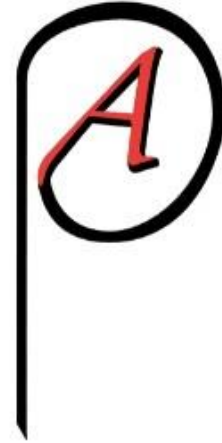


Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI

"Your participation is PA's future"



June 2016

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

Headlines

- Ω **Report:** Orlando Shooting: What motivated a killer?
- Ω **Report:** Orlando Shooting: US politics respond
- Ω **Report:** Mark 'no religion' on your 2016 census
- Ω **Report:** Asian Humanism Conference
- Ω **Australian Election Report – Have your say!!!!**

BackPage

Membership Renewal Term 2016: 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

MEMBERSHIP

Term 2015: 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

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

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

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Andrew: 0438 043 050 **Secretary:**

secretary@progressiveatheists.org **Website:**

progressiveatheists.org

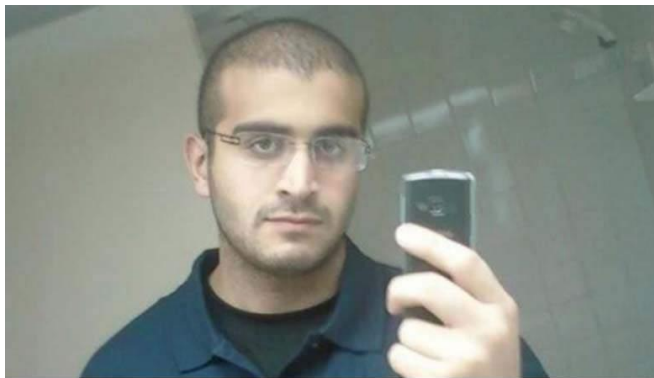
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Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

REPORT: ORLANDO SHOOTING: WHAT MOTIVATED A KILLER?

Orlando, Florida (CNN) While the bodies of Omar Mateen's victims were removed from Pulse nightclub overnight, investigators worked Monday to determine what motivated the Florida killer responsible for the worst mass shooting in U.S. history -- a man the FBI knew was sympathetic to terrorism and had previously investigated.



#IslamicState

May Allah grant the brother a palace in jannah Aameen

#Pulse

#OrlandoShooting

#OrlandolsBurning <https://t.co/6gApjMziWz>

12 3:25 PM

The attack appears to be "homegrown terrorism" carried out by legally purchased firearms, President Barack Obama said in the Oval Office. He said there wasn't any evidence the attacker was under direction from a terrorist network, or carrying out any group's larger plot.

In Washington, FBI Director James Comey defended the agency's investigation of Mateen, a 29-year-old security guard from Fort Pierce,

Florida, who was placed on a terror watch list and was looked into twice. Agents found no reason to think he was a credible threat, Comey said.

Investigators are "highly confident" the gunman was self-radicalized through the internet, Comey said.

According to one official, analysis of Mateen's electronic devices showed searches for jihadist propaganda, including videos of ISIS beheading videos and of Anwar al-Awlaki - an influential American-born imam who worked as a spokesman for al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and was killed in 2011.

"He consumed a hell of a lot of jihadist propaganda" online, the source said.

MORE DETAILS: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/13/us/orlando-nightclub-shooting/index.html>

REPORT: ORLANDO SHOOTING: US POLITICS RESPOND.

This is what we're hearing from American politicians:

"Let's be clear: Islam is not our adversary. Muslims are peaceful and tolerant people and have nothing whatsoever to do with terrorism."

Note first the conflation between Muslims and Islam, which is the conflation between "criticizing religion" and "being a bigot against its adherents".

Read more on Jerry Coyne's blog "Why Evolution is True"

<https://whyevolutionistrue.wordpress.com/2016/06/14/a-tweet-from-hillary-clinton/>

Renew your membership with Progressive Atheists!

Remember to renew your membership with us before
30th June to take advantage of the \$15 early bird
discount.

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

REPORT: MARK 'NO RELIGION' ON THE 2016 CENSUS

Many people in Australia are born into religion but no longer practice or hold the same beliefs.

