



Religious Diversity and  
Secular Models in Europe –  
Innovative Approaches  
to Law and Policy

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and Secular Models  
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**Danish Regulation of Religion,  
State of Affairs and Qualitative Reflections.  
A Report on 20 Qualitative Elite Interviews**

**Niels Valdemar Vinding**

&

**Lisbet Christoffersen**

May 2012  
Centre for European Islamic Thought,  
Faculty of Theology,  
University of Copenhagen,  
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## **Index**

1. State of the Art of State, Church and Religion in Denmark .....	9
1.1 Introduction to the socio-legal frame .....	9
1.2 Religion in Denmark, legally speaking .....	12
1.3 Religion in Denmark, sociologically speaking .....	14
1.4 From 2001 to 2011 .....	17
1.5 New government – new paradigm? .....	18
2. Structural and Methodological Reflections.....	20
2.1 Legal reports: case law and templates.....	20
2.2 Danish elite interviews.....	20
2.3 Methodological reflections on the Danish qualitative interviews ....	22
2.4 Responsibilities .....	25
2.5 Structure of the report .....	26
3. Religion and Family in Denmark.....	28
3.1 Basic principles of Danish family law .....	28
3.2 State recognition of religious marriages and authority to perform marriages .....	30
3.3 Divorce.....	34
3.4 Marriage contracts and the access to divorce .....	38
3.5 Contested divorce and conflicting demands .....	39
3.6 Alternative dispute resolution and the persistent issue of parallel jurisdiction.....	41
3.7 Freedom to enter into a contract .....	43
3.8 Mixing norms? Separating norms? .....	46

## 6 *Index*

3.9 On International private law .....	47
3.10 The question of same sex marriages in Denmark .....	49
3.11. Conclusions regarding Religion and Family in Denmark .....	52
4. Religion and the Labour Market in Denmark .....	53
4.1 General introduction to Danish labour law .....	53
4.2 Religion and the labour market in general .....	54
4.3 Working hours and holidays .....	55
4.4 Religious dress and grooming codes and labour market .....	58
4.5 Religious requirements at the labour market .....	60
4.6 Subtle Changes.....	70
5. Religion and the Public Space in Denmark .....	72
5.1 Basic principles on Religion and the Public Space in Denmark .....	72
5.1.a Between the secular and the secularized.....	75
5.1.b Legislation:.....	77
5.2 On symbols; between the symbolic and the deviant.....	78
5.2.a The role of religious leaders:.....	80
5.3 Places of worship .....	80
5.3.a Places of worship - cemeteries.....	80
5.3.b Places of worship - buildings.....	83
5.3.c Protection as monuments .....	85
5.4 Schools and Religion in general.....	85
5.4.a On choice of schools: .....	86
5.4.b Religious classes .....	87
5.5 Religious dress codes in institutional public space.....	90

5.5.a The special case of the religious headwear in courts.....	93
5.6 On shaking hands: .....	95
5.7 The Royal Family.....	96
5.8 Conclusions: .....	96
6. State Support to Religions in Denmark.....	98
6.1 General introduction to the law on state support to Religions.....	98
6.2 On State Support to religious elements in media.....	101
6.3 State support to the <i>Folkekirke</i> .....	103
6.4 Subventions to different projects .....	118
6.5 Public funding of the religious leaders training.....	120
6.6 Public funding of religious heritage.....	123
6.7 Conclusions: .....	123
7. Conclusions: Basic Tensions of Religion and Secularity in Denmark .	125
7.1 Main results from the four areas of basic tensions .....	126
7.1.a Religion and Family Law .....	126
7.1.b Religion on the Labour Market.....	129
7.1.c Religion in the Public Space .....	134
7.1.d State support to Religions .....	137
7.2 Concluding reflections on the general basic tensions .....	140
7.2.a Possible tensions between individual and collective autonomy regarding religion. ....	141
7.2.b Possible tensions between collective religious freedom and other basic human rights.....	142
7.2.c Possible tensions between religious freedom and public order and/or security .....	143

## 8 *Index*

7.2.d Possible tensions between formal equal treatment of religious and non-religious individuals and collectives before the law and more substantive equal treatment.....	143
7.3 Danish conclusions of general relevance for the European and national public.....	144
7.4 Possible recommendations:.....	149
Appendix A: Bibliography.....	151
Appendix B: The Danish interview persons with short introductions.....	155
Appendix C: The Danish quotes.....	160
Appendix D: Basic Tensions of Governance of Religious Diversity.....	226
Appendix E: Danish interview questions.....	232

# 1. State of the Art of State, Church and Religion in Denmark

## 1.1 Introduction to the socio-legal frame

Presenting a status of Danish legislation and regulation of religion is in its nature a complex task that includes capturing political discourse, integral theological discussions of especially the *Folkekirke*<sup>1</sup> and a careful analysis of administrative and legal practice. It would have been a straightforward task if the Danish model of State, Church and religion relations would conform to the rudimentary models suggested by Silvio Ferrari (Ferrari & Bradney 2000) or by Roland Minnerath (2001). The Danish regulative model of these matters, however, differs in several particular ways. Regarding its history and its legal state of affairs, Danish regulations of religion can neither be said to conform to a single model based on a civil judicial structure that would allow the churches to act independently as is the case in Germany, nor can it be claimed that Denmark has a concordat or bilateral agreement between state, church and religions as in the case of many countries with majority Catholic churches, nor is Denmark a secular country with a clear separation of churches and religious communities from the state as is maybe the case in France and even more so in the United States (Christoffersen 2010B).

Rather, Denmark has a history of regulating religion that on the one hand represents a certain understanding of Lutheranism in a majority context after the religion wars (*cujus regio, ejus religio*), and on the other hand presents some strenuous and difficult compromises in Danish realpolitik. Since the constitution of 1849, Danish regulation of religion has established the Evangelical Lutheran Church firmly as one of four pillars of Danish society (§4 of the constitution, Christoffersen 2010A) coupled with a dual constitutional promise of autonomy and establishment. On the one hand, a law was promised that would establish the *Folkekirke* as a self-determining and autonomous institution independent of, but supported by the State (§66 and §4), and on the other, a law as to be made to regulate on equal terms the status of other religious communities with an expectation of similar freedoms and responsibilities as the *Folkekirke* (§69).

However, neither came into being and instead of becoming a societal institution supported by the state, the *Folkekirke* still looks more like a state church than anything imagined by Martin Luther (Andersen 2010, 393). Furthermore, the constitution applied a legal framework for explicit recognition by royal decree of those few religious communities that where

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<sup>1</sup> It is common at this stage to discuss how to translate the name of the majority Evangelical Lutheran church in Denmark, whose name directly translated means the national church or the people's church (see e.g. Christoffersen 2010A). We have chosen to use the Danish name *Folkekirke*.

already a reality in 1849. Among these is the Jewish community, which was recognized already in 1685. This system of administrative recognition was prolonged after the constitution, including a list of Christian churches, such as the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Russian congregation in Copenhagen, the Norwegian, the Swedish and the English (Anglican) Churches, the reformed churches, the Baptists, the Methodists and the Jewish Community in Denmark (Mosaisk Trossamfund) (Christoffersen 2012). The system of recognition was changed just after the Second World War so that religious communities who arrived after 1960 have only been approved, including Muslim, Buddhist, and others, leaving them relegated to the administrative competences of the ministers and permanent secretaries of changing ministerial departments and offices (Christoffersen 2012).

During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century several attempts have been made at re-igniting both the political and public debates and re-opening the legislative agendas promised in the constitution. Three short-lived crises and subsequent changes managed to put religion on the political agenda, if only to be neglected in the dawning reality of the succeeding regimes. The first change came with the constitution of 1849, three commissions were set up to clarify and begin the promised legislative processes. The two first commissions of 1853 and 1868 were marooned in internal disagreement amongst the different wings of the *Folkekirke*, and the Church Council of 1883 that was set up to finally produce a workable political, ecclesiastical and legal compromise was disbanded in 1901 when the entire political structure was reformed by introducing the parliamentary system in effect bypassing the political power of the King and forming governments based on the mandate of the popular vote.

The second change came with the political-economic arrangement of 1933 that would, firstly, end a general conflict on reduction of wages between unions and employers, secondly, avoid a threatening crisis of Danish agricultural exports and, thirdly, open for social reforms that would build the foundation for the modern welfare state. Although religion and ecclesiastical affairs had resurfaced in the Church Council active from 1928 to 1939, the religio-political agenda gave way to social reformist agenda of the labour party, who in turn backed down from a traditional leftist opposition to established religion. This reframed and re-systematized the entire social welfare system and made it primarily an issue of state rather than of other actors including the churches. In the research on the matter (Østergaard 2005, Hansen, Petersen & Petersen 2010 and others) there is wide disagreement whether the welfare state in Denmark was build on Lutheran ethics in the adaptation following N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783 – 1872), who stressed individual engagement and voluntarism, or the welfare state is the product of a social democratic agenda that succeeded to the

extent of its own obsolescence or a combination of both normative and ideological sources. No matter the case, the very nature of the crisis of the 1920's and 1930's paved the way for the social and economic empowerment instituted in the settlement of 1933. Danish welfare became a matter for the state, and religious issues disappeared once again from the political agenda.

A third attempt was made by a commission (*strukturkommissionen*) set up in 1964 to establish the nature of the relationship between state, the public and the *Folkekirke*. Then social democratic Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs, Bodil Koch (1903 – 1972), wanted to know how best to establish church and religion as the 'marrow and muscle of the people'. Unfortunately, the work of the commission ceased with a change of government and the death of the minister, and resulted in the reaffirmation of the Danish ecclesiastical law by then permanent secretary August Roesen (1909 – 1987). The interpretation he put forth was that the *Folkekirke* had become a part of the public administration and this meant that in effect the *Folkekirke* had no independent governance, that all matters pertaining to the *Folkekirke* would be regulated by the parliament and Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs in concurrence and that the bishops would remain inspectors of the *Folkekirke* and consultants to the Ministry (Roesen 1976; Huulgaard 2004, 29).

The two promised sets of legal norms that would ideally give autonomy to the *Folkekirke* and equality of religion at least among other religious communities (ideally speaking also in relation to the *Folkekirke*) never came into being. The political and public debates always ended in one sweep of change or the other, the legislative agenda was never re-awoken and the administrative handling of religious issues remained the law of the land. Over time, the best of worlds envisioned by the constitution made way for the dual reality of regulating religion in Denmark. Firstly, the sociological reality that the sheer numbers of other religions were insignificant, and secondly, the close related political reality that there were no problems to mention, no dissidents, no media attention, and most importantly, no votes in political engagement with religion, on the contrary.

From the time of the constitution until very recently, religion was thus ruled by a *modus vivendi* that dictated Denmark as Christian by history and culture on the one hand, and secular in all legal, public, and administrative matters on the other. A regime recently realized not only to be challenged, but also perhaps a myth.

This presentation of the state of affairs of Danish regulation of religion proposes in the following (1.2) a brief introduction to the legal and normative realities of contemporary Denmark, and then continues with (1.3) a brief description of the basic sociological realities. Under (1.4) the

more recent frame from 2001 to 2011 - from 11 September 2001 to the Arab spring - is presented as the very frame of the RELIGARE survey. Lastly, (1.5) a few comments on the change of government of October 2011 and how that seems to open for new waves of discussions on the roles of religion and secularity in the Danish society and also more concrete on the promises from the constitution.

### **1.2 Religion in Denmark, legally speaking**

On the surface, religion in Denmark is, legally speaking, embedded in two different regulatory regimes. The *Folkekirke* is regulated as a public, administrative body in public law, whereas all other religious communities are regulated under private law as associations, charities or private institutions. From a legal, organizational and administrative point of view, there is thus little qualitative difference between the *Folkekirke* and any other public administrative body. This is the conclusion to be drawn from Roesen's interpretation. The other religious communities are regulated just as any other private association with no regard for the idea that the organisation or community is religious.

This regulatory approach can be said to be pragmatic with a conclusion derived from a legal fact. As such, Roesen's interpretation was very much in line with the jurisprudence of legal realism, which in the framing of Danish professor of law Alf Ross (1899 - 1979) was the prevalent jurisprudence in the second half of the 20th century (Ross 1946, 1957). The legal realism we see in Denmark is part of a boarder trend called the Uppsala school of legal thinking that was inspired by Swedish philosopher Axel Hägerström (1868 – 1939). He, and thus in turn legal realism, was rooted in reason and a positivist approach to legislation, which places law as a necessary condition for organized social life (Bjarup 2005, 2010). Legal realism is marked by the pragmatic conclusions to be drawn from legal positivism and it denies that there is any valid law that is not positively established, such as natural law or religious informal law.

It is within this understanding that Denmark claims to be secular. Secularism is not a matter of public policy or a product of deliberate legislation. The legal and political pragmatism that claims this secularism considers itself realism and maintains that there is in legislation and in administration no consideration for the legal conclusions to be drawn from religion. Secularism is pragmatic and therefore understood as realistic. It is, however, difficult to see where secularism was historically and structurally embedded in Denmark.

Most striking is the changing interpretations of Martin Luther's idea of two realms, a spiritual and a secular. These two normative realms have in periods been understood as establishing a distinction between normative theological and spiritual arguments on the one hand and secular legal and

organizational ruling norms on the other, meaning that all legislative and organizational powers also with regard to the church were in the secular hands of the King, the Parliament etc. In later periods, not least in the current 21<sup>st</sup> century, the argument reappears or maybe even prevails that the distinction should also include a distinction between on the one hand the outer organisation of the Church as a spiritual entity, led under spiritual legal norms by religious leaders and on the other hand the secular affairs of the state, led by democratic regimes (Andersen 2010).

No matter how the theological interpretations are to be understood, it is a historic fact that the institutions of state and of the Church were built on the same historical roots and there seems to be what has been coined as an ‘internal convergence but an external divergence’ (Modéer 2010, 61). Or rather, separation was unimaginable and distinction was imprudent as the King had absolute jurisdiction, as he was the head and legislator of both state and Church. The overlap in structure can be seen in ‘Danish Law’ from 1683 where the Penal Code is ordered according to the prohibitions and directives of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:2-17; Deut. 5:6-21). As such, the law enacted by God in the commandments was codified and policed by the King. Furthermore, those who were Danish were by definition Christian Lutheran, and those not Christian Lutheran were by the same logic foreigners.

As mentioned, a clearer distinction between state and church was added in the constitution some 166 years later, but it stopped just short of separation. The first four articles of the constitution can be said to demarcate the jurisdiction or, figuratively speaking, erect the pillars on which the modern state was build. The first articulates the geographical territory of Denmark, the second establishes the monarchy, the third enacts the division of powers and the principles of justice, and the fourth establishes the *Folkekirke* (Zahle 2006; Christoffersen 2010, 147). This means that although the *Folkekirke* and minority religious affairs were to be regulated autonomously, they were to be so within the organizational frame of the constitution. In this sense, the *Folkekirke* – in parallel analogy to the Monarchy and the institutions of power – were both constituent to and subjects of the rule of law and democracy, as defined in the rest of the constitution.

To the extent that Denmark can be said to be secular, it is so in the logic of legal realism, and the Danish paradigm of regulating religion exposes itself to the same criticisms that legal realism did. This includes the notions of non-voluntarism, scepticism and the insistence on laws that must be based on social fact and regulate social behaviour. However, exactly based in social realities, the normative power of religious morals seems to be resurgent.

### **1.3 Religion in Denmark, sociologically speaking**

Denmark is commonly thought to be a homogeneous country with one language, one faith and one people (Gundelach *et al* 2008, 15). However, if this ever was the case, it is certainly not any more. A brief overview of the basic quantitative data concerning demography, religions in Denmark, and Danish religiosity is therefore in order, before supplementing and comparing with the qualitative data from the socio-legal RELIGARE survey.

Looking for demographically reliable numbers regarding religiosity in Denmark is difficult, because public registration of religious affiliation is illegal. This means that the numbers used by Danish scholars are generally gathered either from polling or from the faith based organizations that are able to supply them, which is then calibrated by looking at other statistics, at other countries, at migratory patterns and so on. In such cases, it is important to differentiate between proper membership and other degrees of affiliation and engagement, and scholars should be aware of the problems of defining or limiting one religious group from another (Warburg 2007, 6-7). Regardless of how the scholar proceeds, any survey is likely to favour one group, denomination or interpretation and alienate another. However, no matter how many caveats and reservations researchers bring with the quantitative surveys, the number will usually be boiled down accordingly.

In 2009, the national agency Statistics Denmark ran the numbers from the Central Person Registry and concluded that as of January 1<sup>st</sup> there were 4,492,121 registered members of the *Folkekirke* (Lodberg 2009, p. 12). This translates to about 81.5% of the entire population. As of July 2011, the number of members was 4,463,981, the equivalent of 80.2% ([www.dst.dk](http://www.dst.dk)). These numbers are as precise as they get, but there is a certain margin of error. Amongst the errors counts the fact that as an administrative default the tax returns count people who haven't actively opted out as members of the *Folkekirke*. This means that the number given includes new taxpayers, migrants and people of other faiths who think the *Folkekirke* is worth supporting. And thus, the number does not reflect the actual number of Christians affiliated with and/or baptized into the *Folkekirke*. Furthermore, the numbers are considered soft because sociology of religion scholars are able to demonstrate that the number of members who celebrate on a regular basis is as low as between 2% and 10% (Religion i Danmark 2011).

As for the second largest religion in Denmark, Islam, the numbers are a little harder to come by and most rely on estimates. Jacobsen (2010) in *Yearbook of Muslims in Europe* estimates a rough 225,000 Muslims tying closely with *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life* (2009) who estimates 226,000 while *International Religious Freedom Report* (2010) maintains a more modest 199,000 and the *CIA World Fact Book* is further off with 110,200 Muslims in Denmark (Jacobsen, 2012). Using the numbers most

agree on, we can estimate Muslims to roughly 4.0% of the entire population. The demographic problems mentioned above are accentuated when looking at Muslims, because it is unclear who is to define who is a Muslim and who is not. There are many different denominations and observations within Islam, and even further levels of engagement and commitment, not to mention the fact that these statistics are often blind to the difference between ethnicity, nationality and proper religious affiliation (Jeldtoft 2009, p. 9-14). In addition, media and public political agendas makes Muslims out of people that never were, such as orthodox Christians, Armenians and all those who do not consider themselves members of any faith (Spielhaus 2010). The fact of the matter is that the numbers mentioned are operationalized for the very purpose of producing a single number (Jacobsen, 2012). As for organization, only an estimated 10% of the 225,000 are associated with a recognized or approved Muslim congregation (Religion i Danmark 2011, 7). In Denmark, most Muslims still organize according to the ethnic and language dividers and thus, so far the Muslims in Denmark have been unable to unite different wings and factions of Islam under one networking organization that is capable of representing Muslims to State and the rest of Danish society. There have been several attempts at creating such umbrella organizations, the largest of which are the United Council of Muslims, Danish Muslim Union, Muslims in Dialogue and a few others (Jacobsen 2007, 156-157).

The third largest religious group in Denmark is the Catholic, who as the Catholic Church in Denmark is enumerated at 39,067 with 47 different congregations. Also here numbers are soft. Based on estimations of participation at the services, immigration from typically Catholic countries, estimation of double or default membership of the *Folkekirke*, the number of Catholics in Denmark is most often estimated as a little more than 50,000 (1% of the Danes). The Catholics in Denmark follow the Holy See in Rome and are under the authority of Danish-born bishop Czeslaw Kozon. Catholics in Denmark were from the reformation to the constitution of 1849 considered residing foreigners, but were in 1682 allowed to practise their somewhat 'deviant' faith (Oftestad 2010). With freedom of religion in 1849, the Catholic Church was re-established in Denmark with considerable growth around 1900, and again in recent years the Catholics in Denmark have seen a considerable growth, being the fastest growing Christian denomination. This is mainly due to the ability of the Catholic Church to attract and maintain immigrants from Catholic countries as well as European migrant workers, especially after Poland joined the European Union in 2004 (Religion i Danmark 2011, 31).

The fourth group to be mentioned specifically are the Jews in Denmark who as of 2011 are an estimated 8,000 according to the Jewish Community in Denmark ([www.mosaiske.dk](http://www.mosaiske.dk)), but others estimate somewhere between

5-6,000 (Religion i Danmark 2011, 16) and others again, also including individuals of Jewish background would estimate around 15,000 (BL interview, 2011). In sharp contrast to the Catholics, membership of the mainstream Jewish Community in Denmark is in steep decline, as there were roughly 3,000 members in year 2000, but now only between 2,400 and 2,200 (Religion i Danmark 2011, 98). An ultra-orthodox and a reform Jewish community exist alongside with the old, mainstream community. The head of the mainstream Community is Chief-Rabbi Bent Lexner who functions both as rabbi to the congregation in rituals and celebration and as head of the interim rabbinical triumvirate, 'Beth Din,' that settles disputes on a formal and an informal basis (BL interview, 2011).

The religious landscape further includes an approximate 77 Christian and Christianity inspired organizations and some another 50,000 believers (including Baptists, Pentecostals and others); there are roughly 25,000 Buddhists and 11 Buddhist groups with 7,200 members; there are roughly 13,000 Hindus and some 8-9 Hindu organizations with approximate 6-800 members (Religion i Danmark 2011).

