# HUMANISM 2015

## **Comprising**

IHEYO General Assembly
IHEU regional meetings
Humanist Professionals training day
Humanists UK welcome drinks reception
'Populism, extremism, and threats to humanism' conference
Conference dinner
IHEU General Assembly

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Friday 4 August**

All daytime events take place at:

The Lift Islington, 45 White Lion Street London, N1 9PW → Angel

**Saturday 5 August** 

**Sunday 6 August** 

09:30 - 11:30

#### **IHEU** regional meetings

Angel Room, St Pancas Room, and Chapel Room

09:30 - 16:00

#### International Humanist and Ethical Youth Organisation (IHEYO) General Assembly

Blue Room, with Chapel Room

10:00 - 17:00

#### **Humanist Professionals training day**

Penton Room, with Angel Room and St Pancras Room

19:00 - 23:00

#### Humanists UK welcome drinks reception (open to all)

Islington Assembly Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

O Highbury and Islington

09:30 - 17:00

#### Populism, extremism, and threats to humanism

The Royal Society, 6–9 Carlton House Terrace, St James', London, SW1Y 5AG Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre

→ Charing Cross → Piccadilly Circus

19:30 - 23:00

#### Humanism2017 dinner

Kingsway Hall Hotel, 66 Great Queen Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC2B 5BX Harlequin restaurant

Ovent Garden

09:00 - 16:30

#### International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) General Assembly

Kingsway Hall Hotel, 66 Great Queen Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC2B 5BX Milton & Keats Room

O Holborn O Covent Garden

## **IHEYO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

## Friday 4 August, 09:30. The Lift Islington

## **IHEU REGIONAL MEETINGS**

Friday 4 August, 09:30. The Lift Islington

09:30	Registration
10:00	<b>Welcome</b> Lauren Nicholas and Marieke Prien
10:15	My journey from Christianity to humanism Peter Tatchell
10:55	The importance of the vote Chris Curtis, YouGov Ismail Kaji, Mencap Ade Onibada, Bite the Ballot Chaired by Bradley Allsop.
11:40	Communication strategies Daniel Wardle Blue Hall or
	Apostasy in the 21st century: impact on young people Imtiaz Shams Chapel Room
12:30	Lunch and networking
13:15	<b>Bad news and critical thinking in the media</b> Michael Marshall
14:00	IHEYO General Assembly
15:50	Close and thanks

09:30 **Asia regional meeting** 

Chapel room

**Latin America regional meeting** 

St Pancras room

Africa regional meeting

Angel room

11:30 **Meetings end** 



#### **IHEYO GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKERS**

#### **Bradley Allsop**

Bradley Allsop is studying for his PhD in youth political engagement at the University of Lincoln. He is a student activist campaigning for campus democracy and on environmental issues, and was the Education Officer for Humanist Students for the past year.

#### **Chris Curtis**

Chris Curtis is an International Politics Research Executive at YouGov. He has written for publications including *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, and *The Times* on British politics. He was also part of the team at YouGov who correctly predicted the shock result of the 2017 General Election.

#### **Ismail Kaji**

Ismail Kaji has a learning disability and works as a parliamentary support officer for the learning disability charity Mencap. He uses his own experiences to campaign on issues such as healthcare, employment, and benefits. He has written for publications including *The Guardian* and *Huffington Post*.

#### **Michael Marshall**

Michael Marshall is the Project Director of the Good Thinking Society and the Vice President of the Merseyside Skeptics Society. He regularly speaks with proponents of pseudoscience for the *Be Reasonable* podcast. His work has seen him organising international homeopathy protests, leading legal challenges and public activism to end homeopathy on the NHS, and co-founding the popular QED conference. He has written for *The Guardian*, *The Times*, and *New Statesman*, and is a guest lecturer in journalism and ethics at Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sunderland.

#### **Lauren Nicholas**

Lauren is the Coordinator of Young Humanists, responsible for managing the overall activity of the section. By day, she manages strategic projects for a large multi-academy trust. With a degree in Cognitive Neuroscience, she also has experience conducting research alongside educational psychologists, as well as volunteering with children and insects (sometimes together). When not at work or coordinating Young Humanists, she's usually found making something, singing something, or teaching something new and unusual to her budgie, Murray.

#### Ade Onibada

Ade Onibada manages content and connections for Bite the Ballot, as well as working as a freelance journalist. Ade works to galvanise Bite the Ballot's online community to engage with day-to-day politics.

