



Saturday 18th May 2019 | The Tower Hotel in London, St Katharine's Way, London E1W 1LD

## TIMETABLE

TIME	ITEM
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Arrival</b> Tea/Coffee; time to browse exhibition stands
10:00-10:10	<b>Stephen Evans, National Secular Society</b> Opening remarks
10:10 – 10:30	<b>Dr Ahmed Shaheed, United Nations Commission on Human Rights</b> Introduction to religious freedom
10:30– 10:50	<b>Pragna Patel, Southall Black Sisters</b> Religion and the Politics of Causing Offence: Whose freedom?
10:50-11:10	<b>Nick Cohen, Journalist, author and political commentator</b> Freedom of speech and religious freedom
11:10-11:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
11:30-11:45	Mid morning tea/coffee; time to browse exhibition stands
11:45 – 12:05	<b>Dr Joyce D'Silva, Compassion in World Farming</b> Non-stun slaughter and religious freedom
12:05 – 12:25	<b>Yasmin Rehman, NSS council</b> Religious orthodoxy and religious freedom
12:25 – 12:45	<b>Sara Khan, Commission on Countering Extremism</b> Religious orthodoxy and religious freedom
12:45 – 13:00	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
13:00-14:00	Lunch; time to browse exhibition stands
14:00-14:20	<b>Izzy Posen, Bristol University Free Speech Society</b> Why God Doesn't Like Educated Kids: A Personal Account
14:20-14:40	<b>Brian Earp, The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics</b> Religious Freedom, Equal Protection, and the Child's (Gender Neutral) Right to Bodily Integrity
14:40-15:00	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
15:00-15:15	Afternoon tea/coffee; time to browse exhibition stands
15:15-15:45	<b>Rachel Laser, Americans United For Separation Of Church And State</b> Keynote speech
15:45-16:15	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
16:15 - 17:15	<b>Geoffrey Robertson QC, Doughty Street Chambers</b> Presentation of Secularist of the Year
17:15-17:30	<b>Keith Porteous Wood, National Secular Society</b> Closing remarks
17:30 – 19:30	Drinks reception



## SPEAKER PROFILES

- **Nick Cohen** is an NSS honorary associate and a columnist for The Observer, a blogger for The Spectator and a writer for Standpoint magazine. He was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for political writing for his book *What's Left?* in 2008, and wrote eloquently on freedom of expression in his 2012 work, *You Can't Read This Book*.
- **Dr Joyce D'Silva** is Ambassador Emeritus and former Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming. She speaks and publishes widely on the welfare of farm animals, and played a key role in getting recognition of animal sentience enshrined in the European Union Treaty. In 2004 she was the joint recipient of the RSPCA Lord Erskine Award in recognition of a "very important contribution in the field of animal welfare". She has been awarded two Honorary Doctorates in recognition of her work.
- **Brian Earp** is Associate Director of the Yale-Hastings Program in Ethics and Health Policy at Yale University and The Hastings Center, and a Research Fellow in the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford. His work is cross-disciplinary, following training in philosophy, cognitive science, psychology, history and sociology of science and medicine, and ethics. He has been widely published and has been cited in a landmark British high court case by Sir James Munby.
- **Sara Khan** was appointed by the Home Secretary to lead the Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE) in January 2018. Before her appointment she was director of Inspire, an organisation she co-founded in 2008 to challenge gender inequality and Islamist extremism. In 2016 she co-authored the book 'The Battle for British Islam: Reclaiming Muslim Identity from Extremism'.
- **Rachel Laser** is an attorney with extensive experience in nonprofit advocacy, and has served as director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the Culture Program at Third Way. In 2018 she became CEO of Americans United For Separation Of Church And State, an educational and advocacy organisation dedicated to advancing the constitutional principle of church-state separation as the only way to ensure freedom of religion, including the right to believe or not believe, for all Americans.
- **Pragna Patel** is a secular campaigner, founding member of Southall Black Sisters and co-founder of Women Against Fundamentalism. She is an NSS honorary associate and in 2010 she received the Irwin Prize for Secularist of the Year on behalf of Southall Black Sisters.
- **Izzy Posen** grew up in an ultraorthodox Chasidic community and attended an illegal, unregistered school where corporal punishment was routinely used, particularly to silence children who asked questions. He left the community and is now president of Bristol University's Free Speech Society.
- **Yasmin Rehman** is a human rights activist, researcher and a member of the NSS council. She has worked for more than 30 years predominantly on violence against women, race, faith and gender, and human rights. She co-edited a book, *Moving in the Shadows*, which examines violence experienced by minority women and girls in the UK. Yasmin was awarded Secularist of the Year 2017.
- **Geoffrey Robertson QC** is a human rights barrister, academic, author and broadcaster. He is also an NSS honorary associate. During his distinguished career, he has represented author Salman Rushdie, defeated a prosecution brought by Christian morality campaigner Mary Whitehouse against the play "The Romans In Britain," and called out Pope Benedict XVI for protecting paedophiles in his 2010 book, "The Case of the Pope."
- **Dr Ahmed Shaheed** assumed his mandate as Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in 2016. He is also Deputy Director of the Essex Human Rights Centre. A career diplomat, he has twice held the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives. He led Maldives' efforts to embrace international human rights standards between 2003 and 2011.