

Accommodation and Religion

Issues, limitations and avenues for reflection

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Issues

From a legal perspective:

- Right to equality without discrimination
- Freedom of conscience
- Balancing of rights or hierarchy of rights?

From a social ethics perspective:

- Managing pluralism (promoting diversity is not enough to ensure inclusion)
- Redefining the rules for living together according to the evolving nature of society

Amselem Case (Succahs)

- Subjective concept of religion (sincere belief)
- The law and defining religion
- Exploiting religion: can intent be proven?

Multani Case (Kirpans)

- Safety issue
- Rights of others issue
- Importance of contextual variables

Critical Analysis of the Main Solutions Proposed by Taylor-Bouchard

- Laïcité: a “cure-all” solution?
- Prohibiting religious symbols in certain job groups: guarantee of neutrality?
- Intercultural dialogue: antidote to discrimination?
- Socio-economic integration: defence against “cache-misère” religion?

A Matter for Further Debate