



**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

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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*<sup>1</sup>:

GOZI Sandro, Italy, NR  
ABBASOV Aydin, Azerbaijan, SOC  
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC  
ASCANI Anna, Italy, NR  
ASSIS Francisco, Portugal, SOC  
BADEA Viorel Riceard, Romania, EPP/CD  
BAKOYANNIS Theodora, Greece, EPP/CD  
BARATA LOPES Joana, Portugal, EPP/CD  
BENEYTO José María, Spain, EPP/CD  
BERDZENISHVILI Levan, Georgia, ALDE  
BĒRZINŠ Andris, Latvia, ALDE  
BESELIA Eka, Georgia, SOC  
BIRCHALL Ana, Romania, SOC  
BLAHA Ľuboš, Slovak Republic, SOC  
BOCKEL Jean-Marie, France, EPP/CD  
BRAGA António, Portugal, SOC  
BRATTI Alessandro, Italy, NR  
BRAUN Márton, Hungary, EPP/CD  
ÇAVUŞOĞLU Mevlüt, Turkey, EDG  
CHALOUPKA Otto, Czech Republic, EDG  
CHAOUKI Khalid, Italy, SOC  
CHIKOVANI Irakli, Georgia, ALDE  
CHITI Vannino, Italy, SOC  
CHIUARIU Tudor-Alexandru, Romania, ALDE  
ČIGĀNE Lolita, Latvia, EPP/CD  
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC  
CONNEMANN Gitta, Germany, EPP/CD  
CORREIA Telmo, Portugal, EDG  
COSTA NEVES Carlos, Portugal, EPP/CD  
CSÖBÖR Katalin, Hungary, EPP/CD  
DECKER Armand, De, Belgium, ALDE  
DENEMEÇ Reha, Turkey, EDG  
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC  
DİŞLİ Şaban, Turkey, EPP/CD  
DRĂGHICI Damian, Romania, SOC  
ERKAL KARA Tülin, Turkey, EDG  
FATALIYEVA Sevinj, Azerbaijan, EDG  
FEIST Thomas, Germany, EPP/CD  
FELDMAN Oleksandr, Ukraine, EDG  
FENECHIU Cătălin Daniel, Romania, ALDE  
FIFOR Mihai-Viorel, Romania, SOC  
FISCHER Axel E., Germany, EPP/CD  
FLOREA Daniel, Romania, SOC  
FRONC Martin, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD  
GAFAROVA Sahiba, Azerbaijan, EDG  
GHISE Ioan, Romania, ALDE  
GIANNAKAKI Maria, Greece, NR  
GIRZYŃSKI Zbigniew, Poland, NR  
GOGA Pavol, Slovak Republic, SOC  
GORGHIU Alina Ştefania, Romania, ALDE  
GREČKOVÁ Lea, Slovak Republic, SOC  
GRUBER Attila, Hungary, EPP/CD  
GULYÁS Gergely, Hungary, EPP/CD

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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

HAJIYEV Sabir, Azerbaijan, SOC  
HOFMAN Adam, Poland, NR  
HUSEYNLI Ali, Azerbaijan, EDG  
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IACOB RIDZI Monica Maria, Romania, NR  
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ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD