

Statement made at the OSCE Human Rights conference in  
Warsaw, Monday 26 September 2016 – Session 2

HDIM.NGO/0245/16/EN  
28 September 2016

Thank you,

I represent The Values Foundation and would like to make a specific Statement followed by a Recommendation, on the growing intolerance towards religious or faith private schools; that are being operated by genuine religious minorities.

Whilst we fully appreciate the dilemma of European governments of how to cope with social segregation and extremism in their schools, especially as they face increasing levels of refugee children from other countries .....this should not mean that religious schools should no longer be allowed to operate.

There is much positive work being done by faith schools.

In Manchester, UK the *Jewish High School* has twinned with the *Manchester Islamic School* involving over 500 students who decided for themselves they will counter their prejudices and understand each other's culture and way of life.

And, countless Christian schools throughout Europe give consistently good academic results, contributing positively to their national education system...

Yet, in some countries we see a growing intolerance towards such schools!

In Sweden, a school minister recently talked of banning religious private schools because she hears they divide boys and girls during physical education and swimming.

In Canada, the education minister writes to the Baptist School Council demanding a written promise that their schools will allow gay associations being formed or else they may remove government funding.

We recommend to the governments represented here that they fully respect and uphold in their legislation the right of religious private schools to exist.

Thank you.

[ds@values-foundation.org](mailto:ds@values-foundation.org)  
[www.values-foundation.org](http://www.values-foundation.org)

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*The Values Foundation is a non-profit organization registered in Sweden org.nr 802451-7800, whose objectives are to work for the development of policies and legislation that is based on Christian principles and values. We believe it is undeniable that Europe has a valuable and precious history based on moral Christian values and these have influenced and prospered the region over many years. TVF brings together individuals and business-owners throughout Europe who are concerned about the rapid erosion of moral principles and family values. Our work is entirely voluntary with no links to any political party or other organization and we also work at national level in a number of EU countries with the same objectives.*