



NEWS REPORT

Date: 6 July 2009
Expert: Margarita Ilieva
Title: Ban of religious symbols in schools
Country: Bulgaria

Context

Issue at stake: religious symbols in school ban
Ground of discrimination: religion/ belief
Source: draft legislation
Field: education

Content

On 30 March 2009, the government introduced new draft legislation in Parliament, the School Education and Preschool Instruction and Preparation Act, in order to govern education in schools and kindergartens. The bill bans both school students and teachers from 'wearing religious symbols aggressively or obtrusively demonstrating their religious preferences' (respectively, art. 161 (1.6) and 183 (2.13)). The bill bans discrimination ('restrictions or privileges') on a closed list of grounds excluding religion/belief, disability and sexual orientation (art. 2 (3)).