Last but not least, it is prudent to mention those who are not affiliated with any faith. Of those, there is an estimated and growing number of 10-13% (Religion i Danmark 2011). A new-age-inspired journal does a print run of 85,000 copies, which is more than all the main Christian journals and newspapers all in all. Only the Bible Society has a print run which is higher.

From the numbers mentioned above, from interviews, from reports made by official and independent agencies and researchers, it is safe to conclude that freedom of religion exists in Denmark to a very great extent and most religious groups report that there are not many conflicts over issues of pluralism, acceptance and accommodation (e.g. BL interview, 2011). Also, it can be maintained – as a former Prime Minister did – that Denmark is a secular country that respects, but limits the space available for religion. Thus, not much research needs to be done before it becomes apparent that freedom of religion is perhaps not carved in stone and that very profound differences have been present since the reformation and were present when the Danish constitution was enacted in 1849. Neither culture, nor language, nor religion are static ideas, but are and must be debated, reinterpreted and reconstructed in our ongoing deliberation of what we were, who we are, and who we are becoming. This is reflected in the recent changes in the public debate and in political agendas, where religions these past 25 years seem to be resurgent. This means that it is difficult to maintain secularism understood as strict separation, but must rather be seen as distinction and differentiation within those conglomerate institutions that are both state and religion.

Administration and government, by extension, remains secular, but how secularism as a concept applies to the discourses, to legislation, to public debate and to communities, remains to be seen throughout the survey report.

#### **1.4 From 2001 to 2011**

A particular long series of cases concerning the management of the inner life of the *Folkekirke* has emerged in the latter part of the 1990's and throughout the last decade. The cases concern everything from baptism as basis for membership and the duties of priests as employees to the sanctity of a Church that harbours refugees and the financial independence of the *Folkekirke*. It seems that the fact of these cases express a growing realization that the *Folkekirke* is or needs to be a church that has an autonomous regulative right and responsibility. However, the limits of this autonomous right to regulate the inner and doctrinal aspects of the church should be tested continuously at the civil courts, in order to keep with the existing rights given by the State and the European Union. Provisions of the government or the administrative departments of state should not do it.

The sub-theme of Islam and Muslims emerges in this period and becomes gradually more explicit in the debate, and commentators on the hard right, among hard secularists and in the most conservative sections of the *Folkekirke* started to make themselves heard. It was an unfortunate coincidence that a general election was called in November 2001, since under the impact of 11 September 2001 the political debate on 'what to do about foreigners and refugees' became focused on Islam and Muslims. The final major tightening of immigration and refugee law was pushed through by the new government to place Denmark at that time among the most restrictive countries in the European Union.

It is important to note that since 2001 Denmark has in many ways been functioning at two different levels with little overt relationship between the two. In the public debate – in the media and in national politics – there has been a strong polemic over the question of 'foreigners' and Islam, often used almost interchangeably. The cartoons crisis of 2005-6 took place in this context (Christoffersen 2006; Christoffersen 2010). The other level has been the local, especially in the areas characterized by significant ethnic plurality, especially but not only in certain districts of the three largest cities: Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense. Here there has been a strong record of constructive integration activities supported both by local government and local voluntary associations both secular and religious.

The Danish state's understanding of religion and partly its social welfare dimension; the current lack of constitution for the church; the debates on values, 'Danishness', immigration and Islam, the cartoons crisis; and perhaps even more relevant and recently, the Danish government's support

of the revolutions in the Middle East and the military action in Libya, are all symptoms of how religion as such has been kept out of the continuous legislative agenda in parliament and relegated to be regulated at the administrative level of government. However, and this is the breadth of the contrast, save the economy, almost every public debate over legislation was in one way or the other related to values, immigrants, policing diversity, war in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, and so on.

Even though this report takes its point of origin in an ongoing and very internal debate about how to understand the political events of the past and in the present, it will very soon become clear how a national debate on values has been emerging the past ten years which has had distinct influence on how the Danes now are reinterpreting the Lutheran heritage, the responsibility of the welfare state and the role of religion in the public sphere. A national debate is forming and the very essence of the distinct 'Danish model' is on the agenda.

### **1.5 New government – new paradigm?**

It is too early to assess the impact of the new left-of-centre government, which took office in early October 2011. It has been suggested that the change of government might lead to a change of the tone of the public debate. Some of the remarks made by leading politicians in the government as well as by some in the main ex-government, now opposition parties suggest that there is a general weariness with the character of the debate since 2001, and we may be at a point where it may be possible to debate all the issues of a multicultural and multi-religious society in a less heated atmosphere.

Perhaps this new government will go further than minimal expectations warrant. In its political foundational document, the Government envisages a commission to suggest changes in legal and economic governance of the *Folkekirke*, and Danish Society for Ecclesiastical Law recently published a draft report titled 'A Constitution for the Church anno 2011' in an attempt to re-ignite both the public and the political debate about the future of the church (Christensen *et al* 2011).

Any future model must be built on firm legal basis out of concern for the inner life of the *Folkekirke* and the equality of religious communities, and will thus – at the same time – strengthen, accommodate and clarify the different and mutual positions in Denmark regarding triangular relationship between the secular state, the free religious communities and the re-established *Folkekirke*. It seems the original intent of giving the *Folkekirke* and religious communities their own distinct legislation and freedom to organize their internal affairs would not only overcome some of the many challenges posed today, but would in accordance with European legislation and the desires of the religious communities absolve the need for a distinct

Danish model that in identity and values protects Denmark against the religious other and the illusory 'unknown'.

## **2. Structural and Methodological Reflections**

### **2.1 Legal reports: case law and templates**

This report is written as a Danish contribution to the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme project 'RELIGARE – Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe.' The RELIGARE project can be seen as a socio-legal comparative investigation building its results on different types of data collection all related to the four topics of interest within RELIGARE, namely Religion and Family Law, Religion and Labour Law, Religion and Public Space, and Religion and State Support.

Early in the life of RELIGARE it was decided to establish a database with reports of legal cases, relevant for these four fields of interest. The database is limited in time to the years from 2000 and onwards. It contains 20 Danish court cases from this period. They will all be included in the discussion in this report.

It has also been decided to establish templates in order to give a clear and concise series of answers of sub-topics within the four fields of interest. Each of these templates contains information regarding the basic legislation in the area. Each mentions in a short form relevant court cases, which are correlated with the database, and formulate recommendations from the national research team within the field of interest. The Danish team has discussed the content of the templates parallel with the content of this report. This means that the recommendations as expressed in the templates are built on legal knowledge of relevant legislation and court cases, and on the results of the qualitative interviews. Thus all information from the templates can be found in this report in relation to the relevant fields of interest.

The reports on Danish case law and the Danish templates are collected by stud.jur. Mr Badar Shah under the supervision of Professor Hanne Petersen, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. The recommendations in the templates have been discussed within the full Danish RELIGARE team.

### **2.2 Danish elite interviews**

It was decided from the beginning of the project to establish knowledge on the function of law and religion relations within the four fields of interest through conducting a series of qualitative interviews with elite persons.<sup>2</sup> This investigation is planned in a work package aimed at this dimension. The Danish team Professor Lisbet Christoffersen has been a member from the very beginning. The interviews are conducted in six

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<sup>2</sup> See for a discussion of the concept of elites and for the relevance of studying elites in Jytte Klausen 2005, 215 ff.

European states, chosen so that they represent the existing models for State, law and religion relations combined with representing existing normative or religious traditions.<sup>3</sup> The Danish case was selected in order to show current elite reflections on a traditionally strong state influence on religious governance combined with a traditionally strong presence of Protestantism.

The Danish RELIGARE group conducted 20 interviews in 2011. Among them were nine female and eleven male. They represented people in ages from 26 to 79 and they represented minority and majority perspectives on religion, both old and more recent ones.

After having finished the interviews and sent chosen quotations to the interviewees for approval, two of the male interviewees decided that they did not want to contribute to the investigation. Among the remaining interviewees are five elite individuals from political, administrative and judicial contexts in Denmark and European Union. There are two spokesmen from labour unions and other nationally independent organisations. There are six elites from Christian churches and comparable acknowledged or approved religious and faith-based organisations. There are five central both secular and religious voices from the public discourse. All interviewees are Danish nationals. It should be stressed, as has all our interviewees done, that nobody speaks on behalf of the organizations he or she is normally linked to in the Danish public.

The interviewees were identified in order to give voice to different positions in Danish society with regard to religious and secular norms. The idea was to have both male and female interviewees from different generations, with different religious backgrounds, representing as nuanced a picture of institutional functions as possible, thus the Danish survey includes politicians from parliament and municipalities, leading civil servants, judges, labour unions, organisations in civil society such as human rights institutions, academics in public, leading voices from different types of religious communities.

The focus on elites means that this qualitative survey is focused on established understandings and norms rather than on the recent shifts of positions or changes from below. Precisely therefore, the clear changes and critiques concerning established law in these interviews are even more relevant to focus on. It is characteristic for elites that they are attuned to society. They may hold power in their position, they are good

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<sup>3</sup> The other countries with qualitative interviews are France (traditionally Catholic/Secular with major Muslim immigration); Netherlands (traditionally pluralistic with a predominance of Reformed Christianity); England (traditionally Anglicanism in minority, major not least Hindu immigration); Bulgaria (traditionally Orthodox with major minority of before ruling Muslims); Turkey (secular state with absolute majority of Muslims).

communicators, often very busy, may have something to defend and something to protect at the same time as having an active interest in profiling either themselves or a certain view on the questions raised. This qualitative survey precisely wants to show the clear interests, positions and profiles among elites with regard to the issues raised.

It has not in itself been difficult to establish contact with relevant interviewees, except regarding representatives from Hindu and Buddhist milieus, where we did not succeed in establishing contact within the given time frame. Most of the other interviewees we approached willingly accepted to give an interview.<sup>4</sup> The interviewees were identified through several discussions in the Danish team, which demonstrates a very central point when it comes to this Danish survey. Denmark is a very small country, only 5.5 million people, and many individuals are rather well known public and identifiable profiles. Some of them thus have hyphenated identities meaning that they are not only seen as e.g. representing a legal role, but also a religious identity at the same time.

The individual profile was clearly established as we began each interview by asking the interviewee about his or her combined identity as this not only states the professional but also personal, social and religious background. In a society where religious affiliation is not frequently asked about, albeit tacitly known of most, this way of opening the interviews has been very interesting and conductive.

Appendix B gives a short biographical introduction of each interviewee, including their information regarding not only professional, but also personal life and background as well as religious or non-religious position. Each individual interviewee has approved the introduction.

### **2.3 Methodological reflections on the Danish qualitative interviews**

When analysing the list of interviewees, one could think that the *Folkekirke* is underrepresented, compared to the amount of members in the population, whereas Muslim, other Christian, other faith backgrounds and norm sets seem overrepresented.

A closer look, however, reveals what is obvious in the Danish society as such, that all interview persons represent hyphenated identities, many of which combining a professional background with sort of link to the *Folkekirke*. Of these professionals, most represent a conventional cultural-

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<sup>4</sup> It should be mentioned that we first approached a judge from Supreme Court who did not find it acceptable in her function to contribute, whereas a judge from high court also functioning as chair of the equality body was helpful. Whereas, as mentioned, two interviewees declined to participate after having seen the transcribed version and the possible quotations. These individuals are not identified in this text and not among the group of 18 interviewees.

Christian understanding of not only Christianity, but also of the role of the *Folkekirke* in the Danish society. By including these reflections, it is our understanding that we have been able to include all dimensions of relations to the *Folkekirke*.

This also means that even though they are all identified on basis of a rather clear single identity, they each had a much broader interest in the fields which seemed also to be some of the background for their acceptance of giving the interviews. Thus all supposed secular interviewees had a religious or mixed either religious or secular or even clearly decided secular identity. Many interviewees also had combined identities with regard to national background. One was, e.g., an adopted child from South-East Asia, another being married to a national from another European state, a third having a deliberate conversion from the national church apparently to an eastern religion behind him as a grown up, not part of his public identity, but part of his reflections on the topic, a fourth being a convert, a fifth administratively stationed abroad, and so on.

It is characteristic that only the interviewees representing humanist standpoints, inner mission and one of the Muslim representatives, all male in the 30's, had rather singular identity profiles. At the same time, their standpoints are as a rule close to each other, even though one should have expected differently.

There is a clear generational dimension in the responses. A traditional link to the *Folkekirke* is seen as normal for the interviewees at an age around 60, whereas interviewees around 40 all have very clear and deliberate standpoints – ranging from supporting the *Folkekirke* to fighting for change – and finally the only interviewee with an already-decided-upon relation to being not member of any religious organisation is the single interviewee in the 20's.

There seems also to be a gender-dimension in our interviews. All interviewees are well educated and have – or have access to – very well paid and highly branded jobs. Especially the women, however, seem to represent what can be seen as a class journey and a journey into higher education than the previous generation. Most of them have kept relations with religion during this journey. Religion generally and the *Folkekirke* specifically has for these women provided room for reflection, a space for thankfulness and time to grief. These women – and probably also some of the men, especially those relating to the *Folkekirke* – thus represent a very traditional intertwined identity, because they at the same time do not want church to decide over them or for them. Pluralism, flexibility, concrete contextualised analyses and solutions combining secular and religious norms are very characteristic for them. There are of course exceptions, also among the women. One woman has decided to establish a public voice from the formal position as a housewife. She fights against politicized

religion in society and for the role of the *Folkekirke*. Generally, we see a late religious modernity among the female interviewees – in opposition to what could be called moral panic with regard to a supposed role for Islam in the West or the decay of values. Remaining in the gender perspective it was our early assumption that the male interviewees represented a bigger ambivalence and to a larger extent leaning towards traditional solutions depending on the religious background. It remains, however, contested in the report whether the male religious and secular leaders are more traditional than female secular and religious leaders.

The qualitative interviews are supported by a general framework phrased and structured by the leader of the work package, Professor Veit Bader, Amsterdam. Subsequently an interview guide in Danish was produced in order to make the common idea of the ‘basic tensions’ clear in a Danish context. Lisbet Christoffersen usually made the first contact to each interviewee through mail or telephone. Having agreed on participation, this was followed up by a standard mail from the student assistant Ms Karen Giødesen, who tirelessly worked as research assistant on the project, affirmed the settled time for the interview and sent the papers in order for the interviewee to prepare. All interviews were conducted by Lisbet Christoffersen many of them together with PhD fellow Niels Valdemar Vinding. It was stressed both in the mail and in the beginning of each interview that the interview had the character of a conversation, led by Lisbet Christoffersen, and that the focus was on reflections on the side of the interviewee, not on ‘correct answers’ to any of the given questions.

Most of the interviews were conducted at the office of the interviewee and each interview has taken between one and two hours. All interviews were transcribed to Danish and collected by Karen Giødesen. These files are known only to the members of the Danish RELIGARE team, but they are protected by confidentiality, promised to each interviewee that the transcription – in part or entirety – cannot be used by anybody else.

Within the European frame it had been agreed that all transcribed interviews should be translated into English and placed on the internal database. After having conducted the first two interviews, a long process was established in order to have the first interviewee to accept the full, transcribed version. However, this took a disproportionate amount of time. The second interviewee refused to approve a full transcription on grounds of his role in the Danish public. The Danish group then decided another strategy. A short version should be identified by the interview leader and subsequently approved by the individual interviewee. However, this proved counterproductive to the survey as both the interests of the interviewees and the survey in our small country concerns what they say and think in the context of the investigation. The final agreement with the interviewees has been that each shall approve all direct quotations from the interviews. On

the basis of a draft of this report, a document with the relevant quotations for each single interview person was presented and approved.

Danish society being what it is and the interviewees on top level being open minded in answering, our responsibility is to find the feasible manner to reflect this trust in our presentation of the findings, both in relation to the European project and in relation to the Danish audience. The strategy, here presented, seems now sufficient for all parties.

The question of anonymity is also difficult in this small country. As it is, any scholar with knowledge of Danish state and religion affairs can decipher the list of interviewees in appendix D. It is however on purpose that we have chosen not to use full names, since even though the persons are rather recognizable in a Danish context the possibility of tracing their identity in a broader European context has been minimized through the use of initials.<sup>5</sup>

## **2.4 Responsibilities**

The transcribed interviews from the Danish survey consist of approximately 600 single spaced pages. Lisbet Christoffersen and Niels Valdemar Vinding have read through these pages carefully. Professors Jørgen S. Nielsen and Hanne Petersen have likewise had the possibility to read all interviews and have contributed to general reflections in the results.

Niels Valdemar Vinding, with his background as a Bachelor in Theology, a Master in Islamic Studies and currently PhD fellow working on Islam in Europe, and Lisbet Christoffersen, who with a legal background is a professor of law, religion and society, wrote the report in collaboration and are jointly responsible for the result.

Vinding wrote a full first draft of chapter one on the State of the Art in Denmark. Christoffersen has written a full first draft of chapter two on structure and methodology. Vinding has written full first drafts on the chapters on Religion and Family Law and on Religion in the Public Space. Christoffersen has written full first drafts of the chapters on Religion and the Labour Market matters and on State support to Religions. The concluding chapter was written.

Earlier drafts (versions from September, October, November, January, February and April) have been discussed also with professor Jørgen S. Nielsen, director of the Centre for European Islamic Thought and leader of the Danish RELIGARE group, and Hanne Petersen, professor of Legal Cultures and member of the Danish RELIGARE group, at several half-day seminars with the assistance of Ms Karen Giødesen and Mr Badar Shah.

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<sup>5</sup> A Norwegian elite investigation within NOREL envisages the same problem, formulated as 'A Norwegian Baptist leader...', meaning that any Norwegian scholar would know whom that is. They use the same solutions as we have done here.

The foci of these meetings have been on methodology, on main findings, on relations to the reporting instruments used in RELIGARE context, on the concluding chapter, and on recommendations.

As part of the process, the relevant quotations have been controlled by Giødesen who has also received confirmation and approval from the interviewees of each of the Danish quotations used in the report. Christoffersen has focussed especially on framing the report, on methodology and on discussions of the results of the interviews. Each chapter reporting results from the interviews opens with a contextual frame and gives a presentation of the main legislation. These parts have been cross-referred with the findings from Shah and Petersen. Shah has also been responsible for the translation of all Danish quotations into English. At the end, Nielsen has been through the entire report.

We wish to thank Theological Pedagogical Centre, Løgumkloster, for a very kind and generous acceptance of our application to stay in their refuge study rooms while writing the report. We wish to thank the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme and the RELIGARE management and leadership for the opportunity to contribute with insights from the Danish context. Thanks also to stud.scient.adm Jakob Dorph Broager for helping with the transcriptions and to PhD fellow Leila Stockmarr for helping with the early interviews. We are extraordinarily grateful to the continuous effort of the always-at-the-ready student assistants, Ms Karen Giødesen and Mr Badar Shah. Their assistance, help and support have been invaluable and a continuous resource.

Above anything else, we wish to thank the Danish interviewees for their time and commitment to this report. We hope it truthfully reflects their thoughts, while we stress that the sole and entire responsibility remains with the authors.

## **2.5 Structure of the report**

The paper of November 2010, 'Basic Tensions' by Veit Bader (appendix D), which was discussed in the group organising this investigation on basis of recommendations from other work package leaders has been structuring the investigation. The paper is framed as a series of tensions or conflicts between rights. The idea was that this report should be organised according to the same lines.

At the meeting in Sofia in October 2011, RELIGARE however decided to formulate a series of topics for so-called template issues. The templates are formulas presenting legal structure, current court cases and recommendations in one overview. The idea was that the socio-legal report and the templates should include the same list of topics, that is: answer the same questions. Some of the questions are slightly different from the series of topics stemming from the basic tensions paper. The common agreement

became that the socio-legal reporters should reflect also on topics included in the new list and as far as possible give response also on these topics.

In order to be able to do so, this report is organised around the new list of topics, which means that the report follows the template issues. That should make it easier to compare legal and socio-legal knowledge. The report as such is introduced through a discussion of general questions, called basic tensions. Each of the four fields is also introduced through a discussion of general issues within that field, stemming from the Danish socio-legal investigation. The report thus combines a reading of the results of the Danish interviews with relevant reflections of two overlapping, but not identical lists of questions (basic tensions and template issues).

Each of the four fields will be given a short introduction on the legal status within the field. This legal status builds on and includes information given from the Danish team into the data bank of court cases and from the Danish team into the list of templates.

The socio-legal data in the report – the quotations from the interviews – thus function as a critique and discussion of the legal state of the art. By using this structure of the report it should be possible to use the templates as preliminary information about the legal status within the area combined with recommendations where relevant; and then use this report as an in-depth analysis of the same topics.

### 3. Religion and Family in Denmark

#### 3.1 Basic principles of Danish family law

Historically, in 1536 the Reformation introduced a secularisation of Danish family law, meaning that the competence area shifted from church law to state law. The state, however, upheld the church as the main provider of the legal status as married and in principle this has never been completely separated.

Regarding *marriage*, in Denmark, a couple that wants established legal solutions to govern their relation may marry according to Danish law (Law on marriage and divorce, LBK nr 38 of 15/01/2007). The condition is that marriage is between two people, because polygamy is prohibited and the parties must both be over the age of 18. Marriage can be performed at the mayor's office or within the *Folkekirke*, since the ministers in the *Folkekirke* are authorised by law to perform marriages with civil consequences. In addition, priests in other churches, the Rabbi and a group of Imams have been authorised to perform marriages under the condition that the religious community is recognized or approved to have this function and that at least one of the parties are members of that community. The legal conditions of such marriages are under Danish law, meaning that the religious marriage by a priest in the *Folkekirke* or in e.g. the Catholic Church does not give that marriage any legal dimension of being religious (Lutheran or Catholic). The practical understanding among people might, however, be different.

