

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, **28th May 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, 25th June 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

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

T-shirts ONLY \$15 for members!

Badges \$2.50 each ~ 2 designs / 3 colours

Order your t-shirt or badge on our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/products-for-sale/>

Sales Rep. Elida Radig: sales@progressiveatheists.org

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"Your participation is PA's future"



May 2016

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

Headlines

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- Ω **Report:** Iceland officially worshipping Norse gods again.
- Ω **Petition:** Concern regarding refugees
- Ω **Report:** Australian Bishops and the Federal election
- Ω **Census:** Global Atheist census
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- Ω **Project:** Intentional Insights
- Ω **Early bird Membership:**
<http://progressiveatheists.org/products/membership/renewal/>

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

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.

President: president@progressiveatheists.org

Vice President – Andrew: 0438 043 050

Secretary: secretary@progressiveatheists.org

Website: progressiveatheists.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc

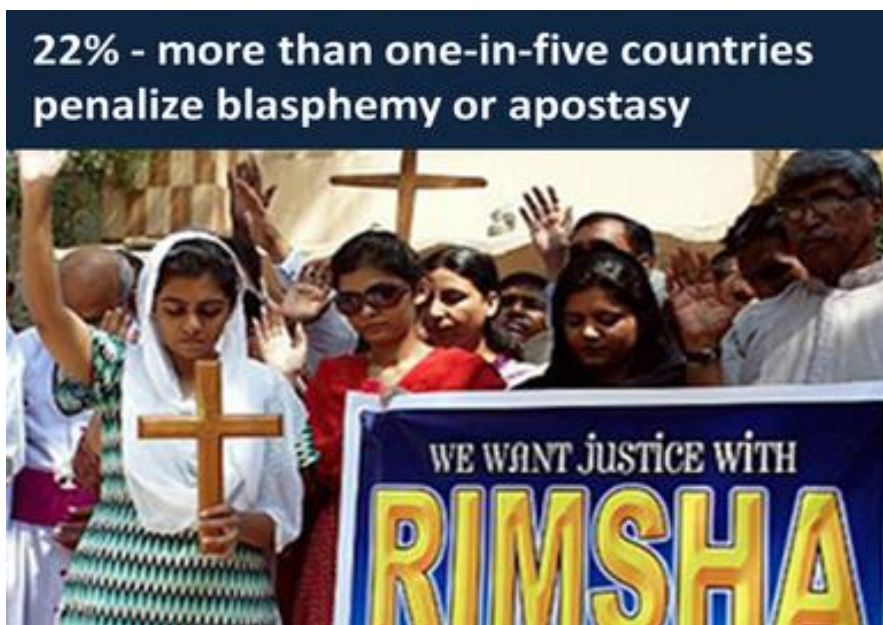
Twitter: twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc

Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

REPORT: A short note on apostasy and atheism globally and with special focus on the Middle East and Iran

The majority of the countries that criminalise apostasy are located in the Middle East and North Africa, and/or have Muslim majority population, however according to the Pew Research Center's report (2014), in addition to the abovementioned "nearly a quarter of the world's countries and territories (22%) had anti-blasphemy laws or policies, and one-in-ten (11%) had laws or policies penalizing apostasy" of which Ireland, Denmark, Italy and Germany are outstanding. Finland also criminalises "Breach of sanctuarity of religion" with a penalty of fine or 6 months in prison (Chapter 17, Section 10). The legal punishments for such transgressions vary from fines to death.

Read more: <http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/combating-religious-persecution/apostasy-blasphemy/apostasy-atheism-middle-east-iran/>



<http://theweeklynumber.com/weekly-number-blog/previous/15>

PROJECT: Intentional Insights

"AAI is pleased to endorse "Meaning, Purpose, and Science in Secular Communities," a project initiated by Gleb Tsipursky, PhD, professor at the Ohio State University and co-founder and President at [Intentional Insights](http://intentionalinsights.org).

Intentional Insights is a non-profit organization that empowers reason-oriented people to refine and reach their goals by providing research-based content to help improve thinking, feeling, and behaviour patterns. Intentional Insights recently published Gleb Tsipursky's book for reason-oriented people to find meaning and purpose using science-based strategies, Find Your Purpose Using Science, with a free version available, and also offers a free online class and a free videotaped workshop on this topic. Intentional Insights has content informed by a skepticism-informed, science-based look at daily life, such as videotaped workshops on making decisions, on evaluating reality, and on achieving our goals, as well as blogs on how to communicate rationally, to avoid conformity and go for one's personal goals, on succeeding at other minds, and on how to change our minds based on new information.

