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[Regressive religious demands shouldn't hold sway over political decisions](#)

Posted: Thu, 15 Apr 2021 by [Stephen Evans](#)

Much of a pre-election letter from Scotland's Catholic bishops highlights the risks of allowing religious dogma to dictate public policy, says Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Abortion](#), [Assisted dying](#), [Catholic Church](#), [Education](#), [Election](#), [Scotland](#)

[If Scotland wants to uphold children's rights, its schools need to change](#)

Posted: Thu, 08 Apr 2021 by [Megan Manson](#)

After the Scottish parliament's decision to sign a charter for children's rights into law, Megan Manson says parties in the upcoming election should challenge religious groups' privileged influence over education policy. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Children's rights](#), [Education](#), [Scotland](#)

[Joint campuses are a cop out in efforts to tackle sectarianism](#)

Posted: Wed, 03 Mar 2021 by [Neil Barber](#)

As the Scottish government confirms funding for a new joint campus between a non-denominational school and a Catholic one, Neil Barber says ministers should instead seek a unified, secular education system. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Scotland](#), [Sectarianism](#)

[The Catholic Church's dogma shouldn't undermine sex education](#)

Posted: Wed, 16 Dec 2020 by [Neil Barber](#)

The local council in the Outer Hebrides has endorsed Catholic Church resources on sex and relationships – with some demanding they're used "exclusively". Neil Barber says this is a misguided decision. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [RSE](#), [Scotland](#)

[The Scottish hate crime bill is a threat to free and open debate](#)

Posted: Mon, 21 Sep 2020 by [Stephen Evans](#)

As ministers consider changing Scotland's hate crime bill to address free expression concerns, Stephen Evans says their insistence to date that the bill won't undermine legitimate debate has been unconvincing. [Read More »](#)

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

[We all need the freedom to offend – including the most marginalised](#)

Posted: Thu, 06 Aug 2020 by [Megan Manson](#)

Scotland's new hate crime bill could easily be weaponised to silence any speech deemed offensive. This will disempower, rather than protect, society's most vulnerable, says Megan Manson. [Read More »](#)

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

[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](#)

[Religious reps' influence over education is an affront to democracy](#)

Posted: Tue, 27 Aug 2019 by [Neil Barber](#)

An NSS report has called for an end to religious appointees on council education committees in Scotland. Neil Barber says it's long past time for these positions to go. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Religious reps](#), [Scotland](#)

[Sturgeon's praise for Catholic schools will exacerbate Scotland's tribal divisions](#)

Posted: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 by [Neil Barber](#)

Catholic schools are no remedy for a society facing ingrained sectarian division, writes Neil Barber. In praising them Scotland's first minister has shown a willingness to sacrifice social cohesion to reach a block vote. [Read More »](#)

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

[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](#)

[Our business was harassed by Christian fundamentalists – now it's the best known in Lewis](#)

Posted: Wed, 22 Nov 2017 by [Martin Flett](#)

The National Secular Society recently [reported](#) the case of Leona Rawlinson, the owner of TweedTastic in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. Leona was being harassed by sabbatarians over her decision to open her shop on Sundays. The story was picked up by several... [Read More »](#)

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

[To spank or not to spank – a biblical right?](#)

Posted: Sat, 21 Oct 2017 by [Alistair McBay](#)

*With Christian groups leading the opposition to Scotland's new smacking ban, **Alistair McBay** explores the many instances of Christian schools and campaigners demanding the ability to spank children as a religious or even biblical right.*

This week the Scottish... [Read More »](#)

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[The legacy of decades of abuse in a Catholic children's home](#)

Posted: Thu, 21 Sep 2017 by [Mark Boules](#)

Hundreds of children died at Smyllum Park, a home in Lanarkshire run by the Catholic Church between 1864 and 1981. As an order of nuns considers selling the land, calls for a memorial are mounting. Mark Boules reflects on what is left after decades of abuse... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Scotland](#)

[The Catholic Church's abuse scandal shows no sign of abating](#)

Posted: Mon, 15 May 2017 by [Richard Scorer](#)

After forty years the Catholic Church is still more interested in protecting itself and its clerical culture than in truly eradicating child abuse, writes Richard Scorer.