*Divorce* is only possible if the couple has been officially married and the state authorities dissolve such marriage, no religious leader has any official role in regard to a divorce. If not, there can be a case on interpretation of a contract on the economic dimensions of marriage and on custody to the children. The *Folkekirke* is not authorized to grant a divorce, and neither is it an issue addressed to the local minister. The ministers are always willing to give advice or help facilitate reconciliation if so wished by the parties involved, but this happens on an individual basis, and there are many secular, established or alternative counselling services available in Denmark. When discussing divorce in the Danish context, there is a general albeit pessimistic common impression – based on statistics – that roughly half of marriages end in divorce. Usually divorce is granted following a one-year period of separation and custody is granted following administrative decisions or court decisions on relevant factors and the wishes of any children there may be. If there are circumstances that call for an immediate divorce such as domestic violence or infidelity, the civil courts may grant that as well.

*Cohabitation*. A couple that are at age can choose to live together without any legal consequences and with no legal formalities. The only

condition is that both parties are over the age prohibiting sexual intercourse, which is 15 years of age. If one of the parties is under 15, the case can be brought for the courts as a criminal law case. Cohabitation is widespread in Denmark, and also common among religious groups who do not follow Danish family law. In Muslim milieus this way of living is mapped in a recent report on concepts and norms within practices, parallel to the Danish legal system (Liversage & Jensen 2011). The report names these practices among Muslim groups *Nikah-relations*. These types of relations seem to be widespread and they are established under the blessing of imams from different groups, also imams who have the official right to perform official marriages.

*Custody* is a public law decision. The parents can make internal agreements and arrangements, but any of them can always bring a case for the public administration, and the social authorities always have a final say over custody over children, living in Denmark.

*Economic relations through and after the marriage.* The general principle in Danish law is that the parties equally share burdens, responsibilities and fortunes, each of them taking care of their own economy but with responsibility for the other. In relation to a divorce the general principle is that the property is shared equally and at death there are similar principles. All these principles regarding equal sharing of economy in a marriage can however be changed through contract, except that the couple are equally responsible for maintaining each other.

*Freedom of contract* thus is the basic principle with regard to economic relations in family law, a contract, which can always be interpreted under general norms by the courts.

*Private International Law* principles are of course only relevant if the family has a relation to another country than Denmark. The basic principle in Danish Private International Law is – contrary to most European countries – domicile. Consequently Danish domicile brings a case under Danish law, even though one or both parties are not Danish citizens. Domicile means in the Danish context the place where the parties live with the intention to stay there, i.e. both an objective and a subjective factor. If a legal status – such as marriage – is performed under the law of another country, the question with regard to Danish law is only whether or not this status can be recognized, that is: whether or not the couple can be acknowledged as a married couple. There is however not a question about acknowledging the foreign legal consequences of the marriage since they – according to the basic principle – will be judged under Danish law. A case on divorce or other conflicts over status, raised in Denmark, will be judged according to Danish law, not according to foreign law.

These general norms are however changed through a Nordic convention, the EU-convention and the Haag-convention.

Relevant cases:

**CRD2001.1998-540-84** – Following a divorce, a parent adhering to Hare Krishna was denied full custody over their child.

**U.2002.690Ø** – The courts refused to recognize an Islamic divorce and sentenced a man 60 days in prison, as he was condemned of bigamy.

**V2003.B-1791-03** – A prior religious marriage was not recognized by the court but a divorce, to a second wife, was allowed.

**U.2005.2314Ø** – After a divorce, the concept of Mahr was explained and the courts deemed it analogous to a gift.

**OE2006.B-3980-05** – Following a divorce, a child custody contract made by an imam was nullified by the court.

**OE2008.B-1005-08** – Following a divorce, the mother feared that the father of the three children would transport them to Pakistan for a more religious upbringing. The court deemed that there was no flight risk.

### **3.2 State recognition of religious marriages and authority to perform marriages**

The Danish state grants key religious personnel of all the recognized and acknowledged religions the authority to perform a marriage ritual that is recognised by the state.

All of the interviewees we spoke to concerning the legal status of marriage, the religious dimensions of marriage and the protection of legal rights of rule of law confirm a general respect for the public order, and many of them were making clear that the internal affairs of a religious community were safely within the public demands.

As a human rights lawyer, JC sees the religious performance of marriages as an obvious part of freedom of religion that should be granted by reference to the civil code. If religions want recognition of marriage it must be within the established Danish public order:

JC: “They must interpret what their religion warrants them. In my view, in a democratic society, one must try to regulate it by saying that the basis of our society is that we do it this way. If they desire something else, then they must carry the burden of the argument, that there is something else, something contrary to what is valuable to us; something which we have democratically decided must be like this. So in a way, they are subject to the decisions of the Danish democracy.” (Quote 3.01)

JC goes on to nuance his position when asked where, then, he would draw the line if minority wishes and priorities conflict with either human rights concerns or state legislation:

JC: “[It has to be] ... within the public order and what does that mean? It’s easy

enough for lawyers to say that we will recognize the marriage unless it goes against the public order but what exactly is that? There I believe you will have to come down and say that it will be a very solid, political evaluation of what we can accept in the Danish society, vis-à-vis ‘odd arrangements’ which ‘weird people’ from ‘strange religions’ bring and want us to tolerate in the name of humanism. That is there where the dilemma arises. How far must we go? The starting point must be that there can be nothing that disallows you from doing things differently, as long as it is not provocative, in regards to our values. Where that limit goes that is extremely individual. It will have to be decided on a societal level.” (Quote 3.02)

PVB, the young female left wing politician, herself a theologian, was asked about whether or not it would be easier just to have a civil marriage and let the religious communities decide themselves on their different sorts of blessings etc:

PVB: “This is the right solution, which is always thrown on the suggestion table and which I myself have suggested whenever the issue has been homosexual marriages, when it’s about something we don’t [...] When it becomes difficult in regards to the marriage authorities within these authorized faith communities, then it is must easier to say: Let’s pull it all away, and then nobody is allowed to do it. You could also imagine that you begin a dialogue with the imams about what the components of the Danish society are, because I believe the other approach can result in a lot of shadowboxing or it can make it so that you never truly understand what is going on. Then you undermine the authority of the imams. Some would think that that is quite all right. I would think that it would be unfair to all those who know how to follow the rules.” (Quote 3.03)

Also the Bishop from the *Folkekirke* sees the right to perform marriages as part of a traditional freedom of religion concept in the Danish society. He does see the tendency to understand the religiously performed marriage as also including religious-legal norms, but he does not think that would change if marriages had to be performed civilly before the religious ceremony:

PSJ: “It’s clear that you draw in some religious traditions, that is, you bring in cultures and traditions, that’s obvious. But the access given to religious leaders – including priests in the *Folkekirke* – doesn’t lie in the fact that the religious leaders are bringing in a religious order into the marriage. That’s not a part of the concept of marriage in Denmark, as I see it. That goes, by the way, also for people having a civil marriage at the city hall and then being religiously wed at the *Folkekirke* or by the imam or something. There is no religious law being brought in there. The religious marriage is merely a blessing, which in Denmark can drag in some Danish civil law – nothing more.” (Quote 3.04)

MB, a recently elected member of parliament from the classical liberal party, follows the liberal line in her argument:

MB: "The formation and dissolution of marriage? I believe that is a legal matter, and in reality, it is a civil matter and we must hold on to that. How you are advised, that choice is up to people themselves, who can then choose to be wedded in some form of religious community. How that advisement takes place that should be left up to the communities themselves." (Quote 3.05)

A rather new trend demonstrated in the interviews reflects that most do want an additional religious celebration of the holy commitment of the marriage. And this is where the material can demonstrate a wide-ranging concern for a clear distinction between the religious and the civic dimension of the marriage – even though the Lutheran bishop doubts whether it would really change anything, as we saw in the former quotation.

SA, who is a lawyer herself and an observing Muslim, points to the need for this distinction. In Islam, she says, the rules dictate that two witnesses are enough to make the marriage public. Exactly because this is not enough according to Danish law, the Muslims have resourcefully begun to refer to this religious and ceremonial act as an engagement:

SA: "Here's an example, I have been invited to an engagement here on Saturday. It's funny that they call it an engagement because what they're actually doing is, there is an imam that will wed these two people. So in my eyes, these two people are Islamically halal for each other, they can do whatever they want with each other, as they are married within the Islamic rules at the very least. So when I see a marriage performed by an imam with the proper marriage authority, then that is a marriage, even though some would call it an engagement." (Quote 3.06)

When asked about the possibility of a conflict with existing law, she immediately responds and maintains that a Muslim religious marriage in the minds of Muslims is indeed a marriage. When asked to reflect her own experiences, she relates both the core problem of two competing ideas of marriage and her own position on the matter:

SA: "I do presume that the imams tell people that they should be registered afterwards at the municipality as being married. In fact, I've never really thought it over because I've always thought that. [...] That, once you're married by an imam, then you're married! I've never thought about it in that way. It hasn't ever interested me either, whether I'm married or not in concordance with Danish law because Islamically, I am married. What I am according to Danish law, I've never really been interested in that. I must admit that." (Quote 3.07)

An imam from Copenhagen, AWP, confirms the general position above and adds that the distinction between the civil law aspects of the marriage needs to be clearly separated from the religious aspect. When asked about

whether or not he is registered and has the authority to perform the recognized marriage, he states:

AWP: "No. I wed people without authorization. I solely perform religious marriages."(Quote 3.08)

His style is provocative and he smiles, because he is able to be so categorical. He is so, because he wants to stay independent and wants to keep the marriage as a sacred institution. However, his point is exactly that Muslims should register themselves with the authorities, but that this is not his responsibility and insists the authorities should take care of the legal aspects and leave the sacred, religious, Muslim dimension of marriage to people like him:

AWP: "So we are a few and I'm one of them, we haven't chosen to seek marriage authorization from the municipality because I am not interested at all in performing civil marriages. I am utterly indifferent to that, in a religious context. Of course, I advise people when they come to me solely for a religious marriage, I advise them to also have a civil marriage done. [...] If you need to make your relationship halal, but of course then there are some specific things that need to be done for it to become halal, and I will of course advise people to do those things. But there I also tell people that when I perform this marriage, they don't automatically receive the rights one has, automatically, in a civil marriage. They have to be aware of that." (Quote 3.09)

Before we conclude on the potential conflicts of such an understanding and distinction of the secular and the sacred in the institution of marriage, it is highly relevant to turn to the other religious minorities in Denmark in a discussion of the recognition of the religious marriage and how they see the problems and possible conflicts.

ET, who is an elderly Catholic gentleman who serves as advisor to the Danish Catholic bishop, also begins with reference to the sanctity of marriage and develops his understanding of a valid and proper marriage from there:

ET: "Marriage is a sacrament, and it is the couple that announce it to each other."

Q.: "It's not the priest that announces it?"

ET: "The priest is a witness and he is the one witness that is authorized to determine that now, they have married each other. In Danish, we use the word "wed", but in reality, he does not wed them, but they who wed themselves. One of the basics of Catholic marriage law is that one cannot be wedded to another person if it isn't entirely voluntarily; if you're not authorized; if you're not sane or not able to take care of your affairs." (Quote 3.10)

ET maintains that the marriage is between a man and a woman who wed themselves to each other. He clearly holds that Catholic priests are

authorized to perform the marriage by the state, but in a Catholic sense, the priest is only a witness on behalf of God present to make sure the parties are capable of entering into the marriage.

The Chief Rabbi, BL, mentions as an anecdote an interesting aspect of the Jewish marriage as it is conducted in Denmark and that has everything to do with the symbolic power of the marriage and rests firmly on the principle and recognition of mutual agreement in the marriage:

BL: "Originally, marriage was a way to secure the woman. I mean, it's a funny thing that we still have this tradition that in the matrimonial contract we continue to have an economic transaction, only being symbolic since economic relations between Jews in our countries tend to follow the rules of the country itself."  
(Quote 3.11)

The question of contract or explicit agreement in the marriage – and the very idea of a need to register the marriage – has everything to do with the possibilities, if not probabilities of the marriage ending either in divorce or in death of one of the spouses. The imam, the Catholic advisor and the Rabbi all stressed the symbolic and religious aspects of the religious marriage. The reason for this is of course the social importance of an explicit recognition before both the community and God. This is the importance that prompts the imam, AWP, to distinguish between the religious and the civic. There is theological sense to this that adds another important aspect of the religious marriage; when a couple marries, the couple comes closer to God, and when the couple divorce, they distance themselves from God. This seems to be true also for the Catholics, which is seen in the structural reluctance to make an annulment.

### **3.3 Divorce**

As mentioned, much if not most of the public interest in religious marriage has to do with the conflicts that arise from the collapse of marriage – either in divorce or in death. As most of the conflicts relevant to this survey are derivative - not of the marriage itself - but of the divorce, issues of dispute resolution, matrimonial property (e.g. Mahr), custody, guardianship, and so on, will be treated in due course.

In order to give proper language and nuance to the conflicts of divorce discussed in the survey, we need to distinguish further in the complex of marriage and divorce between the secular and the religious. In doing so, we follow Liversage & Jensen (2011), who in their report on *Parallel Perceptions of Law in Denmark* operate with the intersection of the two relevant aspects of marriage and divorce. In order to map the possible tension and conflicts, they ask, firstly, "did the couple divorce according to Danish law?" and, secondly, "did the couple divorce according to the religious norms?" (Liversage & Jensen 2011, 86). If the answer to both

questions is either “yes” or “no” they are either still married or completely divorced. The tensions emerge when the answer to the first question is “yes”, but “no” to the second. This is what has been called ‘limping marriages’ and leaves the couple in the same legal uncertainty and problems when facing a divorce as when they never registered the marriage civically in the first place.

The frame presented by Liversage & Jensen and the complex of the issue is confirmed when we address the issue of divorce to the interviewees.

SA: ”... there are some Muslims who believe that if you are Islamically wed, then you must also be divorced according to Islam. But there is no such thing, because if she married according to Danish law and she receives a Danish divorce and it becomes public, then in concordance to Islamic rules, then the publication of her divorce is final, also in an Islamic sense. So I see a lot of people – not as many as there used to be – who marry, and they are registered as married, then they carry out a divorce yet continue to live together. Maybe they want the social benefits, I don’t know, but it is actually a sin in Islam that they do this because it has been publicized that they are divorced, yet they continue to stay together. And then the husband says: But we’re not divorced according to Islam! They have no understanding. They don’t understand the legality in Islam that when it is publicized, then it is a divorce; he has declared that he has had himself divorced according to Danish law. Whether it’s Danish law or not, that doesn’t matter; Islamically, it counts. Quite a lot of people aren’t actually aware of that.” (Quote 3.12)

SA points to the implications of divorcing legally in the Danish system. She maintains that if the couple divorce legally, they are also divorced according to Islamic principles, as it is public to the community. However, there seems to be some internal disagreement of or lack of Islamic legal understanding internally in the community in this regard as there is evidence to suggest that the husband can maintain a social and religious power over the wife in the limping marriage. This leaves her in the same situation as if the marriage was never registered in the first place. In addition there is a difference between the genders in gaining access to a divorce.

NB: ”A man can basically say; ‘I am divorcing you’ and then be divorced. It’s a bit more difficult for the woman because she can’t just say “Now I’m out of this”, even though there are different opinions on it – but I’ll get back to that – in a traditional sense, then the woman would have to go to the qadi, the mufti and again to a mediation council and then if her reasons were good enough, then she would be able to seek divorce. Something else that has to be accounted for is the contract she entered when they married, if there were any special conditions for divorce and if they are included, then it would also be possible for her to seek divorce.” (Quote 3.13)

As is the case of Muslims, the Jewish community allows for divorce.

BL: "We do allow divorces, as a religious part of the things. We don't have any right to perform divorce in Denmark because the priests have no right to grant a divorce. But as is the case, when people have had a civil divorce, then they ask the rabbi to give them a religious divorce. And that is of course legally valid in a Jewish understanding. And with that, there are no problems. But that again is related to the fact that, basically, we don't have the concept of illegitimate children. With us, every child that is born is a legal child, completely regardless of whether it is with the partner or not with the partner or whoever. The only case where there could be a problem for the child is if the mother is living with a Jewish man and has a child by another Jewish man. Then we have a problem, because then there are some rules for this child. And we want to avoid that at all times and that's why we say that we need the parties to have this religious divorce." (Quote 3.14)

The Catholics do as mentioned not allow for divorce, but there is an option of having the marriage dissolved or annulled. As an implication of the sacrament, the legal effects of the marriage continue to be in place for as long as they both live.

Q.: "They can live separately but the legal effects remain?"

ET: "Yes. The thing that may become a problem is whether you were even married the first time around. If it actually was enforceable; if you were so immature that you in reality could not take responsibility for your actions; maybe if you were mentally ill, yes, then you'd have to say that the marriage never took place to begin with. Often, you use the expression that you can "have your marriage annulled", but that's not accurate; the question is, whether you can say the marriage is "nul", i.e. annulled not as an action but annulment as an assertion. The assumptions were never there." (Quote 3.15)

In the Catholic case, the annulment of the marriage or the deeming of the marriage as void is done by a marriage court that will examine the evidence and deliberate on the preconditions of the marriage and whether or not it is invalid. The parties have legal recourse to the very top of the canonical system in Rome, where legal experts will speak on behalf of the marriage - rather than the parties - against the claim of its invalidity.

ET absolutely recognizes the importance of the sacrament of marriage, but questions the procedures and difficulties in changing the status of the marriage:

ET: "I believe that it's a wrong system because while I do acknowledge the insolubility of marriage, I also believe it is unrealistic to put your faith in such a court to determine what actually happened during the marriage. What you should do is, you should give them an extensive course on what marriage is all about. Then you can say, now you know how it all goes and then you must settle the matter with your conscience and the Lord. So you with your conscious and after

you have been taught, say that this is how it is, and you admit and sign it in front of God and man, then we will use that as our basis. In reality, I think it's ridiculous that you try to reach an objective decision in many of these cases.” (Quote 3.16)

Also the Lutheran bishop is very frank. When asked about religious dissolution of marriages and religious institutions for deciding on dissolutions of marriages, he exclaims:

PSJ: “Obsolete! I'm not the right person to ask this but I perceive it to be outdated because I consider them to be divorced when they are divorced. But most of them aren't divorced if you're talking about the Roman Catholic Church. It's so difficult to have your marriage annulled.”

Q: “Those kinds of cases exist not just with Catholics but also in the Jewish communities and in Muslim circles.”

PSJ: “Yes, well I can't do much about that and I don't think secular society can do much about it either. But within those respective religious societies, the actualities must at some point be acknowledged.”

Q: “This type of cases, would you consider them mediation institutions?”

PSJ: “The Catholic man that goes and gets a divorce and cannot have his marriage annulled, he'll still go and do what he thinks is rights after a few years, but then he can't get married. Those are some heavy implications for the man in questions; he is excluded from the Holy Communion and so on. Very serious implications. But these are implications that cannot be solved here, by us, in the secular society.” (Quote 3.17)

Here HC, the female leader of a diaconal project, has a very clear focus on the weak party and therefore argues for one law for everybody:

Q: “Now when you're talking about uniform rules, do you mean specifically or are you are referring to the bigger picture?”

HC: “It's mostly the bigger picture, I mean, again based on the different discussions I have listened to or read up on, like whether we need special, private courts, just to say, to solve family feuds or conflicts or infidelity vows, I nearly said, or other conflicts regarding that and stuff.”

Q: “What is this outlook that you want to protect?”

HC: “I want to protect the weak.”

Q: “Who is the weak one?”

HC: “That will of course always be an individual assessment but as I see it, or as a citizen in society, what I will try to support is that the weaker side has an opportunity to appeal to a third party.” (Quote 3.18)

Similar in the cases of the Muslims, the Jews and the Catholics is the attempt to reconcile the marriage either by mediation or by educating the parties on the social and religious implications of either ending or voiding the marriage. We return to mediation when treating the implications of alternative dispute resolution.

### **3.4 Marriage contracts and the access to divorce**

Many of the interviewees stress the point of having an explicit and legally binding marriage agreement. This is important when considering both the terms of the marriage and the terms of its termination.

In the Muslim environment there is an explicit recognition of the unequal access of the partner to a divorce. A practice is emerging that equalizes the access to divorce and challenges the traditional Muslim family law. NB explains the change and sees it as convergence with the proper and usual way of terminating a marriage:

Q: "In Danish Muslim society, are marriage contracts being made?"

NB: "Yes [...] Where individual conflicts arise, that occurs when there isn't an agreement on the divorce, right, and especially from the husband's side: he doesn't want to let go for example and the wife says: "Yes, I just want to be rid of you", right."

Q: "Do the contracts obligate the men more so than traditional family law? Do the men also need reasons listed in the contract to be divorced?"

