



# Public Order Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 64

### [<sup>F1</sup>PART 3A

#### HATRED AGAINST PERSONS ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS [<sup>F1</sup>OR GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION]

*Acts intended to stir up religious hatred [<sup>F1</sup>or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation]*

#### [<sup>F1</sup>29D Public performance of play

- (1) If a public performance of a play is given which involves the use of threatening words or behaviour, any person who presents or directs the performance is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred [<sup>F2</sup>or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation].
- (2) This section does not apply to a performance given solely or primarily for one or more of the following purposes—
  - (a) rehearsal,
  - (b) making a recording of the performance, or
  - (c) enabling the performance to be included in a programme service;but if it is proved that the performance was attended by persons other than those directly connected with the giving of the performance or the doing in relation to it of the things mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c), the performance shall, unless the contrary is shown, be taken not to have been given solely or primarily for the purpose mentioned above.
- (3) For the purposes of this section—
  - (a) a person shall not be treated as presenting a performance of a play by reason only of his taking part in it as a performer,
  - (b) a person taking part as a performer in a performance directed by another shall be treated as a person who directed the performance if without reasonable excuse he performs otherwise than in accordance with that person's direction, and

---

*Changes to legislation:* Public Order Act 1986, Section 29D is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

- (c) a person shall be taken to have directed a performance of a play given under his direction notwithstanding that he was not present during the performance; and a person shall not be treated as aiding or abetting the commission of an offence under this section by reason only of his taking part in a performance as a performer.
- (4) In this section “play” and “public performance” have the same meaning as in the Theatres Act 1968.
- (5) The following provisions of the Theatres Act 1968 apply in relation to an offence under this section as they apply to an offence under section 2 of that Act—  
 section 9 (script as evidence of what was performed),  
 section 10 (power to make copies of script),  
 section 15 (powers of entry and inspection).]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Pt. 3A inserted (E.W.) (1.10.2007 except so far as relating to the insertion of ss. 29B(3), 29H(2), 29I(2) (b)(4)) by [Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. 1, 3(2), [Sch.](#); S.I. 2007/2490, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 29D(1) inserted (23.3.2010) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 153(7), [Sch. 16 para. 8](#); S.I. 2010/712, [art. 2\(d\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

Public Order Act 1986, Section 29D is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4B inserted by [2023 c. 47 s. 1](#)