



## NEWS REPORT

**Date:** 1 June 2011  
**Expert:** Sophie Latraverse  
**Title:** National Assembly adopts a Resolution on  
secularity and freedom of religion  
**Country:** France  
**Context**  
**Issue at stake:** Scope of application of the principle of secularity in  
State education and public day care facilities  
**Ground of  
discrimination:** Religion/belief  
**Source:** Political development – Parliamentary Resolution  
**Field:** Employment, education

### Content

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**Political development:** Believing that the principle of freedom of religion has been instrumentalised by religious extremists and that the principle of secularity is the best way to achieve freedom and tolerance, the authors of the resolution (right wing UMP majority) proposed that the practice of certain non-Christian religious rituals should be facilitated and also that the rule of religious neutrality in the public sphere should be reinforced. This resolution stated that:

- Secularity is a founding principle of the French Republic;
- Parliament is unfavourable to the generalisation of a process of reasonable accommodation on the ground of religion as a mechanism to circumvent the universal application of the rule;
- Secularity should be taken into account as a background to the pedagogical approaches of public education;
- The principle of secularity should be revisited in order to apply to all persons collaborating to a public service, including private structures acting on the basis of delegated missions by the public service (*délégation de service public*) or as a result of the privatisation of the medico social and educational sectors, except for religious services offered to patients or residents of such structures.

### **Internet link source and additional information:**

<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/13/propositions/pion3397.asp>