



European Humanist Federation

international association under Belgian law

Fédération Humaniste Européenne

association internationale de droit belge

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European Humanist Federation Response to CM/Rec(2008)12

Generally, the European Humanist Federation welcomes the recommendation because: it makes it clear that the treatment of religions and non-religious convictions within intercultural education is not to promote religions and non-religious convictions as positive; in most places it is careful to include both '*religions and non-religious convictions*'.

However, we regret: that, in some parts of the memorandum the inclusive approach of saying '*religions and non-religious convictions*' is not taken and in white paper the same; that, although in many states party a majority of young people have non-religious convictions not religious ones, and that in others such young people are a very significant minority, that in those states where religions are taught about, there is still a tendency *not* to teach about non-religious worldviews. Are we being fair and balanced?

We would recommend that: the Council of Europe make consistent use of the language of '*religions and non-religious convictions*' throughout all its documentation and recommendations; the Council of Europe should give special attention to the question of how non-religious convictional facts are taught about, with a view to improving the contribution of such teaching to intercultural education.