

book of abstracts

Religions, Identities, Policies

*Points of Convergence
and Divergence*



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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(Points of Convergence and Divergence)

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The Legal Status-related Rights of Religious Communities – Discrimination and Inequality Issues

The international legal provisions guarantee the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This refers to all religious or belief communities, the traditional ones, as well as those considered religious minorities. The paper aims to analyze the legal status-related rights of religious communities. Namely, the exercise of the right to the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association in the context of the non-discrimination principle are closely linked to the freedom of religion or belief. The principle of non-discrimination means that all religious groups need to have equal rights and equal access to state-provided privileges even though some of them have previously been “more equal” than others. The case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and Jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee regarding the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights have been particularly considered in terms of the national discrimination practice concerning the acquiring of legal personality by different religious communities.

Keywords: religious communities, minority rights, discrimination, legal personality, the case-law of the international tribunals