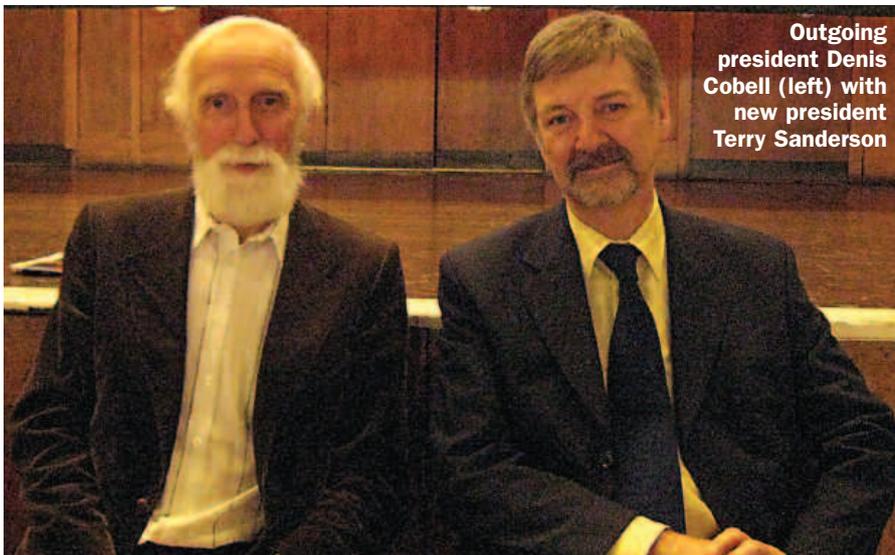


# New President and Vice-President for the NSS



Outgoing  
president Denis  
Cobell (left) with  
new president  
Terry Sanderson

**T**he NSS has its first new president for nearly ten years. Terry Sanderson was elected to the position by an overwhelming majority at the AGM on 25 November 2006. Terry, who is a writer and journalist, will continue to be the Society's press officer and editor of *Newsline*, the Society's weekly e-newsletter. He has been a vice-president for a number of years. The outgoing president, Denis Cobell, who has been at the helm since 1997, was warmly thanked for his steadfast service and wise leadership. He remains a member of the Council, so we are fortunate to be retaining the benefit of his wisdom and experience.

We are also delighted to announce that Dr Anna Behan

became a vice-president in recognition of her growing role in representing the Society in meetings with Governmental bodies and in the European Parliament (see page 7). Prior to their new posts, Terry had been a vice-president and Anna has been on the Council for several years. Jim Herrick continues as the other vice-president, a position he has held since 1996.

#### AGM

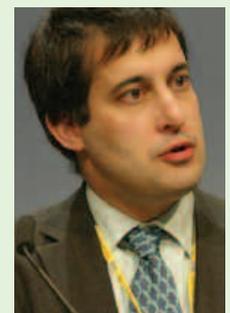
A Council-proposed motion was passed at the AGM to make Council elections more competitive. It caps the number of Council members and officers at 13. The formal minutes of the AGM will be sent to members on request and will be available to those attending the 2007 AGM. ■

#### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

## Our very own section of the Education Act

**T**he law requires that a daily act of Collective Worship is conducted in every school in the country. Pupils are not just required to attend it, but they must *take part in it*. Such forced worship would seem to most objective observers a *de facto* breach of children's human rights. Until now, only parents could request excusal/withdrawal.

As predicted in our Autumn *Bulletin*, the Government has now conceded to NSS pressure to allow older pupils to opt themselves out of Collective Worship. This initiative has resulted in Section 55 of the Education and Inspections Act – what we can regard as the NSS's very own section. It is thought to be the only example in living



Dr Evan Harris MP  
pursued our case  
in Parliament

continues on page 2

### In this issue:

**2 Faith Schools**  
Battling in the  
Lords for the rights  
of the non-religious

**4 Media**  
Growing NSS voice  
on TV, radio, in the  
newspapers...

**5 New Staff**  
Our team is  
expanding!

**5 Equality Act**  
Dramatic lobbying  
in Parliament over  
sexual orientation  
regulations

continued from page 1

memory of legislation initiated by the Society reaching the statute book.

