

# Pregnant Teenager Crucified in front of Cathedral

*On 1st December, international AIDS day a 5 metre high crucifix in copper with a pregnant teenager will be set up in front of the Cathedral of Copenhagen. The crucifixion is a global sculptural outcry from the controversial Danish sculptor Jens Galschiot against Bible fundamentalists' allegation that God allows nothing else than chastity and unprotected sex.*

*At the inauguration on Friday at 12 there will be speeches by Jens Galschiot and Dean Anders Gadegaard.*

The sculpture is titled *In the Name of God*. There will be cast various copies to be displayed Kenya, Rome and the US. The project is an artistic comment to the extreme Bible fundamentalists – with President Bush and the Pope in the lead – who preach sexual abstinence until marriage as the *only* method to avoid HIV contamination and unwanted pregnancy.

*They will bomb back sexual education and ban information on contraception that they see as an invitation to voluptuousness. In the same token the Roman Catholic church asserts that contraption is impermissible according to the biblical doctrines, so they advocate the absurd allegation that only 'unprotected sex' is admissible. The consequences may be disastrous for the proliferation of AIDS an STD's and so the result will be increased suffering, Jens Galschiot says and continues: The sculpture is not a comment on the issue of abortion or stem cells, but should be seen as an artistic advocacy for the right to contraception and unprejudiced sexual education.*

## **The Cathedral supports the debate**

The first sculpture will be put up in front of the Cathedral of Copenhagen on 1st December, the international AIDS day. Dean Anders Gadegaard, the municipality of Copenhagen and Our Lady's Church have authorized the sculpture to be set up on the square in front of the Cathedral. Anders Gadegaard explains: *It is important for the church to join this art manifestation to emphasize that the Bible should not be used to preach against contraception, but on the contrary churches everywhere should join the efforts to combat the proliferation of HIV and display compassion and solidarity with those infected and their families.*

## **Light a candle**

In connection to the display of the crucifix at the Cathedral passers-by will have the opportunity to express their support of a more charitable interpretation of the Bible by lighting a candle. So the crucifix will be surrounded by lit candles.

## **Symbolism of the sculpture**

The pregnant teenager symbolizes innocence. The child that has been lead astray due to ignorance, impulsiveness or maybe is the victim of rape is mercilessly exposed to the ultimate punishment. The association to Jesus as the innocent sacrificial lamb is apparent.

*The sculpture is not a global accusation against Christianity. On the contrary, I admire those Christians who take the Gospel's claim of charity seriously – and act accordingly. I think that progressive Christians should dissociate themselves from the abuse of 'their' God for the sake of a reactionary contraception policy, Jens Galschiot declares and continues: To sustain the debate we have uploaded comprehensive documentation on our website: [www.aidoh.dk](http://www.aidoh.dk). There you'll also find a debate forum.*



## More information:

**Information, free photos of the sculpture and documentation:** [www.aidoh.dk/InTheNameOfGod](http://www.aidoh.dk/InTheNameOfGod)

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**The Cathedral:** Dean Anders Gadegaard, Fiolstraede 8, DK-1171 Copenhagen K, tel. +45 3314 7432

**The Danish Family Planning Association (Sex & Samfund):** Bjarne B. Christensen, Rosenoerns Allé 12, 1., DK-1634 Copenhagen V, tel. +45 3393 1010, [www. sexogsamfund.dk/Default.aspx?AreaID=13](http://www.sexogsamfund.dk/Default.aspx?AreaID=13)

