

## **PROTECTIONS FOR ANONYMITY FREE SPEECH ACT 2026**

[In Section 3, strike 3(b) and substitute

“(b) an individual who is subject to the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom;”]

[After Section 4 insert new Section 4A:

### **“4A Anonymous and pseudonymous expression**

(1) Lawful expression includes expression made anonymously or under a pseudonym, including by digital means. The right to freedom of expression in Section 4 includes the right to speak anonymously or pseudonymously.

(2) A United Kingdom person does not lose the protection of this Act by reason only that lawful expression is made anonymously or under a pseudonym.

(3) The State must not, directly or indirectly, require a person, as a condition of engaging in lawful expression to verify, disclose, or publicly display that person’s legal identity or identifying information.”]

[After Section 23 insert new Section 23A:

### **“23A Confidential proof of identity and status**

(1) No person shall be denied the protection of this Act by reason only that the person has not publicly disclosed that person’s legal identity or information sufficient to establish that the person is a United Kingdom person.

(2) Where, for the purposes of proceedings under this Act, it is necessary to determine whether a person is a United Kingdom person, that question may be determined on the basis of confidential material.

(3) A court or tribunal may receive material under subsection (2) in private, by confidential schedule, or subject to such directions restricting inspection, copying, service or publication as are necessary to preserve anonymity so far as compatible with the fair disposal of proceedings.

(4) Nothing in this section requires disclosure of a person’s legal identity to the public or to other users of a service.”]

[In Section 20A, after subsection (6) insert:

“(7) Section 23A applies to proceedings under subsection (6).”

and renumber existing subsection (7) as subsection (8).]