#### **Anya Overmann**

Anya Overmann is the Communications Officer for IHEYO. Based in the US, she is also an editor for Humanist Voices and a Senior Content Strategist.

#### **Marieke Prien**

Marieke Prien is the president of IHEYO, the youth section of IHEU. She has been volunteering with the German young humanists since the age of 14 and has been a board member of the national humanist youth association, Bundes JuHu, for several years. Marieke has a degree in Cultural Anthropology and now studies Cognitive Science.

#### **Imtiaz Shams**

Imtiaz Shams is an ex-Muslim atheist who co-founded Faith to Faithless in order to provide support and advice for those questioning their faith and going through the difficulties associated with leaving religion. Imtiaz will lead a workshop on the state of apostasy in the twenty-first century. The focus will be on strategies for humanists to engage with apostates and provide them with the much-needed support they deserve.

#### **Peter Tatchell**

Peter Tatchell has been campaigning for human rights, democracy, LGBT freedom, and global justice since 1967. He is a member of the queer human rights group OutRage!, and campaigns for human rights internationally through the Peter Tatchell Foundation.

#### **Daniel Wardle**

Daniel Wardle is the Communications Manager for Young Humanists UK. Having gained experience as a teacher, researcher, and school leader before moving into the charity sector, Daniel is an experienced public speaker and an expert in digital communications. He will lead an engaging and informative workshop on communication strategies.

## **HUMANIST PROFESSIONALS TRAINING DAY**

## Friday 4 August, 10:00. The Lift Islington

Penton Room

10:00	Registration		
10:30	<b>Welcome</b> Andrew Copson and Neil Anderson		
11:00	What does it mean to be a humanist practitioner? Professor Richard Norman		
11:45	<b>Diversity in chaplaincy</b> Mark Burleigh	Beyond words: symbolic objects and actions in ceremonies Tag (Mary) McEntegart	<b>Good practice in the Netherlands</b> Alexandra Bronsveld and Lizzy Wijnen
12:45	Humanist professionals: the international perspective Gary McLelland		
13:30	Lunch		
14:30	<b>Use of questioning in practice</b> Steve Hoggins	Apostasy in the 21st century: impact on practitioners Imtiaz Shams	<b>Humanist music and its use</b> Teddy Prout
15:20	Humanist pastoral care in the Dutch military Col. Erwin Kamp	Using educational resources from Understanding Humanism Luke Donnellan	<b>Using dialogue in practice</b> Jeremy Rodell
16:00	<b>Bad news: critical thinking and the media</b> Michael Marshall		
16:50	Close and thanks		

Angel Room

St Pancras Room

#### **HUMANIST PROFESSIONALS TRAINING DAY SPEAKERS**

#### **Neil Anderson**

Neil is a Registered Celebrant with Humanist Society Scotland and President of the European Humanist Professionals based in Antwerp. A graduate in both Sociology and Law, Neil has had a multifarious career – from being an astronomical site tester in the Canary Islands and Iraq to leading environmental tours in Cuba, he has also run a variety of complex organisations – including law firms, a financial services company, a theatre and an environmental charity. He lives in Scotland.

#### **Alexandra Bronsveld**

Alexandra is a trainer in philosophy with children and teacher trainer at Centrum HVO (humanistic education) since 2008. She coordinates the Dutch Centre For Philosophy with Children. Creative and critical thinking are her expertise and she loves exploring all kinds of dialogue methods in various fields of education. Currently, she advises primary schools on how to integrate 21st century skills, citizenship, human rights education, and critical thinking in their curriculum. She is a strong believer in creating education together with pupils and in the importance of 'thinking space' for dialogue in schools.

#### Mark Burleigh

Mark is Head of Chaplaincy for the University Hospitals of Leicester - a large National Health Service (NHS) trust based on three hospital sites. He leads a team of paid chaplains from the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faiths as well as various Christian denominations and the NHS's first paid non-religious team member. The large team of volunteers also includes input from Baha'i, Buddhist, Jain and Jewish volunteers. Mark worked as a computer programmer before training for Christian ministry in London. He was ordained in 1986 and his first church appointment was in Sussex, before moving to Leicester in 1989 to be the minister of a Baptist church. His first experience in chaplaincy was as a member of the multi-faith chaplaincy team at De Montfort University. He began part-time work as a hospital chaplain at Leicester General Hospital in 1994. He was appointed as a full-time chaplain in 1999 and Head of Chaplaincy in 2001. He also manages the Trust's Bereavement Service and provides chaplaincy services to the local mental health and community hospital Trust. He is coming to the end of his six years as President of the UK-wide College of Health Care Chaplains, as a part of which he also serves as a director of the UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy. Mark is married with two grown-up children.