NB: "They're already there to begin with and partially also for the women; for example if the husband is violent or doesn't fulfil social, emotional, sexual needs, doesn't help economically... these are reasons enough that a woman can say: you know what, you're not giving me my monthly contribution, this isn't working economically and we don't have enough to live on, so I want to divorce you."  
(Quote 3.19)

As NB stresses here, the termination of the marriage is valid or appropriate if the marriage is mismanaged or if either of the parties feel mistreated. Here, the contract adds some sort of automaticity to the procedure. The fact remains, however, that such a contract is difficult to maintain because conflict in itself is not enough to make the community accept the divorce. Rather, there seems to be a logic, which dictates that conflicts in the marriage can be resolved as long as they do not concern the preconditions or basics of the marriage. There can be no divorce without reason and seldom without reconciliation attempts.

NB: "No, they need some reasons. They can't just have a divorce. There are some moral and ethical rules applying, so they can't just say; "Now I don't like you anymore." That wouldn't be reason enough for a divorce. So a man can't just come home one and say: "Now I want a divorce from you because you've been wearing that blue dress. I don't like it." That wouldn't be reason enough and that is why, when the cases usually go into these mediation agencies, then you'd want to hear if there is a good enough reason. You could call upon the local imam or mufti for these things [...] Where the differences lie, as I've understood them, is that a woman can actually ask for a divorce but when she does, then she has to go to a mediation council and have some specific points of complaint, points that are in concordance with Islamic law, just like with the man, but there are just – maybe you could say – stricter demands, that the woman needs to fulfil. The demands are a bit more strict." (Quote 3.20)

The practice of making such a contract is not as straightforward as might have been expected, and in Denmark there is doubt whether such a contract is enforceable. Such cases remain within the general frame of marriages not registered. A contract stipulating that one of the parties would willingly and knowingly grant a divorce to the other, might be legally questioned and not necessarily binding on the parties. However, and this is important, it might still be legally relevant in case of disputes. This distinction is important, and adds to the social power of having the contract.

We also asked the Lutheran bishop about his view on the possibility of establishing marriage contracts, where religious norms had a legal impact. He was hesitant, but:

PSJ: "I've never speculated on that, I mean, there will be some subjects that I haven't thought through. Probably the kind of cases where the Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams was vocal on, a few years ago: You can easily encounter something like that. But I think, I would say, that if could pave the way towards some kind of solution, where we're talking of some kind of mediation court, which could be helpful ... I'm going to have to think about that, it's interesting..." (Quote 3.21)

### **3.5 Contested divorce and conflicting demands**

What the contract does well, however, is to stipulate the demands and rights of the parties in case of the divorce. That is not concern itself with the access to a divorce of a marriage that is not recognised. In the Muslim case, this is relevant in the question of Mahr, that is the amount of money or property, which in a Muslim marriage is an obligation of the husband to the wife.

Recently, Rubya Mehdi and Jørgen S. Nielsen published *Embedding Mahr in the European Legal System* (DJØF forlag, 2011) discussing the implications of introducing Mahr into the legal system. They point to the fact that European courts are opening more up to questions of Mahr than any other aspect of Islamic family law. This is partly because Mahr is so important to the families in the communities, and as SA explains, it is relatively easy to demonstrate a violation of the marriage contract by reference to Mahr.

SA: "If you enter into an Islamic marriage with all the rules and duties and rights that come with it, what can occur is that, for example let's say the husband doesn't want to pay his dowry. Then what, what do you do? Then I can – it's actually very easy because I get these kinds of questions once in a while – then you can say: if the dowry isn't paid for, then you can publicize: I am not married, the dowry hasn't been paid. And then it doesn't matter what he says, then he has to prove that the dowry has been paid and if he can't do that, then in the eyes of the public, you are not married. That's easy enough. But there is another problem, such as:

## 40 *Religion and Family in Denmark*

"He doesn't provide for me. What do I do?" She can't go to the municipality for example and say that my husband isn't providing for me because according to Danish rules, he's just her boyfriend if she hasn't been registered as married. That's when they are forced to go to an imam or an upstanding and respectable citizen or his family members and say: "Look at this! My husband isn't fulfilling his duty to provide for me." (Quote 3.22)

In the matter of granting a partner a divorce, there are numerous examples from different contexts and religions of harassment, provocations and partners deliberately dragging their feet in malice. The following example is from the Chief Rabbi, BL, but could have been from almost any of the religious leaders we spoke to.

BL: "... If it is purely harassment, after a while, which can be quite some time, I would make the decision to go through with the divorce."

Q: "As in, opposing the divorce is a form of harassment?"

BL: "Yes, harassment. It's not economical, it's merely a matter of me not wanting, he shouldn't be able to ... or she shouldn't have the right to live a proper life [...] I actually have a case at the moment where the girl's former husband really doesn't want anything, it's just harassment. And I've seen that many times." (Quote 3.23)

He relates several incidents and the cases he refers to demonstrate precisely that the harassment begins once the legal and civic divorce has been granted but before the Rabbi can finalize the religious divorce. Because the civic courts deal with issues regarding children and lingering economic issues of the marriage, the Rabbi naturally waits for the courts to finish their work. The harassment then begins, because a Jew cannot marry again before the religious divorce is finalized. If there is indeed no reason save malice and no lingering issues like custody or the like, the Rabbi will force the divorce, but according to his testimony, this can easily take a few years.

In the most extreme of these cases the Rabbi, imam, priest or minister has an option most of them say, they seldom use. They have the possibility of making the specifics of the malicious harassment public and known to the religious community.

BL: "I can tell you that in one of the cases I have actually thought of publicizing it: to make it known that this guy is simply ... because he is active in the congregation, he has a huge network, and he knows many. That's what you would do in Jewish congregations around the world, there you would simply say: this man or that woman ... I haven't done that though. I think our congregation is too small to be able to bear it" (Quote 3.24)

SA relates that this kind of thinking is common in the Muslim communities as well, and even well known in the Islamic traditions.

Q: "Are there any sanctions, some sort of pressure within the Islamic legal way of thinking that you can apply?"

SA: "If we have an Islamic court where women could go, then yes, then there could be some sanctions if for example he doesn't follow his rules, then he could receive some admonitions and then he can ... Now you're asking me legal, Islamic questions. I could just look it up in the different legal schools, how it is, but there are some sanctions and it can end in there being no marriage at all if he doesn't abide by the rules that he has to. She also has the right to some things. But when we're talking about Denmark, then you can't use the rules we're talking about. Then you use social pressure instead."

(Quote 3.25)

From what SA relates it is clear that not only marriages in Islam can be seen to be limping, but that there is a system of justice that is missing some of the internal components for imposing sanctions or checks and balances in the matters of family law. Instead, the community becomes public court and executive in order to force the singular couple.

ET relates something similar from the Catholic context. He relates a case of a non-Catholic woman who was divorced and then later marries a Catholic man. For her, it was not socially acceptable to take part in the Holy Communion. It is possible to deny a member of the Catholic community access to the Holy Communion, but it happens only in extreme cases, and ET would not think it proper to do so in this day and age:

ET: "That's what the church law says but it's not observed in a lot of places. Divorced and remarried couples walk up to the altar and they aren't rejected. It could be that a vicar would privately tell them that this isn't allowed. But not many vicars would say that. If somebody walks up and they don't intent to provoke, then they won't be turned away. Nobody, walking hand in hand up to the alter will be denied on the spot. You just don't do that." (Quote 3.26)

### **3.6 Alternative dispute resolution and the persistent issue of parallel jurisdiction**

As with the marriage, the social and religious implications of the divorce on the community are significant. That is not to say that they are not important to the individuals involved, but the religious leaders in the survey seem to focus on the communal aspect. Before we turn to the question of dispute resolution with all the overarching communal, social and symbolic aspects, and the much-contested problems of parallel jurisdictions, there is also evidence to suggest that a benign and private solution is possible.

SA bases her reflections on personal experiences where a divorced woman, although the Danish system granted her the custody of her children, decided together with the father to live their lives according to the Islamic principles. The example is presented here in order to demonstrate that there is clear sense of a dual and overlapping consensus between the

two legal systems, without endangering the rule of law or the Islamic principles. The solution that the couple in the example reached is original and conducive for both the public order and Islam in Denmark.

Q: "When you're saying that they belong to the father, what legal system are you basing this on?"

SA: "This is of course according to Islam because the couple are trying to live in accordance with Islam and he is their father and they live with him. That doesn't mean they can't live with her when they want to. They'll go there, when they need money, sometimes, or when they're upset with their father, and then they will go to her. But anyway, they have split it up so that when the children reached the age they were supposed to, Islamically, then they had to live with him. That's how the Islamic rules are, right? [...] If she says, okay, I get the child because the Danish laws have given him to me, I have automatic custody," well then she can decide, by using her granted custody, to share the child with her ex-husband. So I can't see, I mean it's not a breach of Danish law because Danish laws give plenty of space to make deals. Only if there is a sudden dispute and a disagreement, that's where it can be tricky because then the man might say; "I have a right according to Islam and so on" and then the woman would say: "Yes, as a Muslim, I won't take that from you because of course you're to have a right to the child when you want to take care of him or when you want responsibility for him." That's something she can decide, given that she is the one with the parental custody." (Quote 3.27)

We also asked the Member of Parliament, PVB, about alternative dispute resolution:

Q: "Is it imaginable that the religious societies themselves established some alternative methods of conflict resolution, for example via imams, rabbis, matrimonial courts?"

PVB: "Certainly, I could imagine that happening, but now you have to be careful you don't end up with the same problems as the English archbishop who had exactly these suggestions and ideas to how you can solve some of the problems and I think that could happen. The only thing I sometimes worry about is that in Danish case law and Danish legislation, women and children have always been subordinate and worse off, when it comes to legal certainty, and it's common knowledge that traditionally in many faiths, the women and children are subordinated legally and traditionally. The thing is that the struggle to oppose this has to come from someplace within. And then if you allow the fact that it's not just religious norms being a factor in these mediations ..." (Quote 3.28)

PVB thinks it could be interesting if the decisions from such an institution could be brought for the common courts in the society.

Again, HC as leader of diaconal work has an even more focussed perspective on the weak party:

HC: "It may be that mediations is a tool that could be used but again, these middle roads, I'm a bit worried that there could be assaults; I mean, bringing the victim

and perpetrator together – and I feel it's too close for comfort, that it'll be the weak party that again ends up losing.”

Q: “So the legal development within criminal law regarding mediation, you are quite hesitant towards it?”

HC: “Yes, I mean what I fear is that -. Some of it is that it's such a pleasant way to solve things and then we become good friends and -. That's of course a caricature but that's the sort of thing I fear is behind this, instead of looking at the unpleasantness and the things that may cause problems, to say: We must decide in favour of the person or persons who have been wronged.” (Quote 3.29)

### **3.7 Freedom to enter into a contract**

As such, alternative dispute resolution is quite a common thing and it is used in many aspects of public and private life and most often it does not require law. However, a returning topic in Danish debate these recent years is the question of whether or not religious mediation is producing a parallel jurisdiction. When confronting the interviewees with this dilemma, most point to the freedom to enter into contract and – if not forced and willingly – agree as they may like.

Alternative dispute resolution has been in effect in Denmark within the Jewish community for a very long time.

BL: “We have situations where the Chief Rabbi is called when there are conflicts between two Jewish parties. It's not very often but it has happened. [...] It requires that both sides be prepared for the fact that it's a legal decision, something you basically have to accept in the beginning. It's not like I can send out the police or some such in regards to it. But it happens. Not very often. And that's what is misunderstood when we're talking about shari'a and all that, because it doesn't have anything to do with shari'a, besides, it's always problematic to talk about, but it's absolutely clear that here you have an incident where two Jews have a case in which they say: We would like the rabbi to decide for us. [...] And that is based in the fact that the parties have to agree on the decision.”

BL: “In some places you have congregation rabbis and then you have some rabbis that are employed in what's called Beth Din, which is the Jewish court. But we don't have that here. [...] So I choose two religious people to be a part of that. Ultimately, I never sit there on my own. It doesn't require, what should I say, special training or something; the job, it's like arbitration; [...] That's all based with two people having a pretty religious predisposition.” (Quote 3.30)

The imam from Copenhagen, AWP, has a clear understanding of how arbitration and mediation is used in Denmark. His context is developments in England, and he reflects the seriousness of the matter:

AWP: “In Denmark, one works all the time with arbitrary courts or pure arbitration. For example when you're bargaining; that's not a court, that's arbitration, but it's binding for the parties that have sat down at the table, there, it's binding. You could definitely create some arbitration court in Denmark that

only deals with special kinds of cases. And I believe there is need for courts such as these because as things are right now, for example, a lot of divorce cases end up coming to me. But who am I? I mean, I'm some old hippie from Djursland; why do I have to be a part of divorce cases. What qualified me for that? My qualification is a small word, consisting of four letters, but I don't think that's good enough. Instead, if we could create some kind of arbitration court with, let's say, ten qualified lawyers, caseworkers, social workers and I don't know what, some kind of magistrates and then you could call them in three at a time and then you'd have three judges there working a five hour session every other Thursday or some such and people could come and those stepping in through that door, they would lay down a symbolic amount to be allowed to walk in and then they're also saying: This will bind us. That way, you could solve a lot of conflict instead of walking down a side street to a, as someone once called me, a self-anointed second rate imam. Well, I was promoted since then because I became a third rate one instead so that has to be higher up the chain [Laughing]. Why does it have to come to me? That's not good enough" (Quote 3.31)

From a complementary aspect of Muslim life in Denmark, NB points to the need for a publicly recognized institution that will be able to handle the issues that the imams are struggling with, especially in securing women's equal access to divorce:

NB: "There are some imams who say: we need a body that also has support from the government, an official recognition, legitimized. And you could go in and practise family law [...] warrants, that would help women that are, let's say, trapped in their marriages, in accordance with Islam. With that, you need mediation in some cases, especially if it's the woman that's seeking a divorce; Both men and women are able to seek a divorce in Islam but the requirements are a bit different for each and that's why you need a mediation council and some imams would say that that's important [...] I don't believe you can use the term court. I believe this has to be done cooperatively. If there has to be a mediation body – let's just use the word mediation body, a Muslim mediation body – then it would have to be a multidisciplinary cooperation between the legal, social and economic aspects [...] I see that we need a place where we can send these women to. What authority do I have to write a letter, which would be approved? I could do it if they asked me but I think these women should have a formalized and structured place they can go to. Some of these women, they call on imams in different places, they spend so much time trying to figure it out; they become confused, sometimes they become sad when they can't the solutions that they want. I think we need a body that takes cares of these things and try to find something together." (Quote 3.32)

The imams both recognize the danger of addressing issues of criminal law in these cases and reflect further on the danger of risking equality of law:

AWP: "There has to be one punishment for one crime, I mean, it shouldn't be that you're punished by different people for the same crime. But if you could find some tools in other traditions that could help with social rehabilitation or help in some shape or form, well then I think that would be excellent."

Q: "I wasn't actually thinking you'd be punished twice but you could be sentenced half and half in two different paradigms so you have..."

AWP: "No, no. I don't think so because that's when you would need multiple parallel legal systems at the same time; No, I don't think that would be a good idea... I mean in Denmark you've used that when you've shot people in Afghanistan or Iraq, then the Danish side has actually gone out and paid blood money. But that's because that's a tradition in that part of the world."

Q: "It's not something that belongs here?"

AWP: "No, not unless it can somehow stop an escalation or some other type of conflict that hasn't necessarily developed into something criminal but where it could, unless a penalty is paid." (Quote 3.33)

The issue of blood money is difficult to consider, because it is often misrepresented by many of the bleak associations and ideas it provokes. When we asked TB, who is a judge and skilled mediator herself, she distinguishes between the criminal matters and the lingering social, religious and emotional tension that often follows serious crimes. Mediation is there to prevent escalation and serves the same purpose as blood money:

TB: "Well I am mediator at heart and I think that anything that is capable of being mediated upon, that's best for all sides. If they can sit down and figure it out themselves, then that would be the best way. If it's myself as a mediator in a legal system or it's a schoolteacher, imam etc. sitting there, being a part of a facilitating personnel, I don't really care about that. If it shouldn't succeed, then they always have the courtrooms they can go to... In my world, mediation is only ever finished when all parties have come to an accepted agreement. Then it's their deal and not the decision of the mediator. I believe [... But,] that if they have signed a clear-cut agreement, then they can still go to the courts and say there was coercion and argue that the agreement was made under false pretences. But otherwise, it would be a binding agreement." (Quote 3.34)

When asking JC, the human rights advocate, about the question of mediation with the religious communities and the possible binding legal effects and awards of such mediation, he is slightly hesitant, but develops the circumstances under which he sees it as acceptable:

JC: "If it's within reason, and where that begins and ends, that's up for discussion. But of course, if there is some kind of family argument in Nørrebro and an imam comes and says that this guy needs a good caning. That won't do. But we don't even use physical punishment anymore. My basic view is that one shouldn't be afraid that the rules and systems of other countries will be acknowledged in Denmark. Or that there are deals being made across the dinner table at home, which we can fairly keep ourselves out of. It's obvious that if you say, I killed your son but I talked it over with the imam, then I would still say that we can't do that, since we cannot dispose the matter ourselves because it's the state that has the authority to do so.... Then you're coming back to the questions, is this within reason. Is it normatively acceptable? That people are forced into making

agreements that everybody thinks are fair, you'd probably be able to live with that but if you're coerced using informal coercion, where society would say that is entirely unreasonable. That's what society tries to fight against, when we're against mediation by imams. We don't oppose the reasonable and balanced "Jewish Community" mediation with open-minded, educated and free parties that need a solution. What we oppose, when we're even having the discussion, is when the exercise of power is too great." (Quote 3.35)

JC points to the dual dangers in this. The first has to do with due process, but the second is much wider as it has to do with the socially acceptable. This is where most of our interview persons had an opinion and wanted to contribute.

### **3.8 Mixing norms? Separating norms?**

Most of what has been presented thus far tries to give a status and overview of the possible conflicts that may emerge. Most of the interviews had something to contribute, but we have limited the family law section of the report to give a presentation of the different position. However, as the interviewees have significant insights into the problems that may arise and have an outlook on the whole of society it is of relevance to enter into the wider discussion. Do we need to mix the religious and secular norms? Is it possible to distinguish, or do we need to do something to separate these? Do we need to nuance the language and keep the law legal and religion religious, without mixing these?

Q: "Are shari'a and cannon law so clear cut, clearly separated from other legal systems that you can say: "Now I'm using shari'a, now I'm using Danish law?""

SA: "I think that there are some things mixed up in your questions; shari'a is a very large code of law that can be used differently, depending on the situations, the legal schools and so on, but shari'a as a code of law is made to be used in a Muslim society. And then you can say that I, as a private person – it's also a part of shari'a that I pray, I wash myself in a certain manner, that I have a specific opinion on different thing; but I don't see it as [...] I don't separate it from my real life, I don't think that when I run a red light, I'm breaking shari'a but rather, I'm thinking of safety concerns and the law and if I get a ticket, I'll get a ticket, which I'll obviously pay but I don't stop and wonder that this is shari'a and this is Danish law. [...] I think that's because I see Danish laws as the rules of the game that apply where I live. It may be that there is a religious rule I can't follow through on but that's just how it is, because I live here. I have an opportunity to affect them and I'll do what I can as a Muslim in Denmark to affect those rules; and that's why I wrote that response to the legal committee. The rules that apply are something that is determined in concert and then I'd have to choose: do I follow that rule or not? I've chosen, in some cases, to follow the rules that apply because that is the most appropriate for my life but other time I might say; I can't abide by this rule, instead I will follow the rule of my religion." (Quote 3.36)

KWH is a trained theologian and frequent participant in the debates. When confronted with these issues, she points to the importance of separating and distinguishing between the civic and religious identities:

KWH: "I'd like to get away from the business of talking about religion because it is undeniably dependent on what kind of religion it is. I think it's shocking that we're experiencing polygamous relationships in Europe in this day and age. I really think it's civilizational regression that we're sort of going to back the days of the Vikings. If freedom of religion is used as an argument for that sort of thing to happen, then we're forced to critically re-evaluate the concept of freedom of religion. That's how it is... and then they'd say; shouldn't we have a clear idea on what it is we're criticizing? No, we have to properly look it at and say, right, and we'll have to say outright that we don't want underage marriages and we don't want polygamous relationships. Why isn't polygamy all right? [...] I use it as test on people; if people say that that is none of the government's business and that people should be able to marry as they want, then they fail my test. I myself think it's tough to argue for it because it really is: why don't we think polygamy is all right? Why do we think that? It's very difficult; that's because we have a cultural, moral and religious baggage with us, whether we realize it or not." (Quote 3.37)

We asked CS, who is a senior official in European politics and he tends to concur with KWH and also point to the importance of distinction. However, he stresses that conflict resolution on an informal basis is acceptable if the legal system remains transparent and consistent as to secure the rule of law:

CS: "... I don't really think it belongs [in the legal system]. What you do in a legal system, that's value based, and where do those values come from? They still come from something in Christianity or something normative or someplace else. Where I'll have an issue, that'll be if people take something from Islam or something and then give it a special status and then at the same time, they take something from Hinduism and then you take a fourth piece and you make a medley of different methods of conflict resolution which results in a lack of transparency and a lack of understanding and in the end, people say: What's really the legal position here? Because apparently, you can choose... then we'll go shopping. It's a kind of supermarket. And that sounds very fancy, but in reality it's superficial" (Quote 3.38)

What is implied in the quote here is the importance to stress that in private, people can agree on mediation, as they like, while not being either forced or coerced into accepting the premise of the mediation. In public, however, the legal system must remain consistent and transparent, and must not become a supermarket or subject to justice- or forum shopping.

