

Leicester Secular Society

THE OLDEST SECULAR SOCIETY IN THE WORLD - FOUNDED 1851



*Working for a tolerant and diverse society
without religious privilege.*

For over a hundred and fifty years Leicester Secular Society has been bringing people together to exchange views, fight for equality and human rights, and to simply enjoy meeting one another.

The Society is committed to:

1. creating a civil society that is for everyone equally, that promotes respect for individual human rights and encourages trust and co-operation between those sharing these values;
2. opposing policies that emphasise religious identity and allow religious discrimination in education and social services;
3. opposing the promotion of any religions by the state.

Understanding each other

We welcome people from all parts of the community to our weekly meetings. Speakers present diverse points or view on philosophy, ethics, poetry, the arts, history, current affairs etc. Recently we have had talks from a Church of England clergyman, a Muslim advocating Sharia law, a secular Muslim, the General Secretary of the Hindu Council as well as the President of the National Secular Society. In addition we hold social events, walks and trips to places of interest.

Playing our part

Members are involved in many aspects of local society including Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education, Hospital Chaplaincy, "Faith" Ambassadors at Leicester College, god free ceremonies, Leicester City of Sanctuary and Leicester Interfaith Fellowship.

Please join us if you:

- believe in practical humanity (the need for us to help each other);
- advocate free speech and the need to keep religion and the state apart;
- enjoy good argument and good company;
- support an open society based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

www.leicestersecularsociety.org.uk

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Leicester Secular Society is a company limited by guarantee, Reg. No. 06292639

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I have read the "Principal Aims of Leicester Secular Society" and wish to become a member:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Home Address _____

Post code: _____ Tel.: _____

Email: _____

Using email saves us postage and printing costs. Providing an email address will indicate to us that you are happy to receive email communications. At present all newsletters and programme leaflets go out by post.

Subscription* £ _____ Date _____

Signature _____

*Annual subscription rates: Individuals £18; Low Income £6; Households £24.

(Subscriptions run to the end of the current year. Half price from July onwards).

Please send this form together with your cheque (made payable to Leicester Secular Society) to the Secretary, Leicester Secular Society, Leicester Secular Hall, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester, LE1 1WB. All applications are subject to Board approval.

Please note: Your details will be held on a computer unless you indicate otherwise, and will be used by Leicester Secular Society for its approved purposes.

Principal Aims of Leicester Secular Society

Challenging religious privilege and dogma: We advocate the separation of religion and state, proper representation of people with no religion, the ending of privileges for religious organisations and the secularisation of "faith" schools. We challenge religious teachings that divert people away from reality. **Defending rationalism and free speech:** We believe people should be free to express and publish their beliefs, however controversial, without fear of prosecution, persecution or physical harm, as long as they accord the same rights to others. Anyone should be prepared to submit their views to vigorous debate, questioning of their evidence and testing of their conclusions. **Working for justice and fairness:** We believe our efforts should be devoted to the elimination of human misery, injustice, poverty and ignorance in the world as it is here and now. We oppose unfair discrimination, bigotry and coercion based on factors such as beliefs, racial and ethnic origins, disability, sex, age, sexuality or lifestyle. **Promoting a morality for life:** We believe moral values and virtues like fairness, kindness, loyalty and honesty arise from people needing to live together in peace and harmony, not from any religion. Moral rules must be judged by their consequences for people now, not by their appearance in the "holy" writings of ancient societies.