

Freedom of worship and religious symbols in public life of the secular state

Summary

The article discusses the place of religious symbols in the modern secular state by presenting explanatory sentences of the European Court of Human Rights and trying to comment on them. The background of discussion is freedom of conscience and religious freedom, which are basic for modern democratic states. The conclusions are as follows: 1) manifestation of faith must be guaranteed by the state law, 2) it is an unjustified situation when state gives priority to so called “negative religious freedom” and prohibits any religious symbols, 3) secular state must not be in favor of any religion but it has the obligation to protect its own identity which is expressed by religious symbols.