



## **About Humanist Society Scotland**

Humanist Society Scotland is part of a UK, European and wider international movement of people and organisations. In Scotland, Humanist Society members have a clear vision of a secular Scotland, and the activities that Humanist Society Scotland can pursue to achieve that end.

We are a registered charity in Scotland, and governed by a Board of Trustees elected by members. A team of staff and volunteers overseen by the Senior Management Team undertakes the day-to-day work of the Society.

## **Our vision**

Humanist Society Scotland seeks a future in which:

- The worth, dignity and autonomy of every person is respected and individual freedom is balanced with social responsibility and a duty of care for future generations;
- Scottish civic institutions are democratic and human rights are developed, embedded and protected;
- Ethical and moral problems are addressed with compassion, knowledge and reason;
- No belief system (religious or not) should have, nor expect, privilege in the democratic process. In effect we seek a secular Scotland.

Individual humanists will differ in the importance they give to different activities, such as seeking to improve human rights or the development of humanist ceremonies. For some, humanism is primarily a life stance that influences the way we behave as individuals; some see humanism as being primarily a belief system or a set of coherent philosophical positions; others view humanism as a series of values, which should inform public policy. What unites Humanist Society members is the basis of their life stance.

## **Our activities**

Humanist Society Scotland exists to:

- promote and establish a secular society;
- promote the provision of secular education;
- promote, provide and develop Humanist Ceremonies;
- extend the contributions made by Humanists to a wide range of social, civic and health care provision;
- maintain, develop and empower membership of the Society to carry out these activities and any other activities which promote and support the Objects of the Society; and
- work with other Humanist associations (and like-minded organisations) in the UK, Europe and internationally.

**#TeamHSS**

Our Board of Trustees decide upon the direction and strategy of the charity but they rely on a wide network of stakeholders to deliver that vision.

There are up to 13 members of the Board of Trustees, nine elected by our members with four co-opted to ensure a spread of the necessary skills.

The Chief Executive, supported by the Senior Management Team, leads the staff group. There are 6.5 FTE members of the staff group working across the Services, Operations, Finance and Communications & Policy functions.

The Society has around 130 HSS Registered Celebrants who solemnised more than 3,200 Humanist marriages last year, more than any religious body, and a similar number of funerals.

Volunteers deliver our community outreach work across Scotland. Our StreetCare projects across Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling draw from a pool of over 120 volunteers. Our school visitor network has trained nearly 50 Humanist speakers to support teachers in the delivery of the RME and RMPS curriculum. And, in 2018, we trained the first cohort of HSS Registered Chaplains and now have twelve individuals accredited in Non-religious Pastoral Support and able to help people in need of support at times of crisis.

For further information please go to [www.humanism.scot](http://www.humanism.scot)