THE END OF BLASPHEMY LAW

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ABSTRACT

Blasphemy law was once an integral part of English constitutional and criminal law, such was the law's close affiliation with the precepts of Christianity. The author marks the end of blasphemy law in England by adumbrating the reasons for its decline, and by providing a brief history of the crucial developments within that defunct but once important law, with reference to international as well as domestic case law. He also alludes to the sea change in religious priorities in England and the attempted resolution of possible inter-religious antipathies. Article by Dr Paul Kearns, Lecturer in Law at the School of Law, University of Manchester - published in Amicus Curiae - Journal of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies. The Journal is produced by the Society for Advanced Legal Studies at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London.

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REFBACKS

There are currently no refbacks.

blasphemy law is a law prohibiting blasphemy, where blasphemy is the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence to a deity, or sacred things, or toward something considered sacred or inviolable. According to Pew Research Center, about a quarter of the world's countries and territories (26%) had anti-blasphemy laws or policies as of 2014. In some states, blasphemy laws are used to protect the religious beliefs of a majority, while in other countries, they serve to offer protection of The End Blasphemy Laws campaign was launched in 2015 after the terrorist attack against Charlie Hebdo. The campaign is open to all who oppose blasphemy laws, including religious and secular communities, human rights groups, and all advocates of freedom of expression. Humanists International is part of the International Coalition Against Blasphemy Laws which brings together individual people (like you!) and organizations that share the same goal: campaigning to repeal "blasphemy" and related laws worldwide. We want to see the complete abolition all laws which criminalise: "blasphemy" “insult to As I noted recently in The New Criterion, such deployments of blasphemy laws are part of a larger movement to abridge free speech. Like the House of the Lord, I noted, it is a movement that has many mansions. Some are frankly religious, or at least theocratic, in origin, as in the tireless campaigns undertaken to promulgate laws against blasphemy by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The chief instrument for the enforcement of conformity — at the end of the day, it is even more potent than the constant threat of terror — is language, the perfection and dissemination of what George Orwell called Newspeak: that insidious pseudo-language that aims to curtail rather than liberate thought and feeling.