

FOUR speakers discussed modern attitudes to sex at the latest Westminster Faith Debate.

During the debate – one of a series exploring religion in private life – American author and academic Donna Freitas spoke of a ‘hook-up culture’ on campuses in the States, in which students aimed to have brief encounters from which they could walk away unattached. But, she said, it was surrounded by angst, and students did not seem to realise that they could choose to set boundaries.

## WESTMINSTER FAITH DEBATE

# Let's talk about sex

Religion, she added, could provide rituals for slowing down and reflection.

Catherine Pepinster, Editor of Roman Catholic journal *The Tablet*, pointed out that Germaine

Greer had paid tribute to the nuns who had educated her, because they had encouraged their students not to trivialise sex.

Author Jenny Taylor, who writes on religion and culture, said Freud's ideas

about sex and humanity needed to be rejected, and Maureen Kendler of the London School of Jewish Studies argued that UK society's view of sex was in a mess because of a wider culture of individualism. She said ‘a very weird view of self-esteem and entitlement’ led people to define themselves sexually in terms of personal satisfaction instead of responsibility and mutual respect.

A SURVEY commissioned by Christian Aid has found that 34 per cent of Britons say they are boycotting the products or services of a company because it does not pay its fair share of tax in the UK. It also found that 45 per cent say they are considering a boycott. Sixty-three per cent thought that strong action on tax globally by the G8 could help lift millions of people out of poverty.