



FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2005

## UK Law To Fight Hate Speech Against Muslims Is Deemed Dangerous...By The Left

by Michael in New York on [6/10/2005 02:41:00 PM](#)

In the US, the far right would be freaking out over a law that "protected Satanists" by banning hate speech directed towards people of faith -- political correctness, they'd call it. **The UK law, intended to provide coverage for Muslims** that Jews and Sikhs enjoy because of race-based laws against inciting hatred, would also provide new protection for Satanists, pagans and even atheists. (Republicans would defeat it in a minute by calling this the Devil Worshipping Act.)

But in Great Britain, the law is being criticized by the *left*, which thinks it goes too far in making ideas illegal. Many also make the point that mocking someone's religion is not the same as mocking their race. Many major comedians and thinkers on the left see it as a dangerous encroachment on free speech. Well-intentioned measure or a law trying to ban blasphemy?

The actor and writer Stephen Fry told Radio 4's PM programme that the Bill was "rather shaming" and "an embarrassment to the statute book".

"It just suggests it's not a thought-through or needed piece of legislation," he said. "It is something to please communities."

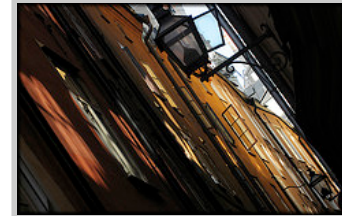
The author Salman Rushdie has complained that the measure would "sacrifice freedom of speech in order to placate Muslim voters".

Shami Chakrabarti, director of Liberty, said: "This offence is capable of catching attacks on ideas as well as people. "At best this is an empty sop to a community sorely let down by government. At worst it is a dangerous new blasphemy law out of step with our best traditions."






David Davis, the shadow Home Secretary, said the law would be "massively counter-productive" and "seriously undermine freedom of speech". He said: "Religion, unlike race, is a matter of personal choice and therefore appropriate for open debate."



JOHN'S PHOTOS



### HOT OFF THE WIRE

-  **Daily Kos**  
Open Thread and Diary Rescue - \*Today, srkp23 (pulling a double shift), ybruti, taylormattd, ItsJessMe and vcmvo2 combed through hundreds of diaries to find this powerful list. Today's...  
*6 minutes ago*
-  **Eschaton**  
Overnight - Folk On. Newish.  
*23 minutes ago*
-  **HuffPost Politics**  
Michael Likosky: Ed Rendell: Hardest Working Man in Infrastructure - At this year's National Governors Association (NGA) meeting, Governor Ed Rendell's tenure as Chair fittingly came to a close with a plenary session on infras...  
*25 minutes ago*
-  **Crooks and Liars**  
Open Thread - Open Thread below...  
*52 minutes ago*
-  **Firedoglake**  
Late Night: Livin' the Dolce Vita with The Lovernator - Who's got time to govern? Certainly not Mark Sanford.  
*1 hour ago*


Show All

AMERICABLOG TV



Next 6

---

	<p>Despite insurance premiums doubling over the past decade, Republicans want to see health care reform fail. For the GOPers, health care is politics. They just</p>
 <p>Traditional media has to debunk the birthers</p>	 <p>One small step...</p>
 <p>The right-wing media, the voices of the GOP, in</p>	 <p>REM - Orange Crush</p>

I collect with  vodpod Visit our see all 322 videos > AMERICAblog TV site.

---

GAY POLITICS



Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS



Blog RSS



1,422 readers



AMERICAblog TV RSS



Twitter RSS

Twitter Feed



Mobile Version



Google

Get the blog by email:

Subscribe me!

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

**The Treatment**

Obama Has a Grown-Up Talk With America (Gulp)  
35 minutes ago

**Ezra Klein**

Tab Dump  
4 hours ago

**Wonk Room**

Sen. Byron Dorgan: The 'Trade' In Cap-And-Trade 'Makes No Sense To Me'

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
  Web

**Search**

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

**Blog Archive**

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

**Donate**

---

Recurring monthly donation

\$

**Donate**

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get FEEDJIT](#)

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

**Why AMERICAblog?**

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

**What issues do you cover?**

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

**Who are you?**

**John Aravosis**  
Editor  
Washington, DC

**Joe Sudbay**  
Deputy Editor  
Washington, DC

**Chris Ryan**  
Associate Editor  
Paris, France

**Robert Arena**  
Contributing Editor  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Jacki Schechner**  
Contributing Editor  
Washington, DC

