

PE1530/G

Jonny Scaramanga Email of 7 November 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of petition PE01530. I was raised as a creationist and went to a school that taught young-Earth creationism in England. I am now doing to a PhD at the Institute of Education, University of London, looking at the experiences of students in creationist schools.

It is my experience, and one often reported by my research participants, that being taught evolution denialism and separate creation was intellectually damaging. In order to deny evolution, it is necessary to misrepresent evidence and often to distort the scientific method. For many years this harmed my ability to evaluate evidence honestly and to understand some aspects of how science is conducted. There are some areas of biology for which an understanding of the mechanisms of evolution is essential, and denying evolution in school is likely to make it more difficult for promising students to pursue these studies.

Yours faithfully,

Jonny Scaramanga