

## OUR MESSAGE FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

The *European Network on Religion & Belief* is a Europe-wide network of religious and non-religious organisations committed to action for equality and mutual understanding and against discrimination, hate crime and prejudice.

**We ask all MEPs to support our 10 action points for the new European Parliament:**

### **EU Strategy on Religion and Belief**

Develop a strategy and funding to support equality on grounds of religion and belief equivalent to the other five strands of equalities on race, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation.

### **EU Guidelines on Freedom of Religion and Belief**

Ensure coherence between EU external affairs policy as expressed in the 2013 Guidelines, and internal policy as it affects member states.

Support a European Parliamentary Working Group on Freedom of Religion and Belief which covers the EU as well as the rest of the world.

### **Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation**

Support the rapid adoption of the Draft Directive on Equal Treatment to include discrimination on grounds of religion/belief, disability, age and sexual orientation.

### **Improve Implementation of EU Equalities Policies on Religion and Belief**

Funding for a European network on equalities and non-discrimination on grounds of religion and belief, and for civil society awareness raising and campaigning actions.

### **Improve EU consultation with, and participation of, religion/belief minorities**

Some minorities are among Europe's most excluded citizens, and require active outreach and specific action to hear their voices, promote their interests and involve their communities.

### **In Civil Society**

#### **Develop a Europe-wide programme against violence and hate speech/crime**

Proactive measures and campaigns are needed to combat increasing violence, hate speech and bullying on grounds of religion, belief or non-belief.

#### **Combat Inequalities in Health, Education and Social Provision**

Mobilise EU and member state action to make available these basic human rights – which have been in some cases denied or reduced for certain communities.

#### **Equal Access to Justice for All**

Promote Civil Society initiatives to ensure that all communities are aware of their EU Fundamental Rights and have access to advocacy and redress in case of discrimination.

#### **Promote European Unity in Diversity through Dialogue and Common Action**

Actively take up the challenge in President Barroso's April 2013 speech by promoting inter-convictional (religious and non-religious) dialogue and action for Europe's long-term benefit.

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