#### **Andrew Copson**

Andrew Copson is the Chief Executive of Humanists UK and the President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union.

#### **Luke Donnellan**

Luke is responsible for promoting the understanding of Humanism, especially in formal education settings. He manages Humanists UK's school speakers programme; teacher training and CPD; and the production of educational resources. Before joining Humanists UK, he was a primary school teacher and maths leader. He also worked as a freelance philosophy teacher in both primary and secondary schools, having trained with SAPERE and The Philosophy Foundation. Before his work in education, he was a TV producer and director. He worked on science and history documentaries, and children's and factual entertainment for the BBC, Channel Five, and CITV, as well as producing educational training materials and classroom video resources for Teachers TV, Channel 4 Learning, and BBC Learning Zone.

#### **Steve Hoggins**

Steve studied at the University of Wales, Lampeter gaining a BA in philosophy in 2003. Shortly after he began teaching English in both Italy and Portugal, returning to the UK to begin a career as a primary school teacher. Since he first started working within the British education system he has seen a philosophy shaped hole in the core of the curriculum and is striving to find ways for it to be filled, joining The Philosophy Foundation in 2009.

His work includes project management, development work in schools, and mentoring of newly trained specialists. He is also a member of the training team.

#### **Col. Erwin Kamp**

I was born in 1965 into an atheist family. My parents thought I needed to be raised with the idea that everyone is equal and no one has a monopoly on the truth. Until I was twelve, I went to an Elementary school in Zeist. At my school, there was a lot of freedom, and yet pupils were also told that they had to feel responsible for their own actions. During high school, my mother became seriously ill with Multiple Sclerosis. This was a violent and hurtful time for my family. I remember thinking, "Why is the sweetest woman in the world become incurably ill? If there is a god why is he doing this to us?" The response that "god works in mysterious ways" was an insufficient answer to me. Watching my mother struggle with this disease, I thought more and deeply about the meaning of life. Eventually, I went to study at the Universiteit voor Humanistiek (University of Humanistic Studies) in Utrecht—a very beautiful and interesting place. After four years, I graduated with honours, and then I immediately for a job at to the Department of Humanist Spiritual care in the Dutch Armed Forces. This is my seventeenth year of loyal service, and as of June 1, 2016, I will become the Head of Service of 38 Humanist

chaplains. I think that is a great honour, and a major achievement in my career.'

#### **Michael Marshall**

Michael Marshall is the Project Director of the Good Thinking Society and the Vice President of the Merseyside Skeptics Society. He regularly speaks with proponents of pseudoscience for the *Be Reasonable* podcast. His work has seen him organising international homeopathy protests, leading legal challenges and public activism to end homeopathy on the NHS, and co-founding the popular QED conference. He has written for *The Guardian*, *The Times*, and *New Statesman*, and is a guest lecturer in journalism and ethics at Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sunderland.

#### **Gary McLelland**

Gary McLelland is the Chief Executive of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU). He joined IHEU in February 2017. Before this he had worked for the Humanist Society Scotland since 2013 as Head of Communications and Public Affairs. He has also previously served as a director of the European Humanist Federation based in Brussels, as well as a board member of the Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education. Before working in humanist campaigning, Gary worked for a global citizenship project at the Mercy Corps European headquarters in Edinburgh, and also in policy and service delivery in education and social work.

He has a BSc (hons) in psychology, a diploma in childhood and youth studies, and is currently completing a master's dissertation in human rights law focusing on the approach of international human rights institutions to so-called 'blasphemy' laws.

#### **Richard Norman**

Richard Norman is Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Kent, a Patron of Humanists UK, and a member of Kent Humanists. His books include *The Moral Philosophers* and *On Humanism*.

#### **Teddy Prout**

Teddy Prout is the Director of Community Services for Humanists UK. He was a senior leader in education, working in a large academy in West London. He has come to Humanists UK from Mencap where he led national projects for children and families.