The LibDems pressed this amendment from the front bench and the magnificent support of Dr. Evan Harris and the parliamentary Human Rights Committee was critical to its success. There is no doubt that the Government had no intention of conceding the point, despite the powerful Human Rights arguments on our side. The willingness of the Committee to work behind the scenes to pressure ministers to accept NSS demands was, therefore, crucial. ■

# Discrimination Protection Staff in 'Faith Schools'

**The careers of tens of thousands of staff in publicly funded faith schools have now been put at risk because, at the behest of the Church, the Government has swept aside long-standing legal bans on discrimination against staff who do not share the religion of the school or who do not have a religion at all.**

Because of this change, made in the Education and Inspections Bill, it will now be possible to discriminate against the non-religious head teachers of Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools, and non-religious non-teaching staff, mainly teaching assistants, in Voluntary Aided (VA) schools. (VC schools are religious schools under the control of the local authority, and VA schools are "faith schools" controlled by the Church, but funded by the taxpayer.)

The change regarding head teachers is especially devastating because it will, in future, even be possible to refuse to appoint the best candidate because:

- of their (lack of) religious faith
- of their not attending church sufficiently often
- of their not being able to teach RE
- of their relationships or conduct out of school hours being thought to fall short of religious teachings.

And once a head teacher with strong religious commitment is appointed, it will be easy for them to ensure that similarly pious individuals are given preference for other posts and promotions in the school. This change therefore has the potential to damage the career prospects of all non-religious teachers in so-called "faith schools". We emphasise, however, that the law does not *require* these religious criteria to be adopted, it

merely now *permits* them to be applied.

Education Minister Lord Adonis was keen to assure the House that the amendments had the churches' approval. Since they are the main beneficiaries, their approval comes as no surprise. Indeed, one of the amendments was originally tabled by the bishops, who have no qualms about using their privileged position in the Lords for self-serving purposes.

## NSS raises the alarm

The changes mentioned above might well have passed unnoticed. Fortunately, the NSS saw behind the deceptively innocuous wording of these amendments in the Education and Inspections Bill which the Government had introduced in the House of Lords. Keith Porteous Wood alerted sympathetic peers to the Government's manoeuvring and immediately contacted Lady Turner of Camden, who periodically sits on the Woolsack as a deputy chair of the Lords. They held a Council of War and worked out a way forward but were advised, even by experienced Parliamentarians, that it was simply too late to object to the Government's changes. This was because they had been craftily tabled at the very last possible moment and moved by the Minister at the end of the debate.

Determined not to let the Government get away with this ploy to slip the changes through surreptitiously, Keith and Lady Turner negotiated with Parliamentary lawyers to flout Lords' convention by putting down our own amendment, completely reversing the Government's last-minute change, for debate at Third Reading. (At this point Bills are finalised and only minor amendments are normally accepted.)

### Miscellaneous

#### 55 Right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance at religious worship

- (1) Section 71 of SEFA 1998 (which, in relation to religious education and attendance at religious worship, makes provision for exceptions and special arrangements, and for special schools) is amended as follows.
- (2) For subsection (1) substitute—
- "(1) If the parent of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving religious education given at the school in accordance with the school's basic curriculum, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.
- (1A) If the parent of any pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school other than a sixth-form pupil requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.
- (1B) If a sixth-form pupil requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at a community, foundation or voluntary school, the pupil shall be so excused.**
- (3) In subsection (2), for "subsection (1)" substitute "subsections (1) to (1B)".
- (4) In subsection (3), after "subsection (1)" insert "or (1A)".
- (5) In subsection (5), after "voluntary school" insert "and is not a sixth-form pupil".
- (6) After subsection (5) insert—
- "(5A) Where a sixth-form pupil who is a boarder at a community, foundation or voluntary school requests that he be permitted—
- (a) to receive religious education in accordance with the tenets of a particular religion or religious denomination outside school hours, or
- (b) to attend worship in accordance with such tenets on Sundays or other days exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil belongs,
- the governing body shall make arrangements for giving the pupil reasonable opportunities for doing so."
- (7) In subsection (6), after "subsection (5)" insert "or (5A)".
- (8) For subsection (7) substitute—
- "(7) Regulations shall make provision for ensuring that, so far as practicable, every pupil attending a community or foundation special school—
- (a) receives religious education unless withdrawn from receiving such education in accordance with the wishes of his parent, and
- (b) attends religious worship unless withdrawn from attendance at such worship—
- (i) in the case of a sixth-form pupil, in accordance with his own wishes, and
- (ii) in any other case, in accordance with the wishes of his parent."
- (9) After subsection (7) insert—
- "(8) In this section "sixth-form pupil" means any pupil who—
- (a) has ceased to be of compulsory school age, and
- (b) is receiving education suitable to the requirements of pupils over compulsory school age."

