



Minneapolis Chapter

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am Debbie Anderson, the Coordinator for the Minneapolis Chapter of ACT for America.

The Annotated Agenda for today's session states that freedom of religion and belief and gender equality are often regarded in the OSCE regions as being in opposition to each other.

Wiener Akademikerbund previously pointed out the profound legal implications of this apparent paradox. ACT for America fully aligns itself with this analysis.

As is well-established, Islamic law, known as Sharia, is incompatible with fundamental principles of democracy and human rights. For instance, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pointed this out during the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and made reservations against it as a result.

Like wise, the European Court of Human Rights made a ruling in February of 2003 that, and I quote, "the institution of Sharia law and theocratic regime, were incompatible with the requirements of a democratic society."

Let me offer a practical example of how this operates in my home of Minneapolis:

We have an organization that acknowledges that its aim is to turn the city's Cedar-Riverside area into a "Sharia-controlled zone."

The organization makes regular unannounced visits to Somali households to make certain that the women are dressed in compliance with Islamic Law, that nobody is interacting with the opposite sex, and many other aspects of Sharia.

There are other troubling aspects to the organization's mission, such as its leader's display of the al-Qaada flag and his adoration of Anwar al-Awalaki, an al Qaeda spiritual leader killed in Yemen by a drone strike ordered by President Obama.

This takes place without any legal intervention from local authorities and leads to severe deterioration of women's rights.

ACT for America, therefore, recommends:

- That OSCE Participating States take action against individuals and organizations practicing law incompatible with human rights;
- That OSCE Participating States call upon religious representatives to accept publicly that the law of the land is superior to religious dictates;
- That OSCE establishes a working group to propose measures against law that violates human rights, with particular emphasis on Sharia; and
- That OSCE Participating States take action to reclassify organizations practicing law incompatible with human rights as political organizations rather than religious ones.

Thank you very much,

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<https://www.hrw.org/reports/1992/WR92/MEW2-02.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights#Islamic_countries

<http://www.wnd.com/2017/04/shariah-cop-cracks-down-on-minnesota-muslims/>

<http://acdemocracy.org/sharia-and-the-european-union/>