



European Humanist Federation

international association under Belgian law

Fédération Humaniste Européenne

association internationale de droit belge

Campus de la Plaine ULB - CP 237
Avenue Arnaud Fraiteur
B-1050 Brussels - Bruxelles
Belgium - Belgique

Tel : +32 (0)2 26 67 68 90
Fax : +32 (0)2 26 27 68 01
E-mail: fhe@ulb.ac.be
www.humanism.be

RECOMMENDATION

The European Humanist Federation is concerned at the growing tendency to identify people on the basis of religion as this:

- gives too much importance to religion or belief, a factor that for most people is not highly significant in their self-identity;
- gives undue power to religious leaders, despite clear evidence that they do not democratically represent the views and beliefs of their co-religionists;
- tends to a recognition of so-called group rights, which are an inherent denial of full human rights to individuals within those artificially designated religious groups;
- leads those in power to overlook and discriminate against people with non-religious beliefs or no religious beliefs;
- creates artificial barriers not conducive to social cohesion and harmony.

The EHF accordingly recommends that ODIHR takes note of these dangers and promotes more effective implementation of secularism in the sense of separation of religion and politics.