Above: Section 55 of the Act

# Protection for Non-Religious Schools' Dealt Massive Blow

Keith approached the teachers' trades unions to enlist their support and was shocked to find that even the unions with staff working solely on parliamentary matters had no idea about the government's plan. Their senior staff had not been consulted on something that had such potentially dire effects on their members. Some were incredulous that such amendments could be contemplated by the Government at a time when there are serious shortfalls in the recruitment of senior teaching staff.

When the Bill received its Third Reading in the House of Lords, Baroness Turner and Lord Avebury (who often assists the NSS in its causes) led a fearsome attack on the proposals. Lord Adonis was challenged about the lack of consultation with the unions, but denied this forcefully (see below). It was clear the Minister was irritated by the coverage of this issue we had managed to get into the press. Honorary Associates Baronesses Massey and Flather also spoke out in our support. Unfortunately we lost the vote, in spite of mustering supporters from all major parties. One Labour peer, a former minister, even voted against the Labour whip for the very first time. We are very grateful indeed to our many supporters that day for taking this principled stand and registering their disapproval.

A further – and withering – attack was made on these measures in the House of Commons by Dr Evan Harris MP, assisted by fellow Honorary Associate Paul Holmes MP. Junior education minister Jim Knight



was left reeling from the challenge and called for a vote to stop the torrent of questions and accusations to which he simply had no answer. Despite our clearly having won the argument in the Chamber, and the unions using what power they have left, the Labour whip was applied, which is always more effective in the Commons, and we lost the vote by a devastating 28 votes to 325.

In the course of the debate Jim Knight came out as a non-believer. He said that he did not have “the gift of faith”, but this did not stop him pushing through these shocking amendments.

The NSS provided procedural proposals, copious research and other assistance to the speakers in the debates. No one tried harder than us to preserve this vital protection, but the Government tossed it aside callously in spite of a good showing by our side in the two Parliamentary debates we provoked. ■



**Above: Lord Avebury and Baroness Massey both spoke out strongly in favour of the NSS's position**

**Keith Porteous Wood established before the Lords debate that the General Secretaries of the unions most affected had not been consulted. Lord Adonis retorted to accusations about the lack of consultation of the unions: “My Lords, that is simply not true. [The unions] were thoroughly consulted.” (Lords Hansard 30 Oct 2006 : Column 53) Yet Evan Harris later read out to the Commons a letter from the largest teaching union, the NUT, confirming that neither they nor the NAHT had been consulted. (2 Nov 2006 : Column 528)**

Keith Porteous Wood has been busy, flitting from one studio to another, having appeared on BBC2's *Newsnight*, in a special edition about the relationship between the church and the Government (which also featured honorary associate Christopher Hitchens) and on the *Today* programme to talk about the demands of the Catholic Church for special legal privileges. He has taken part in numerous news and political television programmes, outside the Houses of Parliament and in the Westminster studios.

The row over the Sexual Orientation Regulations saw an incredible burst of coverage for the NSS as we ploughed right to the centre of the argument, making clear that it was only peripherally about gay rights, but more centrally about the legitimate extent of religious influence on the state. Our opinions were sought by practically every major newspaper and broadcaster in the country and our comments were reported widely abroad, as far as Australia.

Claims that Christmas is being "de-christianised" reached a new level of

hysteria last year. This provided fantastic opportunities for the NSS to wade into the debate, calling the bluff of bishops who were claiming that "aggressive secularists" were destroying their "holy season". We were quoted extensively in the national press; appeared on Sky News, News 24, BBC World, the World Service; and could be heard on just about every local radio station in the country. President Terry Sanderson's piece about the ridiculous Christian claims for the *Guardian's* website led to even more publicity. Your spokespeople – particularly the Executive Director and President – have, on some occasions, spent whole days talking on radio from breakfast shows to late night phone-ins (with mid-morning, lunch time and evening shows in between).