### **3.9 On International private law**

The logic at work in forum shopping, that is of addressing a forum where

one expects a favourable outcome, is extendable across international borders. Although international private law is a system in place to make sure different national conceptions of family law are enforceable across borders, there is a danger of a growing shopping around. Especially following a few decades of migration and an increased globalization with its proliferation of transport and communication, the option to travel to the opportune forum is available.

There is from the religious interviewees not much evidence that point to the international forum shopping as a problem different from local forum shopping. When we spoke to JC he stressed the fact that within the context of recognition of different jurisdictions both for freedom to enter into agreement and to resolve private conflicts, there is no substantial difference between religious concerns and secular concerns.

JC: "... We have a world where we normally acknowledge that if Colombian law applies to a marriage, then that can be used here in Denmark. They once lived in Colombia and then they moved up here and after six months, they had a divorce. Then that is the way it is regulated. On one hand, that's the consequence of us always doing it that way. People have the freedom to make the agreements about the solutions that they choose to. To me, conflict resolution by an imam isn't worse than all the other types of conflict resolution. As long as it's within reason."

Q: "Religion can't be used as an argument in reality?"

JC: "Now I'm trying to justify it from a secular viewpoint where I say that no, that's not why, but at the same time I want to say yes, that is why, that there should be room for it. Religion can play a special role in how people regulate their internal relationships and there should be room for that. If you don't recognize the open point of view, then you'd end up suppressing a lot of good ways to regulate relationships and solving conflicts. You have to be careful with that." (Quote 3.39)

We asked the religious leaders to reflect on the overlap of jurisdictions and the possibility to forum shop, both locally and globally. Rather than pointing to the legal aspects of the problem, most pointed to the deeper and more complicated social aspects of a limping marriage and other examples of uncertain family status. There are social problems that cannot be solved legally and there are legal problems that cannot and must not be solved socially. But we are seeing a field of problems where there is an overlap between the legal, the religious and the social. However, it is not only the problems that are overlapping, but in a few cases also the social and legal norms for resolving problems are competing. In Denmark, there is one field of problems that has been debated heatedly in 2011 and that regards homosexual marriages and the problem of what can be legally imposed on the religions.

### 3.10 The question of same sex marriages in Denmark

In the spring of 2012, the question of whether or not homosexual marriages can be entered into in the Church seems to find a solution, but there have been and still are several ongoing discussions on the matter. One is on jurisdiction. Recently appointed Minister of Equality and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Manu Sareen, argues the matter as a question of equality and started out maintaining that ministers in the *Folkekirke* should be allowed freely to decide if they want to perform homosexual marriages. Some understand this as a pressure on the church, whereas others within the church welcome such a change. The conflict, however, remains about jurisdiction and legal competence, which is an unresolved question lingering from the constitutional promise of the 1849 constitution.

The second ongoing discussion is precisely on whether or not the church as such – and other religious communities – should at all be able to provide marriages for couples of same sex. That question is from all sides seen as a religious discussion. As the debate is at the moment, some *Folkekirke* bishops are vocally opposing government legislation on the matter, whereas several others are supporting the idea. Within other religious communities, most leaders are against the very idea and not many ministers have formulated a theological support to the idea, they however all react to the very prospect of this becoming an issue.

In short, we see the debate on homosexual marriages in Denmark on at least three levels; one about the jurisdiction and legal competence, the second is on the political gauging of the prospects of possible legislation and the third is about the theological responses from the religious communities. All of these intermingle and blur the debate.

As a part of the interviews we asked many of the religious respondents about their opinion on the matter. In turn, we asked PSJ from the *Folkekirke*, ET from the Catholics, LMH from the Baptists and DH who spoke as a humanist.

PSJ was chair of a committee under the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs, trying to resolve this question with regard to the *Folkekirke*. We asked him in early spring 2011, before the change of government, about his view on the situation for homosexuals within the *Folkekirke* with regard to marriages. His position is clear: it is an obligation for the *Folkekirke* to perform marriages also for homosexuals, not only for political reasons – being the church supported by the state – but especially for theological reasons:

Q: “So internally, within the *Folkekirke*, would you say: We have to because that’s why we have theology? Is it that sort of an argument?”

PSJ: “Yes, yes. Yes, yes. I believe we should. I believe that we are now talking about something on principle. We should do it of pastoral theological reasons, of

theological reasons. When I'm guarding myself by saying the opposite position is good theology, that's because the very basic theology is wrong. They're not proper theological starting points, you can't have this interpretation of the Bible, which is the foundation of that principle, according to me at least." (Quote 3.40)

When asked whether other faith communities should be obliged to organise religious marriages for homosexuals as a condition to get the right to perform marriages, the answer was equally clear:

PSJ: "No. I can't agree to that."

Q: "Would you want to?"

PSJ: "No, I wouldn't! It's an issue left to the individual religious societies."

Q: "So a religious community should be able to keep its marriage authority, even though they won't wed homosexuals?"

PSJ: "Yes. The National Church will take its own stance on the issue. It'll be us who decide it in the National Church and correspondingly, the other faiths have right to choose what they want." (Quote 3.41)

The Catholic perspective is more or less along the same lines, based on a distinction between secular norms administered by the state, and religious norms administered by the religious communities – and that freedom of religion also entails a right to define which types of marriages the religious community wants to bless or perform:

ET: "Now there's talk of having gender-neutral marriages. I would say that in this case, the secular society could make such a system. You can have a political opinion on that and I do – independent of my Catholic perception regarding homosexuality – have that view that incorporating such a system would in reality weaken the societal protection of the ordinary marriage and with that, of the family and children. I believe, out of pure social and anthropological reasons that it would be a wrong decision. Then it will be that suddenly, you can't have legislation that takes families into account because it also has to apply for all the others. That would be like banning the wearing of the cross just because you don't want others to wear a headscarf. That is why I am against it. It would be a sign of secularity if you said that the independent churches are also obliged to have gender-neutral marriages. The basic problem here is that the freedom of religion isn't just for the individual but for the collective. They say the priests of the *Folkekirke* will be independent but the church itself will not be. It's hardly a practical problem because there are enough priests of the *Folkekirke* that will happily go along with it." (Quote 3.42)

ET points to an important aspect of the problem; freedom of religion is not just an individual freedom, it is also collective. Leaders from churches outside the *Folkekirke* have feared that they should be forced to accept homosexual marriages as a condition for becoming authorized. Draft legislation however keeps the right for the religious communities to decide this matter at community level. But who speaks on behalf of the

*Folkekirke*? Who can commit an institution to a matter of policy, when the issue is unresolved? Is it violating the members and ministers of the *Folkekirke* to make it a matter of public policy? The *Folkekirke* is indeed in a unique situation, but when we asked LMH about the matter, it became clear that other religious and faith based organizations in Denmark would not agree to such a policy. As a religious institution, LMH's organization wants to avoid the dilemma entirely.

Q: "If the Parliament changes the marriage law and you could wed homosexuals, how would you react to that?"

LMH: "What we have talked about is that we don't wish to be put into that dilemma. So I think we would give up our right to perform marriages. [...] There are those who would say that they recognize a homosexual couple or also see homosexuality as love from God; as a sign of it being legitimate and that it should also be registrable and be blessed as well. And then there are those that say it has nothing to do with love; it is a delusion, maybe even a disease and it's something you pray to be cured of or you should just stay celibate for the rest of your life, if you have those tendencies. So we have the entire spectrum. [...] In some ways, we probably feel that, at least some of us, where we just say; there are more important things to discuss than that. I mean, in reality we think that it's such a small part, in the role of a church, but it ends up as a stamp, in some way. That's something some of us don't like." (Quote 3.43)

LMH talks about the organization handing over their state recognition and the benefits that comes from that, if forced into the dilemma. There is a clear sense that the dilemma is the problem, not so much whether or not homosexuals have the right to be married in the Church. The core of the matter is that the dilemma will destabilize the organization with devastation as a consequence.

DN from the humanist association has a clear solution to the problem:

DN: "A completely gender-neutral marriage law, where you say that the people that love each other and want to commit to a partnership with each other and commit to the different legal obligations, following cohabitation in the secular society, by entering into a marriage. These are included regardless of what the different religious groups might believe that the marriage concept contains, in their own eyes. So it's a legal term we use in Denmark and it is first and foremost the relationship between the citizens and the state that is interesting. What the individual faiths out there want do afterwards, that's none of my business, but what we have chosen to call a marriage from the governments side, that... if you have other criteria, then you follow them. What you're doing out there, that doesn't have any legal validity for us since it's just your own ceremonial and symbolic construct." (Quote 3.44)

DN takes neutrality to its logic conclusion. He leaves the religion in peace to be religion, the leaves the state institutions as a matter for the state, and the law can be law. And the effect is a gender-neutral marriage law that

everyone can agree on.

HC from the well-respected diaconal organisation is of the same opinion and argues the case for an independent and neutral marriage with an optional religious ceremony for those who will within their own faiths and community.

HC: "Well for many years now I've have the conviction that I don't think there should be a legal marriage formalization, not in the Church either. [...] I think that having a marriage formalization which is equal to all - again, this is a repeating point in what I say - at the city hall or wherever it is, is that society makes the decision about that, and you can say those that wish to, can go to their respective religious societies and receive a blessing or whatever you want to call it." (Quote 3.45)

### **3.11. Conclusions regarding Religion and Family in Denmark**

For many of the administrative leaders and leaders in the context of the Danish national church, these questions on religion and family law were surprising. They did not expect questions about that, since the general understanding among the secularist and among the *Folkekirke* interviewees is that family law is a civil law matter, related to the even more general understanding that law is law and law is secular. Should then people find other solutions within the matters, which are open for deliberation - that is their own case, it does really not matter, whether the solutions are inspired by religion, as long as they do not break Danish family law.

The interviewees from Islamic context, however, have many reflections on conditions and validity for establishing and dissolving marriages. They try to escape forum shopping but feel a lack of authority. They formulate concerns, but have difficulty presenting solutions.

The interviewees from Catholic and Jewish corners feel that their internal marriage courts or tribunals or advisory institutions are precisely that: advisory and not mandatory. It is a recurring problem that the issues regarding a possible divorce are of little or no concern when entering into the marriage. It seems there is little or no correlation between the one and the other, in the sense that the one is a matter of God and the other is a matter for the community.

## 4. Religion and the Labour Market in Denmark

### 4.1 General introduction to Danish labour law

The Danish labour market is basically and in principle market regulated. General rulings are made through agreements between the parties. Legislation is foremost in use when the parliament finds it necessary to establish norms for all no matter whether they are members of labour unions or not, in order to protect the most vulnerable on the labour market. The general approach thus is freedom of contract within the legal framework set by collective agreements and law.

As a member of the International Labour Organisation and of the European Union, Denmark has implemented relevant treaties and not least relevant regulations and directives, ordering the labour market in relation to discrimination rules.<sup>6</sup>

The Danish national legislation has a wide range of applicable laws in terms of discrimination on the work place. From the constitution to more recently applied pieces of legislation, two principles are basic. That employees cannot be discriminated against based on their religious beliefs and that religion is not an argument to establish special favours on the labour market. This double code in the Danish approach might result in a general rather secular understanding of the labour market, but also in an understanding where nobody cares if nobody cares.

This is also the line followed in case law:

**U.2008.1028Ø** – The applicant was not hired due to her refusal to eat during the Ramadan. The court awarded a compensation to be paid to the applicant.

**OE2008.B-821-07** – The plaintiff was a Jehovah's Witness and left a birthday reception at work. Claiming it was against her religion, she resigned. The court found in favour of the defendant and the dismissal of the member of Jehovah's Witnesses was justified.

**U.2005.1265.H** – A woman chose to wear a headscarf and was lawfully dismissed from work after violating the company dress code. The court deemed her termination acceptable.

**U.2001.207.V** – A man's religious beliefs were revealed to a hiring board and he was deemed unfit to work with others and his contract was terminated. The court found the contract termination to be unlawful.

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<sup>6</sup> For more detailed information discussion of the implementation of antidiscrimination regulations with regard to religion, see Christoffersen, L (2012 D): "Denmark" in Mark Hill (eds): *Religion and non-Discrimination*. Trier: European Consortium for Church and State Research.

**U.2000.2350.Ø** – An intern was not accepted due to her headscarf. The store had no official dress policy and the court found the dismissal to be discriminatory.

In practical terms, although the law protects against discrimination at the work place, cases seem to show that if there is a valid reason to terminate an employee – a reason not directly related to their religious beliefs and habits – then the courts will allow it.

#### **4.2 Religion and the labour market in general**

It was, as mentioned in the general state of the art of state, church and religion, chapter one in this report, part of the general change from state religion to freedom of religion in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that religion should not any more have any influence on the individual's access to civil and political rights (Constitutional Act, section 70), and this constitutional norm has from the very beginning been understood as a prohibition of paying attention to the religion of the individual when deciding over public functions such as judges, teachers etc. It has taken a while, but consequently any requirements of belonging to the *Folkekirke* as a precondition for becoming a civil servant have been taken out of the legislation.

The second part of the same section in the constitution underlines that religious requirements also cannot provide the individual with good excuses for evading the fulfilment of any general civic duty; and also this norm was in the general understanding widened to become a norm that hindered the individual in using religious arguments for favours or for not fulfilling duties related to job-functions.

On this background, the general understanding in the Danish public has been that the labour market is secular, unless we are speaking about clearly religious functions and work places. In addition, institutions run by religious organisations would have to argue if they should oblige their employers to take part in and pay loyalty to religious norms and rituals. This secular approach to the labour market has been the general understanding with no real distinction between a public and a private sector.

A series of questions regarding formally private institutions with public functions have, however, made the secular approach to the labour market increasingly problematic. These include religious private schools, overwhelmingly funded by public means and satisfying public demands. Likewise, the distinction between private and public formal ownership is increasingly seen as not necessarily the most relevant distinction, where at least also function and general legislation with not only vertical, but also horizontal effects must be taken into account.

In the same turn, questions regarding visibility of religious identity and/or norms within the public labour market put the question about accommodation on the agenda. These include, e.g., public common institutions, such as schools that are not necessarily seen as representing state ideals, but rather common ideals and norms.

### **4.3 Working hours and holidays**

The Danish calendar is still based on a protestant understanding of Christian holidays with certain Danish specialities included.<sup>7</sup> Christmas, Easter and Whitsunday, all three including the following day, are to be respected in public life and on some of the most central holidays the public peace must be kept with no disturbance from music, football and so on. Other Christian holidays, Constitutional day and all Sundays are common holidays with a protection of the services in the *Folkekirke* and these days are generally in the common agreements on the labour market seen as days off for all employees, meaning that anyone who must work on these holidays are paid extra. But there is no right to argue that one does not want to work Sundays or on Christmas day, everyone has to take his or her shift and nobody can argue with his or her religious habits, such as a habit to go to service on Sundays. That is not seen as a legitimate argument for extra days off or for getting that special day off (Christoffersen 2011).

The calendar does not include any of the holidays of the minority religions. Not the special Catholic holidays, not any of the religious festive within Islam or the Jewish faith. Consequently also Muslims, Jews, Catholics and e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, who do not work on Saturdays, are not given any favours such as special rights to get the day off, either for free as a parallel to the Christian holidays or as a right to pay for getting the day off.

Most of the problems, which might arise in this area, find solutions on a basis of accommodation, either among the workers themselves or from the employer. There is, however, a rising concern that this is not enough. As the imam from Copenhagen suggests, there might be good reasons for changing the national holiday calendar. These reasons go beyond the strict religious arguments.

AWP: "I actually think it would be an advantage for the entire labour force if you were allowed to move your days off around to a greater extent than what is allowed today. I know for example in the transport sector, bus-drivers and train conductors and all that, Muslims are really appreciated there because they don't mind working on Christmas while a lot of ordinary Danish non-Muslims would

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<sup>7</sup> See for a more detailed discussion of the questions regarding calendar, Christoffersen, L (2012 A): "Religion and State: Recognition of Islam and Related Legislation", in: Nielsen, J.S. (ed): *Islam in Denmark*. Plymouth: Lexington Books

rather prefer not to work on Christmas.” (Quote 4.01)

It is, however, not all working places who can see the advantage in accommodating their employee’s wishes not to work on holidays. Some individuals are strong enough just to quit and they therefore think this should be regulated on an individual basis:

SA: “I believe you should let people make their own arrangements with their work place. I’ve been lucky enough that when I’ve worked at a Muslim work place, I get days off at the end of the Ramadan. If my place of work doesn’t want to be a Muslim workplace, then I would try to negotiate about it and if my employer wants to be angry or silly about it, like “No, under no circumstances can you get a day off at the end of Ramadan, for the Muslim Christmas”, well then I would say: “Thanks for the great work experience, I quit.””(Quote 4.02)

Others rely on the support they can get from their faith community:

BL: “On one hand, it’s gotten easier because people are more free, i.e. that you can generally choose your days off... but we actually have a school teacher that was denied the right to spend a day off on a Jewish holiday. And we’ve also been able to change the attitude in the high schools, namely that in the old days you would deliver a note from the chief rabbi to the principal where it said the person in question should be given a day off on Monday and Tuesday for Rosh Hashana and that’s how it was done. You don’t do that anymore. Today, neglecting Rosh Hashana is seen as well... neglect.” (Quote 4.03)

The Jewish community has been part of Danish society for hundreds of years and much accommodation can be reached through negotiations. An example is the question about exams on official Jewish holidays. The Rabbi reflects the lengths they go to in order to meet the most frequent difficulties, but observes that the problems that nevertheless arise are resolved benignly and swiftly.

BL: “ [I] write to the ministry of education every five years and ask them that the official exams shouldn’t be at that time because that’s a Jewish holiday and generally, that’s something that gets accepted. And I will say that happens sometime. Last year, I actually had two students ... they had been told to show up for an exam on one of the Jewish holidays, coinciding with Pentecost ... and there the teacher had told them that there was no option for a make-up exam and no option to take it again at another point in time. So they turned to me and I wrote to the principal or whatever he’s called and I said this and that and how it was a problem for them and how he was going to deal with it and after about ten minutes, I got a reply back; I have announced that they don’t have to take the exam... so I would say overall, things can be solved.” (Quote 4.04)

Such accommodation is however not common in Danish society. It is, if the case was raised, a general impression that many practising Christians

would support the idea of a first choice for religious people to get day off as part of their holiday practice at certain days, if only the rule would also be practiced for Christians, who also want to follow their holidays. An accommodation only for minorities would however hardly be accepted, even though the calendar in general gives much better possibilities for Christians. Equally, that the calendar should not follow the Christian holidays any more would also be objected.

Another conflict on the Danish labour market has been whether a working place should allow for religious practice in the working hours, such as daily prayers. One of our interviewees has actually got permission to pray at work on the basis that he does not involve others and that he is prepared not to change meetings scheduled by others etc.

MB, the recently elected Member of Parliament, would leave the decision to local institutions:

“Why should Parliament engage in how people are dressed and whether or not there are premises for daily prayer?” (Quote 4.05)

Such a preparedness to be accommodative is, however, not the general impression. Even the humanist observer among our interviewees would argue for an accommodative approach, also e.g. with regard to establishing space for daily prayers:

DN: “My personal advice to companies, when I’m asked about that, is that I think they should think things through when you do that kind of thing because otherwise you’ll end up making people more ethnic than they actually are. You have to concentrate on the fact that co-workers are co-workers and then you have to see if you can’t separate the private and the religious from your work. I actually don’t see it as a big problem. It can be an issue in companies employing low-skill labour such as cleaning companies and factories, which often have people being a bit more religious since religion plays a bigger role for that group of people. They want these things to be available, kind of like how the Danes would like to have an exercise room. So I think you have to go into a negotiation to accommodate that. Do we ensure that the workers will stay by taking making these measurements? I think it’s dangerous to make prayer rooms from the start, in some divinity’s name, because that stresses some differences rather than...” (Quote 4.06)

It might be that such a position is basically Lutheran in its distinction between the secular and the sacred, since even the Lutheran bishop does not find it appropriate to open for religious practice within the private companies and organisations:

PSJ: “I don’t think that you should impose it on the employers, the option, to make a prayer room. For them, I think it would be a big mistake to impose restrictions on crosses or headscarves. They are life interpretive signs; they’re not neutral at all. It is

such a large part of their personality so I would feel it wrong to take that away from them. It can be in connection with certain types of work, where there are uniform regulations.” (Quote 4.07)

#### **4.4 Religious dress and grooming codes and labour market**

As can be seen from the quotation from the Lutheran bishop, there seems to be a tight relation between questions about religious practice on the labour market and religious symbols. The question about dress codes has been a general conflict at the Danish labour market over the last ten years. The courts have made it clear that the employer is allowed to establish clear dress codes, but that if there is no dress code then the employee has a certain freedom, limited only by general, sort of public order arguments. And there are in general many voices for being and becoming much more accommodative with regard to religious dressing, because what is the problem – if only decent manners and the ability to communicate are upheld there should be no real problems.<sup>8</sup>

For some observers from the general public the basic requirement is to be dressed decently, but there is also a dimension of how public institutions treat their citizens. This concerns those who need the help of the persons employed by the public institution.

