

Statement by Michael Nugent
Atheist Ireland
To OSCE meeting
1 October 2012

The OSCE has hosted events to specifically combat discrimination against Christians, Muslims and Jews. We request a similar event to specifically combat discrimination against atheists and agnostics.

For example, in Ireland, atheist parents are denied secular education for our children. We cannot be president or a judge, because we have to swear a religious oath.

Eamon Gilmore, the current chair of the OSCE, is a member of the Irish Council of State. To take up this office he must swear an oath before a god he does not believe in.

And the European Union, and the Islamic States, have just insisted that we respect all religions and all prophets.

Respecting all religions and all prophets would mean respecting Christianity, Islam, Scientology, Joseph Smith, David Koresh and David Icke.

This is absurd. We can respect your right to believe, while not respecting the content of your beliefs.

Unsurprisingly, this EU statement has encouraged the Islamic States at the UN to seek again to criminalise blasphemy internationally.

If you would like to discuss how to combat this danger, please attend our side event at lunchtime in meeting room 3.