

Author: [Terry Sanderson](#)

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[Section 28 was a shameful piece of legislation prompted by fake news](#)

Posted: Wed, 23 May 2018 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Thirty years after the government banned local authorities from 'promoting' homosexuality, Terry Sanderson reflects on the hysteria that prompted Section 28, the fear it caused and the backing religious fanatics gave it.

The struggle for gay rights in this... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [LGBTQ rights](#), [Equality & Human Rights](#)

[The BBC is overdoing religion](#)

Posted: Mon, 31 Jul 2017 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

New figures show that the BBC is devoting hundreds of hours of programming to religion each year. NSS president Terry Sanderson argues that more of its scarce resources should be spent elsewhere.

In its recently published annual report, the BBC reveals the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [BBC](#), [Media](#), [Statistics](#)

[Was Tim Farron a secularist?](#)

Posted: Thu, 15 Jun 2017 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Tim Farron was a classic secularist, but found himself unable to reconcile his personal faith and his party's socially liberal positions and made his own choice, argues Terry Sanderson.

So, does the former Lib Dem leader Tim Farron now join the ranks of the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [LibDem Party](#), [Politics](#), [GE2017](#)

CofE talks to the electorate, but is anyone listening?

Posted: Mon, 08 May 2017 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Religious leaders are free to speak out on politics, but they shouldn't expect their views to be given any special weight, and politicians shouldn't assume that clerics speak for anyone but themselves, argues Terry Sanderson.

The Church of England has [published...](#) [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Politics](#), [GE2017](#), [Church of England](#)

Religious programming isn't popular, and no amount of hounding from the Church will change that

Posted: Tue, 04 Apr 2017 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

The BBC still produces a considerable amount of religious programmes – but the numbers who watch it are so small they barely register in viewing figures. More religion on TV isn't what the public want, and it won't be good for the BBC, writes Terry Sanderson.... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [BBC](#)

Prime Minister and CofE promote fake 'war on Easter'

Posted: Tue, 04 Apr 2017 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

After several media outlets falsely claimed that the National Trust and Cadbury were 'airbrushing' Easter out of their Easter egg hunt, Terry Sanderson argues that the Prime Minister's involvement in this trumped-up propaganda exercise was the real disgrace.... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Christianity](#), [Politics](#), [Easter](#)

Living better together: French secularism risks being destroyed by political ambition

Posted: Thu, 25 Aug 2016 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Despite occasional conflicts, France's tradition of secularism has served both social cohesion and religious freedom well. Terry Sanderson argues that misusing secularism for political aims risks undermining both.

The French ban on so-called burkinis –... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [France](#), [Events](#), [Islam](#), [Community Cohesion](#)

The gay community should recognise and oppose its chief oppressor

Posted: Tue, 17 May 2016 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

While people of all faiths and none have campaigned for and against LGBTQ rights, the merger of religious and state power has always been the greatest threat to LGBTQ rights around the world and turns bigotry into discrimination, argues NSS president Terry... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [LGBTQ rights](#), [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Hindu Nationalism](#), [Islamism](#), [Christian Right](#), [History](#)

Secularism is on the front line

Posted: Fri, 18 Dec 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Terry Sanderson, the recently re-elected president of the National Secular Society, reflects on the challenges of the past year and invites our members and supporters to take an active role supporting our campaign work in 2016.

We've heard very little this... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Christmas](#), [Secularism](#)

Time for Christians of goodwill to say “Not In My Name”

Posted: Tue, 26 May 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Most Christians don't feel the need to be exempt from equality legislation in order to live their lives in accordance with their religious beliefs. Terry Sanderson says it's time they spoke out against those that do.

The efforts by some evangelical groups to... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Ashers](#)

[The Christian “fired for praying at work” – here’s the other side of the story](#)

Posted: Thu, 23 Apr 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

The British media unquestioningly promulgates the false narrative of Christians being discriminated against in the workplace. Terry Sanderson looks at the latest case involving a Christian disciplined for subjecting a subordinate to unwanted and intrusive... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Discrimination](#), [Healthcare](#)

[Even the chief architect of the expansion of religious schools is now having doubts](#)

Posted: Wed, 01 Apr 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

With the public, of all faiths and none, increasingly recognising the problems caused by faith schools, NSS president Terry Sanderson calls out politicians who complain about religious separatism on one hand while deliberately promoting it on the other.

