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[A message from the chief executive](#)

Posted: Wed, 22 Dec 2021 by [Stephen Evans](#)

NSS chief executive Stephen Evans reflects on how secularism fared in 2021 and the NSS's activities over the year. [Read More »](#)

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[The Taliban takeover is part of a wider threat to secular liberal democracy](#)

Posted: Thu, 19 Aug 2021 by [Stephen Evans](#)

Stephen Evans argues that secular liberal democracy is the antidote to the totalitarian Islamism offered up by the Taliban – so we need to do a better job of defending it.

With the Taliban back in control, the return of repressive theocratic rule in Afghanistan... [Read More »](#)

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[Anthony Lester's legacy for human rights and secularism](#)

Posted: Thu, 27 Aug 2020 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Keith Porteous Wood reflects on the achievements of Lord Lester, who died earlier this month, and the enduring relevance of his work. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Human rights](#), [Secularism](#)

[It's not too late to fulfil George Holyoake's secularist vision](#)

Posted: Thu, 30 Jul 2020 by [Ray Argyle](#)

With secularist principles under siege across much of the world, it's worth reconsidering the vision of the man who coined the term 'secularism' in the 19th century, says his biographer Ray Argyle.

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[Stuck at home? Here's how you can learn about and support secularism](#)

Posted: Fri, 27 Mar 2020 by [National Secular Society](#)

Most NSS supporters will now be confined to their homes over the coming weeks. But there's still plenty you can do to learn about secularism and promote our campaign for secular democracy.

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[Barbara Smoker's remarkable life should inspire us all](#)

Posted: Thu, 17 Jan 2019 by [Helen Nicholls](#)

Former NSS president Barbara Smoker's book *My Godforsaken Life: Memoir of a Maverick* reminds us of the value of ordinary people's principled activism and provides a link to secularists of the past, says Helen Nicholls. [Read More »](#)

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[Peterloo's heroes represented the finest traditions of secular democracy](#)

Posted: Fri, 23 Nov 2018 by [Bob Forder](#)

The film Peterloo is a reminder of the close links between the campaign for church-state separation and the push for a truly democratic society in the 19th century and beyond, writes Bob Forder.

Mike Leigh's keenly anticipated, ambitious and long film, *Peterloo*... [Read More »](#)

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[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... [Read More »](#)

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

[China's religious persecution is a secularist issue](#)

Posted: Fri, 21 Sep 2018 by [Stephen Evans](#)

China may be the most godless country in the world, but it is far from being a secular one. Stephen Evans says the intensifying religious persecution in the repressive state must be condemned.

China is by far the most godless country in the world. According... [Read More »](#)

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[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's time to disestablish the Church of England](#)

Posted: Tue, 02 Jan 2018 by [Prof. Steven Kettell](#)

As the National Secular Society prepares to send a major report on the subject to MPs, Prof. Steven Kettell says the establishment of the Church of England is incongruous with the beliefs and attitudes of the people it affects.

In the past few decades the landscape... [Read More »](#)

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[Secularism is a challenge to religion's political power and privilege, not people of faith](#)

Posted: Fri, 22 Dec 2017 by [Stephen Evans](#)

Some Christians use the Christmas period to attack secularism for its challenge to their sense of entitlement. But Stephen Evans says the faithful have far more to fear from religious fanatics than secularists.

Buying a copy of the Christmas edition of the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Christianity](#), [Christmas](#), [Secularism](#)

[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](#)

[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](#)

[Whence secularism in Africa?](#)

Posted: Wed, 25 Oct 2017 by [Leo Igwe](#)

Secularism and controversies regarding the relationship between religion and state have deep roots in Africa's socio-political history, but are increasingly relevant to many pressing human rights issues, argues Leo Igwe.

Recently, the relationship between... [Read More »](#)

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[Secularism and National Libraries Week #LibraryLetters](#)

Posted: Thu, 05 Oct 2017 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

Ahead of [Libraries Week 2017](#) Alastair Lichten argues that libraries' values of free expression and pluralism illustrate how a vibrant secular democracy should work.

Our [public services](#) – the majority of which are thankfully free from religious discrimination... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Libraries](#), [Secularism](#)

[Lessons from the frontline of Islamic fundamentalism](#)

Posted: Thu, 21 Sep 2017 by [Megan Manson](#)

Megan Manson explores autobiographies by two Muslim secularists whose lives have been directly intertwined with Islamist extremism, and asks if the secular pluralism extremists most fear could be our best hope.

"Extremists have shown what frightens them the..." [Read More »](#)

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[Britain should embrace secularism as it loses its religion](#)

Posted: Fri, 08 Sep 2017 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

As new data suggests non-belief is at a record high, Chris Sloggett says secularists should be more assertive in making the case for freedom of and from religion. This article was [originally published](#) by the International Business Times; reprinted here with... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [British values](#), [Religious Right](#), [Religious privilege](#), [Secularism](#)

[Beware the drip drip of religious exemptions](#)

Posted: Sat, 02 Sep 2017 by [Stephen Evans](#)

As a theme park lifts its ban on Sikh ceremonial swords, NSS campaigns director Stephen Evans questions the wisdom behind religious exemptions from generally applicable rules.

The latest submission to religious demands came this week when a popular theme park... [Read More »](#)

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[Newcastle: what's faith got to do with it?](#)

Posted: Thu, 10 Aug 2017 by [Yasmin Rehman](#)

A group of mainly Muslim men has been convicted for sexual abuse in another British city. Amid a predictable response, Yasmin Rehman says child protection does not require the involvement of faith groups or 'community leaders'.

Rotherham, Rochdale, Oxford,... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Faith groups](#), [Islam](#), [Multiculturalism](#), [Secularism](#)

[Never mind joining SACREs, we should be abolishing them](#)

Posted: Fri, 21 Jul 2017 by [Keith Sharpe](#)

A parent's legal challenge to the exclusion of a humanist representative from the local body responsible for overseeing religious education highlights the need for urgent reform of this contested area of the curriculum, argues Keith Sharpe.

A humanist parent... [Read More »](#)

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[The human rights of women and secularism go hand in hand](#)

Posted: Wed, 08 Mar 2017 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

On International Women's Day 2017 NSS campaigns officer Alastair Lichten reflects on the intersection of gender and religious privilege, and what the secularist movement can learn from

IWD.

The theocratic mindset has always had a particular obsession with policing... [Read More »](#)

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[It's time for an end to special religious privileges: we need a secular state](#)

Posted: Wed, 08 Feb 2017 by Prof. Steven Kettell

Should the Anglican peers in the Lords be joined by religious leaders from other faiths? Ought the BBC be required to make religious programmes? Should religious groups enjoy more legal protection? The Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life... [Read More »](#)

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[Norway's separation of Church and State: a work in progress](#)

Posted: Wed, 04 Jan 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Norway's supposed separation of Church and State, effective from 1 January 2017, is a very positive step, but it's still a work in progress, writes Keith Porteous Wood.

Both Norway and the United Kingdom have populations that are very secular in outlook, with... [Read More »](#)

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[Living better together: secularism and cohesion](#)

Posted: Fri, 29 Jul 2016 by [Stephen Evans](#)

Later this year the NSS will mark its 150th anniversary with a special conference around the theme of 'living better together'. Campaigns director Stephen Evans explains why the time has come for people of all faiths to stand together in supporting secularist... [Read More »](#)

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