

# What do the parties say? Key humanist issues to party positions in Britain at the 2017 UK general elections

All party policies come from the respective party manifestos unless a specific reference is given.

Humanists UK question	Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats	UK Independence Party	Scottish National Party <sup>1</sup>	Green Party (E & W)	Plaid Cymru
	<a href="http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017con">http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017con</a>	<a href="http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017lab">http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017lab</a>	<a href="http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017libdem">http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017libdem</a>	<a href="http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017ukip">http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017ukip</a>	<a href="http://humanism.org.uk//GE2017snp">http://humanism.org.uk//GE2017snp</a>	<a href="http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017green">http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017green</a>	<a href="http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017plaid">http://humanism.org.uk/GE2017plaid</a>
<b>'Does your party support retaining the 50% cap on religious selection at English free schools? And will your party end religious selection in school admissions altogether?'</b>	No. 'We will replace the unfair and ineffective inclusivity rules that prevent the establishment of new Roman Catholic schools, instead requiring new faith schools to prove that parents of other faiths and none would be prepared to send their children to that school.' In Government has proposed to scrap the 50% cap.	Supportive of 'faith' schools and religious selection <i>per se</i> , but has also told us that it opposes the lifting of the cap.	Yes. Supportive of 'faith' schools but party policy calls for 'a new approach to state-funded faith schools which... ensures that selection in admissions on the basis of religion or belief to state-funded schools is phased out over up to six years.' <sup>2</sup>	No. When contacted by us, UKIP stated 'Yes - it was right to scrap the cap, No - we have no plans to end religious selection.'	This matter is devolved so SNP MPs won't vote on it, and the 50% cap does not apply in Scotland. However, the SNP Government is supportive of 'faith' schools and has not taken steps to limit religious selection by denominational schools in Scotland.	Party policy states 'No publicly-funded school shall be run by a religious organisation. Schools may teach about religions, comparing examples which originated in each continent, but are prohibited from delivering religious instruction in any form or encouraging adherence to any particular religious belief.' <sup>3</sup>	The 50% cap does not apply in Wales. When contacted by us in 2015 on faith admissions, said 'We don't have a specific policy on this but we believe that parents have the right to decide upon an appropriate education for their children. Faith schools funded by the state should be properly scrutinised for public benefit.'
<b>'Will your party ensure the inclusion of Humanism in English Religious Education syllabuses? (On an equal footing to the major religions, in line with the law?)'</b>	No. Opposed inclusion of Humanism when reviewing GCSE and A level RE syllabuses, beyond a few mentions. But did require schools to study two religions at GCSE level for the first time. <sup>4</sup>	No publicly stated policy on the question, but want 'faith' schools to have to teach about other religions and have their RE inspected by Ofsted. <sup>5</sup>	Yes. Supportive of inclusive and diverse RE: 'To ensure all children learn about a wide range of religious and nonreligious world views, religious education will be included in the core curriculum'. <sup>6</sup>	When contacted by us, said 'UKIP will review the guidance on teaching non-religious beliefs and worldviews in Religious Education published by the DfE.' <sup>7</sup>	This matter is devolved so SNP MPs won't vote on it, but the SNP Government has not taken steps to require Humanism to be taught about to the same extent as the principal religions in Religious and Moral Education (RME) in Scotland.	Yes. Party policy states 'Education should encourage critical engagement with, and non-dogmatic exposure to, diverse, sometimes competing, worldviews and beliefs – whether based on culture, religion or spirituality... [Faith-based] Religious instruction... may only take place outside of school curriculum time.' <sup>8</sup>	When contacted by us in 2015, said 'Following the Donaldson review [into the school curriculum in Wales], we believe that there should be less micro-management of schools. However, it's important that schools don't favour one perspective over the other.' Matter is devolved in Wales.
<b>'Will your party make high-quality, accurate, and inclusive personal, social, health, and economic education (PSHE) and relationships and sex education (RSE) compulsory in all English schools, including faith schools?'</b>	'We will educate today's young people in the harms of the internet and how best to combat them, introducing comprehensive Relationships and Sex Education in all primary and secondary schools'. But have not made a commitment on PSHE, and said that 'faith schools will continue to be able to teach in accordance with the tenets of their faith.' <sup>9</sup>	Yes. 'We will ensure that the new guidance for relationships and sex education is LGBT inclusive'. Supported the recent move to make RSE compulsory in all schools. 2015 manifesto said: 'We will introduce compulsory age-appropriate sex and relationships education' and work 'with schools to stop the blight of homophobic bullying.' <sup>10</sup>	Yes. 'We will: Introduce a curriculum entitlement... which will be taught in all state-funded schools. This will include Personal, Social and Health Education... and age-appropriate Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). Include in SRE teaching about sexual consent, LGBT+ relationships, and issues surrounding explicit images and content'.	No. 'End sex education in primary schools.' Has previously stated that the recent move to make RSE compulsory would be 'horrifying' to most parents'. <sup>11</sup> Does not support making PSHE and RSE statutory, and wants to scrap all RSE for primary school children. <sup>12</sup>	This matter is devolved so SNP MPs won't vote on it. Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education (RSHP) is a core part of the new Curriculum for Excellence and the SNP Government has produced new guidance on it. However, denominational schools can go against this guidance. <sup>13</sup>	Yes. Party policy to 'guarantee mandatory HIV, Sex, and relationship education - age appropriate and LGBTIQA+ inclusive - in all schools from primary level onwards.' <sup>14</sup>	Matter is devolved in Wales but has said in 2011 that 'We will ensure schools deliver preventative education about domestic violence, gender equality, healthy relationships and self-esteem.' <sup>15</sup> 2015 manifesto makes similar pledges. <sup>16</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The SNP has stated that its MPs will vote in the UK Parliament on matters primarily concerning England and Wales that have financial implications for Scotland. But it has given no indication it will vote on other matters concerning England and Wales. This includes some of the issues discussed in this table. SNP First Minister Nicola Sturgeon comments reported in *The Guardian*, February 2015: <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/feb/08/scottish-mps-vote-english-laws-nicola-sturgeon>