Said Keith: "We have to be on hand to fit the broadcasters' schedules. Sometimes this means getting up at six a.m. to do a slot for the *Today* programme and it is not unusual on a heavy news day for the Society to be on air until one in the morning, for example on a one hour phone in

programme on Radio Five Live." Broadcasters have come to rely on our being well briefed, and our ready availability, be that early, late, or at weekends.

**Left: our lead letter from the *Evening Standard*, 23 February 2007**

## I've no faith in schools

DAVID Cameron's enthusiasm for faith schools could see him joining another elite – the favourites of the local vicar, a figure who can be the ultimate arbiter of who can or can't attend a publicly funded, state school.

Like Jonathan Freedland in his comment piece (22 February), Cameron has probably fallen for the idea that the religious ethos of faith schools results in better academic performance and discipline. Yet last year's study by the LSE showed faith schools' performance was almost entirely due to their selection privileges, and little to do with religion.

Of course these schools are popular with parents who can get their children

a place – with the riff-raff banished to community schools, they provide what amounts to a state-funded private education. But for those parents living near a faith school who aren't successful with their application because the vicar doesn't like them, there is only frustration – which increases when they watch Christian kids from miles away being bussed in to fill the school.

Come the election, David Cameron should remember this large, unhappy constituency. Don't talk to them about choice – they haven't got one.

**Terry Sanderson, president, National Secular Society.**

## Secularist Of The Year Event Now Funded Until 2014

**THE annual Irwin Prize for Secularist of the Year, which is staged by the NSS, has received funding until 2014. The sponsor of the event, Dr Michael Irwin, has donated another £25,000, so that the £5,000 award can continue for eight more years. We are most grateful to him. Last year's winner, anti-creationist Professor Steve Jones has been made an Honorary Associate.**

## NSS at Fabian Conference

COUNCIL MEMBERS Jennifer Jaynes and Norman Bacrac were on hand with a stall at the Fabian Society Conference in January.

## Denis Cobell Talks

**THE FORMER President spoke to Dorset Humanists on Secularism Today and to Chiltern Humanists on *The Origins of Xmas*.**

## Keith at Controversial Convention

NSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Keith Porteous Wood, was a participant in the controversial Race Convention which commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Race Relations Act and the founding of the Commission for Racial Equality. London Mayor Ken Livingstone refused to attend the event and, indeed, organised his own competing event at City Hall because of a very public disagreement between him and CRE chief Sir Trevor Phillips over the latter's view that Britain is "sleepwalking into segregation". The NSS reaction to this fracas made a lead story in the *Observer*.

At the event, Keith was a panellist in a debate about whether religion was a "unifier" or a "divider". You can read his speech on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/y3he5w> or send an s.a.e. to the office marked "Race Convention". Those arguing that religion divides won the vote.

## Donations to the NSS

A multi-billion-dollar philanthropic organisation has made a donation to the NSS quite out of the blue. Atlantic Philanthropies sent us a cheque for £3,300 without any previous contact, telling us that it was not from its main fund, which is to support charitable causes throughout the world, but from its "director- and employee-designated gift programme".

The NSS also benefited from the will of long-time supporter Trevor Morrison, who sadly died last year. Mr Morrison left the Society £20,000.

If you would like to remember the Society in your will, please contact the office and ask for our leaflet about legacies.

# Message from the President



**B**eing elected president of the National Secular Society at a time when the battle between religion and secularism is moving to the top of the national agenda is, to say the least, a challenge.

Those of us who oppose the dangerous dominance of any particular religion in political life are increasingly portrayed by religious propagandists as oppressors of the faithful. Nothing could be further from the truth. We simply value a society that is free from the dictates of clerics, and open to progress. We are standing up in increasing numbers and saying: "We must find a way to live together that is fair to everyone."

As far as I am concerned, that way is Secularism.

