

**JUSTICE ALLIANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA
“JASA”
MEDIA RELEASE**

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**JASA MAKES ORAL AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO
SOUTH AFRICA’S ELEVEN HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
IN RESPECT OF 3 IMPORTANT BILLS**

- 1. JASA is a new non-profit making organisation. It is an alliance of churches and individuals united in serving the nation by upholding Christian values through the media, in Parliament and in the courts. Go to www.jjs.za.net for JASA’s constitution while our own website is being designed. Click on Legal – Topical Issues.**
- 2. The Board have appointed John Smyth QC as their first voluntary Director. John has experience of constitutional law and parliamentary drafting from his practice as a Queen’s Counsel in England. In South Africa he has addressed the Constitutional Court as a Amicus Curiae in person, and he was the initiator and architect of the successful Doctors for Life application to the court to have the 2004 Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act struck down.**
- 3. JASA is currently making submissions to Parliament in 3 matters:**

1. CTOP Amendment Bill 2007:

Written submissions have been sent to all 9 Provincial Parliaments, and John Smyth will make an oral submission to the Western Cape Parliament TUESDAY 21 August 9am. 7 Well St Cape Town.

At dates to be fixed further oral submissions will be made to the NCOP and National Assembly Portfolio Health Committee.

The thrust of these submissions will be to add new clauses to the Bill designed to curb the widespread abuses of the existing

legislation particularly in respect of the failure to counsel and obtain informed consent. Another clause will provide for conscientious objection for Health workers.

2. The National Gambling Amendment Bill 2007:

JASA has made written submissions to the Trade and Industry Committee of the National Assembly and John Smyth will address the Committee on WEDNESDAY 22 August in Parliament at Cape Town.

JASA is strongly opposed to the legalising and promotion of online gambling which will be impossible to control and will become a 24/7 vice available to everybody including minors.

3. The Children's Amendment Act – Discipline of Children

A written submission containing a carefully drafted alternative to the prohibition of all corporal punishment by parents has been submitted to the National Assembly Committee on Social Development.

The vast majority of parents are horrified by the attempt to ban even the most measured and reasonable smacking of children. JASA believes this is contrary to Biblical principles and common sense. We also argue that such a prohibition offends one of the most fundamental clauses in the Constitution – that which states that the test is always what is in *a child's best interest*.

The Chairman of JASA will present an oral submission to this effect at the public hearings yet to be fixed.

Wherever possible JASA is determined to assist Parliament by suggesting carefully drafted alternative or additional clauses rather than merely criticising the Bills. For copies of submissions email above address.

Board of JASA

**Pastor Tim Makamu (chairman) Pastor Stephen van Rhyn (Vice-Chairman)
Pastor Tendai Musikavanu Roger Gifford Pastor Nigel Desmond John Smyth**