<sup>2</sup> Liberal Democrat party policy as passed at Spring Conference, March 2017: <http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference-spring-17-f16-faith-schools>

<sup>3</sup> Green Party Policy: <https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/ed.html>

<sup>4</sup> New GCSE Religious Studies subject content, February 2015: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-religious-studies>

<sup>5</sup> Tristram Hunt comments to *The Guardian*, June 2014: <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jun/14/taxpayers-should-not-fund-faith-schools>

<sup>6</sup> 2015 Liberal Democrats manifesto: [http://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/8907/attachments/original/1429028133/Liberal\\_Democrat\\_General\\_Election\\_Manifesto\\_2015.pdf](http://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/8907/attachments/original/1429028133/Liberal_Democrat_General_Election_Manifesto_2015.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Has previously said that 'teaching about Christianity will be a core part of religious education. RE shouldn't be disparaging towards Christianity, or to any other religion, but taught in a neutral manner explaining the reasons why some people believe and others don't. Children should be taught about all religions'. Paul Nuttall Q&A in *The Guardian*, March 2015: <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/mar/17/ukip-education-policies-schools-paul-nuttall>

<sup>8</sup> Green Party education policy: <http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/ed.html>

<sup>9</sup> Sex and Relationships Education: Written statement, Schools Minister Lord Nash, March 2017: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-03-01/HLWS511/>