Tony... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Faith Schools](#), [Community Cohesion](#)

[There is no widespread discrimination against Christians in the workplace](#)

Posted: Fri, 13 Mar 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

NSS president Terry Sanderson challenges the notion that Christians are widely discriminated against in the workplace, and calls for fairness, justice and common sense.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has published the results of its research... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Christianity](#), ['Christianophobia'](#), [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Workplace](#)

[The Christian Legal Centre makes another attempt to gain privileges for Christians in the workplace](#)

Posted: Mon, 02 Mar 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

The Christian Legal Centre's latest 'discrimination' claim follows a familiar pattern – but its use of dissembling tactics shouldn't be permitted to manipulate a change in equality laws, argues Terry

Sanderson.

So, here we go again. Another evangelical... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Discrimination](#), [Workplace](#)

The dishonesty of religious lobbying shines like a beacon

Posted: Tue, 03 Feb 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

NSS President Terry Sanderson argues that the churches have changed their lobbying tactics, and are trying to impose their doctrines through misdirection and 'slippery slope' arguments.

The reaction of the Church of England and the Catholic Church to the debate... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Christianity](#), [Healthcare](#), [Church of England](#), [Catholic Church](#)

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The reaction of the Church of England and the Catholic Church to the debate... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Christianity](#), [Healthcare](#), [Church of England](#), [Catholic Church](#)

NSS statement following Charlie Hebdo attack

Posted: Wed, 07 Jan 2015 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Restrictions on criticising or satirising religion, especially Islam, have hugely increased since Salman Rushdie was burned in effigy and driven into hiding over *The Satanic Verses* in 1988. That he was reviled and those attempting his murder not even charged... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#)

Secular conference created a sense of imminent and momentous change – and women will be the driving force

Posted: Wed, 15 Oct 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

The passion of feminist secular activists from around the world at a recent conference has inspired Terry Sanderson, who chaired a panel on religion's role in the state, law and politics.

Last weekend's conference organised in London by Maryam Namazie and her... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Secularism](#), [Gender Equality](#), [Ex-Muslim](#)

[Grievous nonsense](#)

Posted: Wed, 27 Aug 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

*The narrative that Christians are somehow persecuted in the UK – which the Daily Telegraph and former Attorney General Dominic Grieve were happy to promote this week – is a dishonest appeal for privilege, argues NSS president **Terry Sanderson**.*

To... [Read More »](#)

Tags: ['Militant' secularism](#), [Council Prayers](#)

[Commission to investigate religion's role in society](#)

Posted: Thu, 03 Jul 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

*A commission has set itself up to "take the temperature of Britain's relationship with religion". But with so many vested interests on board, **Terry Sanderson** questions how objective its findings will be.*

A commission has set itself up with the task of "taking... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Christianity](#)

[Will the Equality Act be battered into submitting to religious exemptions?](#)

Posted: Mon, 30 Jun 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

*Misleading reporting of individual cases and calls for "conscience clauses" feed into a false narrative of Christian persecution aimed at undermining the Equality Act, argues **Terry Sanderson**.*

Recently the vice president of the UK Supreme Court, Baroness Hale,... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Discrimination](#)

[It's not only Islamists who have Trojan Horses](#)

Posted: Fri, 27 Jun 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Those with a vested interest in the continuation of 'faith schools' have started their fight back against the growing number of critics, says

Terry Sanderson.

After the furore of the Birmingham Trojan Horse affair, a lot of commentators reached the conclusion... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Islam](#), [Church of England](#), [Faith Schools](#)

[Terry Sanderson's speech to the Religious Freedom Conference, Chatham](#)

Posted: Tue, 24 Jun 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

*On 21 June 2014, NSS President **Terry Sanderson** spoke at the Chatham Unitarian Church, about the importance of equalities protections and secularism to religious freedom. This is a transcript of his speech.*

The first problem I have is with a definition of "religious... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Discrimination](#)

[A "religious ethos" is not why faith schools succeed – it's selection that does it](#)

Posted: Tue, 17 Jun 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

*Rather than a faith-based ethos, **Terry Sanderson** argues that it's selection that allows faith schools to outperform other schools – and calls for fairer admissions policies to ensure a level playing field for all.*

The headline in the Coventry Telegraph... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Discrimination](#), [Faith Schools](#)

[Yes, "faith schools" really are the problem](#)

Posted: Wed, 11 Jun 2014 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

*Politicians are in denial over the problems caused by "faith schools" and religious influence in education, argues **Terry Sanderson**.*

The National Secular Society has been saying it for years – "faith schools" are a bad idea. And despite the events of the... [Read More »](#)

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