

ORGANISED HUMANISM

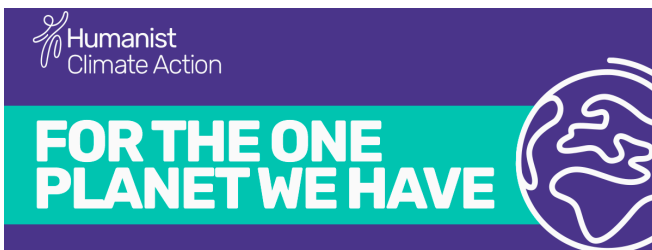
There is no obligation for humanists to take part in any form of organised humanism. However, many will join local or national organisations.

'At Humanists UK, we want a tolerant world where rational thinking and kindness prevail. We work to support lasting change for a better society, championing ideas for the one life we have.'

Humanists UK has been around since 1896. It campaigns on issues where it believes the non-religious are treated unfairly and where the common non-religious perspective on ethical questions differs from that of many religious organisations. It also provides services to support non-religious people, such as ceremonies, pastoral support, and education. In 2021 Humanists UK had 100,000 members and supporters.

HUMANIST GROUPS

There are around 50 local humanist groups in cities and regions across the UK. Humanists also sometimes gather together in special-interest groups such as LGBT Humanists, Humanist Students, or Defence Humanists (for humanists working in the armed forces), or to campaign together on specific causes such as Humanist Climate Action.



“People who’ve been moved to apply the word humanist to themselves often care very deeply about freedom: freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of choice. And the second thing is a sort of human solidarity. To be a humanist is to consciously put aside any hard and fast distinctions of culture, and of race, and of gender, and all the things that delineate and separate human beings into categories.”

ANDREW COPSON,
Chief Executive, Humanists UK



“Over the last half century the landscape of religion and belief in the UK has undergone seismic shifts. Over half of the population now identifies as non-religious. Humanists believe that human rights are the best way to ensure that all of us have opportunities to live flourishing lives and that secularism promises the best hope for freedom, equality, and a better understanding of each other in a plural society.”

ALICE ROBERTS,
President, Humanists UK



INDIVIDUAL HUMANISTS

Humanist organisations tend to focus on activity where they believe they can make a particular contribution (often relating to freedom of religion and belief, and discrimination against the non-religious). However, individual humanists’ concerns may be much wider. Humanists can be found actively campaigning for human welfare, peace, democracy, education, and the protection of the environment, and against poverty, violence, and injustice. Their sense of community may come from a shared passion for a sport, music, or a political cause, and will often be shared with people from different worldviews.