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## In defence of Islam's Non Believers

Thursday 10 November 2016, by Collective / Multiple signers (Date first published: 10 November 2016).

We, the undersigned, are appalled at the discrimination, abuse and violence faced by ex-Muslims both in Britain and internationally (as seen in a new film, *Islam's Non-Believers* [1]).

Needless to say, it is not an insult to Islam or any religion, if one becomes an atheist – either in public or private. It is exercising a fundamental right to freedom of conscience.

Moreover, criticism of religion, including Islam, is not "Islamophobia" but exercising a fundamental right to freedom of expression.

Those who "punish" or forcibly prevent freedom of conscience and expression are the ones who commit a crime – not those exercising their basic human right.

It is high time that human rights and "progressive" organisations stop legitimising de-facto or dejure blasphemy and apostasy laws and start defending, not blaming, Islamism's victims.

A fight on several fronts, including against the religious-Right, racism and xenophobia and in defence of secularism and universal citizenship rights, is the way forward.

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One Law for All

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Patrick Lescure

Paul Butler, Research Scientist at Bangor University

Peter Tatchell, Human Rights Campaigner

Pierre A Renaud, Atheist Freethinkers

Pierre Marchand, Professor

Pierre Vandevoorde, NPA Normandy France

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Porotagora

Pragna Patel, Director of Southall Black Sisters

Raheel Raza, President of Council for Muslims Facing Tomorrow and Founding Member of Muslim Reform Movement

Raymond Hename, Secularist

Rebecca Taylor

Rina Nissim, Espace Femmes International

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http://ex-muslim.org.uk/2016/11/defend-islams-non-believers/

View online : <u>To sing the statement:</u>

## **Footnotes**

[1] <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bupBgmtsNWU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bupBgmtsNWU</a>