

August 5, 2026



PRESS STATEMENT

WE CONDEMN PRESIDENT RUTO'S REMARK THAT "A PERSON WITHOUT RELIGION IS AN ANIMAL"

The Atheists In Kenya Society strongly condemns President William Ruto's statement made today at State House while addressing Muslims that "a person without religion is no different from an animal."

Such remarks are deeply offensive, discriminatory, and **unworthy of the Office of the President.**

They demean millions of people around the world—including atheists, agnostics, humanists, freethinkers, and others who do not subscribe to any religion—while undermining the Constitutional values of equality, dignity, and freedom of conscience.

The Constitution of Kenya guarantees every person the right to freedom of religion, belief, and opinion. Equally important, it protects the freedom not to profess any religion.

The President swore to uphold the Constitution and serve all Kenyans, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack thereof. To describe non-religious people as "animals" is not only dehumanizing but also risks legitimizing prejudice and discrimination against a minority community that has long faced hostility, exclusion, and stereotyping.

Public officials, especially the Head of State, have a responsibility to promote national unity rather than deepen divisions based on matters of personal belief.

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Kenya is a constitutional democracy, not a theocracy. **Citizenship is not determined by religious affiliation, and no Kenyan should be made to feel like a second-class citizen because they do not believe in a God.**

We therefore call upon President Ruto to:

- Withdraw the statement and **issue a public apology to non-religious Kenyans.**
- Reaffirm his commitment to protecting the Constitutional rights of all citizens, irrespective of their beliefs.
- Refrain from making statements that stigmatize or dehumanize minority groups.

The Atheists In Kenya Society remains committed to defending freedom of thought, freedom of conscience, and equal treatment under the law.

We will continue to oppose all forms of discrimination, whether based on religion or the absence of religion.

A democratic society flourishes when diversity of belief is respected—not when those who think differently are insulted or dehumanized.

Harrison Mumia
President, Atheists In Kenya Society

Cc. All Media Houses