**Photos:** [www.polfoto.dk](http://www.polfoto.dk)

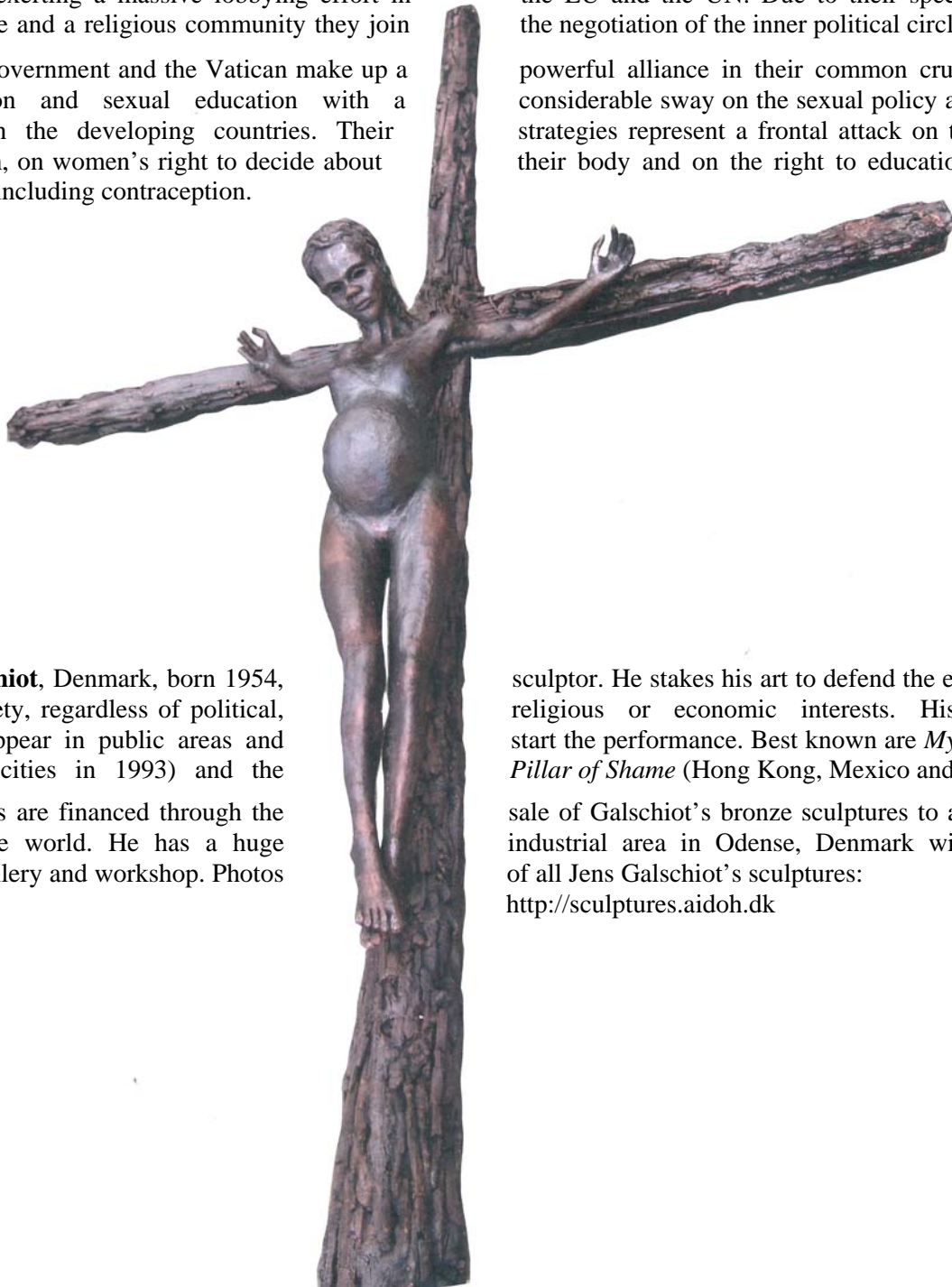
## A bit of background info: Bush and the Pope – a powerful alliance

The American development aid for family planning and fight against AIDS is only granted for programs advocating sexual abstinence until marriage, while information about safe sex and condoms has been banned. The fatal consequences are already apparent in many countries: increasing number of HIV contaminations and unwanted pregnancies, particularly in Africa.

The Roman Catholic Church is deeply rooted in many developing countries. Hence it has a considerable impact on their sexual policy. But also in the West it's becoming a powerful factor. After 2004, with the admission of several East European countries, Catholicism has at a single blow become the biggest religion of the Community. The Vatican is exerting a massive lobbying effort in the EU and the UN. Due to their special status of being a state and a religious community they join

The Bush government and the Vatican make up a powerful alliance in their common crusade against contraception and sexual education with a considerable sway on the sexual policy as well in the West as in the developing countries. Their strategies represent a frontal attack on the advances of feminism, on women's right to decide about their body and on the right to education about sex and health, including contraception.

the negotiation of the inner political circles.



**Jens Galschiot**, Denmark, born 1954, of our society, regardless of political, suddenly appear in public areas and (European cities in 1993) and the

The projects are financed through the all over the world. He has a huge foundry, gallery and workshop. Photos

sculptor. He stakes his art to defend the ethical values religious or economic interests. His sculptures start the performance. Best known are *My Inner Beast* and *Pillar of Shame* (Hong Kong, Mexico and Brazil).

sale of Galschiot's bronze sculptures to art collectors industrial area in Odense, Denmark with a bronze of all Jens Galschiot's sculptures:

<http://sculptures.aidoh.dk>