He is now responsible for the strategic development of the services Humanists UK offers: in education, pastoral support, and ceremonies, and in other aspects of support in the community in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. He is also responsible for development of research and pilot projects to promote the value of Humanists UK's services and ensure their continued success.

#### **Jeremy Rodell**

Jeremy Rodell is Humanists UK's volunteer Dialogue Officer, as well as a school speaker, former Trustee, and Chair of South West London Humanists. He says that it took him about 25 years to find out that "Humanism" was the name for his worldview, and that others shared it. He became actively involved towards the end of a career in international business.

#### **Imtiaz Shams**

Imtiaz Shams explores what leaving faith looks like this century, and the novel difficulties faced by these so called 'apostates' including physical and emotional abuse, self harm, and homelessness. Beyond the doom and gloom, he looks how how apostates have begun to band and create spaces for themselves and speak out.

#### **Lizzy Wijnen**

Lizzy is an expert in religious pluralism, worldview education and the identity of state schools. How to deal with religious pluralism and secularisation in one classroom? As a teacher trainer at Centrum HVO (humanistic education), she chooses to let worldview education start with the experiences and thoughts of the pupil. Everybody has their own worldview, humanistic education helps pupils to formulate their own views, think critically about the world, and have a meaningful dialogue with each other.

## **HUMANISTS UK WELCOME DRINKS RECEPTION**

Friday 4 August, 19:00. Islington Assembly Hall



Join us at Islington Assembly Hall from 19:00 on Friday 4 August for welcome drinks.

The evening presents a valuable opportunity to meet your fellow attendees, whichever of the weekend's events they are attending.



## POPULISM, EXTREMISM, AND THREATS TO HUMANISM

## Saturday 5 August, 09:30. Royal Society

Kingsway Hall Hotel, 66 Great Queen Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC2B 5BX

	Lunch is provided to international delegates as part of the cost of their ticket. Please note that attendees from the UK must arrange their own food and refreshments.
09:30	Registration
10:00	The problems: nationalism and populism Dr Angelos Chryssogelos, Dr Emilia Palonen, Guney Yildiz
	So-called 'populist' parties and candidates have enjoyed considerable recent success across the world. In the UK, the US, France, Turkey, and India, traditional parties have been routed by political movements that advocate a return to national self-interest in contrast to the complexities of international cooperation and universal human rights. How has this happened?
11:20	The problems: religious extremism and illiberalism Prof. Karima Bennoune, Dr Elizabeth O'Casey, Gita Sahgal. Chaired by Joan Smith.
	The populist forces that reject the reality and complexity of today's world reject much else of liberalism and the idea of the open society. The protection of political and civil liberties is threatened by this rejection and almost everywhere this goes hand in hand with a resurgence of the older terror of religious extremism. Growing Islamic extremism in the Arab world and South East Asia, Christian extremism in the west, or the 'traditional values' agenda or Putin's Russia: are these all part of the same global trend?
13:00	Lunch (see note above)
14:00	The solutions: human rights Dr Petra Bard, Bob Churchill, Dr Ahmed Shaheed
	'Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world' (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948) Seven decades since the adoption of the Universal Declaration, and the world is facing new darkness. How can the passion for the protection for all people and the resolution that motivated the originators of human rights be strengthened? How can we contribute to their protection today?
15:20	The solutions: democracy Sophie Gaston, Dr Brian Klaas, Dr Yascha Mounk
	Although many institutions of democracy are increasingly seen as a broken system, the principle that the people have a right to participate in their government remains one to which most people still adhere. Democracy is a political big idea. How can it be reconfigured to address the new challenges of today?
17:00	Close and thanks
19:30	Dinner (separate ticket required)

#### **POPULISM, EXTREMISM, AND THREATS TO HUMANISM SPEAKERS**

#### Petra Bárd

Since January 2010, Dr Petra Bárd January 2010 has been Head of the Criminal Law Division of the National Institute of Criminology, Hungary. As a lecturer at the Central European University's (CEU) Legal Studies Department she teaches EU constitutional law, EU criminal law, and selected issues in criminology and forensic sciences. In her writings she primarily addresses European constitutionalism, human rights in the European Union, the rights of persons living with disabilities, and judicial and police cooperation in criminal matters. She has been the Vice-Chairperson of the Hungarian Europe Society since 2003.

