iftcc
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THERAPEUTICS & COUNSELLING CHOICE

06th- 08th NOVEMBER 2026

RAISE THE SAILS

REFINING LANGUAGE, RESTORING BOUNDARIES, REDISCOVERING SCRIPTURE ON SEXUALITY AND GENDER

This is a draft programme. Speaker positions may change.

Internationally, debates about sexuality, gender, and identity are intensifying. Activist-driven "conversion therapy" bans blur categories, redefine terms, and frame ethical, client-led care as harmful. As language becomes increasingly contested, the space for therapeutic choice, scientific inquiry, and theological reflection narrows.

These shifts have real consequences. New identity vocabularies detach personhood from biology, collapse complex experiences into labels, and elevate feelings as unquestionable truth. Boundaries that once supported healthy development, relational maturity, and spiritual formation are being dismantled. Those seeking coherence, change, or biblically faithful pastoral care often find themselves marginalised.

Meanwhile, the Church faces growing confusion. Secular anthropological categories increasingly shape Christian discourse, diluting the biblical narrative and obscuring God's design for identity, embodiment, and transformation. Yet across clinical, pastoral, academic, and advocacy settings, momentum is rising a growing movement challenging these assumptions, restoring clarity, and reclaiming a more truthful vision of personhood and hope.

This year's conference, Raise the Sails: Refining Language, Restoring Boundaries, Rediscovering Scripture Around Sexuality and Gender, calls us to build on this momentum. Drawing on research, clinical practice, pastoral wisdom, and lived testimony, we will refine our language, re-establish ethical and theological boundaries, and rediscover the Scriptural story that anchors identity and hope.

- Prevention
- Pastoral Care
- Advocacy
- Youth
- Legal
- Counselling
- Theology
- Research
- Children
- Testimony

FRIDAY 06th NOVEMBER 2026

15:00 Registration

16:45-17:30 12th Annual IFTCC Welcome Dinner

17:45-18:00 Session 1a **Beyond the Labels, the Transnational Picture** **Dr Mike Davidson** (Plenary Conversation)

An introduction to the IFTCC world: the conversations, frameworks and people shaping our understanding of sexuality, identity, faith and care. Meet contributors and discover the pathways and workshops that will help you navigate the conference.

18:00-18:45 Session 1b **Voices of Experience: The Process - Faith, Identity and Change (Open Q and A)**

19:00-19:45 Pathway 1 (Sessions 4-7) **Introduction to the Pathways**

Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
HEAD (A) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (B) Clinical Practise	HEART (A) Pastoral Care	VOICE (B) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Dr Mike Davidson Beyond the Labels Walking with People Well, Introducing the IFTCC Framework	**John Hinson** CS Lewis, The Abolition of Man, and Sexuality in the 21st Century	**Anne Savinsky** Our Eyes Are Upon Thee	**Dr Lisa Nolland** Exposing Alfred Kinsey's Faux Science, Its Destructive Ramifications and Pushback

20:00-21:45 Session 2 **Freedom Documentary** (Plenary Conversation) **Wayne Blakely**

European Premier of "Freedom: Counselling Choice is a Human Right" Counselling Choice is a Human Right.

SATURDAY 07th NOVEMBER 2026

07:00-09:00 Breakfast

09:00-09:45 Session 8 **Speaking with Courage** (Plenary Conversation) **Dr Felix Böllmann, Dr Päivi Räsänen et al.**

What can Helsinki and Valletta teach us about conscience, freedom and Christian witness today? Meet those directly involved and discover the legal, cultural and advocacy sessions exploring these challenges throughout the conference.

10:00-11:45 Pathway 2 (Sessions 9-20)

10:00-10:45 Session 9	Session 10	Session 11	Session 12
HEAD (A) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (B) Clinical Practise	HEART (B) Pastoral Care	VOICE (B) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Dr Laura Haynes Research on Influences Leading to Same-Sex Sexuality, Discordant Gender Identity, and Change Through Life Experiences–Findings Updated and Language Refined	**Dr (Med) PJ Bedwell** s Healthcare A Casualty in the Culture Wars? An Update from Australia	**Dr (Med) Julie Maxwell** Safeguarding Children in an Age of Sexual and Gender Confusion - How Can Parents, Schools and Churches Engage?	**Dr Päivi Maria Räsänen** Conscience, Free Speech and Religious Freedom: Lessons from the Finnish Experience
11:00-11:45 Session 13	Session 14	Session 15	Session 16
HEAD (B) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (A) Clinical Practise	HEART (B) Pastoral Care	VOICE (B) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Glenn T. Stanton How Gender Theory Canceled Itself … by Redefining Human Truth	**Dr (Med) Sybrand de Vaal** "Sexual Orientation": Experience, Evidence and Scripture	**Dr Niilo Räsänen** The Church's Witness in an Age of Cultural Change	**Dr Felix Bollman** The Silence That Isn't Required: Free Speech, Conscience and the Fear That Chills Both

12:00-12:45 Session 17 **Caring with Wisdom** (Plenary Conversation) **Dr Floyd Godfrey, Tom Griffin, Gary Mcfarlane et al.**

Meet therapists, counsellors, mentors and pastoral practitioners working with people in diverse ways. Discover the different approaches and practical workshops available, recognising that no single approach fits every person, need or journey.

