

You are the salt of the earth  
You are the light of the world  
let your light shine before others  
and glorify your Father in heaven  
August 2024



international  
support acet uk

A small orange icon of a globe showing the continents, positioned below the vertical text.

## Undercover Countries

More than 365 million Christians worldwide, face persecution and discrimination for their faith. Other people are abused not for their faith, but because of their gender, disability, and even, ill health.

Working in countries with some of the lowest human rights protection scores, we can't tell you where we are working with these projects, but we can tell you some of the things they are doing!

Their work focuses on prevention of HIV and AIDS, sexual exploitation and substance abuse.

This year, sessions on HIV prevention, sexual infections, alcohol and drug addiction, and the value of human life have been received with great enthusiasm.

Meetings are held covertly, or in the open air, (at night) with the teams supporting students, parents and prisoners often on a weekly basis.



Young couples meet for a seminar on intimacy.

"It's high-quality. When George and Patricia came to us and talked about relationships, about choosing a life partner, about love and about sex - I was just shocked! They talked so freely and even cheerfully about such complex things that I was really hooked. I really didn't see that at my old school."

Year 11 student

"I never thought that the topic of HIV could be so interestingly presented. It is rare for anyone to communicate so freely with us. But also, the testimony of a person diagnosed with HIV- It was very touching and I couldn't hold back my tears. We are all very happy for this person, who not only holds on so well, but also teaches and inspires others."

Student at a secret HIV seminar



## Undercover Countries

In spite of all the challenges and uncertainties regarding life in this country, through close cooperation with 10 churches, ACET has recruited five new volunteers (three in one area and two in another).

These volunteers have gained classical knowledge on the following topics:

- HIV and AIDS prevention
- Prevention of alcohol and drug addiction
- Safe models of sexual relations
- Suicide Prevention by promoting the uniqueness and value of human life

As there is no real freedom of speech in this country anymore, lecturers need to be extremely careful about what, and how, they present information.

We thank God that they are still able to maintain a balance between sharing important preventative information and the strict standards of educational institutions.

It is incredibly difficult for us to raise funds for our undercover country partners, for obvious reasons. If you would like to support one of these projects, prayerfully or financially, please contact [info@acet-uk.com](mailto:info@acet-uk.com) to find out how to do so.



Healthy discussions during a workshop

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## Challenging the silence

Even though relationships and sex are some of the most critical subjects for young people, half of all churches never talk about these topics with their young people.

Have your church youth and/or children's workers attended our Fullness Course yet?

Why not ask them?

Or sign up yourself if you work with young people?

Our Fullness Course continues to help equip youth practitioners, from any denomination, with the knowledge and skills to tackle relationships and sex education topics, in small groups and informal settings.

Over 60 youth leaders have participated and completed our Fullness Course with great results, but we still need to train more if we are to achieve our vision of transforming culture.

Here's some of the feedback from those who have already attended:

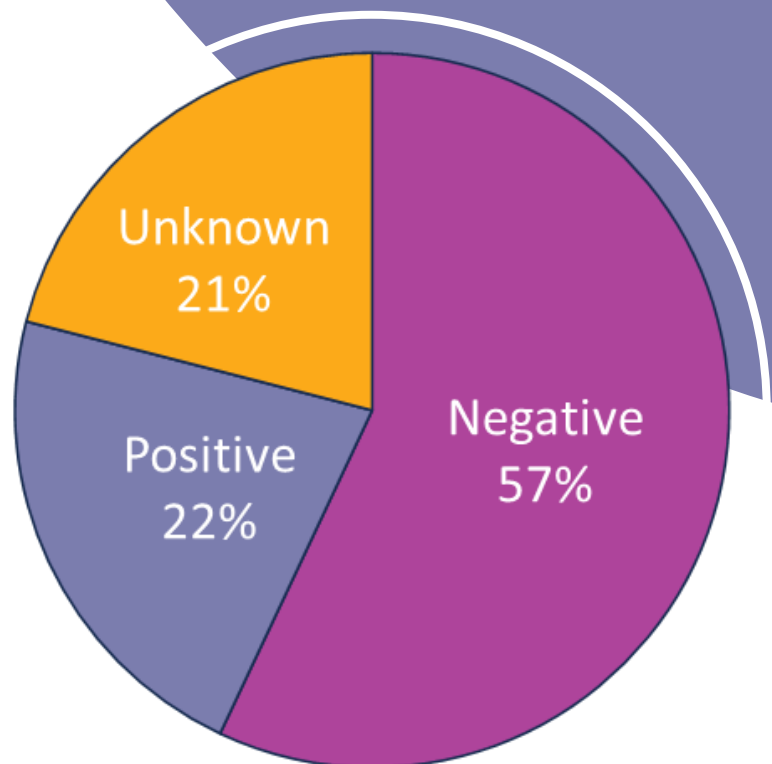
“

*It was so practical and really challenging. Great communication and excellent content.*

*The whole day exceeded my expectations – informative and nuanced.*

## What impact has the church's approach to teaching about sex had on young people?

Rachel Gardner (2021) *The Sex Thing*



*The trainer was an excellent presenter, showing enthusiasm, positivity and professionalism.*

*Really relevant and well communicated – simple to understand, yet deep, not shallow.*

”



## Esteem Primary

As soon as children have a smartphone, they are at risk of receiving and sending inappropriate images.

Sexting, or sending nude images, is tragically now completely normal between children; many of whom use tablets or smartphones, unsupervised, from as young as two years old.

Primary-aged children need to be taught how to stay safe online, what positive relationships look like (friendships and familial) and how to include everyone (not discriminate).

Since September 2023, we have reached over 1200 children, in 6 different primary schools, with multiple sessions and lessons.

Our new lessons and resources cover all seven strands of the government guidance on Relationships Education.

In one lesson, we looked at anger triggers and how to deal with situations differently, using both story and role-play.

Rachel, our schools' worker, said:

*"The children thoroughly enjoyed making the 'Calm-down' boxes and were really excited about using sensory items in class.*

*Playing 'Zones of Regulation' bingo went brilliantly, and they were very good at recognising what the emojis and symbols meant in relation to each of the four zones and can now translate these to their own emotions."*

*"Another fun session was with year two, at St. James primary school, as they were looking at, Making Friends, Feeling Lonely and Getting Help.*

*We read a story about Eden, the Esteem Eagle (right) feeling lonely.*

*The children looked at different reasons someone might feel lonely using some picture cards. This might be due to bullying, moving to a new school, feeling left out, parents separating etc. They then thought about how to be a caring friend and ways of making new friends so that someone wouldn't be lonely anymore. The children all loved meeting Eden and wanted to be his friend."*

Eden the Eagle and Rachel,  
Our Primary School Worker



*"I really love it  
when you come and  
work with us!"*

*"We talked about how  
to say yes or no when  
we feel uncomfortable  
and thought about who  
we could talk to if  
that happens."*

Many thanks to you  
and the Benefact Trust  
for funding this work



BENEFACT  
TRUST

# ACET Ukraine

In spite the continuing conflict within their country ACET Ukraine is working within eighteen regions of Ukraine. Fourteen regions where programmes are being actively implemented in-person and four other regions online.

ACET Ukraine's 547 amazing volunteers, have reached 8,287 young people and 1,345 adults, including those who are living in areas of occupation and even some who are refugees abroad!



"I know why it is worth delaying intimate relationships, because there is HIV, abortions, various diseases; I am very grateful we have such meetings."

Margot, 13 years old

"As a mother, I am very grateful to ACET for your work. You do things that we as parents don't always know how to do or have time to do. You teach our children important life skills that will help them today and in the future."

Maria, 42 years old



ACET Ukraine is currently running 3 clubs for young people.

