

A two-day conference organised by
The Institute of Global Law at UCL
and Maison Française d'Oxford

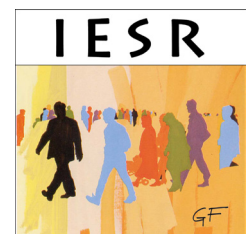
LAW, RELIGION & EDUCATION: Religious Freedom in the Sphere of Education

8th & 9th October 2010

This event is supported by



UCL Grand Challenges



and the cultural department of
the **French Embassy** in the UK

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Religion has returned forcefully both as a subject of academic debate, as a lived reality in contemporary societies and as a renewed challenge for secular systems of governance. The Conference will examine the relationships between “Law, Religion and Education”, addressing the accommodation of religious diversity as well as the content and meaning of education, notably religious education, in a human rights context.

The topic addressed and examined over two days is full of tensions and complex issues. It is also extremely newsworthy. In *the Lautsi* case at the European Court of Human Rights it was recently held that the presence of crucifixes in the classroom at State schools was contrary to the State’s duty of neutrality and violated the plaintiff’s right to freedom of religion under Article 9 of the Convention.

In a comparative and multidisciplinary perspective, this extremely timely project will study the key concepts of laïcité, discrimination and religious freedom; it will present the different models of religious regulation adopted in Europe, and different models of Church-State relations. General sessions will be followed by case studies targeting topical and controversial issues raised in various European jurisdictions under three different headings: defining religious beliefs, defining teaching content and religious symbols.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The conference will be attended by academics, legal practitioners, NGOs and policy advocates in the fields of law, religion and education. This conference is directly relevant to legislators and policy makers given ongoing discussion on bills before the French and British parliaments.

This conference venue is Maison Française d’Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, Oxford OX2 6SE

THE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Friday 8th October

09h30 Registration

10h00 Welcome by Prof. Luc Borot and Dr. Myriam Hunter-Henin

SESSION I: RELIGION AND EDUCATION: KEY CONCEPTS

Laïcité, Integration, Discrimination and Religious Freedom

Chair: Prof. Christopher McCrudden, Lincoln College (Oxford)

Tensions on Laïcité: Ideological manipulations by the French radical right and the British left

Prof. Luc Borot (MFO)

The Classroom as an Integration Lab

Dr Lorenzo Zucca (King’s College London)

Non-discrimination and Laïcité in Schools: Two concepts at odds?

Prof. Gwénaële Calvès (Université Cergy-Pontoise)

The Right of the Child to Religious Freedom and Education:

Key issues in international human rights law

Dr Sylvie Langlaude (Queen’s University Belfast)

11h30: Refreshments

12h00: **SESSION II: RELIGION AND EDUCATION: DIFFERENT MODELS**

Chair: Dr Prakash Sha (Queen Mary, University of London)

What Place Does Religious Education Have in State Schools and Catholic Schools in France?

Dr Blandine Chelini-Pont (Université Aix-en-Provence)

Religion in the Turkish Education: Nationalisation between secularisation and islamisation

Dr Kerem Altiparmak / Hasan Sayim Vural (Ankara State University)

The Northern Irish Model of Religion and Education

Prof. Christopher McCrudden (Lincoln College, Oxford)

13h00: Lunch

14h30: **SESSION III: RELIGION AND EDUCATION: DIFFERENT MODELS**

Chair: Prof. Jean-Paul Willaime (IESP Paris)

Education, Religion and Regionalism in the Context of the Church-State Relations

Laws of England and Wales

Prof. Norman Doe (Cardiff Law School)

Religious Education in a Religiously Neutral State: The German model

Prof. Heinrich de Wall (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen)

The Teaching of Religion in Spain: An ongoing controversy

Dr Javier Oliva (University of Bangor)

The Ambiguous Status of Religion in Italian Public Education: A (bad) model for Europe?

Prof. Marco Ventura (University of Siena)

16h00 Refreshments

16h30: **SESSION IV: DEFINING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT CASE STUDIES**

Chair: Prof. Norman Doe (Cardiff Law School)

Religious Discrimination and Schools: The employment of teachers and the public sector duty

Prof. Lucy Vickers (Oxford Brooks University)

Jewish Schools in France: A mapping of their Jewish identity proposals

Prof. Martine Cohen (CNRS Paris)

Having Faith in our Schools?: Struggling with religious definitions

Dr Arif Jamal (UCL) / Dr Farid Panjwani (The Aga Khan University, London)

On Turbans, Bangles and Headscarves: Accommodating religious symbols in schools

Maleiha Malik (King's College London)

18h00 Drinks Reception

19h30 Speakers' Dinner

DAY TWO: Saturday 9th October

09h30 Registration

10h00 **SESSION V: TEACHING CONTENT– RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Chair: Prof. Luc Borot (Director, MFO)

Religious Education in Multi-Faith Europe

Peter Cumper (University Leicester)

Opt-Outs: A sufficient means to protect religious liberty in schools?

Dr Alison Mawhinney & Dr Yuko Chiba (Queen's University Belfast)

Religious Education in Public Schools of Alsace and Moselle:

A special status confronted to social evolution

Jean-Marie Woehrling (Strasbourg, Institut du droit local alsacien-mosellan)

11h15 Refreshments

11h45 **SESSION VI: TEACHING CONTENT –BEYOND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Chair : Dr George Letsas (UCL)

Evolution, Creationism and Intelligent Design: What may and may not be taught in US schools

Prof. Eric Barendt (UCL)

Beating People Is Wrong: Campbell and Cosans, Williamson and their aftermath

Frank Cranmer (Cardiff Law School)

History Textbooks and the Teaching about Religious Issues in France

Anna van den Kerchove (IESR, Paris)

13h20 Lunch

14h30 **SESSION VII: RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS - CASE STUDIES**

Chair : Dr Myriam Hunter-Henin (UCL)

Crosses, Bracelets, Rings and Veils:

The accommodation of religious symbols in the uniform policies of English schools

Prof. Mark Hill QC (Cardiff Law School / 3 Pump Court Chambers)

Religious Symbols in UK Schools: Teachers and other staff

Dr Russell Sandberg (Cardiff Law School)

The *Lautsi* Case: What the Strasbourg court decided

Dr George Letsas (UCL)

Religious Symbols in German Schools

Dr Tobias Lock (UCL)

Laïcité Unveiled!

Prof. Raphaël Liogier (Sciences Po, Aix-en-Provence)

16h15 Refreshments

17h00 End of Conference

BOOKING FORM

Name:

Organisation:

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Address:

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Tel:

Fax:

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Special Dietary Requirements:

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I will be attending:

- The Full conference
- Day 1 only - 8 October
- Day 2 only - 9 October

Signature:

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Venue

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Maison Française d'Oxford
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Oxford OX2 6SE