

Subscribe to NSS Podcasts: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Android](#) | [Google Podcasts](#) | [Stitcher](#) | [Spotify](#) | [RSS](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Blubrry](#) | [TuneIn](#).

[I'm listening to the latest episode of the National Secular Society podcast, with news and expert analysis from across the secularist movement. You can find out more and subscribe here: Click to tweet](#)

Ep 58: Reforming marriage law

Posted: Tue, 05 Oct 2021

What's wrong with marriage law in England and Wales, and how can it be made fit for purpose in the twenty-first century?

In January, the Law Commission completed a consultation on the [reform of weddings law](#). They are due to publish the results at the end of the year. In this episode, [Emma Park](#) is joined by three guests, who together discuss some of the main problems with the laws surrounding marriages and their consequences in England and Wales, and the ways in which they need to be reformed. These problems include the law's current focus on buildings and the assumption that a wedding ceremony (registry office aside) should involve some sort of religion or belief. Another important topic is the extent to which unregistered religious marriages in minority communities are exploited to give one party an unfair advantage.

[Russell Sandberg](#), Professor of Law at Cardiff University, has recently published a book entitled [Religion and Marriage Law: The Need for Reform](#). See his [blog post on marriage law](#).

[Pragna Patel](#) is the founder of Southall Black Sisters, a non-for-profit, secular and inclusive organisation that supports the rights of Asian and African-Caribbean women in Britain. See her blog post on ['Shariafication by stealth'](#).

[Philip Spicksley](#) is an independent celebrant and Chair of the Wedding Celebrancy Commission, as well as President of the Association of Independent Celebrants.

The NSS campaigns for legally binding [weddings to be equally open to all](#), regardless of religion or sexual orientation.

[Watch this episode on YouTube](#) | [Direct MP3 Link](#) | [Transcripts](#)

Support the podcast, share with a friend, and leave a positive review everywhere you can.

Podcast produced by Emma Park for the National Secular Society (2021). All rights reserved.

[What's wrong with marriage law in England and Wales, and how can it be made fit for purpose in the 21st century? @DrEmmaPark speaks to @sandberglaw, Pragna Patel and @PhilSpicksley. Click to tweet](#)

We publish our podcast to enable exploration of subjects of interest to NSS members and supporters. Guests' views may not always align with those of the NSS.

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)

- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [Marriage law](#), [belief](#), [equality](#), [independent celebrants](#), [non-religious](#), [reform wedding laws](#), [secularism](#), [unregistered marriages](#), [wedding laws](#), [women](#)

Related Campaigns

- [Defend equality laws](#)

Religious freedom isn't a 'right' to discriminate, we vigorously defend our equality laws.

[Read More](#)

Subscribe to NSS Podcasts: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Android](#) | [Google Podcasts](#) | [Stitcher](#) | [Spotify](#) | [RSS](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Blubrry](#) | [TuneIn](#).

If you value the podcast please share it with a friend and leave us a positive review wherever you get it. You can also support future podcasts and our campaigns by [joining](#) the NSS or making a [donation](#).