

# **All-Party Parliamentary Humanist Group Meeting**

## **Minutes: meeting on blasphemy laws at home and abroad**

**14 May 2025, Committee Room 2A, House of Lords 15:30-16:30**

**Chair:** Lizzi Collinge MP

**Attendance:**

David Smith MP

Cat Eccles MP

Rachel Hopkins MP

Cameron Thomas MP (online)

Lord McCabe

Lord Dubs

Baroness Burt

Lord Walney

Baroness Meacher

**Speakers:**

- **Dr Adam Rutherford:** geneticist, science writer, broadcaster, and President of Humanists UK.
- **Mubarak Bala:** President of the Nigerian Humanist Association, who was imprisoned in 2020 for 24 years having been accused of 'blasphemous' posts on Facebook. After his case was raised in the UK Parliament over 50 times, Bala was released early. He is now going to speak to Parliamentarians for the first time.
- **Lord Walney:** author of the previous government's independent review of political violence and disruption which made recommendations to defend individuals from blasphemy accusations, following incidents in Batley, Birmingham, Wakefield, and elsewhere.
- **Lucy Potter:** PhD Researcher at the Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, researching the experiences of apostasy asylum claims.

**No formal decisions of the APPHG were taken.**