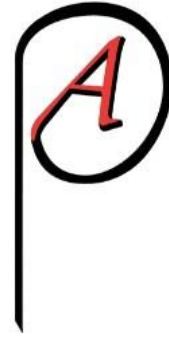


Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI
"Your participation is PA's future"



November 2016

... we seek to go beyond divisive racial, religious, tribal, and sectarian constructs, and instead, contribute to a universal humanity.

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Membership Renewal Term 2016: 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

MEMBERSHIP

Term 2016: 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

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<http://progressiveatheists.org/product-category/membership/>

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Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

Report: Saudi blogger Raif Badawi

Raif Badawi, the imprisoned Saudi blogger whose public flogging in 2015 generated global outcry, now risks a new round of lashes, according to his supporters.

Evelyne Abitbol, who founded the Raif Badawi Foundation with Badawi's wife, said a "reliable source" in Saudi Arabia claims he faces a new flogging after being sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and 1,000 lashes in 2014 for breaking the kingdom's technology laws and insulting Islam.

Saudi embassy officials in Ottawa and Saudi government officials in Riyadh were not immediately available for comment.

Abitbol declined to name the source but said it was the same person who had alerted Badawi's wife, Ensaf Haidar, in 2015 before he received his first 50 lashes, the only part of the flogging that was reportedly administered.

The source did not indicate when the flogging would take place.

"Unfortunately, it could happen at any time, if it happens," Abitbol said by phone in Montreal.

READ THE WHOLE STORY HERE: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/18/saudi-blogger-raif-badawi-faces-further-flogging>



Ensaf Haidar holds a picture of her husband, jailed Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, which awarded him its Sakharov Prize in 2015. Photograph: Patrick Seeger/EPA

Report: Cosmic Shambles Live

Cosmic Shambles LIVE is a variety show that celebrates curiosity and reason, an explosion of science, comedy, music and general



wonder, with a great sense of fun. Hosted by comedian and writer Robin Ince, best known for co-hosting The Infinite Monkey Cage, and joined by a cast of world leading scientists, comedians and performers - this is a show that will make you laugh and make you think.

As the show travels across Australia and New Zealand, many local acts and scientists will be incorporated into the show, making for a unique and different experience with every performance. Each show will be packed with surprises and secret guests.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING INFORMATION:

http://atheistfoundation.org.au/cosmicshambleslive/?mc_cid=5b72dbc1c5&mc_eid=b97eee8783

Report: How Ex-Muslims Living in Islamic Countries Should Plan Their Exits

What should you do if you're a young ex-Muslim woman living in an Islamic country, and you'd like to get the hell out of there?

Imtiaz Shams offers some excellent and detailed advice in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91jjV5uBl3U>



Report: We must resist “debased” forms of freedom of religion or belief

President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), Andrew Copson, spoke this morning at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at a conference on “Preventing Violent Extremism: How Freedom of Religion or Belief Can Help “.

Andrew Copson outlined some of the threats to the non-religious which must be considered violations of ‘freedom of religion or belief’ (FORB); and he further warned of the development of a “debased” variant of FORB. This debased variant is a demand of “**religious freedom**”-as-privilege, and represents a kind of “evil twin” reflection of the true spirit of the universal human right. The debasement of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief to “religious freedom”-as-privilege, is at best a distraction from the true spirit of the universal right, he said, and at worst it is a hindrance to resisting radical extremism.

THE FULL TEXT OF ANDREW’S PREPARED REMARKS ARE HERE:

<http://iheu.org/we-must-resist-debased-forms-of-freedom-of-religion-or-belief/>

Report: Euthanasia Bills before the South Australian parliament

Two bills now sit before the South Australian parliament seeking to introduce voluntary euthanasia after a day of political manoeuvring to keep hopes for the new laws alive.

The latest bid for change was launched on Thursday with the 15th bill since 1995 put before the lower house by advocate and Liberal MP Duncan McFetridge.

His legislation was adjourned for debate in November when it could be moved to the committee stage for further consideration.

Soon after the 14th bill, which had been in the parliament since February, was adjourned until December 1, the last day of sittings for 2016, effectively killing off any chance of it going any further.

But that was not before some of its strongest critics tried to force a vote on the floor, seeking to have it defeated.

