

**AGAINST THE COMPULSORY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
IN THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLING HELSINKI!
POSSIBILITY OF EXEMPTION FROM IT TO THE LAW!
SECULAR ETHICS BACK!**

**Demonstration on Monday 18.8.2008 at 7.45–10.00 o'clock
by the European Schooling Helsinki (Ratakatu 6)**

In this state school, which was founded primarily for the children of the personnel of the European Chemicals Agency and is accredited in the European Schools system, there is a compulsory subject RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. In the European School syllabus there is a compulsory subject having as the alternatives (nominational) religious (each religion separately) and (non-denominational) ethics; the Finnish schools have the same system.

It is impossible to organize religious education satisfying all. Atheists do not accept the teaching of the doctrines and stories of the religions as truths, while religious education is just of such kind especially when small children are in question.

According to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which also binds Finland, “the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions”.

In a case concerning Finland, the (UN) Human Rights Committee, looking after the observing of this Covenant, expressed in 1981 as its views that the proposed subject “history of religions and ethics” for the children exempted from religious instruction is at least partially religious while it should have been neutral and objective and respect the convictions of the parents and guardians who do not believe in any religion. This led to the present “life philosophy” in the Finnish schools, which is practically taken the same as the ethics course in the European Schools.

Only Science could provide a neutral and objective basis for Religious Education. But as the Nature is the whole Reality for Science, this basis would imply criticism of the doctrines of religions, which would not be accepted by religious parents.

The Finnish law should permit the possibility of exemption from religious education in the European Schooling Helsinki. The easiest way would be to return secular ethics back as an alternative of religious education.

Parents, please contact us!

CAPITAL AREA ATHEISTS registered society
PÄÄKAUPUNKISEUDUN ATEISTIT RY

www.ateistit.fi, ateistit@ateistit.fi; Wallininkuja 2 C 53, 00530 Helsinki

Chairman Jouni Luukkainen; (09) 191 51443, (09) 7534 703;

jouni.luukkainen@helsinki.fi