One club, called 'Without Filter' helps girls grow in their self-confidence. Another is a sports (football) club - as well as playing sport, discussions about spiritual life are also raised. We are delighted that during the war, a football club for teenagers has been operating in the city of Zaporizhzhia, a frontline warzone.

The third club is a family club for mothers, which empowers mothers as they take care of children

in the midst of conflict. The club's purpose is to disseminate ACET's Christian values, to provide information, assistance to families and to positively impact club members.

"Now I have certain solutions, clear answers to questions. I am very grateful that we have such meetings."

Anya, 13 years



## ACET Russia

ACET Russia facilitators continue with their work whilst overcoming economic instability, no freedom of speech, political oppression and, recently, torrential flooding, to deliver their programmes to over ten cities and towns across Russia.

Thanks to your generosity and support, ACET Russia was delighted again to be able to organize and host their annual conference.

This is the highlight of their year - 23 volunteers were able to meet, network, and share resources at their 'Pulse of Life' conference, where they advocated for the youth in Russia, especially around HIV, STIs, addiction, abortion, and issues around infertility.

At the conference, three fruitful days were spent with speakers from across the ACET Russian network, coming from all over the country.

There were representatives from St. Petersburg, Samara, Tolyatti, Ulyanovsk., Balakovo and Ufa - to name a few!

They had a special focus on birth, covering topics such as abortion, IVF, contraception, and surrogacy.



ACET Russia Conference Delegates



★ ACET Russia Conference Presentation



*Thanks to the speakers and sponsors. It is important for us to meet together to receive and give information, energy, the Word and love!*



*Thank you for the opportunity to be among the people present. The seminar gave me affirmation and confirmed the right movement and the need to work with ACET.*



# Esteem training

Young people have told us in focus groups that they don't want to be taught relationships and sex education by people who are awkward and make them feel embarrassed. So, training of teachers and youth workers continues to be key.

Our Esteem Training has equipped a further 65 relationships and sex educators, since October last year, with expertise, skills and confidence to enable them to support the schools, churches and other faith groups they work with.

After the training the participants continue to receive support and input through regular email updates on the latest news, laws and government guidance around RSE. Plus monthly online skills workshops where they choose the topics covered,

followed by open question and answer sessions.

In 2025, we are running a 4 day, in-person, residential course.

This is particularly suited to PSHE leaders and will take place in Leamington Spa at Ashorne Hill Conference centre where you can wander the beautiful grounds, make use of the gym and sauna and enjoy 3-course meals from award winning chefs as well as unlimited hot drinks, cakes and pastries! *Do you know of anyone who you could invite to this?*

Young people have said the following about sessions taught by our trained educators:

I liked the openness and chance for participation. It informed me about the consequences of sexting and what you can do about it.

Year 9 student

It was very educational and useful for future relationships. I learnt that you cannot properly give consent when under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Year 10 student

It is very interactive and not boring. I learnt what a ideal relationship should be like and about consent. I also learnt how to step away from being manipulated.

Year 10 student



# HUGE Congratulations!

To our founder, on becoming Dr Patrick Dixon MBE in this year's King's birthday honours list!

We know he and Sheila have always been acet's biggest assets!

But now he's been publicly recognized as well - what an honour and very well deserved. We are so proud of you Patrick!

Dr Patrick Dixon MBE and  
his wife Sheila who  
founded acet UK 35 years



**Christmas  
Challenge**

**BigGive**

## Please help us tackle cultures of abuse

If you're thinking of running a marathon this year, walking the 3 peaks, practicing a bake off, or just having friends over for coffee; why not do it with even more purpose and raise awareness of the plight of girls in Zimbabwe, Nigeria and South Africa?

In the Big Give Christmas Challenge this year, between the 3rd and the 10th December, we will be fundraising to tackle cultures of abuse and empower 7,252 girls and women to thrive.

Would you think about how you could support them by helping to raise £21,000?



Start thinking now what you'd like to do and email us at [info@acet-uk.com](mailto:info@acet-uk.com) for more information about how you can have your fundraising **DOUBLED** in the Christmas Challenge.

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