

FAITH FRONT PAGE POLITICS U.S. WORLD

LGBT activist appeals to human-rights court in cake fight

Lost battle to force Christians to promote homosexuality



By WND Staff

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European Court of Human Rights

An LGBT activist who lost a years-long fight in British courts over his demand that a Christian baker create a cake promoting same-sex marriage contends the ruling violates his “human rights.”

And he wants the European Court of Human Rights to rule.

It was the U.K. Supreme Court that ruled Ashers bakery had a right not to promote same-sex marriage and the decision had nothing to do with the homosexuality of activist Gareth Lee.

Christians have a right not to promote messages that violate their religious beliefs, the court rule. U.S. courts have ruled similarly.

Now Lee claims the Supreme Court “failed to give appropriate weight” to his own rights under the European Convention of Human Rights.

His lawyers said the new case won’t affect the Ashers, because it is targeting U.K. law.

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create a cake for him with the message "Support Gay Marriage."

The appeal only has been filed with the ECHR, and no decision has been made.

The Christian Institute, which defended Ashers, said Lee's latest maneuver is unlikely to overturn the central aspect of the Supreme Court judgment, which was a unanimous ruling.

Ashers, owned and run by the McArthur family, rejected Lee's order for a same-sex wedding cake in 2014.

The tax-funded Equality Commission for Northern Ireland then took the family to court and fought until it lost at the Supreme Court.

Simon Calvert, a deputy director at the Christian Institute, said, "The judgment in favor of Ashers was welcomed by lawyers and commentators from across the spectrum because it protects people of all views.

"I'm surprised that anyone would want to overturn a ruling that protects gay business owners from being forced to promote views they don't share, just as much as it protects Christian business owners," he said.

"Judges at the U.K.'s highest court could not have been clearer in their decision: Ashers' objection to the cake was to the message, not Gareth Lee himself. From

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the judgment being overturned.

Lee's new lawyers said they were challenging "the concept that a business can have religious beliefs."

The ruling last fall from the U.K. Supreme Court said, "Nobody should be forced to have or express a political opinion in which he does not believe."

Lower courts in the U.K. had ruled against Ashers, but the attorney general for Northern Ireland, John Larkin, argued in court on behalf of the bakery.

Larkin asserted Ashers' owners have the right to reject a request to put a pro-homosexual message on a cake under the nation's freedom of speech laws as well as the European Convention on Human Rights.

"No one should be forced to be the mouthpiece for someone else's views when they are opposed to their own – whether in print or in icing sugar," he said at the time.

He said the "issue of political and religious discrimination is direct" and the ramifications are "potentially enormous."

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in the *London Guardian* that while he originally condemned Ashers, he has changed his mind.

“Much as I wish to defend the gay community, I also want to defend freedom of conscience, expression and religion,” he wrote.

“It pains me to say this, as a long-time supporter of the struggle for LGBT equality in Northern Ireland, where same-sex marriage and gay blood donors remain banned. The equality laws are intended to protect people against discrimination. A business providing a public service has a legal duty to do so without discrimination based on race, gender, faith and sexuality.

“However, the court erred by ruling that Lee was discriminated against because of his sexual orientation and political opinions. ... His cake request was refused not because he was gay, but because of the message he asked for. There is no evidence that his sexuality was the reason Ashers declined his order,” he wrote.

DEAR WND READERS,

As America's political and culture wars rage, another battle is taking place in the news media.

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Name

Snufy • 2 hours ago

Homosexuality is not a race or right, but a personal choice. It is an abomination of the laws of God, as told in the Holy Bible. At Judgement Day, what is going to be their answer when God's holy angels ask why they should be allowed into Heaven instead of the firey pits of Hell.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

44nhj45HF • 2 hours ago

... ..

