

THE CENSUS CAMPAIGN



“NO RELIGION”

The Census Campaign wants as many non-religious people as possible to tick "No religion" in the 2011 Census. *If you're not religious, for God's sake say so.*

A FLAWED QUESTION

We want people to know why the question on religion is flawed and why so many non-religious people didn't tick "None" in the 2001 Census.

REAL DECISIONS

We want people to know that real decisions on resource allocation and policy are based on Census data and if it's wrong we all stand to lose out.

WHY NOT WRITE IN HUMANISM?

It is true that there is a space to write in your religion or belief if there is no box which accurately reflects your beliefs. Some people may wish to write Humanism in the box if they self identify as a humanist. However, we are encouraging people to tick 'No Religion' instead because:

- The terminology used by different non-religious people differs, with various combinations of terms such as humanist/atheist/agnostic/rationalist that may appear to diminish the number of persons who recognise themselves as not holding a religious belief.
- The Census 2011 is not the appropriate survey to collect data on how many people who hold humanist views actually identify as humanist. The numbers who write in atheist/humanist/rationalist etc are not going to be large or proportionate.
- Describing oneself as not religious or non-religious is likely to gather much higher numbers. This will help to argue against the myth that this 'Christian country' needs religion in social policy.
- It is a core aim of the BHA to promote Humanism and, as above, we want to encourage as many people with humanist beliefs as possible to describe themselves as so. However, it is much more effective to achieve this aim through education about Humanism, media work and discussion than through having people write Humanism on the Census form.

