

Professor Gagnon is a leading biblical scholar on the issue of sexual ethics. His comprehensive biblical scholarship from a conservative position is widely respected by academic theologians from all persuasions. Bishop Burrows affirms the same-sex civil partnership of one of his deans, the Very Revd Tom Gordon, and will argue from a more liberal perspective.

Tonight's debate is especially important as it comes whilst the Church of Ireland's 'listening process' on the issue of same sex marriage is underway. Members of the Select Committee on Human Sexuality will be in attendance tonight.

Professor Gagnon has been at the forefront of debating this issue in the Episcopal Church in the USA (ECUSA) which has seen many conservative churches leave the denomination unable to accept the liberal position of lead bishops.

Dr Mike Davidson, Director of Core Issues Trust, convenor of this week's events said: *"We are hoping to avoid any similar fragmentation within the Church of Ireland. We are hopeful that Professor Gagnon will be able to persuade those present to accept that the only cohesive way forward is to maintain orthodox biblical teaching on sexual ethics."*

Revd Andrew Symes, Executive Secretary of Anglican Mainstream said: *"We have been encouraged to listen to different points of view on this crucial matter. I am delighted that Professor Gagnon is here to articulate the historic position of the church and I hope what he says will gain a wide and respectful hearing in this and all the following events associated with his visit".*

Accompanying Professor Robert Gagnon will be Anne Paulk, CEO of Restored Hope Network carrying forward the work of the now defunct Exodus International, and Dr Christopher Rosik, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, American Psychological Association Member, and President elect of the National Association for Research into Therapy for Homosexuality (NARTH).

Professor Gagnon will also be speaking at a day conference open to the public in Ballynahinch Baptist Church in County Down, Northern Ireland on Saturday 14 June beginning at 10am. He will preach at the morning service, starting at 10.30am on Sunday 15th June.

For Further Information/Interview Contact

Dr Mike Davidson: 07833098998

Dermot O'Callaghan: 07801299240

Core Issues Trust (www.core-issues.org) is a non-profit Christian ministry supporting men and women with homosexual issues who voluntarily seek change in sexual preference and expression. It respects the rights of individuals who identify as 'gay' who do not seek change, and supports dignity for LGBT persons. Core Issues Trust is a member of the Association of Christian Counsellors, the Evangelical Alliance and the International Federation for Therapeutic Choice.