BHA question	Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats	UK Independence Party	Scottish National Party	Green Party (E & W)	Plaid Cymru
<b>'Will your party get rid of the requirement for daily collective worship in English schools, replacing it with assemblies that are equally inclusive of all pupils, regardless of religion or belief?'</b>	No. Supportive of the requirement for collective worship in schools. <sup>17</sup>	No. Supportive of the requirement for collective worship in schools. <sup>18</sup>	Yes. Party policy 'allows state-funded schools to hold acts of worship and provide religious instruction, but repeals the existing legal requirement for all state-funded schools to hold acts of collective worship, and for non-religious schools to hold acts of worship of a broadly Christian character.' <sup>19</sup>	No. When contacted by us, stated 'No - there is already a parental opt-out of daily collective worship. The law as it currently stands is good.'	No. This matter is devolved so SNP MPs won't vote on it, but the SNP Government has not supported calls to end the requirement to have six acts of religious observance in schools per year. <sup>20</sup>	Yes. Party policy says 'we will abolish the requirement for a compulsory daily act of worship. Schools which choose to continue to hold acts of worship will provide an alternative activity for learners who choose not to take part. Pupils who do not participate in worship will not suffer any form of discrimination.' <sup>21</sup>	When contacted by us in 2015, said it 'does not have a party position on this matter. Our spokesperson on education has said that he believes the statutory obligation to hold a religious service should be removed and schools should be able to choose how to bring the whole school together and reflect upon citizenship.' Matter is devolved in Wales.
<b>'Will your party remove the 26 unelected bishops from the House of Lords?'</b>	No. No plans to reform the House of Lords: 'although comprehensive reform is not a priority we will ensure that the House of Lords continues to fulfill its constitutional role as a revising and scrutinising chamber.'	Yes. 'Our fundamental belief is that the second chamber should be democratically elected. In the interim period we will seek to end the hereditary principle and reduce the size of the current House of Lords...'	Yes. Plan to 'reform the House of Lords with a proper democratic mandate.' Party policy is that there should be a fully elected second chamber. <sup>22</sup>	'We will abolish the House of Lords.' When contacted by us, stated 'The position of the bishops in the House of Lords will be reviewed.'	Yes. 'We will also push for democratic reform. We believe that the House of lords is an affront to democracy and should be abolished.' <sup>23</sup> 2015 manifesto said it should be 'replaced with a fully elected second chamber.' <sup>24</sup>	Yes. Plan to 'increase diversity in representative politics, with job -shares, a 50/50 parliament, and replacing the House of Lords with an elected second chamber.'	'We want to see an elected House of Lords, elected by Single Transferable Vote, while decisions affecting Wales continue to be made there.'
<b>'Will your party legalise humanist marriages in England and Wales?'</b>	No plans to legalise. The Government has been considering the matter since it gave itself the power to grant legal recognition through the 2013 Same-Sex Marriage Act.	Yes. Has pledged to give legal recognition to humanist marriages if returned to power. <sup>25</sup>	Yes. 'To promote equality in relationships... we will: Permit humanist weddings.' <sup>26</sup> Have described the ban on humanist marriage is 'illiberal and unfair'. <sup>27</sup>	When contacted by us, stated 'UKIP will review the law on humanist marriages in England and Wales.'	This matter is devolved so SNP MPs won't vote on it, but humanist marriage is already legal in Scotland. Since coming to power, the SNP has strengthened the legal provisions. <sup>28</sup>	Yes. 'Clearly the law should allow those who wish to have a humanist marriage ceremony the same rights as couples who want a religious ceremony with the celebrant of their choice.'	When contacted by us, said 'We don't have a party policy on this issue.'

<sup>10</sup> 2015 Labour Party Manifesto: [http://b.3cdn.net/labouruk/e1d45da42456423b8c\\_vwm6brbvb.pdf](http://b.3cdn.net/labouruk/e1d45da42456423b8c_vwm6brbvb.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Press release from UKIP education spokesperson David Kurten, March 2017:

[http://www.ukip.org/announcement\\_that\\_sex\\_and\\_relationships\\_education\\_will\\_be\\_made\\_compulsory\\_for\\_all\\_children\\_from\\_4\\_years\\_old\\_will\\_be\\_horrorifying\\_to\\_most\\_parents](http://www.ukip.org/announcement_that_sex_and_relationships_education_will_be_made_compulsory_for_all_children_from_4_years_old_will_be_horrorifying_to_most_parents)

<sup>12</sup> Press release from UKIP education spokesperson Paul Nuttall, February 2015: [http://www.ukip.org/labour\\_sex\\_education\\_plans\\_a\\_disgrace](http://www.ukip.org/labour_sex_education_plans_a_disgrace)

