



General Assembly

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Resolution 2 (2014)

Adopted by the Human Rights Council at its
1st meeting, on 11 April 2014

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to, inter alia, religion or belief,

Reaffirming also the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

Reaffirming further that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

Reaffirming the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance,

Deeply concerned about incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief in all regions of the world,

Deplores any advocacy of discrimination or violence on the basis of religion or belief,

Strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship,

Concerned about actions that willfully exploit tensions or target individuals on the basis of their religion or belief,

1. *Proposes* to all the Member-states to criminalize incitement to violence based on religion or belief,

2. *Invites* countries to promote dialogue with religious leaders, including those of new religious communities, provided they support universal fundamental values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law,

3. *Supports the* proper and comprehensive informing and interpreting the ways all the member-states can promote tolerance and combat violence based on religion or belief in Mass Media,

4. *Strongly urges* to improve access for people of certain belief to the places of their religion's significance,

5. *Calls upon* the states to undertake measures in cases of evident disrespect for any religious symbols as well as monuments and cemeteries;

6. *Suggests to draw attention* to the negative effects of a positive discrimination such as further alienation of some ethnic, religious groups by establishing a legal mechanism which will guarantee legal and equal rights to all such groups,

7. *Calls upon* all Member-states to implement in their educational systems principles of tolerance and respectful attitude for cultural diversity and the freedom of religion and belief,

8. *Urges* states to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and with the aim protection in accordance with international standards of human rights to take all necessary and appropriate measures, such as:

- a) calling upon governments to work in cooperation with famous persons in order to attract public attention to the whole problem of intolerance,
- b) encouraging charity programs to conduct free cultural activities for victims of discrimination based on religion beliefs.