

Author: [Megan Manson](#)

- Page:
- [1](#)
- [2](#)

[Election 2019: Secularism and the parties of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland](#)

Posted: Wed, 04 Dec 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Megan Manson continues our election analysis of parties' policies on secularist issues. This time she examines the policies of the major parties of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Democracy](#), [Election](#), [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [House of Lords](#), [Reproductive Rights](#)

[Election 2019: Where do the major parties stand on secularist issues?](#)

Posted: Thu, 28 Nov 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Megan Manson studies the main UK-wide parties' election manifestos – and says religion will continue to be a dividing force in UK politics during the next parliament. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Circumcision](#), [Democracy](#), [Education](#), [Election](#), [Equality & Human Rights](#), [Extremism](#), [FGM](#), [Forced marriage](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [House of Lords](#), [Marriage](#), [Public Services](#), [RSE](#), [Religious Freedom](#), [Religious Slaughter](#), [Reproductive Rights](#)

[Most new faith based charities do nothing but promote religion. Time to reform charity law](#)

Posted: Tue, 19 Nov 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

An Islamic organisation which condones extremist messages was among charities which registered on questionable grounds in October. The bar for religious groups to become charities is set too low, says Megan Manson. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Charity](#)

[Secularism is a feminist issue](#)

Posted: Mon, 14 Oct 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Ahead of the FiLiA 2019 conference this weekend, Megan Manson argues that secularism is a crucial ingredient in campaigns for women's equality. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Gender Equality](#)

[Operation Christmas Child: Does its charity benefit the public?](#)

Posted: Wed, 25 Sep 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Samaritan's Purse is again launching its Christmas shoebox scheme in parts of the UK. The harm done by Operation Christmas Child should prompt a rethink of this Evangelical group's charitable status, says Megan Manson. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Charity](#), [Samaritans Purse](#)

[A woman is convicted over circumcision. What happens next?](#)

Posted: Fri, 06 Sep 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

A pharmacist has been convicted for having a baby boy circumcised against his parents' wishes. Megan Manson says the case raises alarming questions over our willingness to defend children's bodily integrity consistently. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Circumcision](#), [Healthcare](#)

['No Outsiders' offers a vision of tolerance and equality](#)

Posted: Wed, 31 Jul 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

The current wave of religious protests outside schools began with objections to the No Outsiders scheme of work. As its author prepares to give the NSS's Bradlaugh Lecture, Megan Manson asks what the fuss was about. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [LGBTQ rights](#), [RSE](#)

[Charity law shouldn't support infant genital cutting](#)

Posted: Tue, 23 Jul 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

The existence of religious charities that support and facilitate infant circumcision demonstrates the urgent need to reform charity law, argues Megan Manson. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Charity](#), [Circumcision](#)

[Why are we letting faith schools stigmatise same-sex relationships?](#)

Posted: Thu, 11 Jul 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Ofsted penalises schools that refuse to teach about LGBT people, but seems to ignore other schools that teach same-sex relationships are morally wrong. Megan Manson says this double standard needs to end. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith schools](#), [RSE](#)

[What might Catholic schools teach about transgender and intersex people?](#)

Posted: Fri, 14 Jun 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Megan Manson examines a new document outlining the Catholic Church's position on issues relating to sex and gender, and explains how this may lead to conflict in Catholic Schools. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [RSE](#)

[Let's face facts: FGM has something to do with religion](#)

Posted: Thu, 14 Mar 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Politicians who insist female genital cutting has nothing to do with religion set a dangerous precedent that undermines campaigns to combat it and other religious harms, says Megan Manson. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Circumcision](#), [FGM](#)

[How secularism protects people who have religious faith](#)

Posted: Wed, 14 Nov 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

For Interfaith Week 2018, campaigns officer Megan Manson explains how the National Secular

Society's work protects those who are religious as well as those who are not.

One of the most common misconceptions about the National Secular Society is that we are...

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Tags: [Caste](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Circumcision](#), [Conversion therapy](#), [FGM](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [One law for all](#), [Secularism](#)

[Why are harmful charities registered at all?](#)

Posted: Fri, 12 Oct 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

The revelation that Amazon funds extremist religious charities is the tip of the iceberg. Our charity system has deep problems, in part stemming from the presumption that religion is a public good, says Megan Manson.