<sup>13</sup> Scottish Government Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education guidance, December 2014: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0046/00465948.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> The Green Party LGBTIQ+ Manifesto 2017. <https://lgbtiqa.greenparty.org.uk/resources/lgbtiqagreens/downloads/LGBTIQAManifesto2017.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Plaid Cymru's 2011 Welsh Assembly manifesto: [http://www.english.plaidcymru.org/uploads/Manifesto\\_2011/Main\\_manifesto\\_English\\_SP.pdf](http://www.english.plaidcymru.org/uploads/Manifesto_2011/Main_manifesto_English_SP.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> 2015 Plaid Cymru Manifesto: [https://ia800305.us.archive.org/17/items/ukmanifestoes2015/Plaid\\_Cymru\\_2015\\_Westminster\\_Manifesto.pdf](https://ia800305.us.archive.org/17/items/ukmanifestoes2015/Plaid_Cymru_2015_Westminster_Manifesto.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Conservative Secretary of State for Education Nicky Morgan comments at the TES pre-election debate, March 2015: <http://www.edcomsteachers.com/blog/2015/tes-pre-election-debate-part-2/>

<sup>18</sup> Tristram Hunt comments at the TES pre-election debate, March 2015: <http://www.edcomsteachers.com/blog/2015/tes-pre-election-debate-part-2/>

<sup>19</sup> Liberal Democrat party policy as passed at Spring Conference, March 2017: <http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference-spring-17-f16-faith-schools>

<sup>20</sup> Scottish Government response to petition on religious observance in schools, October 2013: [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_PublicPetitionsCommittee/General%20Documents/PE1487\\_U\\_Scottish\\_Government\\_17.10.13.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_PublicPetitionsCommittee/General%20Documents/PE1487_U_Scottish_Government_17.10.13.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Green Party education policy: <http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/ed.html>

<sup>22</sup> Liberal Democrats 2012 Federal Conference report motion on 'Reform of the House of Lords': [http://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/2012/attachments/original/1390841944/Conference\\_Report\\_Brighton\\_2012.pdf](http://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/2012/attachments/original/1390841944/Conference_Report_Brighton_2012.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Scottish National Party website: <https://www.snp.org/constitution>

<sup>24</sup> 2015 Scottish National Party Manifesto: <http://votesnp.com/docs/manifesto.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> Labour Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities Baroness Thornton comments to the BHA, December 2014: <https://humanism.org.uk/2014/12/18/labour-pledge-legalise-humanist-marriages-government-blocks-proposals-disappointing-thousands-couples/>

<sup>26</sup> 2015 Liberal Democrats manifesto: [http://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/8907/attachments/original/1429028133/Liberal\\_Democrat\\_General\\_Election\\_Manifesto\\_2015.pdf](http://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/8907/attachments/original/1429028133/Liberal_Democrat_General_Election_Manifesto_2015.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Liberal Democrat Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg Q&A with *Pink News* readers, April 2015: <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2015/04/10/nick-clegg-calls-for-surrogacy-reform-and-action-on-gay-cure-therapy-in-pinknews-qa/>

<sup>28</sup> News item on SNP strengthening of humanist marriage provisions on BHA website, February 2017: <https://humanism.org.uk/2017/02/14/humanists-in-england-and-wales-call-for-legal-humanist-weddings-as-scottish-parliament-officially-recognises-humanist-ceremonies-for-marriage-provision-in-law/>