BP: “Yes, I generally feel that if you work in a public office then you need to have respect for the institution you are at and respect for the people that come there. I don’t condone low cuts or jewellery all over the place or thigh highs or even making much of a ruckus about your own faith to the people that come there. They need to have the feeling that in this place, things are handled by unbiased people who know the rules and not much else. If it was ostentatiously so, then I would have a problem with it.”

BP: “... but you have to be able to see the hands and carry a sensible and present conversation that doesn’t involve you sitting there and thinking, I wonder what’s going on underneath all that. Then you shouldn’t have such a job. Also, it’s a choice that you make if you feel like showing off your religion because you’re also choosing to not work with certain jobs.” (Quote 4.08)

We are facing a real conflict here, since central leaders from Muslim milieus don’t see any problem in any sort of religious clothing at work and would also accept a burqa for a woman who had small children in day care:

AWP: “In my time as a head teacher, I’ve had a woman wearing a burka hired in a kindergarten class. But then, I knew that when she came into the kindergarten, she would take the veil off and would tumble around with the children just like anybody else. She was a damn good educator.”

Q: “Can she also be a child-minder?”

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<sup>8</sup> For further elaboration, see Christoffersen, L (2012 (forthcoming): “A Quest for an Open Helmet,” in: A. Ferrari (eds) *Burqa Affairs across Europe*. Farnham: Ashgate.

AWP: “I guess she could if the parents of the children in her care think it’s alright. The one I had was a damn good teacher, educated in Denmark, and since the same school had just been put under stricter supervision by the ministry of education, I could see that they were nigh about to fall backwards as she sat there and they would peek at her, through the corners of their eyes. And when she suddenly opens her mouth and started talking using all the technical terms, well then they could see that this was a human being sitting there and she knew what she was talking about.” (Quote 4.09)

PVB, the young female Member of Parliament, disagrees:

PVB: “I feel that you could probably say that the child-minder in Odense was a good example of how you can fail at your job if the child can’t see a facial expression and if the parents, as they come to take and drop off their child, can’t see her expression then I think it’s alright that the Odense municipality goes in and sets some guidelines.” (Quote 4.10)

Even though there seems to be a real conflict in approaches here, it is our general impression that the norms in Danish society are changing towards more accommodation, more inclusiveness when it comes to dress codes and working hours. This seems only limited by decent behaviour and a reverse accommodation. This means that not only the employer, but also the employee must try to accommodate the whole situation and also include more secular colleagues.

Here the Lutheran bishop steers more or less towards the middle. He does not want to strip religious women of their veils, and he has no problems with the religious symbols as long as it is possible to establish contact through recognition of each other’s faces:

PSJ: “On my behalf, I’d say that if a person wears a cross, I wouldn’t mind that at all, if a person comes up with a crescent, I wouldn’t challenge that, or a headscarf for that matter. It’s all right. However, I would say that we live in a culture where we see each other face to face and see each other eye to eye so in that regard, something that completely covers the face wouldn’t be acceptable. But on the other hand, I wouldn’t dream of banning it in society. On streets and roads. Well, I say if you want to cover yourself completely, that’s okay, but I would like to say that I wouldn’t hire a person like that.” (Quote 4.11)

The Lutheran bishop maintains that the ability to see the face is key. As long as this minimum of visual sociability is there, anyone is allowed to wear a veil, a scarf or any other vestment. This is important in the Danish context, as professionals in both private and public sector healthcare institutions have argued that a veil is a cultural or religious assault against the individual wearing it. Although he is partial to agree, there are a series of additional concerns.

PSJ: “There needs to be another approach, because otherwise I think it will pressurize some people too greatly and so I think case, I think you have to be sensitive to what exactly is going on in their lives. Very often, the women wearing headscarves, they’ve often had difficult struggles, probably with both their fathers and their mothers to get an education and especially an education that they’re passionate about. Maybe even for the right to marry in a certain way, and then, to sort of soften the blows on these cultural fights, they wear the headscarves. I’ve certainly heard some cases of that happening. So I don’t think I need to come and decide anything. The whole thing puts them up as suspects. There have been struggles fought that we can’t even begin to imagine and we shouldn’t interfere in that.”

Q: “But isn’t there – I’m trying to carry the question forward – isn’t there within the Christian groups in Denmark and in the Muslim and maybe even within the Jews in Denmark, a rising fundamentalism, I mean, religious groups becoming stronger and creating stronger religious norms for their own which makes it even harder to change?”

PSJ: “That’s a good question. There is no doubt that the press comes to this all the time, giving its attention to the priest that hangs a pixie or to the imam that doesn’t completely denounce stoning or even the rabbi being crucified for taking a stance on the settlements on the west bank, but to a certain extent, it’s a phenomenon created by the media.” (Quote 4.12)

#### **4.5 Religious requirements at the labour market**

All our interviewees agree with the general norm that it is possible to formulate religious requirements to central employees with a special and necessary responsibility within churches and religious communities. No doubt that it is not only allowed, but also accepted to require from the Catholic priest that he follows Catholic norms.

The other way around is a general agreement possible to identify. All support the general idea that no religious requirements are allowed at the secular labour market, meaning that a consequential exclusion of e.g. Muslims from certain jobs is seen as clearly illegal as being discrimination.

However, even though that is the general self-understanding in Danish society, also among the interviewees, then this sample does give surprising examples of religious discrimination on the public labour market. Here speaks a theologian from a minority church:

LMH: “I wouldn’t mind being a hospital chaplain for example or a prison chaplain and I can’t do that because to do that, you have to be a Lutheran priest. I find that discriminating. I know the reasoning because, let’s say somebody comes and wants to baptize their child and I wouldn’t baptize them, right, or there can be many other questions. But I think it would enrich our society if there was more equality and if there were different kinds of hospital chaplains or prison chaplains.” (Quote 4.13)

There are however still discussions and uneasiness in the field concerning religious requirements towards employee at the labour market. These tensions are related to three different areas:

Firstly, which religious requirements concerning loyalty, behaviour and active support of the value foundation are acceptable with regard to secular jobs within semi-religious organisations, such as diaconal organisations? The question is: is it acceptable to expect religious loyalty from the cleaner in the church? The two other questions are each their changed version of the same topic.

Secondly, which normative requirements can a religiously oriented ethos based organisation (such as a religious private school or kindergarten) performing secular functions with support of public means demand from their employees in general? The question is: is it acceptable to require Catholic faith from the schoolteacher in mathematics?

Thirdly, for clearly religious or ethos based organisations with clearly religious functions, is it for these organisations allowed to require loyalty or active support from all employees?

These questions have been dealt with by the board of equal treatment a couple of times in the last year with regard to a broad Christian diaconal organisation which from all active, employees as well as voluntary, require that they shall be members of the *Folkekirke*. The board has decided that such requirements can only be legitimate when they are phrased with regard to key employees, not when applied with regard to e.g. cleaners. The argument on the side of very many religious organisations is that they do not distinguish between the values of the jobs and that they need a common obligation from everyone active in order to be sure to reach their goals. Interestingly enough that is also to a rising extend the general norm among our interviewees, even though some would still stick to the distinction between crucial members of staff and the cleaner.

We discussed these questions with nearly all interview persons. Let us begin with the chair for the organisation of social workers. For her we formulated a situation where one of her members applied for a job in a clearly religious diaconal organisation, looking for a 'committed Christian social worker'. Here is the answer:

BP: "I actually think that's illegal, kind of like how you can't just search for a man or a woman. I don't think that's acceptable. It can be that you would choose that ... but I'm not sure you're allowed to do that."

Q: "What would you say is all right before such an office could be run, in the mixed professional and religious spirit, as it were?"

BP: "It's obvious that you have to propose what values you're basing on. There is no doubt that if it's said that the work is being done based on Christian values, then most Danes would know what that is."

Q: "And that would be something you could ask the applicant?"

BP: “Yes, clearly. Like if you couldn’t ask out at Toms [Danish Confectionary Company] whether you find the thought of standing next an assembly line appealing. I think it’s all right. But I don’t think it’s all right to ask if you’re a member of the *Folkekirke* and then choose based on that.”

Q: “So you’re saying that you can’t ask about peoples inner convictions but you’re allowed to ask how they will relate to the work place they’re going to be at? And how they can behave at that workplace?”

BP: “Yes, if they can imagine themselves working under those values and norms they’re presented with. It’s obvious and you’d do that pretty much everywhere. With us, we have an especially spacious family policy so if there is somebody who has sick children then we allow them to stay home for a few days. It’s the same thing.” (Quote 4.14)

This line of arguing was the same among almost all our interviewees. It seems to be acceptable to declare the value foundation of the organization, the employer, and demand of the employees that they are loyal towards this foundation; but it seems more inadequate for our interviewees if an applicant is asked about his or her personal, one could say internal, faith.

When asked how much emphasis should be put on personal convictions in secular jobs and how much should be put on the rules of the work place, the Lutheran Bishop, PSJ, illustrates the point:

PSJ: “The consideration for faith, I believe that is important. Sexuality, on that I’m not sure, I don’t think that it matters much, in that regard, I’m probably more the product of a Christian enlightenment, where it is the professionalism that should be emphasized.”

Q: “If a part of a religion, in some faith group or independent congregation says that the belief should be shown in practice; such as, we won’t hire divorcees, we won’t hire gays, we won’t have women who have had an abortion; we won’t hire them to begin with and if they do it anyway, we’ll fire them – What is your stance on that?”

PSJ: “I wouldn’t say that’s fair.”

Q: “And that’s what I’m asking about; would you say that society should accept this kind of legislation?”

PSJ: “No. Now we’re in the grey areas. No, I wouldn’t.”

Q: “Would you say that society should accept, legislation-wise, that people wear religious symbols (yes), but society shouldn’t accept legislation that can lead to hiring or dismissing of people based on their faith?”

PSJ: “Yes. There can be some religious reasoning. I mean, when there is a specific religious society then you can say they have specific beliefs, which I can understand if the employer would emphasize. But other than that, I don’t think you should be able to fire people based on their ethics.”

Q: “There was a case of a fringe organization of church volunteers who wanted a believer in their finance staff. Would you say that they if asked for a financial co-worker, who in his belief could support them and be loyal to them and actively contribute to the organization, you would accept that?”

PSJ: “Yes!”

Q: "I have a personal limit, an argument called that at a work place, you cannot allow yourself to ask into people's beliefs, forum internum, personal faith, but I would ask into people's outer practice. Is that a relevant distinction for you?"

PSJ: "Yes, it could very well be. I've never thought about it so you're giving me something that seems relevant. It is very much like the *Folkekirke* to say that we shan't scrutinize people's hearts and kidneys, their inner convictions. I won't accept that a homosexual couldn't be a teacher based on his sexuality. I would find that highly inappropriate. It must be about his conviction, not his sexuality."

Q: "And you would support the government saying that that was legitimately wrong. That layoff was not in concordance with the law."

PSJ: "Yes, I think so; I would say that I don't care much for it. With that, you've crossed the line. You're judging on personality there. I wouldn't be able to accept that."

Q: "In that situation, would you expect the *Folkekirke* to have an internal management to deal with the issues of decorum? Or would you expect that there was some other common labour law that you could use or is it a mix of the two? Do you understand my example?"

PSJ: "I do. But I'll have to admit that I'm not quite clear on it. That's the thing that becomes so tremendously difficult with the organization of the church, which has to change (it has to be changed?) yes, but it has so many implications which are now surfacing. It will probably be a mix."

Q: "A mix, which would mean you want there to be an internal management but it has to be framed by rules from a common labour law?"

PSJ: "Yes, because what I'm terrified of is that if we say we're going to have an internal court in the church. I'm so afraid of the church that can go and develop parallel legal systems. We're pretty good at that to begin with."

Q: "It's all slowly coming apart?"

PSJ: "Yes. It'll be an odd institution in society. That's why I think, I heavily believe, that the thing to do is to keep calibrating our own perceptions without becoming turncoats but regarding legislation, there we have to be as integrated as possible. At least as the *Folkekirke*. I wouldn't demand the same of the others but I wish they thought the same way." (Quote 4:15)

It seems however as if this is a position more easily formulated than established in practice. We didn't know, when we phrased our questions and identified our interviewees, that one of them was head of one of the organisations, which had been through the board with a case on these matters. The following rather long exchange nicely illustrates how a conflict did arise. It is clearly seen how different expectations clash when considering the religious, the organisational, the national and the European aspects of the conflict.

HC: "Basically it says in our fundamental rules that Danchurchsocial [Kirkens Korshær, ed] will seek its workers among the members of the *Folkekirke* and what we're saying is: To seek is not the same as to find, so where we find our co-workers, those that fit the criteria we seek, then there is an option for the state board to grant dispensation. But normally, if I can say that – and it has to be said for the user related work – that is that we have a brand that says we work on the grounds of the *Folkekirke* and that's why, that is what you'd want to meet. It's

very topical for us because we've just been accused on the board of equal treatment and gotten a decision about 14 days ago that says that it was wrong... in this case, it was about an ad for a job application as a consultant and where it said: "membership of the *Folkekirke*." Then there was a lady who'd brought it up to the board of equal treatment."

Q: "What about the workers on the public sections and the workers in the private sections, respectively?"

HC: "We don't differentiate like that amongst them; they're all colleagues of Danchurchsocial. The stuff about there being some shelters, some operating agreements, that's mostly a technical thing. But the workers we have are of all sorts, I mean, as I just said: At Blågårds Plads we have a Muslim – by the way, we have several Muslims hired in the same area because we have some football clubs and homework help for the boys in the neighborhood and there are some young men, Muslim as far as I know, who run that."

Q: "But that's an exception and as you said, it warrants a certain dispensation. Who is the common worker?"

HC: "The common worker is a member of the *Folkekirke* and, as said, there can be some special cases if for example the person running the project where you want to hire someone, demands that it has to be that certain person. [...] We have both workers and volunteers here and we call them colleagues, all of them. We have about 7-8000 volunteers and about 400 employed personnel and I think it's mostly the employees we must be talking about here, I don't know. It's really there that we have the requirement of being a member of the *Folkekirke*."

Q: "Okay, so you don't have that requirement for the volunteers?"

HC: "No. But we do demand that they must be able to work based on the Christian life and human values of Danchurchsocial."

Q: "What is your comment to the question regarding the workers in the National Church?"

HC: "Well, I find it fundamentally weird that the organ players aren't supposed to be members of the *Folkekirke* since the music is the primary source of praise and it establishes the space of preaching, where the words are heard."

Q: "Would you think that the deacons and diggers, that all the workers of the *Folkekirke* should be members or at the very least, you could claim some kind of loyalty?"

HC: "Yes, regarding loyalty, I would say, even from experience, that workers at cemeteries are a usually sought for conversations by the people walking around."

Q: "Staying within the workforce, I place your organization in a range where you can make demands of leading employees – that's how I would interpret the jurisprudence and you can demand some loyalty from the remaining employees. What is this case you're telling me about?"

HC: "We've actually had numerous cases; I believe all of them started by the Center for Racial Discrimination and Equal Treatment. They've worked very diligently with these things and in connection with that, targeted Danchurchsocial. We've never received any reprimands, if I may say so. The latest one, which, as said was about a consultant, as part of the diaconal activities which we at Danchurchsocial do, has to advise the leaders in their diaconal activities and other diaconal activities related to the *Folkekirke*, as it is, and that's why we had the requirement, even though there wasn't any outside contact in that position, as an adviser in diaconal activities. [...] Basically, I'm a supporter of equal treatment for everybody. I can't really see all the angles in these cases, which you have

briefly summarized. To begin with, you could say that it doesn't happen in common work relations that your private life, how you live your life, has any weight, besides the fact that you can pull the loyalty card or other expectations of loyalty and say: You have damaged the product of your company, if you're sort of translating it, by discrediting it in your way of life. That wouldn't be a stretch for ordinary, non-religious companies, that something like this..."

Q: "Some kind of decorum concept?"

HC: "Yes, that your entire persona, including your free time, including how you talk about your workplace and so on. That's very common even if there are some consequences of that if you're writing on facebook how stupid your boss is and all that kind of stuff, right, we have very liquid borders even in this context." (Quote 4.16)

When the question is turned around, the answer is the same: the personal faith is an internal and private question, but the employer is allowed to require loyalty when the person is at work. Unless the organisation has such a clear profile that loyalty is not enough, one is also allowed to require commitment. The Judge reflects here on our by intention a little bit provocative questions:

Q: "A person who continuously shows in his actions and his vocabulary that he is thwarting the company or has some other religious view.

TB: "It must be incorporated under the rules of what an employee can expect and tolerate from his employees and clearly you can't tolerate that your employee is frustrating the company so explicitly. You can also make dress codes that apply to all."

Q: "Now, these are nice and well-behaved employees this employer has, so they don't say anything. But as soon as they're off, then they cross the street and it's clearly that they're submitting themselves to another religion. ... Obviously they have a different view and they are still dishwashers. Maybe they're deacons, not only mopping the floors but are also there to welcome funeral guests and creating the atmosphere of the house."

TB: "I'm beginning to be a bit unsure regarding deacons. There, I think we're at a level where I could imagine that it mattered that you belong to the same club that you're working in. But really, what you're saying doesn't really change my opinion. It's a question of free time. As long as you're behaving decently and loyally at work. By loyalty, I don't mean that you can't have a different opinion and neither do I mean that you can't express your opinion. You just need to be an employee that doesn't frustrate his workplace."

Q: "Now I'm imaging that it's a common occurrence at the local office of the Christian Union that there are some morning devotions, where you sing hymns, read a prayer and read from the Bible. Then you hire an employee who is very good at the union work but doesn't want to be a part of the morning devotions. Could you fire him?"

TB: "I think that there should be enough leeway so you could say, they don't have to come to the morning devotions but they could still be able to perform the work they've been hired to do."

Q: "Now, we have a teacher at a significantly Christian free school which is on the religious rightwing in Denmark, where you're clearly opposed to abortions,

divorce and homosexuality. One of the teachers has an abortion, the second one gets a divorce and the third one turns out to be openly homosexual and they are fired. What would you think of these instances? Or we could just say they don't get hired in the first place because during the job interview, they are asked about their sexuality, their stance on abortion and family relationships. They say that's illegal to be asking them these questions and they come to you."

TB: "As I understand it, we're dealing with a Christian free school where these are basically the ground rules, this is how it is. As teachers, they have to present themselves on a level where it can't be argued that they're acting contrary to the school foundation. I would say that as an employer, you shouldn't be tolerating that because there is a common ground, belief, for the school and because at that level, it matters to the parents that there is a common basis. That's why you have this school. What I'm thinking is that, I'm using the discrimination rules I know. With those, I think you could reach the result I'm talking about."

Q: "Exactly, it's about this combination of this ethos within the company and what loyalties you can demand, vis-à-vis both toward attitude and action partly when you want to hire them and partly when you want to fire them."

TB: "As a start, you can say that it's clearly discriminating that you're starting off a conversation with your future employee whether they have any plans on getting pregnant and if they did, would they opt for an abortion. But here we're dealing with a business where it's a base value that you, as an employee, have to accept if you want to work there. Otherwise, you'll have to stop working there." (Quote 4.17)

The answers from centrally placed lawyers elsewhere in society follow the same lines of argumentation. It has thus for a while been possible to hear reflections, where the basic argument is, that it is all a question about qualifications for the job.

There are in fact no clear answers. The reflections and interpretations are related to the concrete context and the concrete questions. Which type of organisation? How clear is it that there is a value foundation related to the organisation? How about the nature of the job? How interlinked are value-based practices to the job? And many more such questions. When asked where to draw the line, KWH, the female theologian, argued for liberty on behalf of the employer to freely manage, e.g., a Christian free school under the current legislation:

KWH: "I think you should be allowed a certain degree of freedom when you're dealing with the law on free schools. Otherwise, you can just say: We don't want a law regulating free schools because you can't have your cake and eat it too. If you want Christian free schools, then you can't prevent them from having an old fashioned, Christian view on some of the things. So I think that would be weird. Yes." (Quote 4.18)

The same type of reflections can be found among the religious leaders in our sample. The leader from the Pietism Christian movement:

HOB: “I think the situations depend on equal amounts of how people deal with it themselves. It could also be, I mentioned once before, somebody that’s remarried. You could even take a step back and say it’s a divorcee. To me, there’d be a difference there. Another example could be that we have an employee that entered into a divorce. Can that person still be an employee? To begin with, I’d say yes, but that depends on what the cause for the divorce is and how the person in question thinks about it and what he is going to do about it and so on. So it would very much be contingent on a conversation. But it would be a on a number of other areas as well, I mean, it would very well be like the situations where we had people who opted out of the *Folkekirke*. With that, we’d still hold on to our identity, that we are a workplace related to the *Folkekirke*. But... if you had reached an agreement that you could still work there, then you’d still be hired... there has to be a decent length of time but with trust and a good trust in each other.” (Quote 4.19)

When examples are related to double discrimination (religion and sexuality, e.g.), the answers are more difficult:

HOB: “Of course you can end up in situations where we’ve had a job opening and somebody applies for the position and the person is qualified but there would be... now I’m not sure about sex but there be an case where, for example, if it was about sexuality, that somebody would say that we won’t hire that person because it goes against our beliefs.”

Q: “Or would you fire the person in question because he started to practice his homosexuality (Yes). Would you say that this is how it should be, this is how you should be allowed to organize yourselves or...? How do you view the legitimacy behind the legislation in regards to your practice?”