On paper, it's hard to find fault with Amazon... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Charity](#), [Extremism](#)

[Seven secularist steps that would strengthen democracy in the UK](#)

Posted: Wed, 04 Jul 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

In recognition of National Democracy Week 2018, Megan Manson reflects on what still needs to be changed to make the UK a truly democratic, secular state. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#), [Council prayers](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Head of state](#), [One law for all](#), [Secularism](#)

[Just how equal is marriage now?](#)

Posted: Sun, 10 Jun 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

After the NSS [revealed](#) the extra hassle and expense involved in arranging same-sex and non-religious weddings in England and Wales, Megan Manson calls for marriage to be made a civil affair in the eyes of the law.

The institution of marriage has radically transformed.... [Read More »](#)

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

[How secularism cuts the Gordian knot in education](#)

Posted: Fri, 18 May 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

Faith schools' approach to admissions and sex education reminds us that religious groups' interests often conflict with those of society. Megan Manson says the only answer to this is to separate education from religion.

When we tie religion and state together,... [Read More »](#)

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

[Seven women who refused to be silenced by religious bullies](#)

Posted: Thu, 08 Mar 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

On International Women's Day, Megan Manson celebrates the stories of seven brave and determined women in the UK who religious hardliners have tried – and failed miserably – to bully over the past year.

Religion is one of the key obstructions to... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Extremism](#), [Gender Equality](#), [LGBTQ rights](#), [Sabbatarianism](#)

[Faith School Admissions: Four Myths Busted](#)

Posted: Mon, 22 Jan 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

Megan Manson takes on common myths about the 50% cap on children admitted on religious grounds to faith schools.

It's unpleasant enough that any institution would turn away a child on the basis of their parents' beliefs. When it's a state-funded school, it's... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Fifty percent cap](#), [admissions](#)

[Book review: 'Persepolis'](#)

Posted: Tue, 16 Jan 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

In light of the recent protests in Iran, and the rise of Islamist extremism throughout the world, Megan Manson looks back at the graphic novel Persepolis, published nearly 20 years ago.

If there were ever a perfect time to read *Persepolis*, it would be now.... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Iran](#), [Islamism](#), [Reviews](#)

[The David and Goliath battle in our schools: parents versus religion](#)

Posted: Thu, 11 Jan 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

As NSS research highlights a systemic bias against secular schooling, Megan Manson explores the tactics used by religion to infiltrate education – and how parents are fighting back.

In November, the National Secular Society got a call from a parent whose... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Academisation](#), [Casework focus](#), [Education](#), [Evangelism in schools](#), [Faith Schools](#)

[Fundamentalists feel the Force of Star Wars](#)

Posted: Tue, 09 Jan 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

Sabbatarians in Lewis claim a right to impose their beliefs on others, including by banning screenings of Star Wars on Sundays. Megan Manson asks if they would make these demands if Jediism was a recognised religion.

Obi-Wan has taught them well. When An Lanntair... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Sabbatarianism](#), [Scotland](#)

[Yes, secularism is good for gender equality](#)

Posted: Wed, 03 Jan 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

Western academics who claim that secularism undermines women's rights are not merely wrong; their assertions are a slap in the face of women fighting for their rights under religious tyranny, says Megan Manson.

Of all the images that have emerged from mass... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Gender Equality](#)

[Interfaith must embrace secularism](#)

Posted: Mon, 13 Nov 2017 by [Megan Manson](#)

Interfaith Week is underway. Megan Manson says interfaith dialogue must embrace secularist principles to remain relevant, effective and inclusive.

Interfaith, the constructive dialogue between people of different faiths in order to promote mutual understanding,... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Religion & Belief](#), [Secularism](#)

Protecting freedom of belief for the many and the few

Posted: Mon, 23 Oct 2017 by [Megan Manson](#)

Ahead of International Freedom of Religion or Belief Day, Megan Manson looks at democratic secularism's changing role in an age of the non-religious minority and rising diversity.

In the past, those who have given their greatest support for secularism have... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom from Religion](#), [Religion & Belief](#), [Religious Freedom](#), [Secularisation](#)

Al-Hijrah School ruling: The fight to end segregation has only just begun

Posted: Sat, 14 Oct 2017 by [Megan Manson](#)

The ruling that an Islamic faith school's policy of gender segregation is unlawful should force us to have a broader conversation about the religious segregation and inequality our children face in UK schools, argues Megan Manson

Make no mistake: [the ruling... Read More »](#)

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- Page:
- [1](#)
- [2](#)

- [Opinion](#)