Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 13364
11 December 2013

Freedom of religion and religious practices

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Sandro GOZI and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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On 1 October 2013, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted Resolution 1952 (2013) on Children's right to physical integrity, in which the circumcision of young boys for religious reasons is also referred to as being detrimental to the physical integrity of children. Though, it should be noted that old faiths like Judaism and Islam have been performing circumcision for centuries and still practice it as a religious rite which does not present risks for children and should be respected as a longstanding religious tradition.

In this context, freedom of religions is recognised in Article 9 of the European Convention on human rights (on freedom of thought, conscience and religion) but also promoted and defended by the Assembly which always advocated religious tolerance in several texts including Resolution 1928 (2013) on "Safeguarding human rights in relation to religion and belief, and protecting religious communities from violence", Recommendation 1962 (2011) on "The religious dimension of intercultural dialogue" and Recommendation 1720 (2005) on "Education and religion".

In order to enhance co-operation and dialogue with different religious communities in our societies, the Assembly should make further recommendations regarding tolerance of different religious practices (including circumcision), encouraging mutual understanding and respect, as well as better information and education on religions.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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BARATA LOPES Joana, Portugal, EPP/CD
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BERDZENISHVILI Levan, Georgia, ALDE
BĒRZINŠ Andris, Latvia, ALDE
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BLAHA Ľuboš, Slovak Republic, SOC
BOCKEL Jean-Marie, France, EPP/CD
BRAGA António, Portugal, SOC
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CHALOUPKA Otto, Czech Republic, EDG
CHAOUKI Khalid, Italy, SOC
CHIKOVANI Irakli, Georgia, ALDE
CHITI Vannino, Italy, SOC
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DENEMEÇ Reha, Turkey, EDG
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FLOREA Daniel, Romania, SOC
FRONC Martin, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD
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GREČKOVÁ Lea, Slovak Republic, SOC
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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

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