HOB: “The word discrimination is such a strong word. Discrimination can mean that if you end up saying nobody gets discriminated then it means that it’s almost an open floodgate for the individual to set the agenda for other people. I’m fully supporting that if it’s about people being discriminated against because of their sexuality and in that way, they’re nearly publicly ostracized and so on, I’m clearly opposed to that. With that, I believe that when it’s about society, or should I call it the evangelical-Lutheran: in the secular regiment, I believe there should be enough space that people can...”

Q: “When you talk about the secular regiment, would that be Toms Chocolate factory or Føtex or...?”

HOB: “I would say yes, where there is a piece of work, construction work or whatever. But obviously if there is, if you could say a level of ideology, theology, like us, then there isn’t just a set of work rules that apply but there’s a belief fundament, which is THE identity for that business. And with that, I think that the balance must be that the organization that has a profile and says: This is what we stand for and we hire people within this frame, and if you can fit that, well then there have to be some pretty good reasons for us not... I mean there can be other qualified applicants but there shouldn’t be any discrimination there. And then I actually thought about those cases that have been; Christian free schools, where the word is actually Christian, well fine, there’s a label on that then. There is a reason that you’d make a free school, kind of like if it was a Rudolf Steiner school or a...”

Q: “But is that a reason, where you would also expect there to be a resonance in

the demand for how people live their life outside the school, I mean the teachers exercising their privacy outside the school? Again, is it the homosexuality: It's not clear whether they're practicing their homosexuality in school right, but in their private homes where they live with a homosexual partner or have a homosexual lifestyle?"

HOB: "Yes, I would say so. Because as you say, if we're using the school example, if you're an adult, a teacher there and really, you're carrying the identity and behavior of the school with you, then you have a certain way of being, even in your private life, and that will most likely not be hidden so it would appear as a contrast and I believe for a school board, that's a very a sticky situation to be in."  
(Quote 4.20)

Also the imam pays most attention to the question about loyalty and is aware of not touching upon the individual's personal faith, but focussing on the value foundation of the organisation:

Q: "Regarding the choice for the best, does it matter what the individual feels about Islam, also with the different ideologies within Islam itself?"

NB: "No, you can't deliberately go into the religious area but you can ask about their relation to humanity and ask about how they view diversity because we have so many Muslim students at the school – How do you view the way we run our private free school? We do this and this, what do you think of that? That way, you get some answers from them. But I don't think we should put down an ultimatum that a Muslim free school needs a Muslim headmaster." (Quote 4.21)

The Catholic answers along the same lines: a religious organisation can claim loyalty:

ET: "You'd be expecting some kind of loyalty. Like, the Catholic children coming to Church on Sunday, they don't see Mr. Jensen at the Sunday mass but they don't see Mr. Jensen standing outside and saying that they're wasting their time in church. That's an obligation to be loyal. But there can be circumstances. If I as a Catholic headmaster suddenly abandoned my wife and children and moved in with a teacher 20 years younger than me, working at the school. Then I think I would realize that this isn't working out."

Q: "So you living your life in one way, goes against your oral testimony?"

ET: "Yes. It does." (Quote 4.22)

And the Rabbi:

Q: "Do you have religious requirements for all your employees?"

B: "No. And I don't think it would be right either. We have non-Jewish teachers at the schools. We have Muslim employees at the nursing homes and the only requirement we have is loyalty to your workplace."

Q: "And regarding parents, the children at the school, are there any requirements?"

B: "One of those, one party has to be a member of the Jewish Community. The party that can has the possibility of being a member, has to be a member." (Quote 4.23)

We will let the legal scholar end this discussion with some rather surprising reflections, showing that the days of the easy answers are over:

JC: “My basic position would be that the organizations that are atheist or religious should be able to keep themselves together without getting Trojan horses within their ranks. If that means, that in relation to other faith-based communities you must say that they get a wider berth, I can live with that. You can also say that the starting point is that faith based communities have a larger degree of freedom. The *Folkekirke* doesn’t because it’s the *Folkekirke* and you’re just going to have to live with the slightly tighter regulation.”

JC: (commenting on two specific cases from ECtHR (Schüth & Obst): “I would say that if you’re employed in a Church or a Mormon community or a Jewish community, then there are rules to abide by there. Don’t come and use the court system on this nonsense because you want to be an organ player there. That’s just too bad, then you’ll just have to play the organ someplace else. That would be my position. It’s just too ridiculous to be turned into an international human rights violation, that a religious organization can’t decide on something that’s fundamental value to them. You violate the values of a religious organization by sleeping around or whatever the other guy had been doing.”

Q: “Would you maintain your position if we were on the labour market with a religious ethos? For example in Denmark, with The Deacon Foundation, Danchurchsocial or a congregation kindergarten. In a congregation kindergarten, would you accept that here we have a leadership that says it has a clear cut kindergarten for the Christian congregation and we won’t hire anybody who has had an abortion?”

JC: “Yes, I think I would. There can always be a situation where you have to say, hey, this is where we draw the line. They are a multitude of people and it’s just one bookkeeper getting an abortion because she was raped. There can always be borderline cases but my position will always be that these organizations need, to some degree, to be able to have an occupational ban; like this is what we want and this we don’t want in our midst. Then you can discuss they’re actually going to manage that. Again, you have to say that if you have an alternative, I mean if you could be an organ player someplace else, then you’re going to have to live with that. If you’re a railroad worker and if there was only one employer, that’d be a different case. They can lose their livelihood if they can’t work there.”

JC: “Fundamentally, I believe that if you want to work in a religious organization, then you have to live with the fact that you need to be religious. I hope that the people working at the Institute for Human Rights don’t feel the need to think about human rights in a specific fashion. More than that, I have my own freedom to interpret and I hope my coworkers also believe that. I think it’d be difficult to have an employee who went about all the time and criticized everything about human rights. What would you do here then? ... X who won the freedom of association cases as a member of the Christian ones, he looked for a job at the supermarket when he knew he had to be a member of SID and then he could make a case out of that and that in itself, I think the case should have been dismissed as rubbish because it’s trying to forcefully create a situation, something the Court of Human Rights shouldn’t have been involved in.” (Quote 4.24)

#### **4.6 Subtle Changes**

There is no doubt that subtle changes are coming when the questions are about religion on the labour market are raised. That concerns both requirements from the individual to be allowed to follow religious norms at the non-religious labour market. For requirements from the religious employer, that his employee is widely loyal towards the ethos of the organisation, in the way he or she pays respect to the organisation both in wording and in practice.

As for the non-religious labour market, i.e., the secular labour market, there were a couple of court cases that settled the question about religious garment on the labour market already 10 years ago, resulting in a general right for employers to decide that employees must follow general dress codes and thus not being allowed to wear religious garments or clothes. Most interviewees know these court decisions and they accept them to a certain extent as for private organisations and enterprises. But in general our interviewees do not see the problem in the wearing of a small religious symbol on the job. However, when it comes to traditional religious clothes, the standpoints are divided. Both Muslims and Catholics would accept a veil, while others would fight against any religious clothing since they think religious clothing does not belong to a secular working space, or that religious clothes are only related to women and thus symbols of suppression of women. One of our young male respondents actually explained that he normally changes to religious clothes in his home and nearby milieu. The judge was furious over the legislation prohibiting religious clothes in court combined with a general rule that all shall wear a gown in bench, seeing this legislation as an example of trying to turn down a more female pluralist way of clothing in general.

All adhered to the general rule that discrimination on basis of religion on the general labour market is prohibited and has been so since the Danish constitution of 1849. Some saw rules on religious clothes as an attempt at un-acceptable indirect religious discrimination, even though court cases and legislation rule differently.

When it comes to churches and religious core organisations as employers, the subtle changes are obvious. Ten years ago, most employers in Danish society would argue that loyalty claims and requirements on personal conviction on employers even in the religious core organisations must be applied on very limited grounds and only in relation to core workers, such as preachers and religious leaders.

There is among our interviewees a growing and surprisingly large acceptance of general claims demanding not only membership, but also personal conviction from almost everyone within a religious core organisation, especially if the organisation is rather small or if the organisation has a very clear mission statement. Organisations working for

external mission in Africa are an example. The Lutheran understanding of a calling as related not only to ordained ministers, but also to lay persons combined with an understanding that it is not less 'fine' to be the servant or the cleaner in an organisation makes this a topic where formal law apparently does not quite fit with the general understanding among the interview persons. This counts, e.g., also for the humanist, who would accept high demands on loyalty towards all people employed in religious core organisations.

The changed understanding might have to do with a broader change in Danish society, where it is now very common knowledge that not everybody knows just anything about religion. This change has happened through the last two generations.

When it comes to faith-based organisations such as private schools or social organizations with a religious ethos, our interviewees are more divided. The general trend of change is also visible here, which means that many are prepared to accept requirements of loyalty. It is no more enough to declare that one is not working against the ideas of the organisation. On the other hand this area is where the cases can be found.

As long as the employers only demand personal conviction or loyalty, many employees accept this. Should an employer, however, demand a certain morality, and especially claim that family morals could influence the possibility to get a job in a religious organisations, it would still be seen as very foreign in the Danish society. We have mentioned examples on court cases from other European countries, such as the cases of *Schüth v. Germany* (Chamber Judgement 1620/03, 23.09.2010) and *Obst v. Germany* (Chamber Judgement 425/03, 23.09.2010). Such cases are not yet accepted outright among Danish leaders. We all face divorces, even in our closest family, as the Lutheran bishop sighed.

## **5. Religion and the Public Space in Denmark**

### **5.1 Basic principles on Religion and the Public Space in Denmark**

Whereas the questions and problems regarding religion - on the one side family matters and on the other side labour market - to a large extent are legally based and even legally driven both through legislation and through court cases, the same is not in general the question when it comes to religion and the Danish public space. Of course there is legislation on many of the individual matters such as teaching religion in public schools, or the existence of religiously led private schools, or even wearing of religious clothes in certain institutional contexts and on religious buildings, cemeteries and so on. We will introduce these regulations in relation to each of these single topics in the following chapter.

The overall situation, however, is much more driven by political norms, by identity concepts and by constitutional traditions. Summing up the Danish debate on public space, it would be tempting to reduce the entire matter to a question of secularism and symbols. As such, each of the subtopics of this part of the report concerns either the secular, or symbols, or both. However, it would be a very reductionist approach and the realities of the interviews suggest a much deeper complex.

There are two ends of the spectrum when it concerns both symbols and secularism. At the one end, either no symbol in the public sphere, or, at the other end, every symbol present. On the other spectrum, we have either a secular public space, where religion is welcome and where everyone is allowed and allotted their say, or a public sphere where none of the religions are present. In both cases it is possible to find an all-in model (or an opt-in model) or an all-out model.

In the following, each of these four positions will be presented and considered by the interviewees and thus the conflicts regarding public space will emerge. In the ongoing debate, strong arguments for each of these four positions materialize. It is, however, remarkable to see that the conflict emerges when the internal logic of each argument collapses and the state of affairs is moved into a middle position between either no or all symbols or no or all religions.

Before addressing the legal issues and the many particular aspects and questions raised in this section of the survey, the interviewees demonstrate that it is important to make clear these four key positions as they frame the whole debate. None of the positions are predominant in the Danish debate and it is very telling of the entire ordeal that one liberal prime minister, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, challenged the position of the liberal prime minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, he succeeded.

HOB who is a Christian theologian and a critical voice on the

mainstream religion debates in Denmark has a clear opinion about the public space in Denmark. Although he represents a wing in Lutheranism, the frustration that shines through his remarks is representative of the frustration that many of the religious interviewees express.

HOB: “Sometimes, I think it’s a bit of a shame about Danish society that it’s almost as if we’re trying to legalize neutrality. And what is neutral? What is normality? We can’t forget that being Christian, there are different expressions of that. For me, there are numerous phases to it and... the first phase is that we even according to the constitution want to hold on to Denmark being a Christian country, in this case I will point to historical circumstances but still, it’s part of our Christian and/or Danish cultural heritage to be Christian. So in that way I believe that, the Christian touch, even the religious symbols and expressions that are there, they must have some kind preference. And I believe that should also be legal in the public space.” (Quote 5.01)

Whether or not the Danish heritage of evangelical Lutheranism commits Denmark and the Constitution is contested, but the conclusion that HOB draws – that religion in the public sphere is legitimate and acceptable – is very significant.

BL, the Chief Rabbi, has an observation that follows very well the remarks by HOB. As a Jew and head of an old and acknowledged Jewish Community in Denmark, his mere presence is widely accepted and has been at least since the Constitution of 1849, which seem to have been proved especially during World War II.

BL: “I think I experience, I don’t know if it’s just me but I think, I believe that the Jewish community, today, has become a... it’s viewed differently in Denmark than it was 25 years ago. Back then the Jewish society was a part of the Danish society. Today the Jewish society is part of the society that belongs to the strangers.”

Q: “So it’s part of the foreigners as well? I mean, not just a part of the Danish minority that needs protection but a part of the strangers?”

BL: “Yes, because people, it goes for people, it actually also goes for politicians as well: the whole deal with distinguishing between Muslims and other, they can’t figure that out.”

Q: “It’s very interesting but very problematic.”

BL: “There is no doubt that Jews in Denmark are more alienated today than they have” been.” (Quote 5.02)

Interesting enough, however, the Lutheran bishop has the same understanding. The cultural environment has changed over the last 25 years and also Christianity has become more ‘religious’ and less ‘cultural.’ The distinction between secular and religious, including the *Folkekirke*, has become more clear:

PSJ: “Regarding questions about the religious and the secular, I think we have a very complex situation in Denmark. I think you ask most of the priests here, they would say: It’s never been simpler to be a priest; never have the questions and conversations been this good, never has it been this simple to perform baptismal interviews, because there’s actually – now you’re getting to the core of it. If you ask the colleagues, during the heyday 30 years ago, back then it was pretty difficult because you were considered odd if you were interested in theology - . We don’t have to be looked at like that again. Not at all, in my opinion. On the contrary, I think we’re met with a sympathetic understanding. You can see for yourself, nothing can touch you without it being watched by the press, both the scandalous but even the social interventions really and even religious interventions. It’s very interesting because there is no doubt it’s not just a fad people are going along with, I mean it’s not, how should I say it, bound into the church.”

Q: “So what you’re saying is that the religious values have become more recognized (yes) and accepted or in demand?”

PSJ: “In demand and I also think recognized because otherwise, there wouldn’t be this apparent interest in it.”

Q: “But at the same time, it has become more problematized?”

PSJ: “Much more problematic and this is rising trend, you can see it both in the public institutions and even in large private businesses, who wouldn’t have been afraid to support the church in the past; something being religious, that’s also become dangerous. That’s an issue that I believe leads back to 2001. And a rising problematizing all around the world, it’s really has dawned on western Europeans that religion is something deep within people, it’s something that drives very strong but also very large ideas. Somewhere, you know that there is a potential for peace in this but there is also a large potential violence and opposition.”

Q: “With what you’re saying, is there a part that says that the *Folkekirke* has been an expected part of the Danish society and now that part has become what?”

PSJ: “What you have to say is that it’s clear that there are other religions in Denmark now. We have always, most of the time, lived with the Jewish community being more or less a Copenhagen phenomenon. Now we’ve also got a lot of Muslims in the country and that’s not just limited to Copenhagen. It has become a national phenomenon.” (Quote 5.03)

AWP, who is a convert to Islam, is in a unique position as a Danish Muslim to reflect on Danish Islam as opposed to mere Islam in Denmark. He knows by heart the looks of Danishness and has like the Chief Rabbi an outlook on the Danish religious landscape and the role of religion in the public sphere.

AWP: ”Christianity has many outlets and means of expression which are conditioned by history, social conditions, interpretations from the preachers, cultures and all kinds of stuff, and directions of course, within Christianity. The same goes for Islam. That which is the grand and exciting experiment at the moment is what does Islam look like, when Islam is lived through a Danish sense of self-understanding? ...] We’re facing, where we as Muslims have to find this identity, like how I as a Dane need to keep my Danish identity while at the same time I have grapple with my religion; while others, let’s say children of newly

immigrated families or some such, they have to deal with their Danish identity while still keeping a hold on Islam. I haven't become an Arab, I haven't become a Turk, I haven't become a Pakistani, and I haven't even become a city person. I'm a Jut, and well, I probably have something of Nørrebro in me. The whole thing about keeping your own identity and then taking on a religious identity, that's there to form a religion into a new kind of expression. [...] What Muslims and Islam can contribute to this society, that's really a part of the dynamic that's at work in society. Denmark isn't static and no society is static, so as part of that dynamic, that's a part of society, there is also – and especially during this time of globalization which we living right now, there is that Denmark has to understand and adapt to all sorts of different nationalities that are there. With that, Islam has certainly put that agenda in focus.” (Quote 5.04)

Very few people are - like the imam is - able to speak to the best of Danish mentality while at the same time chastise the Danes for their tendency to be narrow-minded and focused on a local, irrelevant frame. He speaks plain Danish to Danes, but talks of Islam because he himself – in himself – is able to bridge the gap between the two. In a sense he brokers one to the other. He clearly demonstrates that Islam is, as Christianity is, in the same situation in the public space. As things change, religion is part of the response to and the reflection of this change.

### **5.1.a Between the secular and the secularized**

If we want to keep focus on the divergent about the Danish debate on religion in the public sphere, there is need for a distinction between these two. By analogy, ET stresses the importance of this distinction and explains why:

ET: “A secular Denmark? Secularity isn't the same as secularism. You can very well be patriotic without being nationalistic, you can be social without being a socialist, and you can be a locally oriented, ‘communal’, without being a communist. [...] The scheme is that we have a secular society and that's a good thing because secularism is the basis for freedom of religion. We don't have a secularist society though some are trying to convince us that they would prefer a secularist society. A secular society rejects religion and that's not what the Danish society does. Our constitution starts with mentioning the Church that needs to be supported by the government and by the way, the other faiths are mentioned as well. What's interesting is that it's not just the religion of the majority that is mentioned in the constitution but also the religion of the minority. Their right to exist is determined in the constitution itself. That is, we are secular in the sense that we don't dismiss religion. We are not hostile to religion. On the contrary, we are accepting of religion.” (Quote 5.05)

ET is of course a Catholic and has an argument for inclusiveness in the Danish society. However, KWH, who is very Lutheran in her perspective on things, is speaking for the very same distinction and for the importance of being able to keep politics, law and religion as separate entities. On the

secular society she maintains, as ET did, that secularism is the precondition of freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

KWH: "What the secular society means is that there is no sacred law, a theocracy that determines how we build our society; there is freedom. We can argue all the days of the week, whether we need a monarchy, a republic, free abortion or not and we're not looking up our answers in religious codices to figure it out. But at the same time, we have a close connection to religion; we may even have a state that supports it... A secular society is exactly the kind of society that can be interwoven with the religious aspect but where you still have the freedom to argue how the secular society should be built up. I would say the secular society is the Danish society. [...] "You could also say that I'm secular because I'm Christian. [...] That's the freedom that I really have from Christianity, that's something you can use. There's also the fact that secularity is liberated from Christianity. There is no legal code, no shari'a, no paragraphs; we can openly argue because this is the realm of the emperor; here we can argue." (Quote 5.06)

From KWH and her understanding of the secular growing out of the Christian there comes a freedom to argue and a freedom to keep to what we believe. When we turn to DN who has been a spokesman for the Humanist Society, he wants to keep that very same neutral space in which we can manifest our religious and other opinions. However, he adds a distinction to the public sphere in that there is the public sphere and there is state sphere. His point is more to the fact that if we truly want a free discussion and debate – as KWH wants – the state sphere and institutions should be clearly neutral, so that the public sphere may be utterly open for all sorts of symbols and expressions.

DN: "The public space is the space we're all occupying, all the time. There are two kinds of public spaces: There is the governmental public space and then there is the public space that means we are outside our private lives. These two spaces are different because in the public space, there is room for different viewpoints. [In the wide public space] and in that, we can clash all we want and I will stand my ground and say my point of view is better than theirs, but they have just as much right as me to have their own point of view. The other kind of public space, and that's where I've been and where the Center of Humanities is very active, that's about governmental institutions. That is, everything from the welfare office to the library to the public school and all these other places which are religiously neutral." (Quote 5.07)

DN's dual public sphere fills in the spectrum of the secular in the public sphere. On the one hand, certain institutions should be truly neutral to religion in the sense that religion is not relevant to the business of statecraft, legislation, education, social affair and so on. On the other hand, everything else that is not either this neutral state sphere or the private sphere should be filled with discussion. Most of the interviewees would

agree to this image of three spheres, however, there is plenty of conflict about where to draw the distinction between them.

### **5.1.b Legislation:**

It seems suitable now to introduce the Danish constitutional principles and the relevant legislation on the topic 'Religion in the Public Space.'

The constitution of 1849, latest revised in 1953, is published as **law no. 169 of 05/06/1953**. The constitution in its first four sections identifies the founding stones of the society: the territory; the monarchy; the separation of powers; and the existence of the *Folkekirke*, as such supported by the State. Each of these four sections is further regulated and the preconditions of the existence of these corner stones are laid down in the subsequent chapters of the constitution. As for the *Folkekirke* and the obligation for the state to support this church, the precondition is freedom of religion for each individual person as well as a prohibition of religious discrimination outside the religious area (Christoffersen 2010A).

