

# The New York Times

## EUROPE HAS NOT TAKEN A STAND ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CLOTHING



The Delegate of Sweden in the European Union presented her stance against the banning of religious clothing and education, proposing that the council should peacefully resolve such issues with sensitivity, Photo by: Jonathan Au Yeung, The New York Times

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Dominic Bryan, Fredrick Charles

**SINGAPORE** - The European Parliament, after several hours of discussion yesterday afternoon, still have not come to produce for

a bill. after a meeting at the United Nations Head-quarters to discuss about the importance of religious education and

clothing. The issue of religious wear has become one of the headlines of the year, creating political controversies and proposals for legal bans in Europe. As Europe is becoming more and more religiously diverse, the question now raised is whether the religious education and clothing should be banned to prevent negative implications.

To start the discussion, the delegate of Italy announced that religious education in Italy not compulsory. Croatia contributed their idea that religious education should not be supported, however, article 9 should be supported. Sweden on the other hand no laws against Islam, realizes Islam phobia is a growing problem, encouraged council to plan on how to counter this problem, wants the council to peacefully solve these issues with sensitivity. The delegate of Portugal agreed that religion should be supported. They believe that religious clothing should not be considered wrong, allowed to allow all workers to exceed use their right in their beliefs.

On the other hand Italy countered saying the bans on religious wear will cause people to see Muslims in a different light which will allow Muslims to integrate back into society, as without religious wear people will be less afraid of the Muslim community, allowing them to be more accepting of the Muslims. Australia and Denmark also agreed with Italy and promoted the need for the ban.

With many different views and opinions, the council was divided with lot of rivalry. After using an unmoderated caucus to think things through, the council decided to embark on discussing the ban further, before talking about whether they should implicate it. But the council was still divided on the matter and was not able to reach a conclusion.

In general, most countries had stances against banning religious wear. However, due to some oppositions such as Italy, the council remained undecided and ended without any conclusion being met.