"Organisational culture is a powerful force that guides decisions and actions. Leaders... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Scotland](#)

[The Catholic Church in Scotland is still playing the victim card to stifle criticism](#)

Posted: Thu, 06 Apr 2017 by [Alistair McBay](#)

There is some lingering anti-Catholic bigotry in Scotland, writes NSS vice president Alistair McBay, but the Church is playing victim while supporting a segregated education system which can only worsen prejudice.

"As one brought up a Catholic, I know only... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Scotland](#)

[Sabbatarians have imposed their dogma on islanders for long enough, help them put a stop to it](#)

Posted: Thu, 08 Dec 2016 by [Alistair McBay](#)

The National Secular Society is helping campaigners on the Isle of Lewis open a sports centre on a Sunday, currently blocked by a council who won't allow it on the Sabbath. It's hardly the first time Sabbatarians on Lewis have played this game.

The attempt... [Read More »](#)

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

[Scotland is a mosaic of religions and beliefs – but the research shows people turning away from politicised faith](#)

Posted: Thu, 24 Mar 2016 by [Alistair McBay](#)

Scotland is a mosaic of beliefs and non-beliefs where individuals are free to hold a belief, change it or not have one at all. But it's not hard to see why people are rejecting the organised and politicised aspects of religion, writes Alistair McBay.

Much is... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church of Scotland](#), [Religion & Belief](#), [Scotland](#), [Statistics](#)

[Scottish evangelists identify Paganism as one of the “biggest threats to Western civilisation”](#)

Posted: Mon, 16 Nov 2015 by [Alistair McBay](#)

After the world suffered another grim reminder of the merciless Islamist ideology, the Solas Centre for Public Christianity warned instead that the re-emergence of Paganism in Scotland was one of the biggest threats to civilization.

On Sunday 15 November 2015... [Read More »](#)

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

God “is the man who saves people” – a parent discovers what Religious Observance in school has taught their child

Posted: Wed, 14 Oct 2015 by [A Parent](#)

A parent writes of their shock at discovering Religious Observance in the non-denominational Scottish school attended by their daughter, and gives their perspective on the problems caused by archaic Religious Observance rules in Scottish schools.

Towards the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Collective Worship](#), [Education](#), [Parents Perspective](#), [Scotland](#)

A very confused and immoderate Moderator

Posted: Wed, 20 May 2015 by [Alistair McBay](#)

Alistair McBay examines the confused and immoderate arguments of the new Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

The Reverend David Robertson of the Free Church of Scotland has now taken up the mantle of the church's Moderator.

First of all, it would be churlish... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Education](#), [Scotland](#)

Is the Christian immune from plane crashes?

Posted: Tue, 17 Feb 2015 by [Alistair McBay](#)

Alistair McBay reports on Scottish Calvinism's attack on secularism, and offers his reaction to the rhetoric and tactics of the Free Church of Scotland.

The airline industry has had more than its fair share of tragedy recently, with the loss of many lives... [Read More »](#)

Tags: ['Militant' secularism](#), [Christianity](#), [Scotland](#)

Churches, charity and the conferring of privilege

Posted: Tue, 06 Jan 2015 by [Alistair McBay](#)

There are many ways to do good, including campaigning for human rights and equality over discrimination and prejudice, but charitable work is not a bargaining chip for special privileges, argues Alistair McBay.

Recently some Christian leaders in Scotland angered... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Big Society](#), [Charity](#), [Scotland](#)

The Bishops, the Catholic vote and the Referendum

Posted: Fri, 10 Oct 2014 by [Alistair McBay](#)

Alistair McBay argues that a growing political alliance between the leadership of the Catholic Church in Scotland and SNP has implications which stretch far beyond the Referendum campaign and threaten to revive religious identity politics.

"Most people still..." [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Catholic Church](#), [Church & State](#), [Scotland](#)

Religion “mustn't cause violence”

Posted: Wed, 10 Sep 2014 by [Alistair McBay](#)

Both media commentators and politicians seem keen to claim religion as a cause for good deeds but determined not to acknowledge it as a contributing factor to bad ones, argues Alistair McBay.

An article in the Scotsman in May by Joyce McMillan ran with the... [Read More »](#)

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