

# Opinion

## **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 »](#)

## **We can't allow extremists to make the truth taboo**

If accusations of Islamophobia can be used to silence criticism of Hamas, the UK is in a very dangerous place, argues Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

## **We must stop giving public funds to religious colleges which restrict academic freedom**

Many religious higher education providers are shirking their duty to uphold freedom of expression and academic freedom. Christopher Higgins and Keith Sharpe say it's time to stop funding these institutions. [Read More »](#)

## **Michaela shows the need to end collective worship laws**

The Michaela case demonstrates why we need a change in law to enable schools to promote a secular, inclusive ethos, says Megan Manson. [Read More »](#)

## **Ritual slaughter: is the government about to renege on its commitment to consult?**

Stephen Evans criticises the government's U-turn on animal welfare and says food labelling policy should serve consumers rather than religious interests. [Read More »](#)

## **Time to bring policies on religion in line with public opinion**

As yet another study confirms Brits aren't keen on religion, Megan Manson says politicians should reflect public opinion by reeling in religious privilege. [Read More »](#)

## **Religion should not be a roadblock to child safeguarding in healthcare**

A new paper highlights barriers to reforming guidance on non-therapeutic circumcision. The author, Dr Antony Lempert, explains why religion is one of the biggest barriers of all. [Read More »](#)

## **Secularism in 2023: A year in review**

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the moments, stories, and insights that shaped our work, through the blogs we've published. [Read More »](#)

## **The universality of human rights needs defending**

Seventy-five years on from the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its promise of freedom and equality remains a distant dream for those living under religious rule, says Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

## **The time to disestablish the Church of England has come**

Lib Dem peer Paul Scriven explains why he has introduced a bill in parliament to separate Church and state. [Read More »](#)

## **Time for Church and state to part ways**

Separating church and state would signal a forward-looking Britain committed to equality, inclusivity and freedom of religion or belief. National Secular Society CEO Stephen Evans explains why the NSS is backing a bill to disestablish the Church of England. [Read More »](#)

## **We must stop charities promoting antisemitism**

The horrific attack on Israel by Islamist terrorists Hamas, and Israel's subsequent response, have unleashed unprecedented... [Read More »](#)

## **Bishops, know your place: it's not in parliament**

It was with great lamentation and gnashing of teeth that members of the Church of England reacted to [news this week... Read More »](#)

## **Freedom of religion or belief must include the freedom to 'blaspheme'**

The freedom to question and criticise religious ideas in the same manner as any other kind is foundational to a democratic... [Read More »](#)

## **A monument to hijab is no way to celebrate women**

A 16ft steel statue of a grim-faced women clad in an Islamic veil looms over a largely Muslim community. Weighing... [Read More »](#)

## **Don't extend religious privilege in parliament - end it**

If you're vexed by Anglican clerics sitting as of right in our legislature deciding on the laws that affect us all,... [Read More »](#)

## **Denmark stood up against fundamentalists in the past. It must not give in now**

It is now almost two decades since an organised campaign of lies, threats and violence attempted to force Danish society... [Read More »](#)

## **The Church of England is legitimising spiritual abuse**

*The Exorcist* director William Friedkin [died](#) at the age of 87 this week. His seminal film immortalised the concept... [Read More »](#)

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Imagine if a colleague of yours, due to his deeply held religious beliefs, refused to follow his manager's instructions... [Read More »](#)

## **From Barbie to blasphemy: how religion muzzles free speech**

This week, religious groups have found ways to be offended by both of the summer's biggest blockbusters. [In Pakistan... Read More »](#)

## **Taxpayers shouldn't be burdened with propping up the Church**

Faced with dwindling congregations, the Church of England is looking for ways to fund the growing repair bill of its... [Read More »](#)

## **Don't let the Church dictate how we marry**

In justifying its uniquely privileged position as the [established religion](#), the Church of England likes to portray... [Read More »](#)

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*Fairness and freedom should be central to state education. Recommendations from the UN child rights committee lay... [Read More »](#)*

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*Christian politicians have recently claimed they cannot talk openly about their faith. Megan Manson says recent events... [Read More »](#)*

## **Why are councillors doing Islamists' work for them?**

*After a councillor was denied mayoralty for criticising Islam, Jack Rivington warns politicians are playing into the... [Read More »](#)*

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