Fewer and fewer of the population are church-goers, or even believers. Polls show that Britons prefer their religion as a peripheral element in their lives. Despite this, the churches run one third of our education system, giving preference to their own adherents (or claimed adherents) while forcing everyone in the country to pay for that privilege. Why does the taxpayer have to fund religious representatives in hospitals and the armed forces? Why, when the church has £6 billion in its coffers, and making a fortune from property sales, does the taxpayer have to pay untold millions to support crumbling and empty places of worship? Why are clergymen exempt from council tax? Why does religion merit so much air time on our publicly-funded broadcasting corporation, when one survey after another show that very few people want to see it or hear it? Why does religion get unique exemption from human rights law? Why is the religious "conscience" more important than the conscience of others who come from a different viewpoint? Why are 26 bishops entitled to sit in the House of Lords?

With the imminent departure of one of the most religious Prime Ministers in recent history, there is an opportunity for the secularists in government – who we know are there – to be able to break their silence and press for change.

But we cannot be sure of anything. New Labour is not only proposing that the bishops remain in the House of Lords if reform takes place, but that other minority religious representatives be brought in to complement them – the worst of all worlds.

A Tory victory in the next election could mean a return to even more extreme and old-fashioned religious "values" in national life. Tory leader David Cameron has made it known that he is a "fan of faith schools".

These are interesting times, and I will do my best as your new president to ensure that the NSS's viewpoint is represented as effectively as possible in the debates.

And don't forget that the NSS needs you all to be our recruiting sergeants. We need to try to persuade our friends, relative and colleagues of the value of a secular society, and then get them to make a commitment by joining the NSS. They can join up online. We are also happy to send out Annual Reports (with joining details) to anyone if you email [enquiries@secularism.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@secularism.org.uk) or write to

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Sanderson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Terry Sanderson  
President

## New Staff at the NSS

**WE ARE pleased to announce the appointment of two new staff, who will be based at the NSS office in Red Lion Square. Tessa Kendall will be taking on the role of senior administrator. Tessa has been a long-time volunteer in the office and will be familiar to many members for her hard work at the AGM. She will be assisted by Stephen Evans, who is joining us after a stint working at the Youth Hostel Association. Both should be in post by the end of March.**