On the 2016 census, the opportunity to choose **'No religion'** is now at the top of the list, giving people the chance to consider their answer first.

Accurate census data helps policy makers & political leaders make all sorts of planning and funding decisions. So if you're not religious any more, **mark the new 'No religion' box on the 2016 Census.**

The Census is an important chance to make sure your interests are met and that views you don't hold are not over-represented in the coming years.

PLEASE consider further: <http://censusnoreligion.org.au/>

REPORT: ASIAN HUMANIST CONFERENCE

About the Asian Humanism Conference

The Asian Humanism Conference is a meeting of humanist youth in Asia. Its goals are to help build connections between people and humanist organizations in the region as well as offer training on skills and capacity building to help make groups more effective in the work as humanists. In recent years the Asian Humanism Conference has been held in Nepal, Singapore, and the Philippines as well as other nations. This year, it will be held in Taiwan, the first time for the conference to be held in East Asia.

Registration and conference information can be found here:

<http://taiwanhumanismstudio.weebly.com/2016-asian-humanism-conference.html>

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTION 2016:

Australian Federal Election 2016 Candidate Survey

Progressive Atheists are again conducting a survey of Australian election candidates.

This time we were asking 1,200 plus candidates and expect 400 plus responses, which will mean a lot of work, so we've kept the number of questions to 10, even though there are many more issues that are of interest. We hope that in combination with information from other sources, that the results will provide valuable information for voters.

Here are the questions that we are asking candidates:

Progressive Atheists Inc. Federal Election Candidate Survey Questions July 2016

Education

1. School Chaplaincy: Declared in July 2014 by the High Court of Australia to be of no benefit to students under s51 (xxiii A) of the Australia's Constitution, the Commonwealth funded National School Chaplaincy Program costs Australian taxpayers \$60m per annum, has been condemned by numerous professional bodies, and is endorsed only by its evangelical parachurch funding recipients and the Australian Christian Lobby.

Should the School Chaplaincy Program be discontinued from December 2016?

2. Comparative Religious Education: Confessional religious instruction provided by lay volunteers has existed in various state education acts for more than 100 years.

In consideration of Australia's multicultural society which now includes an extremely broad base of worldviews, philosophies, systems of belief, and positions of non-belief, should all sectarian confessional religious instruction be replaced with a national curriculum based course which encompasses a comprehensive history of human belief and philosophical systems?

Freedom of Choice

3. Abortion:

Do you wish to protect a woman's choice to have a safe, legal and accessible abortion?

4. 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?

Secularism & Democracy

5. Prayers in Parliament:

Do you support the end of exclusively Christian prayers at the opening of parliament each day?

6. Blasphemy & Apostasy:

Are you in favour of ensuring that Australia maintains freedom of belief and freedom of expression?

Refugees & Immigration

7. Atheist & Apostate Refugees:

Are you in favour of offering humanitarian aid and humanitarian visa priority to atheists and apostates suffering persecution for their beliefs, who are resident in countries that prevent atheists and apostates from accessing UNHCR registration?

Tax, Religion & Justice

8. Charitable Status for Religious Bodies:

Are you in favour of removing 'advancing religion' as a purpose, in order to be eligible to be a basic religious charity?

Freedom of Choice

3. Abortion:

Do you wish to protect a woman's choice to have a safe, legal and accessible abortion?

4. 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?

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Tax, Religion & Justice

9. Tax Concessions:

Are you in favour of removing religious institutions tax concessions from cults that are identified as a religion?

10. Institutional Child Abuse:

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

Results:

Survey results will be published on our website and distributed to voters via email, social media and polling booth leaflets.

<http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/elections/australia-federal-election-2016/>

This Australian Federal Election 2016 Survey has been authorised by Andrew Rawlings on behalf of Progressive Atheists Inc., 25 Banksia Street, Blackburn, VIC 3130

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 on Open Meeting at 12 pm, Saturday, ~~25th June 2016~~ Melbourne Unitarian Hall, 110 Grey St, East Melbourne VIC 3002.

All who support our purpose are welcome.

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

*Reminder for May Open Meeting: **Saturday, 30th July 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 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

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