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[Blasphemy laws exist in 69 countries, report finds](#)

Posted: Wed, 13 Nov 2019

Sixty-nine countries have blasphemy laws and penalties have hardened in parts of the world in recent years, a report has found. [Read More »](#)

[Champion open debate to tackle extremism, says commission](#)

Posted: Mon, 07 Oct 2019

Protecting and encouraging democratic debate is "vital" in efforts to tackle extremism, the counter-extremism commissioner has said. [Read More »](#)

[Chancellor urges caution around use of word 'Islamophobia'](#)

Posted: Thu, 03 Oct 2019

The chancellor Sajid Javid has said he does not use the word 'Islamophobia' because of its capacity to shut down criticism of religion. [Read More »](#)

[NSS urges advertising regulators not to defer to religion](#)

Posted: Fri, 13 Sep 2019

The NSS has urged two advertising regulation bodies to protect free expression on religion as they reconsider their rules on offence. [Read More »](#)

NSS: free speech must be protected in hate crime review

Posted: Fri, 06 Sep 2019

The NSS has urged the Law Commission to protect free speech on religion as it reviews hate crime laws in England and Wales. [Read More »](#)

'Islamophobia' definition curtails free speech, campaigners warn

Posted: Thu, 22 Aug 2019

The widespread adoption of a proposed definition of 'Islamophobia' risks curtailing free speech, a collection of essays has warned. [Read More »](#)

NSS urges government to review its language on blasphemy laws

Posted: Thu, 15 Aug 2019

The NSS has asked the government to review its stance on blasphemy laws amid concern that ministers only criticise their "misuse". [Read More »](#)

Government admits it's struggled to define extremism

Posted: Tue, 23 Jul 2019

The government has "struggled" to define extremism, the home secretary has said. [Read More »](#)

Employee sacked for sharing clip mocking religion is reinstated

Posted: Fri, 19 Jul 2019

A man who was sacked by Asda for sharing a video of the comedian Billy Connolly mocking religion on social media has been reinstated. [Read More »](#)

BBC dilutes protections for religious ideas after NSS lobbying

Posted: Mon, 08 Jul 2019

New BBC guidelines have watered down some protections for religious ideas but still place a premium on depictions of Muhammad. [Read More »](#)

Government online harm plans could curb free expression, NSS warns

Posted: Wed, 03 Jul 2019

Government plans to require the censorship of "hateful" content online could act as "a de facto blasphemy law", the NSS has warned. [Read More »](#)

Asda sacks man for sharing comic sketch mocking religion

Posted: Thu, 27 Jun 2019

The supermarket chain Asda has sacked a man for sharing a sketch of the comedian Billy Connolly mocking religion on social media. [Read More »](#)

Council rejects Islamophobia definition after NSS lobbying

Posted: Wed, 29 May 2019

Lancashire County Council has rejected a proposed definition of 'Islamophobia' after the NSS lobbied against its adoption. [Read More »](#)

Islamophobia definition "unfit for purpose", say campaigners

Posted: Wed, 15 May 2019

The NSS has signed an open letter criticising the "uncritical and hasty adoption" of a proposed definition of 'Islamophobia'. [Read More »](#)

NSS asks art gallery to review decision to uphold blasphemy code

Posted: Tue, 07 May 2019

The NSS has asked an art gallery which covered two paintings up in response to complaints from Muslim visitors to review its decision. [Read More »](#)

Adopting Islamophobia definition 'would cripple counter-terrorism'

Posted: Tue, 30 Apr 2019

Adopting a proposed definition of 'Islamophobia' would harm efforts to keep the UK safe, a former counter-terrorism chief has warned. [Read More »](#)

Nick Cohen & Pragna Patel to address free speech at Secularism 2019

Posted: Wed, 13 Mar 2019

Nick Cohen and Pragna Patel will address the subject of freedom of expression at the NSS's Secularism 2019 conference. [Read More »](#)

Protect free speech, NSS tells Scottish review of hate crime laws

Posted: Fri, 22 Feb 2019

The NSS has urged the Scottish government to protect free speech and abolish blasphemy laws as it considers proposals on hate crime. [Read More »](#)

NSS welcomes guidance which promotes free speech at universities

Posted: Fri, 15 Feb 2019

The NSS has welcomed official guidance which aims to ensure universities "remain a forum for open and robust enquiry". [Read More »](#)

Event to mark 30th anniversary of fatwa against Salman Rushdie

Posted: Fri, 08 Feb 2019

An event to commemorate the women who defended the right to publish *The Satanic Verses* is to be held in London next Thursday. [Read More »](#)

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