**We are delighted that Stewart Ware, who has given such loyal service, will be staying on in a consultancy capacity.**

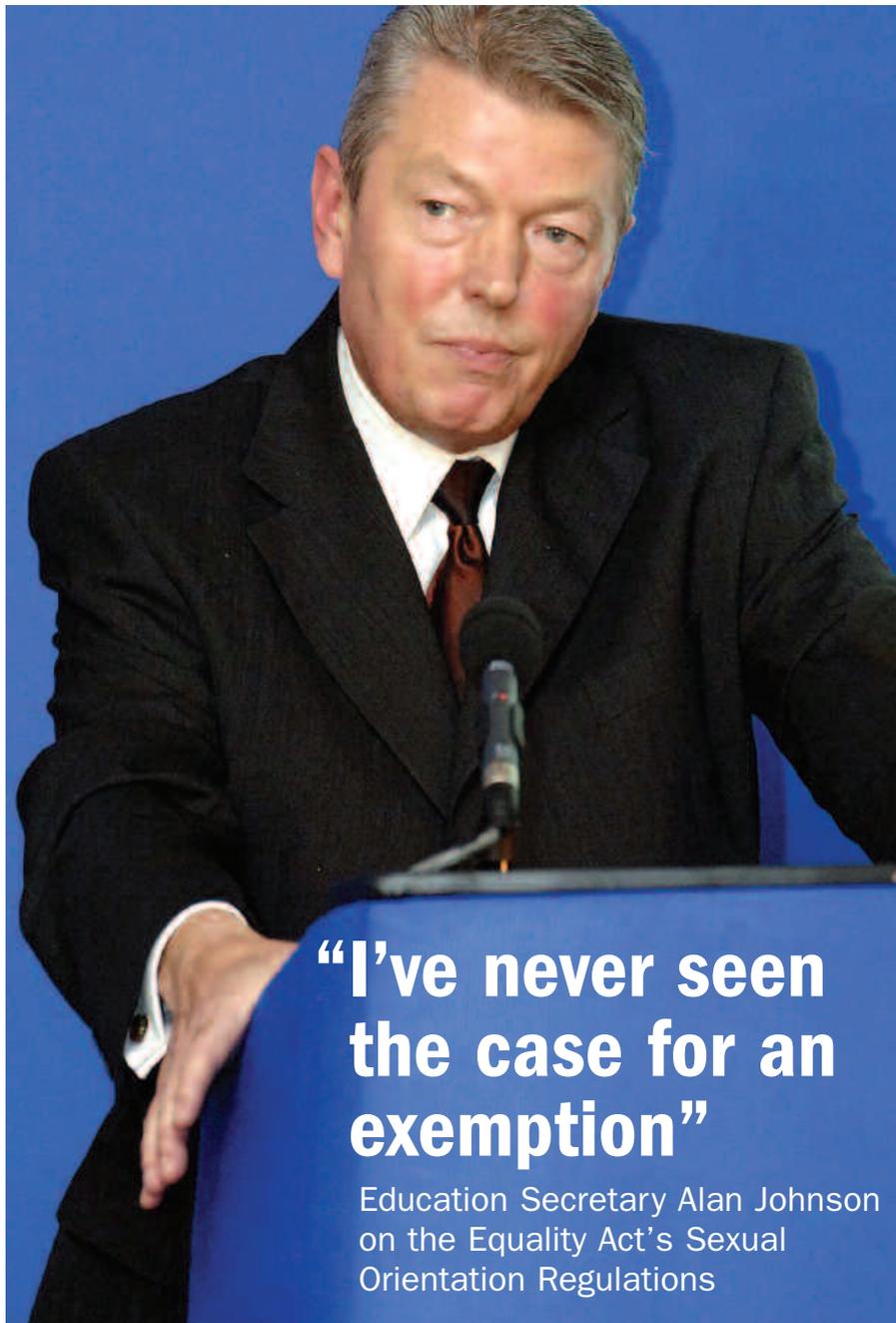
## Secular Medical Fellowship Seeks New Members

Do you work in the medical profession or an allied discipline? Are you concerned at the growing influence of extremist religion in the provision of care and other related fields? A new group of secularists involved in medicine and health care is forming. The Secular Medical Fellowship, as it is provisionally called, invites doctors, nurses, therapists and all qualified people working in health care to find out more.

The group is being co-ordinated by Dr Michael Irwin, and if you would like more information you can contact him via [tas@secularism.org.uk](mailto:tas@secularism.org.uk) or write to NSS Medics, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL.

# Riding the Parliame

KEITH PORTEOUS WOOD reports on a dramatic period of lobbying



**“I’ve never seen the case for an exemption”**

Education Secretary Alan Johnson on the Equality Act’s Sexual Orientation Regulations

**I**n a show of ministerial defiance that would have seemed incredible only a few months ago, the Education Secretary Alan Johnson went on BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme on 25 January to oppose the Roman Catholic Church’s demands for exemption for its adoption agencies from the Equality Act’s Sexual Orientation Regulations. Mr Johnson said unequivocally: “I’ve never seen the case for an exemption.” His fellow-contender for the post-reshuffle position of Deputy Prime Minister, Peter Hain, even suggested he would resign if the Government conceded an exemption.

In contrast, PM Tony Blair and the Communities Secretary, Opus Dei member Ruth Kelly, wanted to concede. It is a long time since any Cabinet colleague has so openly defied the edict of the Prime Minister. We are hoping that this is the first glimmer of a more assertive secular tendency within the Government that might emerge after the departure of Tony Blair.

The Society was at the forefront of the campaign to prevent these religious exemptions. Our high profile in this debate was acknowledged in a tetchy *Catholic Herald* editorial, almost entirely devoted to attacking the NSS: “Keith Porteous Wood, executive director of the NSS, has been firing off press releases like there’s no hereafter...” the paper said.

