



Media Release

Date 24 October 2008
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FCR criticizes the “Minaret Initiative”, claiming that it violates the right to equal treatment and the freedom of belief

The Federal Commission against Racism (FCR) has issued an opinion criticizing the People’s Initiative “Against the Construction of Minarets” (the “Minaret Initiative”). It claims that the initiative defames Muslims and violates religious freedom, which is protected by fundamental and human rights, and the ban on discrimination. The FCR goes on to say that it encourages fear, creates uncertainty, and is hostile to integration.

The FCR recommends that the Minaret Initiative should be rejected, contact between Muslims and non-Muslims more energetically encouraged, and preventive conflict resolution supported. In its view, Switzerland’s third-largest religious community must not be forced to worship in garages and back rooms. Instead it is important to work together with Muslims to find forms and expressions of their religious beliefs that Swiss society considers appropriate. Any construction-related regulations should be the same for everybody.

For the full position statement see:

<http://www.ekr.admin.ch/aktuell/index.html?lang=en>