BHA question	Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats	UK Independence Party	Scottish National Party	Green Party (E & W)	Plaid Cymru
<b>'Will your party commit to retaining the Human Rights Act and remaining part of the European Court of Human Rights?'</b>	No. 'We will not repeal or replace the Human Rights Act while the process of Brexit is underway but we will consider our human rights legal framework when the process of leaving the EU concludes. We will remain signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights for the duration of the next parliament.'	Yes. 'The Conservatives threaten our Human Rights Act and may withdraw us from the European Convention of Human Rights. Labour will retain the Human Rights Act.'	Yes. 'We will vote against any attempts to scrap the Human Rights Act or withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights and we will strengthen the UK's commitment to international human rights.' Have also pledged to 'Enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in UK law.'	No. 'Repeal Labour's Human Rights legislation and remove the UK from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. Introduce a new UK Bill of Rights.'	Yes. 'Given the central place of human rights in Scotland's constitutional settlement, and their importance at the heart of our politics, we will oppose scrapping the Human Rights Act or withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights.' <sup>29</sup>	Yes. Party Policy to 'Defend the Human Rights Act and UK Membership of the European Convention on Human Rights, and reinstate funding for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.'	'We will publish a human rights charter for Wales to defend Welsh people against the backdrop of a Tory government intent on undermining the Human Rights Act.' 2015 manifesto pledged, 'We support the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights, and will oppose any moves by a UK Government to withdraw from those.' <sup>30</sup>
<b>'Will your party legalise assisted dying for people who are terminally ill and people who are permanently and incurably suffering?'</b>	No plans to legalise. Party policy has previously allowed a free vote. <sup>31</sup> Leader is against. <sup>32</sup>	No plans to legalise. Party leaders have previously supported a free vote on the issue. <sup>33</sup> Leader is against. <sup>34</sup>	Party policy states that 'medical assistance to die should be available to patients in particular circumstances', however, 'any such legislative proposal should be determined by way of a free vote'. <sup>35</sup> Leader is against. <sup>36</sup>	No. When contacted by us, stated 'No.'	This matter is devolved so SNP MPs won't vote on it. The SNP has not supported assisted dying legislation proposed in the Scottish Parliament. It does, however, allow its MSPs a free vote on the matter. <sup>37</sup> Leader is against. <sup>38</sup>	Yes. 'We would: Provide the right to an <i>assisted death</i> within a rigorous framework of regulation and in the context of the availability of the highest level of palliative care'. <sup>39</sup>	When contacted by us, said 'We don't have a party policy on this issue.'
<b>'Will your party decriminalise abortion and introduce protected "buffer zones" around abortion clinics?'</b>	No stated policy. The Conservative Government has not sought to change abortion laws during its time in office.	'Labour will continue to ensure a woman's right to choose a safe, legal abortion - and we will work with the Assembly to extend right to women in Northern Ireland.' Have also said 'Women... shouldn't be filmed or accosted' when attending abortion clinics. <sup>40</sup>	When contacted by us, said that the matter is a conscience issue that Lib Dem MPs would have a free vote on. No policy otherwise, nor policy in support of changing the abortion laws more generally.	No. When contacted by us, stated 'No.' Have also stated 'We will encourage compliance with the Abortion Act 1967 and seek to make gender abortions illegal.' <sup>41</sup>	No. This matter is devolved so SNP MPs won't vote on it, but the SNP has also said in Scotland, 'We do not intend to change the law on abortion'. <sup>42</sup>	Yes. 'Decriminalise abortion procedures across the entire UK, regulating them through medical practice instead of the law. We would provide patients from Northern Ireland with free -of-charge access to NHS abortion care and travel expenses in the mean-time.' <sup>43</sup> Supportive of buffer zones. <sup>44</sup>	When contacted by us, said 'We don't have a policy on this issue.'

<sup>29</sup> 2015 Scottish National Party Manifesto: <http://votesnp.com/docs/manifesto.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> 2015 Plaid Cymru Manifesto: [https://ia800305.us.archive.org/17/items/ukmanifestoes2015/Plaid\\_Cymru\\_2015\\_Westminster\\_Manifesto.pdf](https://ia800305.us.archive.org/17/items/ukmanifestoes2015/Plaid_Cymru_2015_Westminster_Manifesto.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> *Guardian* report on progress of Lord Falconer's Assisted Dying Bill, January 2015: <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jan/17/assisted-dying-bill-held-up-in-the-house-of-lords>

<sup>32</sup> *New Statesman* report on Theresa May's record on assisted dying, April 2017: <http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2017/04/what-kind-christian-theresa-may>

<sup>33</sup> *Guardian* report on progress of Lord Falconer's Assisted Dying Bill, January 2015: <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jan/17/assisted-dying-bill-held-up-in-the-house-of-lords>

<sup>34</sup> *Tablet* report on Jeremy Corbyn's opposition to assisted dying, September 2015: <http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/4823/0/corbyn-warns-against-assisted-dying-bill>