They had reason to be annoyed. Our damning criticisms of the Catholic demands prompted national and international television and radio appearances for the NSS spokespeople. We contributed directly to news programmes and debates, and we provided background for countless other pieces on this topic.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O’Connor and Archbishop Rowan Williams were, in effect, demanding that the Government subsidise

A “seminal moment” was how the Roman Catholic weekly *The Tablet* described Alan Johnson’s Cabinet rebellion. “It was an act of high symbolism,” said *The Tablet* “and, in retrospect, the start of a political row that would engulf the Church and bring a clash between clergy and politicians, believers and secularists. ...What is sure is that the growing clash between faith and Westminster is not going to disappear. Johnson made it plain that he had no intention of finding a way to ensure that the Catholic agencies might opt out of the anti-discrimination proposals, and, according to a well-placed source, simply walked off, ‘defying the Prime Minister’.”

# ntary Rollercoaster

discrimination in Catholic adoption agencies, permitting them to discriminate in a way that would be against the law for everyone else. The vast majority of the public – including many of those in the pews – believed these demands to be bigoted. The clerics insisted their interpretation of “conscience” should trump every other consideration.

The threats from the religious establishment [see box, right] provided a clear demonstration to the nation of the danger of “faith based welfare”. This should be a wake-up call to the Government – and the Conservatives – on their policy of handing over welfare services to religious control. If the churches are happy to openly blackmail the Government on this issue, when there are only a tiny number of small-scale adoption agencies involved, imagine the pressure religious bodies will be able to exert when they have a significant proportion of the welfare system under their control.

As the *Bulletin* went to press, we were expecting to see publication of the final version of the Sexual Orientation Regulations for England and Wales, which were delayed because of this religious pressure.

## Northern Ireland

The delay in completing the Sexual Orientation Regulations in England,

NSS Honorary Associate Polly Toynbee couldn't contain herself about the threats made by Christian prelates if they don't get their way on this law, and wrote in the *Guardian*:

**Christians running soup kitchens say they want to refuse gays shelter and soup. (Soup!) The Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool threatens to withdraw all cooperation over schools and charity programmes if the law goes through. The Bishop of Rochester says it will damage church work in inner cities. (Only if his church shuts down services.) The C of E pretends that the law would force it to bless civil unions (it won't).**



Scotland and Wales led to an unusual situation in which broadly similar regulations were tabled for Northern Ireland ahead of those for the remainder of the UK. They sailed through both Houses with huge majorities.

This huge success was achieved in spite of Christian opponents to the Northern Ireland version of the regulations mounting a disgracefully dishonest campaign against them. This included a full-page advertisement in *The Times* containing four claims, all of which were inaccurate about the Regulations. It was so misleading that a minister even corrected all the false claims in Parliament. The flood of misinformation from Christian campaigners was so overwhelming and shameless that it even prompted the Minister winding

up the debate in Parliament to jibe “I thought it was a sin to tell a lie.”

The Society's lodging of a complaint with the Advertising Standards Agency about the dishonesty of *The Times* advert gained national press coverage.

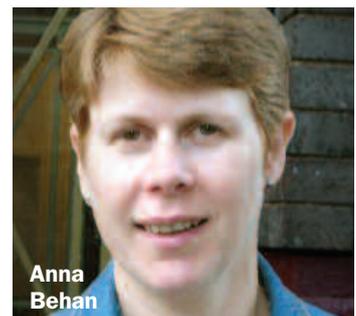
Religious opposition to the Northern Ireland regulations was not confined to the lunatic fringe. All the mainstream churches and some Muslim organisations opposed their implementation. It is gratifying that the religious lobby lost the argument, despite the repeated agitation and blackmail attempts, and that the Regulations were approved overwhelmingly.

The NSS lobbied in favour of the Regulations both in public, with endless TV and radio appearances, and behind the scenes at Westminster. ■

## Law on Public Authorities must be Tightened to Prevent Discrimination in “Faith-Based Welfare” Provision

The National Secular Society has asked the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee to recommend clarifying the law to ensure that when a public body delegates functions such as faith-based welfare to a private body, the latter is subject to a duty not to act in a way which is incompatible with human rights. The NSS is calling for clarification that Section 6 of the Human Rights Act applies not only to pure public authorities but also to those to whom those authorities delegate their functions. It has done so in a submission in response to a call for evidence from the Committee in respect of a short inquiry into the meaning of “public authority”.

Vice-President Dr Anna Behan is leading on this issue.



