

Secularism: freedom, fairness and human rights #NSS150

Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5q8eHfqOEE>

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Do you think religion is a personal matter for individuals, and something

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that should never be imposed on people? So do we.

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The National Secular Society has been challenging religious privilege for 150

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years. Our work began with Charles Bradlaugh who despite being elected as

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an MP was denied his seat in parliament because of his atheist beliefs. Bradlaugh

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was eventually allowed to take his seat, and once sworn into Parliament was

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instrumental in bringing about a change in the law giving all MPs the right to

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affirm rather than swear a religious oath. Since those early days we've

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pioneered many important social reforms, and society has changed a lot. But

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there's still plenty more to do. Religion still enjoys significant privileges in

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the UK. The Church of England is still established as the national church with

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its bishops given seats in the House of Lords, and a third of all state-funded

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schools are faith schools. With worship still required by law in all schools,

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despite Britain being home to more non-believers than ever before. A diverse

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society doesn't have to mean a divided one. That's why we work for an inclusive

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secular society, when no religious group is able to unduly influence public

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policy, or impose their views and practices on people who don't share

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their faith. A society where everyone's human rights are balanced fairly.

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Whatever your beliefs secularism protects you. So why not make a stand for

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freedom, fairness and human rights by joining the National Secular Society

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today?