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SECULARISM PROTECTS

www.secularism.org.uk

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Secularism – the separation of religion from the state – has taken on a new and urgent relevance. As religions become increasingly politicised, we need to ensure that none of them can claim to be part of the state, giving them the power to impose their ideas on everyone whether they are believers or not.

We campaign for a society in which everyone is equally valued, whatever their religious views.

The National Secular Society want a fairer, secular society in which religion and the state are distinctly separated, where people are free to practise their faith, change it or not have one at all, a society where our beliefs or lack of them are neither an advantage nor a disadvantage.

A secular society offers full religious freedom to individuals, while denying organised religion privileged access to the public sphere.

In any modern democratic society, religion should not be able to dictate our laws. Repeated surveys show that Britain is one of the least religious nations in the world and yet we see Governments still deferring to the demands of “faith leaders”. In the UK, twenty-six bishops have the right to seats in the House of Lords. It gives them real power which they often use to further their own interests.

The UK is the only Western democracy to give clerics power to legislate.

Religions are becoming increasingly politicised and minority religions more powerful. This leads to conflict as the struggle between them for influence intensifies. Only secularism can make our multi-faith society work. The alternative is a future of competitive religious grievance and demands, to the detriment of both believers and non-believers.



The National Secular Society Campaigns for:

- **Disestablishment of the Church of England, taking away its role as the nation's official church.**
- **Reform of the House of Lords to see an end the bishops' rights to seats in Parliament**
- **The protection of freedom of expression by repealing laws restricting the criticism, questioning or mocking of religion.**
- **To keep our public services secular, permitting no discrimination in employment or service delivery**
- **An education system where no publicly funded schools are under religious control**

Faith Schools

A third of publicly funded schools in the UK are now religious. Thanks to the spread of 'faith schools', many parents can no longer get their children into their local school unless they go to church and feign belief. Similarly, non-religious teachers are denied jobs at faith schools unless they pretend to be religious.

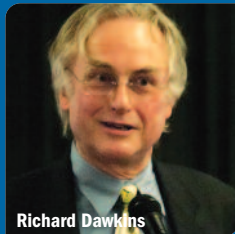
The National Secular Society opposes faith schools in principle. The reason the religious want them is to produce the next generation of believers. The taxpayer should not be paying for that. Furthermore, separating children in minority faith schools sows the seeds of division and is a looming disaster for community cohesion.

We campaign for a secular education system where:

- All publicly funded schools are open to all children, regardless of their parents' beliefs
- Employment discrimination against non-religious teachers is prohibited
- Pupils are not forced to attend collective worship
- Religious Education is replaced with a National Curriculum subject that covers all of the world's major religions and non-religious philosophies.
- All pupils have the right to receive fair and balanced sex education appropriate to their age.



JOIN US



Honorary Associates

We are Britain's only organisation working exclusively towards a secular society.

If you believe, as we do, that a secular Britain is our best way to achieve true equality for all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs, then please join us and become part of what is possibly the most important debate of the 21st century. Together we can create a fairer and more equal society.

Join online at secularism.org.uk

Our members' subscriptions and donations are our only source of income. Please join us and make a vital contribution to our work.

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