



editor's mailbox

Subject: discriminating minds
ACT Now issue: Summer 2006
 Item responded to: Rupert Kaye's article

Dear Editor

I want to applaud Rupert Kaye for his article entitled 'Wanted: Discriminating Minds' (*ACT Now*, Summer 2006). But I also want to see ACT develop the argument further.

I believe the present UK Government and large sections of the media are guilty of Christianophobia. They think nothing of discriminating against Christians; ridiculing their beliefs; 'knocking' their lifestyle choices and values; ignoring their concerns; and marginalising their voices.

I only wish politicians were as eager to tackle the things that offend Christians and make them feel unwelcome as they are to fight the plethora of other 'phobias' and 'isms' that allegedly stalk the corridors of schools and cast menacing shadows across playgrounds.

When was the last time a national newspaper vigorously campaigned to stop students and teachers who hold Creationist views being named, shamed and ostracised by their peers? When was the last time you heard a politician spring to the defence of Christian students and teachers who are subjected to a torrent of foul and blasphemous language in their workplace? (For every time I hear the word 'gay' used as a term of abuse, I hear Our Saviour's name shamefully used as a swear word four-fold in classrooms, fifty-fold in staffrooms and a thousand-fold on television!)

Bob Childs

Dear Editor

In an age of 'political correctness gone mad' (I have no idea who first coined the phrase, but they are right!) it was refreshing to read Rupert Kaye's pithy 'Wanted: Discriminating Minds' piece in the Summer 2006 edition of *ACT Now*.

I wholeheartedly endorse the writer's view that church/Christian schools 'should be free to discriminate in favour of authentic followers of the faith [and]... should have the right to advertise for, short-list, interview and appoint practising Christians and only practising Christians.'

But I fear that for very many so-called church/Christian schools – both in the maintained and private sectors – it is too late. They might be called 'St Lukes' or 'Emmanuel' but because, for many years, they have employed and subsequently promoted non-believers they have become diluted; they have lost their saltiness; their light has gone out; they have become lukewarm; they are actually Christian in name only.

Scripture says: 'To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.' (Revelation 3:14-16 NIV)

I wonder how many church/Christian schools in the UK have stopped serving Christ in word and deed. I wonder how many He would spit out. The Greek word used actually means 'vomit'. How many so-called church/Christian schools make God feel sick to His stomach?

I believe the time has come for the Church to make a discriminating choice. Either it can reclaim fallen schools by imposing a policy of actively seeking out, employing and promoting Christian staff, or it can cut them free; stripping them of their Christian name and lifting the burden of 'keeping up appearances' and hypocritically 'going through the motions' from the shoulders of non-Christian staff.

Sharon Dawson

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Dear Editor

The 'Wanted: Discriminating Minds' piece in the Summer 2006 edition of *ACT Now* was as well-timed as it was well-written. I note that in *The Daily Mail* (dated 17 June 2006) the writer develops his point further, saying: 'Faith schools should not – and cannot – be required by law to show mutual respect to individuals or organisations whose beliefs or lifestyle are anathema'.

The title of *The Daily Mail* article seemed to capture the essence of ACT's position: 'Church schools want gay bias laws opt-out'. I applaud Rupert Kaye's conviction and courage for speaking out on this issue, and wholeheartedly endorse ACT's position.

As Christian teachers we must stand up to the political correctness 'Gestapo'. We must defend our rights to follow our Christian conscience, and we must fight for church/Christian schools to be exempt from 'anti-discrimination' laws that will gag Christian staff – preventing them from articulating mainstream, orthodox, Bible-based Christian doctrine: eg that homosexual sex acts are sinful and that different kinds of family units are not equal in God's eyes.

Joanne Seacroft