

Lees bij de volgende tekst eerst de vraag voordat je de tekst zelf raadpleegt.

Tekst 8

Letters to the Editor

A loss of national confidence in celebrating Christmas

Sir – I was appalled to hear that many British companies are banning Christmas celebrations at work for fear of upsetting other faiths. There are good reasons for dispensing with these celebrations, but this should not be one of them.

Attendance at such a celebration is a matter of personal choice. We are a Christian country and for centuries newcomers to these islands have settled here knowing that, in this country, all can celebrate their own faiths without offence or interference from the state or others. Is this not part of the reason they come here? I am a Christian, but not very campaigning, and once valued my Britishness and freedom of choice.

I am no racist: my family compromises a loving mix of black, white and Asian by choice. But this country appears to have lost or forgotten what being British means.

**Don Seaman, Leominster,
Herefordshire**

Sir – Has this country lost its self-confidence? This is a Christian country that celebrates Christian festivals. As a non-Christian, I am not offended by the celebration of Christmas, nor should any other minority be offended by it.

Are Christians offended by Diwali, Eid or Hanukkah?

Robert Morris, Edgware, Middx

Sir – Christmas – quite apart from the religious aspect – with the associated

tinsel and bauble trappings is our tradition and we must not be overwhelmed by the urge to make other people feel at home. What next: no shop-window displays, no parties?

When abroad, we do as they do, but why do we have to do as they do here?

Are we all to be swept along by a government that is easily persuaded by anyone other than its voting population?
Frank Elms, Basingstoke, Hants

Sir – It seems a local council is to force organisers of a Christmas party in Emsay, North Yorkshire, to carry out a “risk assessment” on mince pies to be offered free to villagers. Do we now live in a *Two Ronnies* sketch?

Tony Walton, London N12

Sir – I suppose those who want to ban Christmas and all it stands for, but who work in firms that pay Christmas bonuses, will not be taking them.
Ron Clarke, Sutton, Cambs

Sir – In staging a traditional Nativity, it is not possible for everyone to be Mary or Joseph. Still, there are many other good parts and five-year-old Felix was delighted to go home and tell his mum he was going to be “a piece of paper” in our Nativity, to be staged in Hereford Cathedral. He is a page.

**Tim Lowe, Headmaster, Hereford
Cathedral Junior School**

The Daily Telegraph

Lees bij de volgende opgave eerst de vraag voordat je de tekst raadpleegt.

Tekst 8 Letters to the Editor

Stel je bent tegen de viering van Kerstmis, omdat je vindt dat dit niet in een multiraciale samenleving past.

- 1p **39** Staat in de tekst een brief afgedrukt van een medestander?
Zo nee, noteer "Nee". Zo ja, noteer de naam van de briefschrijver.