<sup>35</sup> Liberal Democrats 2012 Federal Conference report motion on 'Medically Assisted Dying': [http://d3n8a8pro7vnmx.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/2012/attachments/original/1390841944/Conference\\_Report\\_Brighton\\_2012.pdf](http://d3n8a8pro7vnmx.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/2012/attachments/original/1390841944/Conference_Report_Brighton_2012.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> *Premier* report on Tim Farron's opposition to assisted dying, June 2015: <https://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Tim-Farron-denies-faith-behind-opposition-to-assisted-dying-in-Lib-Dem-leadership-clash>

<sup>37</sup> *BBC News* report on progress of the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill, January 2015: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-31505627>

<sup>38</sup> *BBC News* report on Nicola Sturgeon's opposition to assisted dying, March 2015: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-31758711>

<sup>39</sup> Caroline Lucas, Green Party Leader and MP, is Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Choice at the End of life.

<sup>40</sup> Labour Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper's writing for *The Independent*, December 2014: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/women-attending-abortion-clinics-have-a-right-not-to-be-menaced-9913654.html>

<sup>41</sup> UKIP Christian Manifesto, April 2015: [http://www.election2015.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/UKIPChristian\\_Manifesto-1.pdf](http://www.election2015.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/UKIPChristian_Manifesto-1.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> Scottish National Party website: [https://www.snp.org/manifesto\\_plain\\_text\\_extended](https://www.snp.org/manifesto_plain_text_extended)

<sup>43</sup> The Green Party Manifesto for Gender Equality, 2017 General Election. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/green-party-womens-manifesto.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> We were also pointed to Green Party MP Caroline Lucas's primary sponsorship of an early day motion on the issue from December 2014: <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/612>

BHA question	Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats	UK Independence Party	Scottish National Party	Green Party (E & W)	Plaid Cymru
'Will your party introduce an ambassador on international freedom of religion or belief?'	As part of the Coalition Government the Conservatives introduced an FCO Advisory Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief of which we were a part. However, that group no longer exists and there is no indicated support for such a position being created.	'We will appoint dedicated global ambassadors for women's rights, LGBT rights and religious freedom to fight discrimination and promote equality globally.'	Yes. 'We will: appoint an ambassador-level champion for freedom of belief to drive British diplomatic efforts in this field, and campaign for the abolition of blasphemy, sedition, apostasy and criminal libel laws worldwide, having already been responsible for ending them in this country.'	No. When contacted by us, UKIP stated 'We have no plans to spend taxpayers' money on creating such a post.'	No stated policy.	No stated policy. 'action to tackle racism and discrimination on the basis of faith or disability, real equality rights for mixed gender couples to have a Civil partnership.'	No stated policy. When contacted by us, said 'We believe in the freedom of individuals to practise religion or not.'

## About Humanists UK

At Humanists UK, we advance free thinking and promote humanism to create a tolerant society where rational thinking and kindness prevail. Our work brings non-religious people together to develop their own views, helping people be happier and more fulfilled in the one life we have. Through our ceremonies, education services, and community and campaigning work, we strive to create a fair and equal society for all. Founded in 1896, Humanists UK is supported by over 60,000 members and supporters and more than 70 local and special interest groups to advance free thinking and freedom of choice so that everyone can live in a fair and equal society.

Humanists UK is independent of all political parties and does not support, fund or advocate any particular political party.

All party policies come from the respective party manifestos unless a specific reference is given. Where policies are not stated we contacted the parties to seek further clarity and the table incorporates any replies we received. If you spot something where you think we've got it wrong, or have missed a piece of information, then please do contact us. Some of the issues we discuss are devolved to Scotland and/or Wales and so the Scottish National Party's and/or Plaid Cymru's policies are aimed at the devolved governments and not at the UK Government in Westminster. Where this is the case we have stated it. The SNP has stated that its MPs will only vote in the UK Parliament on matters primarily concerning England, Wales or Northern Ireland when those matters have financial implications for Scotland. But it has given no indication it will vote on other matters primarily concerning England, Wales or Northern Ireland and in the past has not done so. This includes some of the issues discussed in this table.

You can find out more about our election work, including how to write to your prospective parliamentary candidates (PPCs) about these issues, at <https://humanism.org.uk/GE2017>.

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