

Date: 10th September 2011

Time: Registration: 9.30am – 10.00am. Conference: 10.00am – 5.00pm.

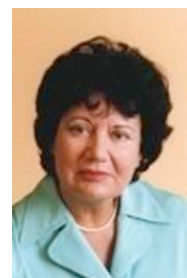
Venue: Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL

Cost: NSS members: free. Students or unwaged: £2. All others £5.

SPEAKERS



SIR JONATHAN MILLER trained as a doctor in the late 1950s and became well known in the early 60s for being part of *Beyond The Fringe* with Alan Bennett, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. He began directing opera in the 1970s. His new production, Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*, is at the ENO starting 15 September 2011. He was knighted for services to the arts in 2003. He also writes and presents TV series, including *Madness* in 1991 and *Atheism: A Rough History of Disbelief* in 2004. He also produced/directed six of the BBC's Shakespeare series in the 80s.



BARONESS TURNER OF CAMDEN was created a Life Peer in 1985. She was a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission 1982-88, the Occupational Pensions Board 1977-93; Council Member OPAS (Pension Advisory Service) 1989-2007; and Chair, PIA Ombudsman Council 1994-97. She has spoken out in the House of Lords about faith schools, collective worship and RE and is a firm supporter of gay rights.



NICK COHEN is an Observer columnist and author of *Cruel Britannia*, *Pretty Straight Guys: The Strange Death Of Labour England*, among others. Nick Cohen is an eloquent supporter of secularism and regularly takes a swipe at the growing number of church-run schools and the Left's tendency to pander to religious fundamentalists. The Orwell Prize for political writing shortlisted *What's Left?* in 2008. His latest book, in 2009, is *Waiting for the Etonians: Reports from the Sickbed of Liberal England*. Fourth Estate will publish *You Can't Read This Book*, his history of modern censorship in January 2012.

BARONESS MARY WARNOCK was created a life peer in 1985. She is by professional training a philosopher. She has also been a prominent figure in education, a fellow and tutor in Philosophy at St Hugh's College, Oxford, Head Mistress of Oxford High School and Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge. She is author of a number of books, most recently *Dishonest to God: On Keeping Religion Out of Politics*.



Baroness Warnock was a member of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) from 1973 to 1981. She was chair of the UK committee of inquiry into special education (1974-78), and from 1979 to 1985, she advised the UK committee on animal experiments. From 1982 to 1984 she chaired an inquiry into human fertilisation, the Committee of Inquiry into Human Fertilisation and Embryology, whose final report is often called the Warnock report.



DR EVAN HARRIS is the former Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, a seat he held from 1997 until losing his seat in the 2010 election.

Evan actively campaigns for refugee rights and against racism. He is also a civil liberties campaigner, member of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility, Honorary President of the Liberal Democrat Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights and vice-president of the Gay and Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA). He was one of the most outspoken secularists in Parliament and took a fierce stand against the proposed Incitement to Religious Hatred Bill. Evan Harris condemns discrimination on religious grounds in the employment of teachers in faith schools.

In 2009, he was the joint winner with Lord Avebury of the Irwin Prize for Secularist of the Year for his work with the NSS to end the blasphemy laws.



TERRY SANDERSON has been president of the National Secular Society since 2006. He is a writer and journalist and was prominent in the gay rights movement for many years. He is a frequent contributor to the press and broadcasting on matters related to secularism.



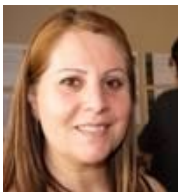
ANNE MARIE WATERS is spokesperson for the One Law for All Campaign which works to end sharia courts and tribunals in Britain on the grounds that they work against human rights and equality before the law. She is a lawyer with a strong interest in family law and human rights, and the interaction of the two.



PAUL BLANCHARD has been an active secularist and humanist for over twenty years. Paul is Chair of the Labour Party Humanists and runs Right Angles, a PR and Social Media consultancy. He recently was involved in organising last years "Protest the Pope" rally and has been very active in the campaign to remove bishops from the House of Lords. He frequently appears in the media putting forward the atheist/secular position, and is a regular on BBC's The Big Questions and The Jeremy Vine Show on BBC Radio 2.



NORMAN BONNEY is emeritus professor of sociology at Edinburgh Napier University. He was educated at the London School of Economics and the University of Chicago and previously lectured and researched at Aberdeen University. He was a city councillor in Aberdeen and is currently a member of the Council of Management of the National Secular Society. In recent years he had been a frequent contributor to the Political Quarterly on topics such as Scottish devolution, religion and the monarchy.



DIANA NAMMI is Director of the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) which she established. IKWRO provides advice and support to Iranian, Kurdish, Arab, Afghan and Turkish women and girls who are facing or are at risk of domestic violence, forced marriage, "honour" based violence or female genital mutilation. Diana's work and activities have received national and international recognition and she is a regular contributor to the media. She recently appeared in support of Baroness Cox's Bill to curb sharia law in the UK.



SUE COX is co-founder of Survivors Voice Europe and Director of the addiction specialists SMART UK. Survivors Voice Europe is an international community of men and women, all of whom have been sexually abused by catholic clergy. Along with her colleagues Ton Leerschool from Holland and Tomasso Dellora from Rome, Survivors Voice Europe has made connections in many countries, and made real headway in connecting isolated survivors to each other and to empowerment.

Sue Cox says "Survivors voice is a charitable organisation, which has at it's core the belief that although isolation of victims has been one of the catholic church's strategies, that by standing together, and by strengthening each other, we can soar above our abusers and find real recovery. We cannot change our past, but we sure as hell can change our future."



DR EDWARD PRESSWOOD is a hospital doctor in North London. Throughout his medical practice he has been alarmed by the persistent intrusion of superstition and religion into the National Health Service. Increasingly aware of the harm caused by irrational beliefs, Edward calls for a secular NHS, as part of a wider secular society.

REGISTRATION: To register for the conference, please send your name and postcode to 2011conference@secularism.org.uk