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### [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 »](#)

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### [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 »](#)

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### [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](#)

## **Election 2019: pledges that should be in the parties' manifestos**

Posted: Tue, 05 Nov 2019 by [Stephen Evans](#)

As the UK's political parties consider their manifestos for the upcoming election, Stephen Evans outlines a series of secularist pledges they should include to advance freedom, fairness and equal citizenship. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Assisted Dying](#), [Caste](#), [Charity](#), [Church & State](#), [Circumcision](#), [Collective worship](#), [Election](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Public services](#), [Religious slaughter](#), [admissions](#)

## **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](#)

## **Islam, like any other religion, must be fair game for criticism**

Posted: Thu, 22 Aug 2019 by [Stephen Evans](#)

The disqualification of a GCSE student who criticised halal meat is a reminder of the need to resist censorious offence-taking on Islam and the normalisation of the idea of 'Islamophobia', says Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

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

## **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](#)

## [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 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](#)

## [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](#)

## [European ruling that 'religious feelings' trump free speech is a dangerous development](#)

Posted: Fri, 26 Oct 2018 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*Just as Irish citizens strike a blow for the right to freedom of expression, the European Court has fundamentally undermined it, argues Stephen Evans.*

Irish voters decided this week to remove the 'crime' of blasphemy from its constitution. The majority of citizens,... [Read More »](#)

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

## [We must resist both religious hatred and its weaponisation](#)

Posted: Thu, 18 Oct 2018 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

*After a sharp rise in reported crimes in which religious hatred was a factor, Alastair Lichten says liberal democracies should challenge hatred and bigotry while resisting attempts to silence ideas.*

According to [new figures](#) from the Home Office there were 94,098... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Anti-Muslim bigotry](#), [Anti-Semitism](#), [Ex-Muslim](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Hate crime](#)

## [Why we must reclaim religious freedom](#)

Posted: Wed, 12 Sep 2018 by [National Secular Society](#)

*There is an urgent case for resisting those who claim the mantle of 'religious freedom' without regard for others' rights and freedoms. Here's why our Secularism 2019 conference will be held under the tagline 'reclaiming religious freedom'.*

"Everyone has the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom from Religion](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Healthcare](#), [LGBTQ rights](#), [Religious freedom](#), [Secularism 2019](#)

## [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](#)

## [Ten years on from the abolition of blasphemy, free speech still needs defending](#)

Posted: Wed, 11 Jul 2018 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*Marking ten years since the criminal offence of blasphemy was abolished in England and Wales, Stephen Evans argues that the freedom to speak critically about beliefs others hold sacred is far from assured.*

This week marks the 10-year anniversary of the abolition... [Read More »](#)

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

## [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](#)

## [It shouldn't be normal for pubs to conform to blasphemy codes](#)

Posted: Wed, 06 Jun 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*The brewer Greene King has taken the Saudi Arabian flag down from its World Cup displays after complaints from some Muslims that an Islamic symbol shouldn't be in a place which serves alcohol. Chris Sloggett responds.*

Do you find the Saudi Arabian flag offensive?... [Read More »](#)

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

## [What comes after The Silence of the Liberals?](#)

Posted: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*Nick Cohen has skewered the hypocrisy of leftists who apologise for Islamic intolerance, says Chris Sloggett. To defeat it we must assert the value of free speech as the most precious right which citizens share.*

"I'm as interested in what isn't said as what... [Read More »](#)

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## [Let's point out that the 'Je ne suis pas Charlie' brigade are helping the terrorists win](#)

Posted: Sun, 07 Jan 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*Three years after the Charlie Hebdo massacre, Chris Sloggett says it is a moral duty to push back against those who invent outrages to impugn the magazine's reputation.*

Terrorism will never prevail. Terrorists will never change who we are. Terrorists will never... [Read More »](#)

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## [Only secularism can defeat the emboldened Hindu right](#)

Posted: Fri, 01 Dec 2017 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*Violent threats look set to censor a film which was due for UK release today. It's the latest sign of rising Hindu fundamentalism. In response, Chris Sloggett says, we must make sure no religion*

*gets special treatment.*

The makers of the Bollywood historical... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Caste](#), [Freedom of Expression](#), [Hindu Nationalism](#), [Secularism](#)

## [De facto blasphemy laws are alive and well](#)

Posted: Thu, 16 Nov 2017 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*It is now 38 years since Monty Python's Life of Brian was released in November 1979, despite protests. But Chris Sloggett says we aren't truly free to engage in blasphemy today.*

It is now 38 years since Monty Python's Life of Brian was released in November... [Read More »](#)

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## [Murdered for the 'crime' of blasphemy](#)

Posted: Fri, 12 May 2017 by [Anonymous](#)

*There has been an onslaught against secularists, atheists, ex-Muslims and countless religious minorities for 'blasphemy'. It's important to remember the individuals, and honour their lives and heroism.*

In light of the recent press coverage around the trial... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Hindu Nationalism](#), [Islamism](#)

## [The demonisation of Louis Smith: This is how a de facto blasphemy law works](#)

Posted: Tue, 11 Oct 2016 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*The castigation of a British gymnast for 'mocking Islam' is illustrative of a troubling return of blasphemy, argues Stephen Evans.*

If you've been following the hounding of British Olympic gymnast Louis Smith this week, you'd be forgiven for forgetting that... [Read More »](#)

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