Read more at <http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/10/20/03/36/vote-on-euthanasia-in-sa-delayed#Si8A2fMh7B9D2LSC.99>

Report: Euthanasia is about to become a big State election issue

The right to die is about to become a State election issue, after three politicians agreed to help develop a Bill with pro-euthanasia doctor Alida Lancee.

Former local government minister Tony Simpson, Upper House Labor candidate Alannah MacTiernan and Greens MP Robin Chapple said yesterday it was time to consider a new assisted dying Bill.

It could cover seriously ill people who are expected to die within six months.

Although the Bill would not be introduced until after the March election, Dr Lancee said she would call on all candidates to state how they would vote.

She told a packed meeting of the voluntary euthanasia group Dying with Dignity yesterday that candidates could lose up to 25 per cent of votes if they opposed end-of-life law reform. All parties had indicated they would allow a conscience vote.

The Perth GP, who has admitted giving a lethal injection to a patient with end-stage emphysema, said she had not been charged, two months after the major crime squad began a homicide investigation.

READ MORE HERE: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/wa/a/32950454/euthanasia-bill-to-put-poll-candidates-on-spot/#page1>



Alida Lancee at a Dying with Dignity meeting in Perth.

Report: The people likely to be excluded from a voluntary euthanasia law in Victoria

Jay Franklin knows the limits of medicine. Since he was born, the Melbourne man has endured nearly 150 operations to remove most of his bowels due to a congenital condition known as Hirschsprung disease.

As a result, the 40-year-old has a bag attached to a small part of his remaining intestines to catch waste products, and requires a catheter in his chest to feed him and deliver medicines.

He has lost the pleasure of tasting and eating food, sleeps up to 15 hours a day, cannot work, and feels almost constant pain in his abdomen from scar tissue.

READ MORE OF JAY'S STORY HERE: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/the-people-likely-to-be-excluded-from-a-voluntary-euthanasia-law-in-victoria-20161019-gs5p4n.html>



Report: Donald Trump Reveals Evangelical Rifts That Could Shape Politics for Years

When Jen Hatmaker speaks to stadiums full of Christian women, she regales them with stories about her five children and her garden back in Austin, Tex. — and stays away from politics. But recently she took to Facebook and Instagram to blast Donald J. Trump as a “national disgrace” and remind her legions of followers that there are other names on the ballot in November.

“Trump has consistently normalized violence, sexual deviance, bigotry and hate speech,” she said in an email interview. “I wouldn’t accept this from my seventh-grade son, much less from a potential leader of the free world.”

In the nearly four decades since Jerry Falwell Sr. founded a group called the Moral Majority, evangelical Christians have been the Republican Party’s most unified and reliable voting bloc in November presidential elections. The leaders of what came to be known as the religious right were kingmakers and household names, like Pat Robertson, James C. Dobson, Ralph Reed.

But this year, Ms. Hatmaker’s outraged post was one small sign of the splintering of the evangelical bloc and a possible portent of the changes ahead. While most of the religious right’s aging old guard has chosen to stand by Mr. Trump, its judgment and authority are being challenged by an increasingly assertive crop of younger leaders, minorities and women such as Ms. Hatmaker.

“Those men have never spoken for me or, frankly, anyone I know,” said Ms. Hatmaker, the author of popular inspirational Christian books. “The fracture within our own Christian family may be irreparable.”

READ THE WHOLE REPORT HERE: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/17/us/donald-trump-evangelicals-republican-vote.html? r=0>



Wyatt Drake, a Liberty University student, registering to vote. Students at the evangelical university in Lynchburg, Va., have started a petition criticizing the university’s president for backing Donald J. Trump. Credit Chet Strange for The New York Times

Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI

Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held at 12 pm on **Saturday, 26th November 2016** at the Melbourne Unitarian Hall, 110 Grey Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002. All who support our purpose are welcome.

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/232838589/>

*Reminder for December Open Meeting: **Saturday 24th December, 2016***

Progressive Atheists Purpose Statement:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/purpose-statement/>

Melbourne Atheists MeetUp Group | Event Calendar

Keep in touch with atheists around Melbourne via the Melbourne MeetUp:

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/calendar/>

Membership Term 2015 | 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

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