

## Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

### Amended proposal

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his or her religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his or her religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
2. The right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief includes
  - a. the freedom for religious groups to establish and maintain appropriate charitable or humanitarian institutions
  - b. the freedom for religious groups to manage their own affairs in matters associated with religion and
  - c. the right to conscientious objection, recognised in accordance with national laws governing the exercise of this right.
3. Freedom to manifest religion or belief shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.
4. No one may be compelled to take an oath, or to take an oath in a manner, that is contrary to his or her religion or belief, or that requires him or her to express a belief that he or she does not hold.
5. Religious organisations may restrict participation, membership and provision of services and facilities of a non-commercial nature provided that the restriction is imposed
  - a. in accordance with the relevant national or European law and
  - b. by reason of, or on the grounds of, the purpose of the group or
  - c. in order to avoid causing offence, on grounds of the religion or belief to which the organisation relates, to persons of that religion or belief.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Based on Equality Act 2006 (UK).