12:45-13:30 Lunch

13:45-15:15 Pathway 3 (Sessions 19-38)

13:45-14:30 Session 18	Session 19	Session 20	Session 21
HEAD (B) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (C) Clinical Practise	HEART (C) Pastoral Care	VOICE (A) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Dr Amy Hamilton Research, Activism, or Both?: Identifying Ideological Bias in SOGI Research	**Gary Mcfarlane** What is EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing)?	**Dr (Med) Anna Ujlaki- Györi** Truth, Love, Acceptance - What the Next Generation Learned to Believe About Themselves and Why They Matter More than We Think	**Special Speaker** Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam
14:45-15:30 Session 22	Session 23	Session 24	Session 25
HEAD (A) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (C) Clinical Practise	HEART (B) Pastoral Care	VOICE (A) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Dr Christopher Rosik Advanced Informed Consent for Sexual Attraction Fluidity Exploration in Therapy (SAFE-T)	**Tom Griffin** Introduction to Gestalt Psychotherapy - **Part 1**	**Bryan Shen** From East to West: The Many Consequences of Ignoring the Developmental Factors of Non-Heterosexuality	**Special Speaker** Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam
15:45-16:30 Session 26	Session 27	Session 28	Session 29
HEAD (C) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (C) Clinical Practise	HEART (C) Pastoral Care	VOICE (B) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Dr Szymon Grzelak Sexual Abuse in the Context of Integrated Prevention. Why the Predominant Emphasis on Safety in Schools or in Churches is too Narrow to be Helpful?	**Tom Griffin** Gestalt Psychotherapy and Change - **Part 2**	**Special Speaker** Confronting Traps of Trauma - Gaining Abundant Life	**Dr (Med) Mark Pickering - Online** Medical Reflections on Current 'Conversion Practice' Bills in the UK – How Can Clinicians Respond and How Might This Affect Us?

16:45-17:30 Session 30 **Following the Evidence** (Plenary Conversation) **Dr Laura Haynes et al.**

Meet researchers and scholars exploring some of the most important questions in sexuality, identity, wellbeing and change. This conversation showcases current research and points delegates towards the research and science sessions across the conference.

17:45-18:30 Session 31	Session 32	Session 33	Session 34
HEAD (A) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (A) Clinical Practise	HEART (B) Pastoral Care	VOICE (B) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Prof Paul Sullins The Wind at our Back: The Best Research on Sexual Orientation Change You've Never Heard Of	**John McLean** How Attachment Wounds Play a Part in Sex Addiction and Unwanted Same-Sex Attraction	**Dr Stanton Jones** One Flesh Union Reconsidered: Toward Understanding Our Sexuality, Personhood and Destiny (Andrew J. Tommelleo – co-author)	**Agnieszka Marianowicz-Szczygiel** The 1973 Turning Point, The "Founding Lie" and The Illusion of Science. Crucial Background to the Removal of Homosexuality from the DSM Classification
18:45-19:30 Session 35	Session 36	Session 37	Session 38
HEAD (C) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (A) Clinical Practise	HEART (A) Pastoral Care	VOICE (A) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Christiana Davidson Same Sex Attraction and the Narcissistic Family System	**Dr Joe Malone** Sex IQ: Sexual Intelligence for Females and Males	**Anne Savinsky** Coming With Confidence Before the Throne	**Dr Shannae Anderson** Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam

19:30-22:00 Dinner Special Celebration

SUNDAY 08th NOVEMBER 2026

07:00-09:00 Breakfast

09:00-09:45 Session 39 **Rediscovering the Person** (Plenary Conversation) **Dr Elizabeth Woning et al.**

How does biblical anthropology shape the way we understand sexuality, identity, embodiment and hope? Meet theologians, pastors and people with lived experience, and discover sessions exploring the biblical vision of the person and the possibilities of faithful Christian living.

10:00-13:00 Pathway 6 (sessions 40-51)

10:00-10:45 Session 40	Session 41	Session 42	Session 43
HEAD (C) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (B) Clinical Practise	HEART (C) Pastoral Care	VOICE (C) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Dr Laura Haynes The Science and Research Council Annual Report and Open Round Table Meeting	**Dr (Med) Sybrand de Vaal** Marriages Affected by Same-Sex Attraction: Evidence, Experience, and Considerations for Counselling	**Dr Elizabeth Woning** A Theology of Restoration: the Themes of Order, Harmony, and Reconciliation in the Kingdom of God	**Dr Tony Rucinski** Dispatches from the Frontline - A Year in Britain's Battle for Marriage and Family
11:15-12:00 Session 44	Session 45	Session 46	Session 47
HEAD (A) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (A) Clinical Practise	HEART (B) Pastoral Care	VOICE (C) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Dr Floyd Godfrey Tite to Follow	**Gary Mcfarlane** Is Sex, Porn and Love Addiction at Pandemic Levels?	**Dr (Med) Anna Ujlaki- Györi** Does the God of the Bible Care? - Why the Biblical Understanding of Man, Woman, Sexuality and Sex Is Good News for Everyone	**Kristina Malysheva** Being a Psychologist in a Country at War: Insights from Ukraine
12:15-13:00 Session 48	Session 49	Session 50	Session 51
HEAD (A) Scholarship and Research	HANDS (C) Clinical Practise	HEART (C) Pastoral Care	VOICE (A) Advocacy, Legal and Public Witness
Eric Schulz The Impact of Early Wounds on the Self: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Gender Identity	**Asia Gajko-Chyży** Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy (ISTDP) - Working with Defence Mechanisms: An Effective Method for Lasting Change	**Christiana Davidson** Enmeshed with Mother: The Hidden Guilt Behind Biological Gender Embodiment	**Dr Jennifer Roback Morse** The US Effort to Overturn "Gay Marriage:" Report on the "Greater Than" Coalition

13:15-14:00 Session 52 **End of the Conference: Dr Mike Davidson (Chairman)** (Plenary Conversation)

14:00 End of the Conference