#### **Karima Bennoune**

Karima Bennoune is a Professor of International Law at the University of California, Davis, School of Law in the United States. She is a former legal advisor for Amnesty International. Her recent book, Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism details local struggles against extremism from Afghanistan to Mali and was inspired by her own father's experiences in his home country Algeria. The book is based on more than 300 interviews with people of Muslim heritage from more than 30 countries. It won the 2014 Dayton Literary Peace Prize and was named by the American Library Association's Booklist as the top social science book of 2013. It has been translated into Czech, and a French translation is in progress. The related TED talk, When people of Muslim heritage challenge fundamentalism, has received more than 1.4 million views.

In 2015, she was named UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. Her 2017 report to the UN Human Rights Council, presented in March, addressed the impact of fundamentalism and extremism on the enjoyment of cultural rights, and her 2017 report to the General Assembly, to be presented in October 2017, focuses on the specific impact of these phenomenon on the cultural rights of women.

Since 2015, Bennoune teaches in the Oxford University/George Washington University School of Law summer human rights program. Her topical writing has been published widely, including by the New York Times, The Guardian, Huffington Post, Reuters, and Al Jazeera. She has made numerous media appearances, including on CNN, Fox Business News and MSNBC, as well as the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, BBC Radio, and National Public Radio. In 2016, Bennoune received the Rights and Leadership Award from the International Action Network for Gender Equity & Law. Her field missions throughout her career have included Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Egypt, Fiji, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Serbia and Kosovo, Southern Thailand, and Tunisia.

#### **Angelos Chryssogelos**

Angelos Chryssogelos teaches European politics at the Department of European and International Studies of King's College London. He studied in Greece and the Netherlands before obtaining his doctoral degree in political sciences from the European University Institute in Florence. He has taught at universities in Belgium and Ireland, and has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Hellenic Observatory of the LSE. He has also worked in think tanks and policy institutes, and is today an associate fellow of the Martens Centre in Brussels and Chatham House in London. His research interests are in European politics broadly defined, including EU politics and questions of democracy and populism in Europe. He has published in numerous prestigious political science journals and is the coeditor of the forthcoming special issue of the International Political Science Review Populism in World Politics. A research report on the EU's crisis of governance and its impact on European foreign policy he wrote for Chatham House was named one of the 50 best reports produced by a think tank in 2016. He has commented on European affairs for, among others, BBC World News, Bloomberg, CNBC, Financial Times, and Voice of America.

#### **Sophie Gaston**

Sophie leads international projects and partnerships at Demos think tank in London, overseeing research and events on global political trends and social change. She is particularly focused on the topics of populism, liberalism and the relationship between media and politics, and recently coordinated a pan-European project on the rising culture and politics of fear in Europe.

#### **Brian Klaas**

Dr Brian Klaas focuses on global democracy, democratic transitions, political violence and volatility (particularly coups and civil wars), and rigged elections -- and the economic risks of all these challenges. He is also a former US campaign adviser and frequent political analyst of US domestic and foreign policy in mainstream media outlets. Klaas is the author of The Despot's Accomplice: How the West is Aiding & Abetting the Decline of Democracy. He is also the co-author of the forthcoming book How to Rig an Election written with Professor Nic Cheeseman.

#### **Yascha Mounk**

Yascha Mounk is a Lecturer on Political Theory at Harvard University's Government Department, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy of the German Marshall Fund, and a Nonresident Fellow at New America's Political Reform Program. Yascha's primary research interests lie in political theory and comparative politics. His first academic book, The Age of Responsibility: Luck, Choice and the Welfare State, was published by Harvard University Press in Spring 2017. It is based on his dissertation, which he completed in spring 2015 at Harvard University's Government Department. Yascha is now working on the crisis of liberal democracy. His papers on the rise of populism and the growing openness of citizens of democratic countries to authoritarian alternatives have been published by the Journal of Democracy and Foreign Affairs, among others. In his second academic book, which is under contract with Harvard University Press, he argues that liberalism and democracy are coming apart, creating forms of both 'illiberal democracy' and 'undemocratic liberalism'.

#### Elizabeth O'Casey

Elizabeth has been Director of Advocacy at IHEU since January 2016, after three years as a delegate and head of delegations. She focuses her work on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, LGBT rights, and the rights of women, particularly in relation to religious, traditional, and cultural practices. She manages IHEU delegations at a number of UN institutions and at the Council of Europe. Elizabeth is also Vice Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (in Geneva), an International Patron for the Pink Triangle Trust and an International Advisor at the Raif Badawi Foundation. She has also done work as a consultant on sexual and reproductive health and rights at the EU level. Elizabeth has a PhD in International Political Theory from the London School of

Economics, where she was a Michael Leifer Scholar. She has spent time as a Global Justice fellow at Yale University, and worked in various policy and advocacy positions in the UK and EU.

