

Author: [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

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[Let's disestablish the church that covered up sexual abuse](#)

Posted: Fri, 17 Jan 2020 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Keith Porteous Wood says the shocking failings highlighted by the BBC documentary *The Church's Darkest Secret* show the need to separate church and state. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Bishops](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#)

['By the Grace of God' shows the need to hold the Catholic Church accountable on child abuse](#)

Posted: Fri, 25 Oct 2019 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Keith Porteous Wood says a film highlighting the struggle to bring a senior Catholic cardinal to account for covering up child abuse is a sign that the Vatican's wall of silence cannot hold. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Reviews](#)

[Pope's latest PR offering on clerical abuse should fool no one](#)

Posted: Fri, 10 May 2019 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

By only obligating officials in the Roman Catholic Church to report cases of clerical abuse internally, the pope's latest decree on child abuse falls a long way short of what is necessary, argues Keith Porteous Wood. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#)

[IICSA's Ealing hearings showed the Catholic Church can't be trusted to police itself](#)

Posted: Mon, 25 Feb 2019 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

An inquiry has highlighted the Catholic Church's lamentable failings over child abuse at an abbey and school in west London. Keith Porteous Wood says the episode has shown the need for mandatory reporting of abuse. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#)

21 steps the pope would take if he was committed to tackling child abuse

Posted: Fri, 22 Feb 2019 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

As the Catholic Church unveils another inadequate plan to tackle child abuse, this open letter from Keith Porteous Wood highlights some steps the pope could take if he was committed to taking effective action. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Pope](#)

The pope's empty words and meaningless gestures won't tackle clerical abuse

Posted: Mon, 07 Jan 2019 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

One of the pope's Christmas messages urged clerical abusers to hand themselves in. Keith Porteous Wood asks how effective it will be in bringing perpetrators to the courts and assesses the pope's progress over abuse. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#)

The Catholic Church's record on abuse demands accountability, not more meaningless apologies

Posted: Fri, 24 Aug 2018 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

As the pope prepares to visit Ireland, NSS president Keith Porteous Wood says the international community must confront the Vatican over its shameful record on child abuse and demand action to bring secular justice.

Forty years ago, mass attendance per capita... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#)

Religious power and privilege failed the victims in the Peter Ball affair

Posted: Sat, 11 Aug 2018 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

In this long read NSS president Keith Porteous Wood explains how all arms of the law co-operated to protect the now former bishop Peter Ball for decades and refutes claims that "it couldn't happen now".

Peter Ball started misusing his religious power to sexually... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#)

Anglicanism's 'purple circle' of bishops cannot be trusted over child abuse

Posted: Sat, 28 Jul 2018 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

NSS president Keith Porteous Wood reflects on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's hearings into the case of the abusive bishop Peter Ball.

Under the guise of schemes with names such as "Give a Year to God", former Church of England bishop Peter... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#)

Church dysfunctionality laid bare by child sexual abuse inquiry

Posted: Sun, 11 Mar 2018 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

As the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse turns its attention to the Church of England, Keith Porteous Wood says it must act on evidence which has highlighted the desperate need to hold the C of E to account.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#)

Cardinal Murphy O'Connor's cover-up of child abusers must be a lesson to the Catholic Church

Posted: Fri, 08 Sep 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Cormac Murphy O'Connor, the former Archbishop of Westminster, died on 1 September. NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood seeks to set the historical record straight with this alternative obituary. This piece was [originally published](#) on Conatus News. It... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#)

Ireland's hospitals: some welcome secularisation

Posted: Fri, 01 Sep 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood detects a long-overdue and decisive turn towards secularism in publicly funded healthcare in Ireland, an area in which the Catholic Church has until now been predominant.

The Catholic Church in Ireland has, until recently,... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Healthcare](#), [Ireland](#)

The confessional shouldn't shield child abuse from reporting

Posted: Wed, 16 Aug 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

The Australian abuse commission is right not to exempt the confessional from reporting obligations, and its rigour should provide a model to reverse the backsliding already all too clear in the UK, argues Keith Porteous Wood.

