

# Michael Cashman MEP to present this year's Secularist of the Year award

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Preparations are well in hand for this year's Secularist of the Year and it promises to be a memorable occasion. Heroism is on the agenda, so we hope you will be there to help us celebrate an exceptional winner.

We are delighted to announce that this year's Irwin Prize will be presented by relentless campaigner for equality and Human Rights, Michael Cashman MEP. Michael has represented the West Midlands Constituency as a Labour Member of the European Parliament since 1999. He is an honorary associate of the NSS and was one of the co-founders of the lesbian, gay and bisexual rights charity Stonewall. Michael was awarded a CBE in the 2012 New Year Honour's list for his work in fighting for equality. He is however possibly best known for his role as Colin Russell in the BBC's soap opera EastEnders, a character remembered for being a participant in the first gay kiss in a British Soap Opera.

The nominations for this year's award can be viewed [here](#).

The date: Saturday 23 March, the time: 12.30 for 1pm start. There will be a welcome cocktail, a three course meal with tea or coffee and the usual warm and friendly buzz of a secular social.

The event will be held in a top central London venue and we hope will prove as memorable and congenial as all eight previous occasions. Tickets are £45 and are available from [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Buy tickets](#)

## Secularist of the Year

Secularist of the Year is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding groups and individuals advancing secularism and related human rights. This year's award will be presented at our Secularism 2019 conference. Nominations are now open.

- [Find out more](#)
- [Submit your nominations](#)

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