#### **Emilia Palonen**

Emilia is Chair of Finnish League Science Publishers, Board Member of the Finnish Political Science Association, and vice board-member of Finnish Federation of Learned Societies, and Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Helsinki. She has been founded Finnish PSA's online magazine Politiikasta and the Society for Cultural Policy Research in Finland. Her research interests revolve around politics and cultural studies, with particular specialties identities and identification, populism, urban politics and memory, cultural politics and policy, and Europe. She has especially engaged with populism and political polarisation in Hungary, and right-wing populism in Finland. She is a senior researcher at the research consortium on Mainstreaming Populism funded by the Academy of Finland from September 2017 to 2021.

#### Gita Sahgal

Gita Sahgal is the executive director of the Centre for Secular Space. She is also a writer and documentary film maker, and the co-editor of Refusing Holy Orders: Women and Fundamentalism in Britain. She has written on gender, fundamentalism, and human rights for the American Society of International Law, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, and openDemocracy, and has made documentary films on forced marriage and human rights violations during the Bangladeshi war of liberation. She was a member of Southall Black Sisters and a founder of Women Against Fundamentalism and Awaaz: South Asia Watch.

#### **Ahmed Shaheed**

Dr Ahmed Shaheed is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and also Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran. Dr Shaheed is an internationally recognised expert on foreign policy, international diplomacy, democratisation and human rights reform especially in Muslim States. He has twice held the Office of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Maldives, a position he used to promote human rights standards and norms. During his time in government, he played a leading role in the Maldives democratic transition and in its human rights reform process over a period of transition from a thirty-year-old autocracy with widespread human rights abuses, to a Muslim democracy which, in 2010, became a Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council with a record number of votes. In April 2009, the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy in Washington presented him with the "Muslim Democrat of the Year Award," and in 2010, the President of Albania awarded him the "Medal of Gratitude" for his contribution to peace and human rights in the Balkans. The UN Human Rights Council appointed Dr Shaheed to the office of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran in June 2011, and he began his mandate on 1 August. Dr Shaheed is also a member of the Advisory Committee on Interfaith Dialogue established by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect. He is the founding Chair of the Geneva-based human rights think-tank, Universal Rights Group.

#### **Joan Smith**

Joan Smith is a columnist, novelist and human rights activist. She is the author of six novels and several books on feminism and human rights, including Misogynies and Moralities.

Joan was co-chair of the Mayor of London's Violence Against Women and Girls Panel and a former Chair of the English PEN Writers in Prison Committee. She was a victim of phone hacking and was on the board of Hacked Off, the organisation which campaigns for a free and accountable press. She is an honorary associate of the National Secular Society and a supporter of Republic, the campaign for an elected head of state.

## **IHEU GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

## Sunday 6 August, 10:00. Kingsway Hall Hotel

09:30	Coffee
10:00	Welcome Andrew Copson, IHEU President
10:05	Address Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief
10:25	Constitutional: GA regulations, to note; Member Organizations in good standing, to note
10:35	Minutes of the 2016 General Assembly: matters arising and approval
11:00	Statement from the IHEU Board on the Cancellation of the 2017 World Humanist Congress
11:20	New members to ratify
11:45	Presentation of IHEU Annual Report and Audit 2016
12:05	Re-appointment of Knox Cropper as Auditors for 2017: proposed by Treasurer
12:15	2016 Activity report Gary McLelland, IHEU Chief Executive and Q&A session with all staff
13:00	Lunch (provided)
14:00	Humanist awards and commendations
14:30	Resolutions Resolution 1: London Declaration against The Politics of Division Resolution 2: London Declaration on Secularism Resolution 3: Considered Policy Resolution
15:15	<b>Resolution on name change</b> Resolution 4: Motion to change the name to Humanist International
15:45	Election of IHEU Board Members
16:05	Date and venue of 2018 General Assembly
16:10	Growth and Development presentation
16:30	Closing remarks Anne-France Ketelaer, IHEU Vice President



## A final version will be issued on Wednesday 2 August

