



On Tolerance: A Defence of Moral Independence

By Frank Furedi

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Outwardly, we live in an era that appears more open-minded, non-judgemental and tolerant than in any time in human history. The very term intolerant invokes moral condemnation. We are constantly reminded to understand the importance of respecting different cultures and diversities. In this pugnacious new book, Frank Furedi argues that despite the democratisation of public life and the expansion of freedom, society is dominated by a culture that not only tolerates but often encourages intolerance. Often the intolerance is directed at people who refuse to accept the conventional wisdom and who are stigmatised as 'deniers'. Frequently intolerance comes into its own in clashes over cultural values and lifestyles. People are condemned for the food they eat, how they parent and for wearing religious symbols in public.

This book challenges the 'quiet mood of tolerance' towards morally stigmatised forms of behaviour. The author examines recent forms of 'unacceptable behaviour'. It will tease out the real motives and drivers of intolerance.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Frank Furedi is one of our great public intellectuals. Boldly going where others fear to tread, he seizes upon key contemporary themes and challenges lazy thinking. *On Tolerance* is a glorious affront to the banal usage of the term and a revitalisation of what being tolerant really means.

He presents tolerance to us as a precious resource in need of constant intellectual renewal. A great book for our times.'
(Baroness Helena Kennedy QC)

'Being tolerant of ideas we hate is hard work but offers innumerable benefits to ourselves and society. Frank Furedi's powerful critique of what passes for tolerance today reminds us of this essential truth.' (Professor Alan Wolfe, Boston College, USA)

Attended How The Light Gets In at Hay Festival 2011

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(Sanford Lakoff)

About the Author

Frank Furedi is Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He is the author of numerous books including *Culture of Fear*, *Invitation to Terror* and *Paranoid Parenting*, all published by Continuum.

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