Christian News | 13 November 2026 | English article

Latest: Labour MPs Tell Burnham to Scrap Conversion Practices Bill as Tories Withdraw Support

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Mothers are often closest to their children, they need to be brave and strong and look after their children. If parents are criminalised and families divided, it is mothers who will be affected."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Labour MPs are calling on Prime Minister Andy Burnham to scrap the draft Conversion Practices Bill, warning that it could put parents and faith leaders in prison for ordinary conversations with children. At least a dozen Labour MPs have told party whips they are unhappy with the bill, according to The Telegraph, and a number of ministers are said to have "grave concerns". At the same time, the Conservatives have withdrawn their support for the ban, leaving the Government's flagship legislation isolated on both sides of the Commons.

The revolt is striking because it comes from inside Burnham's own party. These are not opposition MPs scoring points. They are Labour backbenchers telling their own Prime Minister that his bill would criminalise the very families it claims to protect, and asking him to drop it altogether.

The bill would create a new offence of abusive conversion practice in England and Wales, carrying a maximum sentence of five years in prison. A joint committee of MPs and peers is currently scrutinising the draft, and written evidence closes at 5 p.M. On Monday, 16 November. What happens next depends on whether Burnham listens to his MPs, or pushes ahead anyway.

Labour MPs Conversion Practices Bill Revolt November 2026

Tonia Antoniazzi, the Labour MP for Gower since 2017, has been the bluntest voice in the revolt. She fears the bill will have a chilling effect on parents who want to give their child loving advice, and she has called on the Prime Minister to step in and scrap the legislation. Speaking to The Telegraph, which has launched a campaign against the bill, she put it in the plainest terms a mother could use.

"Mothers are often closest to their children, they need to be brave and strong and look after their children. If parents are criminalised and families divided, it is mothers who will be affected."

She is not alone. Steve Yemm, the Labour MP for Mansfield, said he supports banning abusive and coercive conversion practices, but insisted on safeguards for honest conversation. "We must ensure that parents, teachers and clinicians can have open and honest conversations with young people questioning their gender, without fear of criminalisation," he said.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment a complaint withdrawn under threat -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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