

IS INCITEMENT TO
RELIGIOUS HATRED THE
NEW BLASPHEMY?

Ivan Hare

*... any contemptuous, reviling, scurrilous or
ludicrous matter relating to God, Jesus
Christ, or the Bible, or the formularies of the
Church of England as by law established.*



It is not blasphemous to speak or publish opinions hostile to the Christian religion, or to deny the existence of God, if the publication is couched in decent and temperate language. The test to be applied is as to the manner in which the doctrines are advocated and not as to the substance of the doctrines themselves.

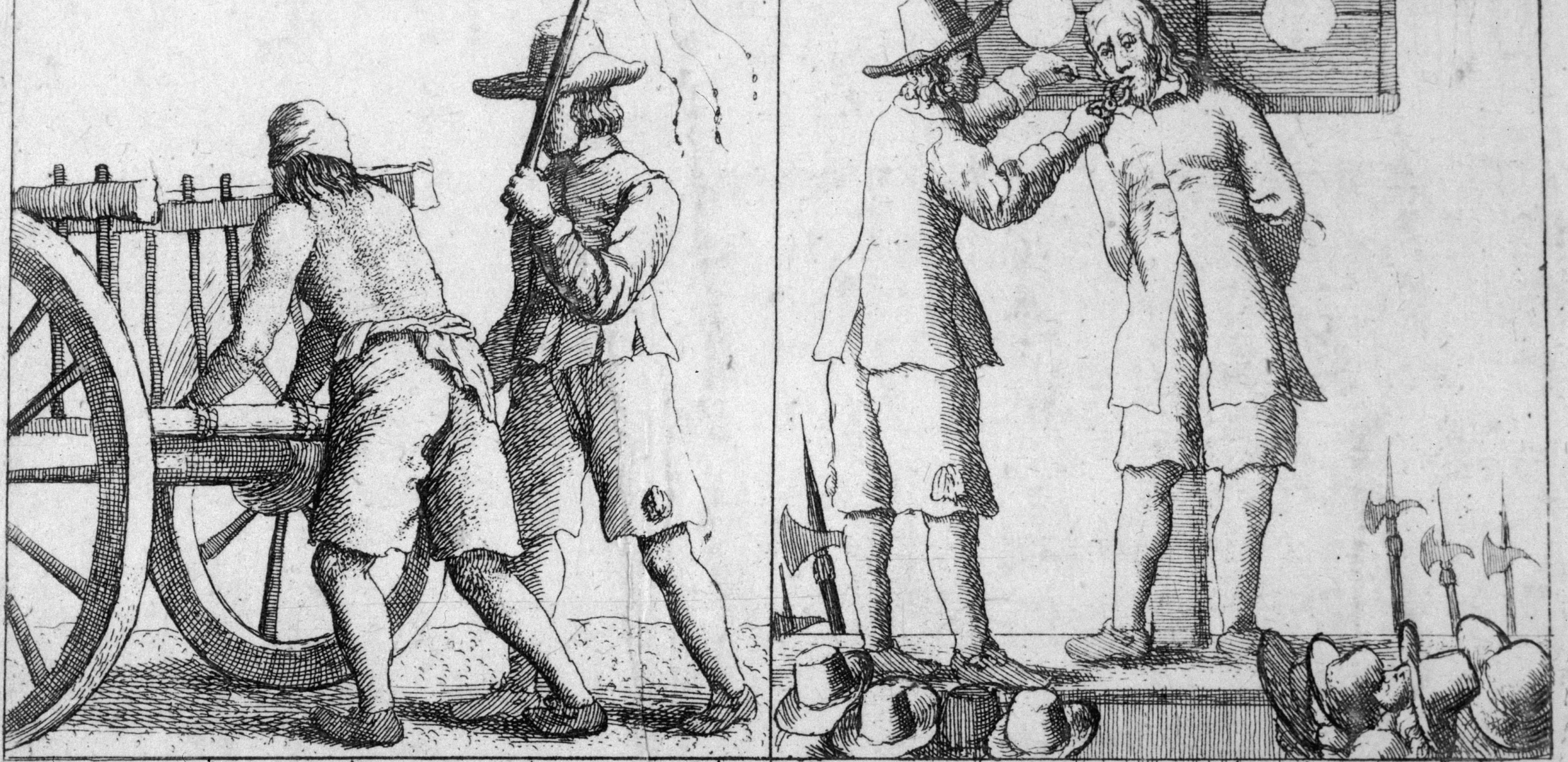
GAY PRIDE

MARY MOOSE?
HANDS OFF GAY NEWS
- BY ONE TODAY





These words, though of ecclesiastical cognisance, yet that religion is a cheat, tends to the dissolution of all government, and therefore punishable here, and so of contumelious reproaches to God, or the religion established. An indictment lay for saying the Protestant religion was a fiction for taking away religion, all obligations to government by oaths etc ceaseth, and Christian religion is a part of the law itself, therefore injuries to God are punishable as to the King, or any common person.



James Nailor. Quaker, set 2 howers on the Pillory at Westminster, whiped by the Hang-
man to the old Exchange London, Som dayes after, Stood too howers more on the Pillory
at the Exchange, and there had his Tongue Bored throug with a hot Iron, &
Stung in the Forehead with the Letter B: Decem^r 17: anno Domⁱ 1686: *W. H. H. H.*

JERRY
Springer
the opera

LIVE

29B(1) *A person who uses threatening words or behaviour, or displays any written material which is threatening, is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred.*

29A *In this Part “religious hatred” means hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief.*

5(1) *A person is guilty of an offence if he –*

(a) uses threatening or abusive words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour, or

(b) displays any writing, sign or other visible representation which is threatening or abusive, within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby.

6(4) *A person is guilty of an offence under section 5 only if he intends his words or behaviour, or the writing, sign or other visible representation, to be threatening or abusive, or is aware that it may be threatening or abusive*

...

29J Nothing in this Part shall be read or given effect in a way which prohibits or restricts discussion, criticism or expressions of antipathy, dislike, ridicule, insult or abuse of particular religions or the beliefs or practices of their adherents, or of any other belief system or the beliefs of its adherents, or proselytising or urging adherents of a different religion or belief system to cease practising their religion or belief system.