

Christian Teacher Released from Prison After 700 Days for Refusing to Use Preferred Pronouns

An Irish teacher was released from prison in the latest stage of his legal battles against preferred pronoun policies – and related contempt of court charges – forcing him to violate Christian sexual ethics.

Enoch Burke, an evangelical Christian and former teacher at Wilson's Hospital School in County Westmeath, was suspended from his teaching job in 2022 for objecting to a policy requiring staff to address so-called transgender students by their preferred pronouns, per a July 2 report from Christian Today.

He eventually received court orders telling him to stay away from the school, which he has refused to honor, resulting in him spending around 700 collective days in prison.

The High Court in Dublin ordered his latest release.



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Christian Today reported that “circumstances had changed materially after Burke lost his appeal against his dismissal for gross misconduct, with the judge concluding that this development altered the context in which Burke's continuing imprisonment should be assessed.”

The Irish Times reported on July 8 that Burke has mounted a new legal challenge seeking to overturn a decision upholding

his dismissal.

The challenge would even see him reinstated to Ireland's Department of Education payroll.

The new lawsuit is against the three-member disciplinary appeals panel that decided the appeals case regarding his dismissal, as well as the Wilson's Hospital School's board and the Irish Minister for Education.

The Irish Times said that Burke wants the court to "remit his appeal for fresh consideration" by a differently constituted disciplinary appeals panel.

He also demanded "a further order requiring the minister to reinstate him on her department's payroll in respect of his employment at the school."

The outlet noted that Burke was employed between August 2018 and August 2022.

Burke characterized the pronoun policy as a "demand" that all staff members "accept transgenderism," and he publicly asked the school principal to withdraw the policy.

Wilson's Hospital School is affiliated with the Church of Ireland, which is associated with the Anglican Communion but does not report to the Church of England.

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