

Baroness Thornton joins the NSS as an honorary associate

Posted: Thu, 11th Aug 2016

The National Secular Society is delighted to welcome Baroness Thornton as a new honorary associate.

Glenys Thornton served as Labour's equality spokesperson from 2011 to 2015 and now focuses her work in the House of Lords on issues related to education, equality and human rights.

She has played a significant role in the campaign to outlaw caste-based discrimination. She was responsible, while Labour was in office, for enabling legislation and commissioning a report which confirmed that caste-based discrimination was a problem in the UK.

She recently spoke in a debate in the House of Lords on the matter. She told peers that parliament owed an apology to the Dalit community in the UK.

"I feel that we owe an apology. I think that the Government do, and I would like to apologise to the Dalit community in the UK for having lived with inaction on this issue for so long. We gave the power in 2010 to put forward caste discrimination as a protected characteristic. It is shocking that we have not done so."

She commended campaigners against caste discrimination for their persistence and said that the Conservative Government's failure to act "shows a contempt for Parliament that is really unacceptable".

NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood said:

"We are delighted that Baroness Thornton is joining our outstanding group of peers in the House of Lords, campaigning for secularism and protecting human rights. Baroness Thornton has spoken powerfully about the need to outlaw caste-based discrimination, something which the National Secular Society has campaigned on [since 2009](#)."

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

Tags: [Caste](#)

Related Campaigns

-

End caste discrimination

Caste discrimination should be prohibited by law.

[Read More](#)

Related Articles

Hindu group threatens secularists with police over “offensive” talk

Hindu charity told Leicester Secular Society it would report talk on caste to local Hindu community and police. [Read More »](#)

Ep 36: Faith-shaped holes in the Equality Act

This month marks the tenth anniversary of the Equality Act 2010 coming into effect, a landmark piece of legislation... [Read More »](#)

Report: equality law failing to protect people from faith-based discrimination

Equality law is failing to protect the non-religious and members of religious minorities from discrimination, a National... [Read More »](#)

Push government on caste discrimination, NSS tells UN rapporteur

The National Secular Society has urged the UN special rapporteur on minority issues to push the UK government to outlaw... [Read More »](#)

NSS urges UN to push government to pass law on caste discrimination

The National Secular Society has urged the UN Human Rights Council to push the UK government to legislate to outlaw... [Read More »](#)