

## David Pollock



Actively involved in the humanist movement since 1961 when he joined the [Oxford University Humanist Group](#), David Pollock was for many years a board member (trustee) of Humanists UK (formerly British Humanist Association) (1965-75 and 1997-2021; chair: 1970-72). He is a former board member of the Rationalist Association, publishers of *New Humanist* magazine, (1979-2018; chair: 1989-91). He was President of the European Humanist Federation from 2006 to 2012, chaired the Advisory Board (of NGOs) to the European Parliament Platform for Secularism in Politics and set up the network of NGOs known as the Alliance for a Secular Europe. He headed the International Humanist and Ethical Union delegation to the Council of Europe from 2012 to 2017.

He takes a special interest in public policy and campaigning, particularly on the place of religion and belief in society in a context of human rights, equality and non-discrimination. He has written on various aspects of the subject, has spoken at EU, European Parliament, Council of Europe and OSCE conferences, and has given evidence to committees of both the United Kingdom Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He drafted the successive amendments to the Bill on same sex marriage designed to give legal recognition to humanist marriages that finally led to the Government's agreement to consult on the proposal with a view to changing the law by regulations.

He was given the Distinguished Service to Humanism Award at the 2011 World Humanist Congress in Oslo.

In the 1970s he served as a local councillor in Hackney and was later treasurer of the Hackney North Constituency Labour Party (1989-1992). He was secretary of the independent Charity Law Reform Committee (1972-77) and gave oral evidence on its behalf to a Parliamentary select committee. He was a regular volunteer at the Museum of London from 2001 to 2009, helping re-catalogue its 20,000 prints and drawings. He is the treasurer of the [Education and Health Trust Uganda](#).

An Oxford classics graduate, he was for 25 years in management with the National Coal Board (1964-1990), first dealing with central administration and relations with Government and latterly with staff planning and organisation. He was Director of Action on Smoking and Health (1991-95), subsequently writing *Denial & Delay: the political history of smoking and health 1951-64* (ASH, 1999), and then of the Continenence Foundation (1996-2001) before retiring to (almost) full-time Humanism.

His personal website (family history etc) is at [www.david-pollock.me.uk](http://www.david-pollock.me.uk).

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