

SECULAR REPUBLIC

15th October 2018

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION & REFERENDUM ON ‘BLASPHEMY’ - 26th Oct 2018

According to the Constitution of Ireland, the President when appointed to office, following either unopposed nomination or election, must swear the oath hereunder:

“In the presence of almighty God I do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will maintain the constitution of Ireland and uphold its laws, that I will fulfil my duties faithfully and conscientiously in accordance with the constitution and the law, and that I will dedicate my abilities to the service and welfare of the people of Ireland. May God direct and sustain me.”

Moreover, the Constitution also contains the following oaths for the persons concerned:

COUNCIL OF STATE

“In the presence of almighty God I do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfil my duties as a member of the council of state.”

JUDGES

“In the presence of almighty God I do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my knowledge and power execute the office of chief Justice (or as the case may be) without fear or favour, affection or ill-will towards any man, and that I will uphold the constitution and the laws. May God direct and sustain me.”

All these oaths are theistic and incompatible at least with a Humanist position. The ridiculous position now exists whereby persons who are not theists of any sort are nonetheless required to swear these.

It should be noted that there were no such stipulations in the constitutions of 1919 and 1922.

If the Constitution is going to be amended to remove the offence of blasphemy, it would be appropriate as well to repeal the oaths in question with provision being made for them in statutory law and allowing for those who want to take a theistic oath and those who do not.

Email: eire.saolta@gmail.com Web: www.secular-republic.ie Tel: 086 821 3796