

Author: [Chris Sloggett](#)

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[Heds of state shouldn't have to swear religious oaths](#)

Posted: Fri, 13 Aug 2021 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

A challenge to Ireland's religious presidential oath should be supported – and prompt questions across the Irish Sea, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Head of state](#), [Oath](#)

[Naz Shah's argument on blasphemy should be rejected](#)

Posted: Fri, 09 Jul 2021 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The Labour MP has effectively called for a blasphemy law as she highlighted the "emotional harm" caused by depictions of Muhammad. Freedom of expression on religion mustn't be up for negotiation, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

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

[The ugly Batley and Spen campaign showed the risks of indulging religious identity politics](#)

Posted: Fri, 02 Jul 2021 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Voters and politicians who value social cohesion and basic democratic principles should reject the trend of pandering to religious tribalism, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

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

[The drive for 'religious literacy' in the media would undermine press freedom](#)

Posted: Wed, 12 May 2021 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

A parliamentary report has called for measures to promote 'religious literacy' in the media - including tighter regulation. Chris Sloggett says we should beware the risks of requiring journalists

to tread on eggshells. [Read More »](#)

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

The onus should be on theocrats, not liberal democracies, to change

Posted: Wed, 04 Nov 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Liberal equivocation on whether to stand up to jihadist murder and Islamist intimidation is morally wrong, misguided and counter-productive, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

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

The continued effort to silence Charlie Hebdo is shameful

Posted: Fri, 18 Sep 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

It is outrageous to try to force this small magazine to give the 2015 killers what they wanted, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

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

Does Scotland's justice minister realise the reach of his own hate crime bill?

Posted: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

Humza Yousaf has claimed a bill he's proposing isn't a threat to free speech because it sets a high threshold for criminality. But his careless words suggest he isn't taking concerns seriously, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

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

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. [Read More »](#)

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](#)

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