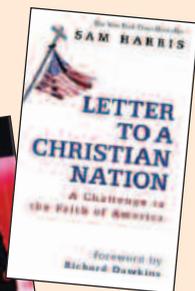
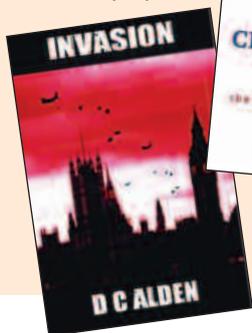
## MERCHANDISE

### Invasion

by D.C. Alden

This scary, futuristic novel predicts a grim future in which the fanatical Islamists have triumphed and Britain is no more than a distant outpost of the Arabian empire. The story gallops along at a cracking pace and is populated by convincing and sympathetic characters. It's a fantasy, of course, but one that has an uncomfortable feel of possibility...

This is a big, epic novel of doorstop proportions £8.99 plus £2.30 p&p



### Letter to a Christian Nation

by Sam Harris

A follow-up to Sam Harris's bestseller *The End of Faith*, this new volume has an introduction by Richard Dawkins. It's a fearsome little firecracker that socks it to organised religion with full force. Or, as Richard Dawkins puts it: "Sam Harris doesn't mess about..." Every word zings like an elegantly fletched arrow from a taut bow-string and flies in a graceful, swift arc to the target, where it thuds satisfyingly into the bullseye." (£9.95 plus 75p p&p). Sam Harris's other book *The End of Faith* is also still available at £7.99 plus 75p p&p)

Purchase these books securely online from our shop at [www.secularism.org.uk](http://www.secularism.org.uk) or send a cheque to NSS Books, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

## VOLUNTEERS

We would like to offer our thanks to:

**BRAD DAVIS** of **WhiteLight** who continues to design each issue of our **Bulletin** and **Annual Report** for maximum impact. **SEAN CLARK** and his colleagues at **cuttlefish.com** for hosting and servicing the website.

**BARRY THORPE, TIM BOYCE, DES LANGFORD AND PAUL STEVENSON** for important research work and **ANDY HEDGECOCK** and **PENNY ROGERS** for proof-reading. **MURIEL FRASER** for her tireless work on **Concordat Watch**, and to **David Holohan** for translating concordats into English. Our trusty office regulars – **CLAUDINE BAXTER, DAVID HOLOHAN, and TESSA KENDALL** – for keeping membership data up to date, despatching merchandise, keeping the office in good order and various other office tasks.

**JIM NUGENT** for accounting assistance, **LOUIS CONSTANDINOS** for putting *Newsline* onto the website each week. **TIM PAYNE** for archival work in the office. **ROBERT STOVOLD**, for programming work on a new membership database. And not forgetting all those who helped out at the **AGM on 25th November 2006**, including **SHAUN JOYNSON** for creating and displaying a splendid slide show; **MARLA MADISON** for running the stall and making the **AGM** pay its way; **RENATA ANDERSON, PAUL CLEMENTS, DAVID CUTTS, DAVID HOLOHAN, TESSA KENDALL, GARRY MARLOWE, JIM NUGENT** and **ISABELLE ROBINSON** – all helped to make the event smooth running and successful; **PETER PURTON** for photographs of the event; and **MIKE LAKE** for a stimulating talk on local activism.

## Newsline – Important Information for Subscribers

Our weekly newsletter, *Newsline*, sent out by email, is becoming increasingly popular and influential. It is now sent each Friday to many thousands of subscribers, many of whom pass it on to friends and acquaintances. However, we know that some people are not receiving *Newsline* because it is being rejected by their spam filter and placed in the spam box. If you are not receiving *Newsline* and you think you should be, this may be the problem. You can cure it quite simply by looking in the spam box (if you're using Outlook it is called "Junk e-mail") for any Friday and if you find *Newsline* there, simply select it, then click on "Actions" at the top of the page. On the drop-down menu, click on "Add sender to safe senders list" and the *Newsline* address will be added. You should then receive the magazine without problem. If you are using something other than Outlook, there should be an equivalent procedure you can use to nominate *Newsline* as safe to receive.

If you are still having problems, please contact the office for more advice.

## Bulletin Issue 35 Spring 2007

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