



# Atheist Ireland

Promoting atheism, reason and an ethical, secular state



**ASIA  
BIBI**

**SENTENCED  
TO DEATH**

**FOR MAKING  
“BLASPHEMOUS  
REMARKS”**

## **Repeal the Irish Blasphemy Law!**

Ireland stands out among Western countries for having introduced a new blasphemy law very recently. While our nearest neighbour abolished their blasphemy law in 2008, Ireland introduced a new offence of blasphemy during 2009.

In fact, at the General Assembly in New York, Pakistan has proposed the precise language of the Irish legislation, for adoption by the United Nations. Pakistan has also convicted Asia Bibi of blasphemy for supposedly "*insulting the prophet Muhammad*". During October 2014 her appeal was dismissed by the Lahore High Court and her sentence of death by hanging was upheld. She remains on death row today.

In 2018, Irish citizens will have an opportunity to repeal our blasphemy provisions. The UN has already described how legal prohibitions against blasphemy are not compatible with the right to free expression under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Ireland is a signatory.

Atheist Ireland does not believe that religions need special protection from free expression. Repealing blasphemy laws will allow Ireland to adhere to our international human rights obligations, and will also remove the chilling effect on Irish media.

[www.blasphemy.ie](http://www.blasphemy.ie)