

# Author: [Chris Sloggett](#)

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## [Scotland's new hate speech law will be too censorious](#)

Posted: Thu, 07 May 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

A new offence of 'stirring up hatred' on religious grounds is too restrictive of free speech, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Scotland](#)

## [Secular attitudes and laws are assets against coronavirus](#)

Posted: Fri, 03 Apr 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Religious fanaticism is hindering the fight against coronavirus across much of the world. But in Britain, claims to religious exceptionalism are thankfully relatively isolated, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Religious freedom](#)

## [Trevor Phillips's suspension is another blow to robust public debate](#)

Posted: Wed, 11 Mar 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

You don't need to agree with everything Trevor Phillips has said about Muslims or Islam to be concerned at the attempt to render his ideas beyond the pale, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Islam](#)

## [Don't let religious interests make divorce any harder than it needs to be](#)

Posted: Thu, 05 Mar 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The Church of England and its supporters are opposing plans to make it easier for couples to divorce without assigning blame. Chris Sloggett says parliamentarians should resist their lobbying.

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Tags: [Marriage](#)

## [Don't let religious advocates define the boundaries of acceptable thought](#)

Posted: Thu, 20 Feb 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

A BBC debate on defining 'Islamophobia' was a reminder of the risks of giving too much ground to religious identity politics and empowering 'community groups' to police public discussion, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Islam](#)

## [Five years after the Charlie Hebdo murders, free expression on religion still needs promoting](#)

Posted: Tue, 07 Jan 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Half a decade after the Islamist attack on cartoonists in France, Chris Sloggett says we owe it to the victims and those left behind to reject blasphemy taboos. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Blasphemy](#), [Freedom of Expression](#)

## [Don't let religious sectarianism tear our democracy apart](#)

Posted: Thu, 14 Nov 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Chris Sloggett says the major parties in the current election campaign are indulging Britain's division into religious tribes – and we should urgently ask how we can move past this. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Democracy](#), [Election](#), [Freedom of Expression](#)

## [We should expect the religious to follow the same laws as everyone else](#)

Posted: Thu, 07 Nov 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

In response to a targeted criticism of the NSS for campaigning to end non-stun slaughter, Chris Sloggett says the principle of one law for all is worth upholding. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [One law for all](#), [Religious Slaughter](#)

## **Don't take lessons on democracy from Church of England bishops**

Posted: Fri, 04 Oct 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The bishop of London has lamented the state of British democracy while delivering a sermon at the annual judges' service. Perhaps someone should point out the undemocratic nature of her own position, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

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

## **The chief rabbi has made an anti-democratic attempt to shut down criticism**

Posted: Wed, 18 Sep 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The chief rabbi has asked secularists to stop campaigning against practices such as faith schools and infant circumcision. His apparently polite request should be firmly rejected, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Circumcision](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Freedom of Expression](#)

## **Beware moving election dates for religious reasons**

Posted: Wed, 04 Sep 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The proposed date for a general election has moved to accommodate a Jewish festival. Chris Sloggett asks whether the government has weighed up all competing considerations before reaching this decision. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Politics](#)

## **Don't expect the Church of England to unify the country**

Posted: Thu, 29 Aug 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The archbishop of Canterbury has been asked to help unify the country during Brexit. Chris Sloggett warns left-leaning MPs against buttressing the power of the Church of England to further their agenda. [Read More »](#)

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

## **The gatekeepers of public debate can't patronise away anti-Muslim bigotry**

Posted: Thu, 22 Aug 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Adopting a proposed definition of 'Islamophobia' would restrict legitimate speech on Islam and embed a failing approach to anti-Muslim hate. This is the NSS's submission to a series of essays criticising the definition. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Islam](#)

## **Why won't the government condemn the existence of Pakistan's blasphemy laws?**

Posted: Thu, 18 Jul 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Ministers keep condemning the "misuse" of Pakistan's blasphemy laws in response to parliamentary questions. But the 'misuse' of indefensible laws isn't the issue – the existence of them is, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Blasphemy](#), [Freedom of Expression](#)

## **Blasphemy culture mustn't undermine freedom of the press**

Posted: Thu, 11 Jul 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The press regulator is consulting on guidelines which will inform the way stories about Islam and Muslims are reported. It must not endorse taboos which shut down debate and harm social cohesion, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Media](#)

## **Equality for LGBT people requires a secular head of state**

Posted: Thu, 27 Jun 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Prince William's comments on supporting his children if they are gay should be treated with much less significance than the fact he is due to lead an established church which obstructs LGBT equality, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [LGBT rights](#), [Monarchy](#)

## **Protecting children means challenging religious privilege**

Posted: Fri, 07 Jun 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

A report on child abuse in religious settings should prompt us to reconsider our relationship with religious institutions and their constitutional privileges and our wider attitude towards religion, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#)

## **The advertising regulator is pandering to religious offence-taking**

Posted: Thu, 04 Apr 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

As a regulator issues patronising advice to advertisers in the run-up to Easter, Chris Sloggett takes a look at its guidance on religious offence – and finds a deep and damaging aversion to freedom of expression. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Easter](#), [Freedom of Expression](#)

## **The government should stand up to parents who want religious opt-outs**

Posted: Wed, 27 Feb 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Giving ground to religious groups' individualistic demands for opt-outs from relationships & sex education undermines children's rights and teachers' ability to do their job, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Children's rights & welfare](#), [Education](#), [RSE](#)

## **Defending one law for all is the only sustainable way to beat reactionaries of all stripes**

Posted: Thu, 10 Jan 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

As a ban on non-stun slaughter comes into force in northern Belgium, Chris Sloggett says there should be no religious exemptions to the law. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Animal Welfare](#), [Halal](#), [Kosher](#), [One law for all](#), [Religious Slaughter](#)

## **The gatekeepers of public debate can't patronise away anti-Muslim bigotry**

Posted: Wed, 28 Nov 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*A parliamentary group's proposal that the government define 'Islamophobia' is a misguided power grab, says Chris Sloggett. If we want to end anti-Muslim bigotry, we should stop telling people what to think about Islam. [Read More »](#)*

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Islam](#)

## **Don't let mixed-sex civil partnerships distract from the need for marriage reform**

Posted: Wed, 03 Oct 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*Campaigners' elation at the arrival of opposite-sex civil partnerships is understandable, says Chris Sloggett. But beware politicians using it to excuse their failure to loosen the Church of England's grip on marriage.*

It's hard to begrudge Rebecca Steinfeld... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Marriage](#), [Marriage Equality](#)

## **Stop reflexively saying yes to religious groups**

Posted: Fri, 21 Sep 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*As councils in north London, police in West Yorkshire and politicians in Westminster pander to religious groups' demands, Chris Sloggett says public bodies should stop taking the line of least resistance.*

When you're up against someone who wants something,... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Community Cohesion](#), [Public Services](#)

## **Universities must commit to free expression – and they should stop hiring religious chaplains**

Posted: Thu, 02 Aug 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*A chaplain should not have been sacked for criticising Pride off campus, says Chris Sloggett. But universities can strike a blow for free speech and critical enquiry if they stop appointing religious*

*representatives.*

It is both impossible and undesirable to... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Chaplaincy](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Universities](#)

## **The British people deserve better than the fawning over Michael Curry**

Posted: Thu, 21 Jun 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*As a poll shows public ambivalence to a much-hyped sermon at the royal wedding, Chris Sloggett says the fuss around Michael Curry has distracted from an opportunity to ask critical questions about religion's public role.*

In March the Independent Inquiry into... [Read More »](#)

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

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