

# Do you want a society where Human Rights come before religious rights?

# A society where religious leaders do not have the power to dictate how we live our lives?

# A society where everyone has equal rights and freedom of expression?

# So do we.

**Secularists want** a society where religion is a personal matter, separate from politics, education and healthcare. Everyone should be free to believe whatever they choose – or nothing at all – without it bringing them any advantage or disadvantage. We want a society where science, healthcare and rational thought are not threatened or undermined by irrational belief systems. A society where people are free to talk openly, to be creative and to disagree with others' views without fear of condemnation or legal sanction.

**Secularists don't want** a society where unelected religious leaders can influence political decisions, where faith schools funded by tax-payers' money deepen cultural and racial divides and teach creationism as a valid alternative to evolution, or where people who choose to live without religion are treated as second-class citizens.

Attempts to introduce sharia threaten to undermine democratic law – women particularly stand to lose their rights.

In the UK recently, religious groups tried to win exemption from equal rights legislation that would stop them discriminating against lesbians and gays. They demand exemptions the laws that the rest of us must obey.

In the UK, only 7% of adults go to church regularly and yet 26 unelected and all-male Anglican bishops sit in the House of Lords.

Religious groups try to stop artistic expression, sometimes with threats and menaces, even when they have not seen the cause of 'offence'. For example, Sikhs forcing the closure of a play at Birmingham Rep, the death sentence on Salman Rushdie, the Danish cartoons or *Jerry Springer – the Opera*.

In Africa, more than 30 million people have HIV/AIDS while international religious leaders and religiously-motivated aid agencies try to prevent the use of condoms and even lie about their effectiveness.

## If you want to live in an open, equal and just society...

## If you want to oppose the activities of extremist religious groups on campus...

## If you think that the only fair society is a secular society...

# Join us.

*"The secular path is the one that civil society must take if it is to have any hope of survival."*

— Christopher Hitchens

[www.secularism.org.uk](http://www.secularism.org.uk)

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