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### [Ireland's mother and baby homes scandal shows the necessity of separating church and state](#)

Posted: Fri, 05 Feb 2021 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

The misery which women and children faced for decades highlights the damage that can be done when states leave religious authority unchecked, says NSS president Keith Porteous Wood. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child abuse](#), [Ireland](#), [Women's rights](#)

### [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](#)

### [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](#)

### [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 »](#)

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## [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](#)

## [The Catholic Church is now paying the price for its past in Ireland](#)

Posted: Tue, 26 May 2015 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

*NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood welcomes the Irish referendum result on marriage equality and argues that the Catholic Church's appalling recent history in Ireland shows it deserves to be discredited- as it now has been, by the overwhelming referendum... [Read More »](#)*

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

## [Irish same-sex marriage – is the Church trying to blackmail the state?](#)

Posted: Fri, 17 Apr 2015 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

*The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland has threatened to stop civil marriage registration if Irish law is changed to allow same sex marriages. Keith Porteous Wood argues that if it were to carry out its threat, it could inflict more harm on the Church than any... [Read More »](#)*

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Ireland](#), [Marriage Equality](#)

## [Apostasy and blasphemy laws: an affront to human rights](#)

Posted: Wed, 01 Oct 2014 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

*Iran's execution of Mohsen Amir-Aslani on apostasy charges illustrates the injustices caused by such laws in the Middle East and around the world, argues Alastair Lichten.*

This week, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran... [Read More »](#)

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## [It's not fair! Why has Ireland got Ruairi Quinn, while we're stuck with Michael Gove?](#)

Posted: Mon, 15 Apr 2013 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

If only the UK had an education minister like Ireland's Ruairi Quinn.

Mr Quinn is, bit by bit, challenging the stranglehold that the Catholic Church has over education in the Republic.

He does it in a proper, diplomatic way, of course, but he has already [begun... Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Ireland](#)

## [Ireland awaits Human Rights report on its abortion law](#)

Posted: Tue, 28 Aug 2012 by [Claire McCormack](#)

*By Claire McCormack*

Ireland awaits a September report on its abortion laws by a European Court of Human Rights panel of experts at a time of rising political tensions over the issue and a backdrop of steep declines in the popularity of religion.

In Ireland ,... [Read More »](#)

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