



THE SWEDISH NETWORK FOR EUROPEAN LEGAL STUDIES
HAS THE GREAT PLEASURE
OF INVITING YOU TO A CONFERENCE ON:

Freedom *to* and Freedom *from* Religion:
the Rule of Law in the European
Democratic State

9 – 10 April, 2018

|de-Geer-salen, Geovetenskapens hus, Stockholm University|

Conference outline

Over the past few years there have been a number of very important legal disputes concerning freedom of religion on a European level, as well as on a national level in several European countries. Both individual and collective rights have come to the fore. The disputes raise questions about the role of religion in democratic, both secular and non-secular, states. The aim of this conference is to discuss the current situation in Europe and how questions relating to religious freedom are dealt with. The concept 'religion' is interpreted differently depending on traditions, culture and historical experiences. Other aspects that affect the interpretation have shown to be depending on the view on religious minorities, the actual context and the present political situation both in the European states and in the world of today. In this regard important issues have arisen about what should be the role of the courts and to what extent they should interfere.

The conference is held in cooperation with the research programme Imapct of Religion- Challenges for Society, Law and democracy at Uppsala University.



Program

Day 1: 9 April

- 13.00 **Arrival and Registration**
- 13.30 **Opening Address and Welcome**
Professor Antonina Bakardjieva Engelbrekt, Chairman of the Network,
Stockholm University
- 13.45 **Panel 1: Religion, the Rule of Law and Judicialisation**
Chair and commentator: Professor Anna-Sara Lind, Uppsala University
- The Swedish Supreme Administrative Court and the Cases of
Jehovah's Witnesses**
Justice Thomas Bull, the Supreme Administrative Court
- The Rule of Law, Democracy and Freedom of Religion**
Professor Joakim Nergelius, Örebro University
- The Interpretation of the Concept 'Religion' in Law**
Senior Lecturer Victoria Enkvist, Uppsala University
- 15.00 **Coffee**
- 15.30 **Panel 2: Freedom *to* and Freedom *from* Religion on the Labour
Market**
Chair and commentator: Associate Professor Ola Zetterqvist,
University of Gothenburg
- European Court of Justice and the Veil Cases**
Advocate General Eleanor Sharpston, the European Court of Justice
- Discrimination Based on Religion on the Swedish Labour Market**
Head of the litigation unit at the Discrimination Ombudsman
Martin Mörk

Religion on the Labour Market in Norway
Professor Vibeke Blaker Strand, University of Oslo

Religion on the Labour Market in Denmark
Professor Lisbet Christoffersen, University of Copenhagen

17.30 **End of day 1**

Day 2: 10 April

09.30 **Panel 3: Collective Aspects of Religion**
Chair and commentator: Senior Lecturer Patrik Bremdal, Uppsala University

In the European Union
Professor Ronan McCrea, University College London

An Italian/ Catholic Perspective
Professor Marco Ventura, University of Siena

The Relationship between the State and the Majority and Minority Faiths
PhD Candidate Emma Ahlm, Uppsala University

The Freedom of Religion in Relation to Other Human Rights
Senior Lecturer Karin Åström, Umeå University

12.00 **Lunch**

13.00 **Panel 4: Freedom to and Freedom from Religion in Education**
Chair and commentator: Associate Professor Vilhelm Persson, Lund University

The non-confessional Swedish school
Senior Lecturer Hedvig Bernitz, Stockholm University

Religious Discrimination in School

PhD Candidate Maria Lefors Regge, Stockholm University

TBA

Senior Lecturer Lotta Lerwall, Uppsala University

14.30

Closing up

Senior Lecturer Hedvig Bernitz, Stockholm University

Senior Lecturer Victoria Enkvist, Uppsala University

15.00

End of day 2