

# Secular marriage law proposed in Guernsey

Posted: Fri, 30th May 2014

A campaigning group for LGBTQ rights in Guernsey, [Liberate](#), has announced that it has secured a commitment from the Guernsey government to introduce secular marriage legislation, removing religious references from laws related to marriage.

Chair of Liberate, Martin Gavet, has described the proposed law as "one of the most forward-thinking pieces of legislation, in terms of marital legislation, in the world".

The draft legislation, similar to that of the French model, would see the state issuing a secular marriage certificate, after which couples could then celebrate their union in a religious or non-religious setting if they so wished.

Guernsey's Chief Minister Jonathan Le Tocq, with whom Liberate discussed its proposals, [told the BBC](#) that he was a strong believer in the separation of church and state, and that he did not see the issue of gender in marriage to be a governmental matter.

He commented, "The State doesn't need to define marriage in the way religious groups do [...] That's why the new law we're proposing would create something different for the purposes in which the States would be interested".

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [Disestablishment](#)

## Related Campaigns

•

### [Disestablish the Church of England](#)

A state religion has no place in a 21st century democracy.

[Read More](#)

## Related Articles

## **NSS announces major conference on protecting liberal values**

Kenan Malik, Joan Smith and more speaking at NSS Secularism 2024 conference in London. [Read More »](#)

## **New extremism definition may put free speech at risk, NSS warns**

Proposed definition could 'label secularists as extremists'. [Read More »](#)

## **A state Church is no bulwark against extremism – but secularism is**

With its commitment to the separation of religion and state and safeguarding the rights of all individuals, secularism can provide an effective defence against the spread of extremism, says Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

## **Report: CofE safeguarding “below standards” of secular institutions**

Most victims and survivors unsatisfied with safeguarding approaches, while safeguarding 'weaponised' to remove those "seen as a nuisance", report finds. [Read More »](#)

## **Resist calls for £50m a year for churches, NSS urges minister**

Churches trust also calls for churches to host NHS services. [Read More »](#)