Should priests be legally bound... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Australia](#), [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#)

Church of England's links with insurer undermines justice for survivors of clergy abuse

Posted: Wed, 26 Jul 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Anglican abuse victims believe the Church's close links with its insurer results in lower settlements to victims. NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood thinks they've got a point, and offers solutions to put things right.

An insurance company connected... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#)

[The greater the religious fervency, the greater the homophobia](#)

Posted: Fri, 07 Jul 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

On Pride weekend, NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood highlights the interconnectedness between the fight for secularism and equality for LGBTQ people.

Homosexuality, or at least homosexual activity, especially by men, has been a long-standing subject... [Read More »](#)

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

[Irish National Maternity Hospital: “Keep your rosaries off my ovaries!”](#)

Posted: Mon, 05 Jun 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

The determination to give a hospital to a disgraced religious order, in spite of public outrage, is the very antithesis of secularism. But the episode has prompted calls for fundamental changes in the relationship between church and state, writes Keith Porteous... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Healthcare](#), [Ireland](#), [Reproductive Rights](#)

[Anglican stance on women and gays could trigger disestablishment](#)

Posted: Sun, 14 May 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Keith Porteous Wood argues that, with the CofE's hierarchy so at odds with the values on equality held by the country at large, an Anglican vicar is right to question its status as the 'national church'.

Andrew Foreshew-Cain, the first Anglican vicar to have... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#)

[Who is running Ireland – the Government or the Church?](#)

Posted: Mon, 27 Mar 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

The reach and power of the Catholic Church has waned considerably in recent years in Ireland. But there are troubling signs that its undue influence over the country is returning, writes Keith Porteous Wood.

It is difficult to envisage now, but when the UK... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Ireland](#)

[Mass grave full of children's remains at Catholic home reveals atrocities on a massive scale](#)

Posted: Tue, 07 Mar 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

With the latest revelations about human remains in an Irish Mother and Baby home, Keith Porteous Wood, executive director of the National Secular Society, seeks answers about how such atrocities could have happened on such a scale, and what can be done now.... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Ireland](#)

[Stop pharmacies refusing prescriptions for emergency contraception on religious grounds](#)

Posted: Fri, 17 Feb 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

With the regulator considering curtailing 'conscience' objections to contraception prescriptions, Keith Porteous Wood urges supporters to respond to the consultation in the interests of vulnerable patients.

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has launched... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Healthcare](#), [Reproductive Rights](#), [Secular Medical Forum](#)

[Norway's separation of Church and State: a work in progress](#)

Posted: Wed, 04 Jan 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Norway's supposed separation of Church and State, effective from 1 January 2017, is a very positive step, but it's still a work in progress, writes Keith Porteous Wood.

Both Norway and the United Kingdom have populations that are very secular in outlook, with... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Norway](#), [Secularism](#)

[The new UN Secretary General must not allow religion to override human rights](#)

Posted: Fri, 21 Oct 2016 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

UN Secretary General designate needs to ignore Catholic pressure to row back on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Gay Rights, writes Keith Porteous Wood.

The former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres has been officially appointed as the next... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Abortion](#), [Catholic Church](#), [Reproductive Rights](#), [United Nations](#)

The House of Lords and religion

Posted: Fri, 12 Aug 2016 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

The Parliamentary recess provides welcome respite from the frenetic activity of the political battles being fought out in the chamber and corridors, allowing us to stand back and have a wry look at the institution itself, writes Keith Porteous Wood.

With the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#), [History](#), [House of Lords](#), [Parliament](#)

Church and State united in denying religious freedom to young people

Posted: Tue, 05 Jul 2016 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood writes on the union between church and state that is denying freedom of religion to young people – in defiance of the United Nations and human rights.

The UN recently [recommended](#) that the UK "repeal legal provisions... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Collective Worship](#), [Equality & Human Rights](#), [United Nations](#)

Do we need 'religious approaches' to Human Rights?

Posted: Thu, 17 Mar 2016 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Keith Porteous Wood offers a critical review of a new book that claims Human Rights owe their existence to religion – when the greatest modern threat to Human Rights comes from organised religion.

A book on 'Religious approaches to Human Rights' has just... [Read More »](#)

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