If you would like to learn more about Intentional Insights and its content, email Gleb Tsipursky, gleb@intentionalinsights.org. Also sign up to the Intentional Insights newsletter and RSS feed, and visit its website, Facebook page, Twitter, Pinterest, and Delicious.

Intentional Insight

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYoi6XbNHiztLh2o6efP13Q>

CENSUS: Global Atheist census

Have you been counted yet?

Go here: <http://atheistcensus.com/>



REPORT: Religious Charity! What's it good for?

Scott Morrison will hand down the budget on 3rd May with one glaring omission – the nation's irreligious.

A national poll in March showed 64 per cent of Australians oppose religion being tax-exempt. Yet hundreds of diverse church denominations avoid an estimated \$31 billion in tax each year, simply because of the historical anomaly of 'advancing religion'.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) administers over 60,000 charities with almost 60% being secular organisations. Whereas a number of religions run hundreds of private enterprises in schools, hospitals, aged care, and a variety of other private businesses – none of which pay income tax, GST, rates, car registration and a raft of other taxes.

READ MORE HERE: <http://atheistfoundation.org.au/media-release/religious-charity-what-is-it-good-for/>

6.

REPORT: Iceland officially worshipping Norse gods again

Icelanders will soon be able to publicly worship at a shrine to Thor, Odin and Frigg with construction starting this month on the island's first major temple to the Norse gods since the Viking age. Worship of the gods in Scandinavia gave way to Christianity around 1,000 years ago but a modern version of Norse paganism has been gaining popularity in Iceland.

"I don't believe anyone believes in a one-eyed man who is riding about on a horse with eight feet," said Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson, high priest of

Ásatrúarfélagið, an association that promotes faith in the Norse gods.

"We see the stories as poetic metaphors and a manifestation of the forces of nature and human psychology."



READ MORE HERE:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/02/iceland-temple-norse-gods-1000-years>

3.

PETITION:

Dear Members,

Following is a letter template initiated by a member in light of the upcoming federal election in order to express concern regarding refugees. If you find this letter matches your views, please feel free to use this wording and send to your local candidates:

We the undersigned reject the current approach to Australia's refugee policies adopted by both major parties and some xenophobic populist minor parties. We do however recognise that within parties there is a diversity of views and would be prepared to support and advocate for individual candidates who would work for a more compassionate approach based on Australia's international obligations and our shared history of accepting and helping refugees. It is in that context that we seek your views and commitment to work, if elected, to:

1. Have all existing and new applicants for refugee status processed onshore and according to Australia's international obligations;
2. Ensure that process is quick, fair and transparent and that successful applicants are released into the Australian community with full rights;
3. Work with regional governments and the international community to reduce the risks of flight from persecution and to ensure that people's right to seek refuge is facilitated.

If these aims accord with your own, please let us know how we can help with your campaign.

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/religion-will-play-a-role-in-2016-federal-election-20160510-gos5da.html>

4.

REPORT: The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has decided that it needs to "weigh into" the 2016 Federal Election.

It has done so under the guise of "speaking up for the voiceless" and "thrown-away people", and their statement specifically lists many marginalised peoples who are most worthy of support – which ironically includes survivors of sexual abuse.

A few salient facts on this point have been missed, such as that:

- a distressingly high number of abuse survivors emanate from abuse by religious personnel;
- religious institutions in particular, and the Catholic Church specifically, have actively contributed to the "throwing away" and "silencing" of those survivors through not believing and supporting them, not encouraging them to go to police, moving and protecting abusive priests, offering only derisory compensation and attaching confidentiality clauses to even those token amounts.

The Atheist Foundation of Australia (AFA) suggests that the Catholic Church should prioritise getting its own house in order on these issues, prior to purporting to speak on the behalf of victims of abuse. As the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse demonstrates, there is still a long way to go.

READ MORE HERE: <http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ce4a97c7c75a2105abd907df9&id=db299da35e&e=b97eee8783>

5.