The debate in the United Kingdom over the status of religious courts and tribunals has not abated since the well-publicised lecture given by Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury in 2008. This talk will focus on the legitimate use which can be made of Sharia Courts, the Beth Din and the Tribunals of Catholic and Protestant Churches. Complementary jurisdictions allow for the resolution of matrimonial and property disputes through the agency of religious custom and tradition. Can secular courts safely delegate decision making to faith-based processes of arbitration? Particular consideration will be given to Cardiff University’s Research Study Report, Social Cohesion and Civil Law: Marriage, Divorce and Religious Courts (2011) and the recent judgments in the UK Supreme Court in Shergill v Khaira [2014] UKSC 33 Jivraj v Hashwani [2011] UKSC 40, and of Mr Justice Baker in AI v MT [2013] EWHC 100 (Fam).

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