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Oh, wait, you CAN'T go there, can you? THAT court has already condemned your chosen lifestyle. The Chief Justice of that court created you, Sir, and if He has said that you're making a huge mistake by living the way you are, or even just supporting those who do live this lifestyle, you'd be wise to listen. He knows truth as no living man (or woman) ever did.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

CWD • 2 hours ago

Go to a Muslim bakery. See what you get there.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jeanne Hogg • 2 hours ago

Why would he not message the cake to say Lee and Partner Support Gay Marriage. It seems that would have been a simple idea at the time. □ The bakery wasn't in favor of saying they supported gay marriage. No one likes a set up.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Alondra • 3 hours ago

They could've gone to another bakery. They target Christian owned bakeries because the Christians are likely to politely refuse to bake their cake and they can shake them down for thousands of dollars. If they take their business to another bakery they'll have to actually pay for the cake. Plus no one ever mentions that the Christians are turning down business. Most of the time these cases are over wedding cakes. A homosexual couple wants a wedding cake and the Christian baker refuses the business. Wedding cakes can cost up to \$1000, that's a lot of money to turn down, but that's how strongly we Christians believe God isn't pleased with their lifestyle and the Christian will not promote it.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jus Wundrin • 3 hours ago

Its not the militant homosexual thats the issue, but those in the dark that are behind him.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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It's funny how much noise a bundle of sticks can make.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

jzandensky • 4 hours ago

The devil had deep pockets among the blackened hearts he's made.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

RevRoy • 5 hours ago

Who is paying Lee's lawyers ???

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

James Lancaster → **RevRoy** • 3 hours ago

George Soros

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

mary murphy • 5 hours ago

Everyone must already know that this case was strictly for show!! They were and are, pushing to take away our freedoms, one or more at a time, and you can bet that there is more evil money behind these people than meets the legal eyes!

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Barbaree • 5 hours ago

How come they never approach a muslim bakery?

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

no → **Barbaree** • 3 hours ago

The Muslims are exempt... even the Muslims are told to keep quite until it is time to make a full uprising. Then those foolish LBGQT people will be some of the first to lose their heads.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Biff322 → **Barbaree** • 5 hours ago

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Where are these radicals getting their funding from for all these legal battles? An attorney once told me "how much justice can you afford" in a matter where a business owner stole from me. If normal people can't afford to pursue simple justice, how are these people able to do these things. Is Soros or someone like him in the background doing the funding?

11 [^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#) >**James Lancaster** → **Jackr1951** • 3 hours ago

They're getting their money from George Soros

2 [^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#) >**colossians28** → **Jackr1951** • 6 hours ago

Yes! There is an EVIL AGENDA!!!

www.worldviewtimes.com

9 [^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#) >**colossians28** • 6 hours ago

Why are they so OBSESSED with cakes?? Why not donuts, cookies, brownies or eclairs? Gay Cakes? Sounds like a bad Wrestlers name wearing pink tights!

There is nothing GAY about homosexuality!

www.americansfortruth.com

7 [^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#) >**Nubmaeme** → **colossians28** • 5 hours ago

The ones who do this are just a bunch of malcontents who really don't want a cake. They just want to make people do things that they don't want to, or can't, do for whatever reason. It doesn't further their cause, but it does turn more people against that cause.

4 [^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#) >

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headed the sexually confused people really are. They don't even have to make physical contact to catch the disease all the way from California. Over a CAKE.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

colossians28 → John Patriot • 6 hours ago

The activists are attacking biology now!!! www.americansfortruth.com

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

One other person is typing...

Dan Diego • 6 hours ago

It's a sickness with these "people" who want to enforce their mental illness.

They'd love kids to wear t shirts with their vile messages BUT they never go to the "religion of peace" bakeries and insist they use bacon, or force them to broadcast their sick beliefs...because they know what would happen.

Typical sick leftist hypocrites.

11 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

rJohn3:17 • 6 hours ago

Isa 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

colossians28 → rJohn3:17 • 6 hours ago

Most people don't even know what the REAL message of the Bible is!

www.needgod.com

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Curt Cumminas • 12 hours ago