

2024 WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE

Warsaw, 30 September to 11 October 2024

Plenary Session 7: Fundamental Freedoms II, including:

- National human rights institutions**
- Freedom of assembly and association**
- Freedom of religion or belief**

Coordination des Association et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience

I come before you today with grave concern over the systematic discrimination and exclusion of the Scientology community in Germany. The report we have reviewed and submitted paints a disturbing picture - over the past 10 years, there have been at least 3,095 instances of German public authorities imposing "faith-breaker" clauses in their tenders, forcing applicants to renounce any connection to Scientology.

This blatant violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief is unacceptable and runs counter to the principles enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. By erecting these barriers, the German government is effectively barring Scientologists from participating in public procurement, denying them equal access to economic opportunities.

I call on the German authorities to immediately cease this discriminatory practice and bring their policies in line with international human rights standards. Diversity and pluralism are the hallmarks of a free and democratic society - we cannot allow the marginalization of minority faiths, no matter how unpopular they may be.

The time for action is now. I urge you all to join me in condemning these human rights abuses and demanding that the German government uphold its obligations to protect the freedom of religion or belief for all. Together, we can ensure that the fundamental rights of all Europeans are safeguarded.