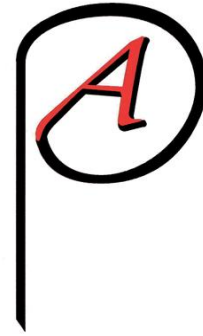


Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI

"Your participation is PA's future"



October 2015

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

Headlines

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MEMBERSHIP

Term 2015: 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

***** ONLY \$20 Annually *****

Purchase Membership Online:

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

CONTACT PROGRESSIVE ATHEISTS INC.

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Secretary: secretary@progressiveatheists.org

Website: progressiveatheists.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc

Twitter: twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc

Please send articles, news, letters and comments to:
editor@progressiveatheists.org

Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

Conference: Secularism in the Modern World - Melbourne 2015

This conference will bring together ideas from around the world with a focus on promoting secular ideals. The conference will address freedom of thought, freedom of expression, religious persecution, religious freedom and countering religious extremism.

Saturday, 31 October 2015

9.30 am – 4.10 pm

Melbourne Unitarian Church

110 Grey St, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Speakers

Professor Spencer Zifcak, Rosslyn Ives,
Lev Lafayette, Lara Wood, Paul Tonson,
Shahriar Hassan, Tasnia Falguni,
Ibrahim Khalil, Zobaen Sondhi, Ali
Sayed, Shubhajit Bhowmik, Ashraful
Alam and Peter Farago.



See website for more about speakers:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/secularism/conference-2015/>

Contact

Phone: 0422 907 106

Email: conference2015@progressiveatheists.org

Tickets

General Admission: \$30

Full Time Students & Health Care Card Holders: \$20

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

For further details: <http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/225114047/>

Election Report: Canning WA By Election Candidate Survey

Progressive Atheists sent out invitations to the 12 candidates standing for election, to respond to the Progressive Atheists candidate survey. We have received responses from:

Michelle Allen – Pirate Party

Katrina Love – Animal Justice Party

Connor Whittle – Liberal Democrats

Angela Smith – Sustainable Population Party

Questions asked in the Candidate Survey:

1. School Chaplaincy Program:

Are you in favour of ceasing the funding of chaplains in Australian schools?

2. The Scientific Method:

Do you support a ban on the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes in schools?

3. Religious Proselytising:

Do you support a ban on religious organisations disseminating curriculum material to Australian public schools that is in any way biased or seeking to promulgate a religious ideology?

4. Comparative Religious Education:

Would you support a professionally designed and teacher-run curriculum topic, 'comparative worldviews' that covered a multitude of faiths, denominations and worldviews?

5. Prayers in Parliament:

Do you support the replacement of prayers in parliament with a few minutes silence for personal reflection?

6. Tax Exemptions:

Are you in favour of removing tax exemptions for religions?

7. Child Abuse:

Are you in favour of requiring the institutions that have failed to protect children from abuse to provide compensation?

8. Marriage Equality:

Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples?

9. Voluntary Euthanasia:

Would you support a bill that allowed a terminally or incurably ill person the right to choose the manner and timing of their death, under strict safeguards, by providing humane medical assistance?

10. Climate Change:

Do you agree that climate change is manmade and needs urgent action to counter negative effects?

11. Humanitarian Aid:

Are you in favour of offering humanitarian aid to apostates of religion who are in need?

See more on the Progressive Atheists website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/elections/australia-canning-by-election-campaign-2015/>

See results here:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Candidate-Survey-Canning-WA-by-election-19-September-2015-Survey-Results.pdf>

Report: The Quilliam Foundation

Quilliam is the world's first counter-extremism think tank set up to address the unique challenges of citizenship, identity, and belonging in a globalised world. Quilliam stands for religious freedom, equality, human rights and democracy.

Challenging extremism is the duty of all responsible members of society. Not least because cultural insularity and extremism are products of the failures of wider society to foster a shared sense of belonging and to advance liberal democratic values. With Islamist extremism in particular, we believe a more self-critical approach must be adopted by Muslims. Westophobic ideological influences and social insularity needs to be challenged within Muslim communities by Muslims themselves whilst



simultaneously, an active drive towards creating an inclusive civic identity must be pursued by all members of society.

Quilliam seeks to challenge what we think, and the way we think. It aims to generate creative, informed and inclusive discussions to counter the ideological underpinnings of terrorism, whilst simultaneously

providing evidence-based recommendations to governments for related policy measures.

To read more: <http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/>

Report: Ali Mohammed al-Nimr

Looming crucifixion sparks global calls to spare life of young Saudi Ali Mohammed al-Nimr.

An international campaign calling on Saudi Arabia to halt the beheading and "crucifixion" of a young man arrested when he was still at high school is growing, but there are fears he could be killed at any time.

Ali Mohammed al-Nimr was 17 when he was arrested after attending a protest in the midst of the pro-democracy Arab Spring unrest of 2012.

The death sentence was handed down on May 27 this year, and upheld this month, meaning he may be executed at any time.

A group of human rights experts from the United Nations on Tuesday condemned Mr al-Nimr's unfair trial, torture and planned execution, and the French government on Wednesday called for the killing to be stopped.

Read more here: <http://www.smh.com.au/world/looming-crucifixion-sparks-global-calls-to-spare-life-of-young-saudi-ali-mohammed-alnimr-20150923-gjtlhk.html>



Campaign:

Atheist Ireland Against Religious Indoctrination in Public Schools

The Schools Equality PACT is a major new initiative of Atheist Ireland to enable everybody, regardless of your religious or nonreligious beliefs, to support religious equality in Irish schools. It is part of an ongoing campaign of national political lobbying, and representations to UN and other international human rights bodies.

Irish primary schools are State-funded but privately run, 90% by the Catholic Church and most of the rest by other religions. Religion is integrated throughout the school day. State-funded schools have the legal right to discriminate against children, parents and teachers on the ground of religion.

We ask the Irish Parliament to urgently reform the school system of State-funded religious discrimination. This PACT (Patronage, Access, Curriculum, Teaching) describes the changes needed.

The State has a duty to respect equally the human rights of all children, parents and teachers. This requires a national network of public secular schools, inclusive of all, neutral between religions and atheism, and focused on the educational needs of all children equally.

THE SCHOOLS EQUALITY PACT

P = PATRONAGE

A = ACCESS

C = CURRICULUM

T = TEACHING



Divesting some religious schools to new private patrons will not achieve pluralism in education. The Irish Parliament's Education Committee has warned that multiple patronage and ethos can lead to segregation and inequality. The UN and Council of Europe have warned our schools breach human rights.

Read more here: <http://atheist.ie/schoolsequality/>

And sign the petition here: <https://www.change.org/p/the-irish-parliament-and-government-support-the-schools-equality-pact-end-state-funded-religious-discrimination-in-schools>

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Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting

Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting | 24th October 2015

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Open Meeting at 12 pm, Saturday, 24th October 2015 at Clover & Rye, 410 Bridge Road, Richmond, Vic 3121. . All who support our purpose are welcome.

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/224846868/>

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 2015 – 30 June 2016

Progressive Atheists Membership is \$20 per annum / \$10 concession.

JOIN US | Purchase New Membership Online:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/application/>

For other methods to renew and join please see our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/>

Email our Membership Officer:

membership@progressiveatheists.org

OR ASK the person who gave you this bulletin

Progressive Atheists Inc. 'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges

T-shirts ONLY \$15 for members!

Badges \$2.50 each ~ 2 designs / 3 colours

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Sales Rep. Elida Radig: sales@progressiveatheists.org