



NEWS REPORT

Date:	16 April 2010
Expert:	Matthias Mahlmann
Title:	Proposal for the abolishing the term “race” (Art. 3 Basic Law)
Country:	Germany
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Proposal for amendment of Art. 3 Basic Law: change of the terminology on prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of “race”
Ground of discrimination:	racial/ethnic origin
Source:	national Equality Body, German Institute of Human Rights, political development
Field:	other
Legislative provisions:	Art. 3 Basic Law on prohibition of discrimination

Content

Political development: The German Institute of Human Rights, represented by its Director, Mrs Beate Rudolf, proposed that the legislature amends Art. 3.3 of the Basic Law (Prohibition of Discrimination on various ground) by abolishing the term “race” (“Rasse”) and by replacing it with “prohibition of racist discrimination or preferential treatment” (“Verbot rassistischer Benachteiligung oder Bevorzugung”). The background of this initiative, which complies among others with the incentives of the European Parliament for the abolishment of the use of the term “race” in legal texts of the European Union, lies in the conviction that “a theory of different races is racist in itself” (Rudolf) as explicitly illustrated in the Institute’s policy paper No. 16, “A Constitution Without Race”, published in April 2010. The Head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA), Mrs. Christine Lüders, supports the proposal, emphasizing that the FADA avoids the term “race” and uses instead the term “racist”.

Internet link source and additional information:

www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de



www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de