

Sheffield Humanists

Freethought for an ethical society

Secular Humanism

As there is no external or supernatural force to help us, we ourselves are responsible for resolving, together and as individuals, the social and ethical problems of humanity. The primary aim of secular humanism is the improvement of life in this world, the only life of which we have certain knowledge.

Historically, invoking a god has had disastrous consequences for humanity. Although Christianity inspired the Crusades, the Inquisition and witch-hunts, other religions are also guilty of creating war, persecution and innumerable conflicts.

Secular humanists assert that morality is rooted in human experience and thought. A worthwhile moral code does not come from a holy book or in obedience to an assumed command from 'another world'.

Secular humanism promotes freedom of thought and action in matters of opinion. It defends the right to live without religion, as well as the freedom to hold and practise religious beliefs, however bizarre.

Whilst upholding religious freedom, we campaign against religious privileges. For instance, we want an end to the special status and privileges of the Church of England as the Established Church. We want an end to charity status for religious groups; an end to public funding of chaplaincy services; an end to religious broadcasting departments and an end to religious indoctrination in our schools.

If...

- ▶ ...you respect the right of others to be different from you..
- ▶ ...you agree that we should work to improve the lives of human beings in the world, rather than rely on the idea of rewards in an after-life..
- ▶ ...you recognise that we all have a part to play in furthering human happiness and progress..
- ▶ ...you support the idea that moral codes should be based on careful thought, taking into account our knowledge of the world and our environment, rather than faith in some supernatural being..
- ▶ **...you are probably a humanist!**

Sheffield Humanists

Sheffield Humanist Society continues a long tradition of organised freethought in this area of Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

We hold public meetings on the first Wednesday of every month (except August) to discuss topical issues with invited speakers. Come to the Three Cranes on Queen Street, Sheffield at eight o'clock prompt and join in the discussion.

We supply information leaflets, briefings and speakers on social and moral issues, applying the rational thinking and human values which make up a humanist outlook.

We work and campaign locally to achieve a humanist voice in society. We run bookstalls at local festivals and events.

We can provide trained and experienced officiants to conduct non-religious funeral, baby-naming, wedding and same sex affirmation ceremonies.

The membership fee is £2.00 per year and members receive a newsletter several times a year.

If you wish to join the society, contact the Membership Secretary, Nick Honneyman, 72 Sandford Grove Road, Sheffield S7 1RR.

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