Besides its function as the church for 80% of the Danes, the *Folkekirke* also runs the public civil registration in the country and most of the public cemeteries. However, the ten main cities run their own cemeteries. Other religious communities can get approval for opening a cemetery, which is the case for the Jewish community, for some Reformed and Catholic communities, and which has been a long standing discussion for Muslim communities. A Muslims burial ground was opened in 2006. This is regulated according to *Begravelsesloven* – The law on burial, **LBK nr. 665 of 16/06/2010**.

When it comes to the question of teaching religion in the public school, this is regulated through the law on public schooling (*Folkeskoleloven* - **LBK nr. 998 of 16/08/2010**). A topic, called Christian knowledge is taught as an ordinary exam topic at all levels from lower primary to upper secondary, however with the possibility for the individuals to withdraw from the education. It is also possible to open non-governmental schools, based on religious ideas and norms. (Christoffersen 2012B).

The national legislation of Denmark touches upon differing burial customs and the specifics within it. In 2010, the Government analysed the use of burqas in the public space as well as in public institutions. Legislation was passed with regard to wearing religious garments in courtrooms. However, in regards to religious garb or symbols in schools, there is a decided lack of legislation. There has simply been no need to address the issue.

This is the relevant case law:

**U.2001.910.V** – A tombstone engraved with the words “Hell’s Angels” was not allowed to be inserted at a local cemetery by the local church council. The court found in favour of the church council.

**U.2001.83.H** – A group of students prayed in the school cafeteria and were reprimanded for it. They were then given a separate prayer room. Afterwards, a student was again found praying in the cafeteria and was expelled for it. The court found in favour of the school and deemed the expulsion acceptable.

There is little Danish case law regarding the thematic issues of places of worship and full-face veils in school. In regards to veils and headdresses, there have been some cases in the workplace but none that pertain to schools. In regards to places of worship, there has been some media coverage in regards to Islamic burial grounds and the construction of mosques but none of those issues have ever escalated into actual court cases.

## **5.2 On symbols; between the symbolic and the deviant**

Many of these questions, dealt with to some extent in the legislation, but to a much higher degree in the public debate, concern the conflict between the symbolic and the deviant.

The burqa was mentioned in a previous section. Although we return to the discussion about the burqa in much greater detail later in the report, there is a need to say something about religious symbols and how we see them in the public sphere. The burqa in and of itself is not necessarily a religious symbol and if anything it is as much a product of history and culture as it is of religion. However, it is often seen as a religious symbol and it influences the debate about religion in the public sphere as if it was. The thing about symbols is that they are the individual expression of or contribution to the common norms on which we build our common society and of which the public sphere is the face.

In order to appreciate the nuances of the debates on religion in the Danish public sphere, we need to see the spectrum of symbols from those that truly express the very core values of society to the symbols that clearly challenge these values. However, it is important to remember that there is little agreement on what the core values are in Denmark, which is what sparks the tension. In addition, there is a communicatory aspect to symbols in that the meaning thought to be embedded in the symbol is often only discernable to those who know or agree while those who disagree only see the contrast. As such, the burqa may mean freedom of religion or expression to one interviewee while it is oppressive and deviant to the other.

On the matter of symbols in the Danish public sphere, JC is asked how he perceives of the symbols that are religious in nature and used in public:

JC: "We've had a very long tradition in having a cross in our flag and it's no longer a religious symbol to the Danes. It's a flag symbol. Most Danes think I've disconnected and no longer see a cross and that's why it doesn't symbolize a religious manifestation that there's a cross in the flag. That can be misunderstood when people come here, like if we go to Turkey and see the crescent, where you realize it's a Muslim symbol and you realize this is a Christian symbol but it has lost that significance in everyday life. There was a person who raised the question whether it was legal to have the Jelling stone [with its carved crucifix] on the inside of our passport. [...] I find that the number of religious symbols in the public space is quite modest in Denmark when compared to all kinds of other countries. Or at least equal to and just as modest as in many other countries. Our position is still that we consider religion a private matter. That's why it's possible that I as a Dane sometimes disconnect, which I have done, but it could still be there for others and maybe you should work on toning it all down. But I must admit, before the rise of the issue, I hadn't even thought about it." (Quote 5.08)

As he reflects the question and the problem of symbols in the public sphere, JC maintains at the abstract level the dilemma at hand. On the one hand, religion is a private matter, and on the other, the religious symbols are not offensive. JC thinks of the flag and the old Nordic Christ figure in the passport as symbols that have become so common or accepted as to symbolize the very core of society rather than anything problematic or deviant. Most of the interviewees agree that these basic symbols are not contested, but DN criticizes the 'fetishization' of the latent religion in these symbols.

DN: "The *Folkekirke* became a state church and it's been one for a long time and that sort of rubs off. Symbols have a way of meaning something in one era and it becomes a bit disconnected with what it actually started out as. [...] I'm not into the whole symbol fetish and I don't think they have that power. Symbols are what we make them and we sort of put into them and us people, we can renew something and then let it die again. I see no reason to start making some kind of ... it's a bit reminiscent of the Soviet Union where they changed history so it fit the new way of doing things. You have to take history into your considerations. That was then and here we are today, but to start changing it so it fits the present, I don't think that's a good idea." (Quote 5.09)

In the Danish context the relevance of the discussion of symbols in the public sphere has reappeared, as we shall see when addressing the issue of religious symbols and headwear in the courts and other public institutions. This discussion also draws on aspects of the secular nature of the public sphere.

### **5.2.a The role of religious leaders:**

Religious leaders and key religious personnel play an important role in the public sphere. We asked the Bishop in Copenhagen on the role and importance of religious leaders in the public space.

PSJ: “Well, that’s been changed quite a lot and here I may say something that may seem a bit beyond my station but it’s important, you can see that in January, I was persuaded by the ministry of foreign affairs to arrange a peace conference with the Iraqis, so the Danish People's Party thought that that was wrong of us to accept, that religious leaders played that role as they did, but I have to say that if you want peace in Iraq then we need peace amongst the religions and we need peace amongst the different... You can sit up here and say religious leaders have no political power. In that way, we’ve been thoroughly removed and I think it’s alright but that’s not the case in other parts of the world.”

Q: “Well, partly that’s not the case in other countries and Denmark falls into that category, (“yes”) and that’s why you hosted that conference but you also mention the initiative from Copenhagen, where the political leadership says: Here we have some rising violence and it’s religiously conditioned; we need to bring in the religious leaders. And that’s something new in Denmark.”

PSJ: “It’s something new in Denmark but I also think that... clearly I’ve experienced it myself a few times as a bishop that when you say something, something you yourself think is ordinary church commentary from the sidelines and then it goes pow! In the public space... “

Q: “So what you’re saying is that, not least the bishops in the *Folkekirke*, have... their audiences has become much larger?”

PSJ: “Yes, I think it has. Everybody... I mean, even the priests have a bigger microphone... We can also see with that some think there’s too much of that, that we interfere too much... the priests, they are now saying, interfere too much in the public debate.” (Quote 5.10)

## **5.3 Places of worship**

### **5.3.a Places of worship - cemeteries**

As things currently are in Denmark, everyone has the right to be buried at the local cemetery even though it is an Evangelical Lutheran cemetery. The only exception is ten of the largest municipalities where there are publicly run cemeteries. Some of the recognised and approved religious minorities have their own cemeteries, but most are referred to the Christian cemeteries, perhaps with a corner set aside for other religious groups.

We asked the Lutheran bishop about whether the cemeteries should still be blessed as Christian and how they should perform their obligations towards people of other faiths:

Q: “Now there’s an actual debate going on in Denmark whether they’re going to make a new chapel, a new hospital chapel which is a place where... no, wouldn’t you describe what a hospital chapel is?”

PSJ: “Yes, but it is, how should I put this, a room created for a rite of passage between life and death. [...] And those rooms have so far, for some people, probably been consecrated as Christian churches for Christian use and that would mean that they’ve also have the necessary religious symbols, that’s a given. When a Christian minister comes in, in that way it’s easy to be a Danish theologian because the words and the prayers sanctifies the room. It needn’t be consecrated to begin with.”

Q: “So you would want the room to be without religious symbols, without any separate consecration and then the priest or imam, the one using the room, could make it into the religious room?”

PSJ: “That would certainly be very good. As Protestants, we really don’t have any problem doing that. There could be other Christian groups that have more trouble with this method but I think we might have to be more vigilant with that.”

Q: “Cemeteries and burial grounds in Denmark are, well 150 of them are strewn about Churches belonging to the *Folkekirke*, they’re consecrated into Christianity. Ten of them are run, or rather, ten municipalities run them but even they are Christian and then there are some separate sections. Should we continue to consecrate cemeteries?”

PSJ: “Yes, I think we should. I actually think we should. I’ve just been asked what I think about atheist having a say and I have to say, I don’t even know why they ask because if they don’t believe in anything, does it matter where you are buried...? With that, I think... and it’s not to be cheeky that I’m saying it, I just don’t understand how it’s an issue. So it wouldn’t matter for them if they’re put six feet deep, it’s not consecrated for their sake.”

Q: “Where you see the problem, that’s with the Muslims or the Jews or?”

PSJ: “That’s something completely different, I mean just like out at Western Cemetery, then we need sections. Catholic churches as well and so on ...” (Quote 5.11)

When asked to reflect on the current regulation and availability of cemeteries, TB does not have a problem with the existing state of affairs, but stresses that there is room for improvement and wider acceptance:

TB: “I don’t know what the alternative could be and we do have a destination to reach. So I think it’s all right. Or we could have a neutral ground some place where you could just stuff us all down. The best solution would be if every faith had their own. [...] There have to be different rituals and ideas about what happens after death. [...] Out of respect for them, it would be optimal if every faith had their own burial grounds.” (Quote 5.12)

A recent case that has been discussed quite a bit these last few years is the question of the old Jewish Cemetery in Copenhagen. The issue is complex. The municipality of Copenhagen helped finance renovation of the cemetery and part of the agreement was that the cemetery should be opened up to the general public. However, this caused some concerns in the Jewish community, as there have been issues of sacrilege in the past.

As part of the survey we asked the mayor responsible for integration, AMA, about the issue and posed the same questions to the Chief Rabbi and they both recounted the case and their experiences:

AMA: "... What I was a part of that was the opening of the Jewish cemetery... we went along to restore it and one of the requirements for us giving so much money to it, was that it should be opened. Well it hasn't been opened up as much as I wanted but it has been opened up. There are actually quite a lot of people that are interested in that."

Q "Has there been a new sort of rostering system or has it been completely opened up, like a park you can just walk into?"

AMA: "Unfortunately no. I believe they think it's a bit private. And I also think there's the aspect of harassment. They've got guards posted since they've been harassed and there's been some destruction of the tombs." (Quote 5.13)

The Chief Rabbi, BL, adds as follows:

BL: "Two years ago I become aware that there is some money that can be sought from the Copenhagen Municipality for a specific purpose. I put my thinking cap on and made a proposition that we should open the burial ground at Møllegade. It's actually a pretty amazing area. It's been closed for a number of years for security reasons and all that and it's exceptionally well received by pretty much everybody and in no time, there is a grant of 1 million crowns. Very nice and all that. And then we get a letter from Copenhagen municipality that now that we have 1 million kroner, so it can be turned into an open burial ground. And then I write to them: dear friends, opening such a cemetery, this isn't the Assistens Cemetery [a municipal cemetery in Copenhagen]. That means we need security. First and foremost, we need security. Something we demand is that we can't be open all the time but we will have certain opening hours. There is no understanding for that; they don't get it at all."

Q: "What you're saying is that it can't be a park where there is public access?"

BL: "Exactly. And they don't get that. If I say this million is given on the condition that – and it's the officials, I have to say – it's given on the condition that you stay open. And then I have to spend time and energy to explain to them that this is the way and we can open three times a week but it'll be four hours, three times and then we'll see how things evolve. And you can see right here, I'm just mentioning it as an example, there are things that you always have to look at, what is that, because there is nothing immediately... I understand the officials regarding this because there are some rules on how you do it. They can't immediately relate to this problem, which is the way we do things." (Quote 5.14)

There clearly seems to be a miscommunication in the story told. On the one hand, the municipality expects the cemetery to be opened up as a public park, while the Jewish Community have serious concerns for the possible mistreatment or vandalism of the graves and the cemetery. Somehow, the municipality is assuming that the Jewish minority should open up in some analogy to the open cemetery in the same Copenhagen district. However, the minority perspective makes all the difference. The public cemetery is

open because many of the institutions of the *Folkekirke* are part of the common public sphere. And the assumption that the two religions can be treated the same – although not clearly equally – is a stumbling block to the Jewish community.

### **5.3.b Places of worship - buildings**

The most urgent matter regarding places of worship in Denmark concerns the building of proper mosques to service the Muslim communities in the larger cities. So far, Muslims have organised prayer rooms and cultural associations in private homes and apartments with the support of the community or from international organisations. There are only a few examples of entire houses being converted for the use of worship, but so far there is nothing in Copenhagen like a proper mosque that is built for that exact purpose.

The discussion about a mosque has been going on for decades and there seems to be a consensus that it should be built somewhere in Copenhagen, and the municipality has so far been supportive of the idea, but do not see it as a public responsibility to facilitate the process or be proactive on the matter.

There seems to be several aspects to the controversy as it currently stands. One regards funding the project and whether or not the state should enter into the project, and also, whether or not international organisations and governments can co-finance it. Secondly, there is a question of who should build the mosque. There have been some collaboration problems within the Muslim organisational environment and the internal divergence seems to be insurmountable. Some Muslims point to the state or municipality as a possible facilitator of the process, but neither have taken the initiative.

Naturally, it was the imams amongst the interviewees who reflected mostly on the matter. NB argues that the most tangible need of Muslim today is a mosque where Muslims can meet, pray together and enter into dialogue with one another and people of other faiths.

NB: “The Muslims need a mosque [and] the role of the state is to facilitate the building of a mosque. Now, I said “mosque” in the beginning; I don’t think it’s the most important task but we’ll deal with it first. The state should facilitate this project but not just the mosque but also facilitate a dialogue that says: Everybody is welcome here; having a mosque is not a problem. [...] I would say the state has to pay for a part of it – whatever the Muslims can’t get themselves, which is problematic since because deep down, the state may not want funding to come from Iran or Saudi Arabia. [...] It would be Danish Muslims, it would be Danish authorities – whether you want to call it the state or the authorities, that doesn’t matter... but on the other hand, I wouldn’t mind if other Muslim countries or western countries give and support the project, as long as the expectations are sorted out. The expectations are that there shouldn’t be any influence from Iran

about local matters regarding the mosque or Muslims in Denmark.” (Quote 5.15)

However, there is little agreement on the matter, and in the to and fro between the interviewer and AWP, the imam from Copenhagen, the facets of the building of the mosque becomes apparent. In his own provocative style, AWP sketches the issues of responsibility, funding, participation of state and even the public aspects of such a building project.

Q: “Who’s going to finance a proper mosque in Copenhagen?”

AWP: “The Muslims.”

Q: “The Danish Muslims or Muslims from abroad?”

AWP: “They can all do it. All those that want to. Non-Muslims can do it too!”

Q: “Thanks. Even foreign states?”

AWP: “Foreign states as well – as long as there are no conditions. That would be the ultimate criteria for accepting any kind of support from anywhere, I would say, despite the fact that in Denmark, you’ve been out building churches and deciding yourself who stands on the pulpit, so yes, I don’t think we’re going to have somebody from the outside telling us who stands on the pulpit in the mosques in Denmark.”

Q: “Should there be public access regarding the finances of the building project?”

AWP: “Well, I don’t have any problems with that. I think that’s fine.”

Q: “Organizationally, who would support such a project?”

AWP: “The Muslims in Denmark.”

Q: “Can they do that?”

AWP: “Yes, they can. The Muslim Common Council can do it. They have the size and strength to pull it off.”

Q: “Should the state or municipality do something?”

AWP: “No, they shouldn’t. They have to grant the permissions required to do this project in concordance with the legislation covering the different areas.”

Q: “Could there be minarets?”

AWP: “Yes, sure.”

Q: “Should they be able to call to prayer?”

AWP: “No, because that doesn’t make any sense. People don’t come to pray because we call out across Amagerbrogade or something. They don’t. People here know when it’s time to pray; they go pray when it’s time to pray.”

Q: “Should they stop ringing the church bells because people know what time there’s a church service?”

AWP: “No skin off my nose.” (Quote 5.16)

On the face of it the two imams address two different positions, but they each point to one of the two major problems. AWP stresses the public interference and political tensions of the project while NB points to mismatched expectations, as the separate reasons for the limited success so far.

Several of the interviewees point to these two factors as the main difficulty for the Muslim organisations to overcome in the next few years. Some even say that collaboration problems and internal power struggle is why the

Muslims communities have so limited positive impact on the public debate on this and other issues. It is a difficult problem, as Islam is by no means a singular entity if it is even the religious and not the cultural, national and ethnic difference that truly divide the Muslims.

NB is ever constructive and forward looking, and although he is uncertain how further collaboration should be managed, he is unyielding in his analysis of the necessary first step:

NB: "If you ask me; what could be a good model? Then I would say that I'm pretty unsure myself, but what I am sure about is that we need cooperation between the Muslim organizations; let's just take two that are the two umbrella organizations which are the largest and then you can take a Islamic Shia organization and say: We're going to sit down and figure out how we make a working model on how to run the Danish mosques in Denmark. That's the first step and then they need to figure out... Then I'm pretty sure about which model to follow. We need to make it together and the state needs some kind of influence on that, it has to be partly autonomous, the money shouldn't be coming from the outside and it has to be something of a Danish project as much as possible."  
(Quote 5.17)

### **5.3.c Protection as monuments**

Even though one would have imagined, that the state's financial support to the *Folkekirke* would among others be in use for the maintenance and upkeep of the oldest of the churches in Denmark, that is not the case. All the individual church buildings are maintained through the taxes paid by the members of the church, not through state tax.

There is general agreement that there ought to be a special responsibility regarding these churches and the cultural heritage, including cultural heritage of other religious buildings. A few, however, including DN of the humanistic society, warn against the ensuing special treatment of the *Folkekirke* in general that might follow. Not many of the other religious communities have old religious buildings, but a future case could easily be the Jewish synagogue in Copenhagen.

### **5.4 Schools and Religion in general**

One of the central issues of the interviews was the question of religious discrimination in schools. The perspective is two-fold. It is partly a problem of discrimination amongst students and teachers in schools and partly of discrimination in giving preference to one religion at the expense of others. The first is a limited problem and has little to do with the state, whereas the second is a systematic problem and the responsibility of the state.

The only interviewee, who suggested inter-religious discrimination in schools, was the Chief Rabbi, who pointed to clashes between Muslim and Jewish pupils in public schools. However, he quickly stressed that the

problem was limited and ought to be easily solvable:

BL: “That’s our problem today, that the students from the Caroline school [The Jewish private school in Copenhagen], there are some high schools that they won’t go to. In those there are a majority of Muslim children and as experience has shown, there are some problems that arise from that. We’ve actually experienced that. It’s something that pops up every year that when they apply for high schools, then one or two of the kids are placed in a high school they don’t want to go to. For some years, I had some good cooperation going on with one of the principals at Hellerup high school and then he’d say: You know what, you just call me and we’ll figure something out.” (Quote 5.18)

None of the interviewees we asked pointed to similar problems amongst teachers, but a few pointed to the obvious fact of a certain loyalty to the institution of employment. A Jewish or Muslim school naturally demands respect for the religious dimension and loyalty to the founding principles and it seems there is a general or pragmatic respect for this fact.

The question about inter-religious violence was also touched upon by the Lutheran bishop, who referred to an initiative taken by the city of Copenhagen in order to fight against religious violence:

Q: “Couldn’t you, before you continue, explain what you mean by religious violence in Copenhagen?”

PSJ: “Yes, it’s that Muslim converts and Christians are harassed; that Muslim women have their headscarves pulled off! That people can do such things, it’s utterly unfathomable and that they’re being yelled after; that a Jew cannot walk on Nørrebro with a kippa without risking harassment or attacks. We’re seeing a rise in that. Not monumentally so but there is a tendency for it. That’s why there is no reason to create a scare campaign but luckily the Copenhagen municipality wants to do a warning campaign and an educational campaign and we’re three religious leaders that have made ourselves available for this campaign because clearly, we don’t wish to live in such a society. Of course we don’t.”

Q: “And who are the three of you? That is, it’s you and...?”

PSJ: “There’s Zubair Hussein from the United Islamic Forum and then there’s Finn Schwarz who is the chairman of the Jewish Community and then there’s me.”

Q: “And then there’s the integration mayor from Copenhagen municipality?”

PSJ: “Yes, that’s Mee Allerslev, in charge there. And I must say, I have tremendous respect for the Copenhagen municipality that they see something brewing up and they hurry to take care of it before it develops into a problem.” (Quote 5.19)

#### **5.4.a On choice of schools:**

A surprising finding, which was confirmed among several of the interviewees, was that those of a strong religious conviction prefer a school that is attentive to religion rather than a public one. Religion is assumed to be ignored or not sufficiently represented in the public schools and

therefore a private, religious one is preferred, however, no matter the nature of the religious creed.

NB confirms in the interview that this is going on and that people often cite religious values and attentiveness to religiosity as the main reasons:

NB: “[The children] they go to a private school. They go to a private Catholic school in Taastrup. By the way, a lot of people do that and studies have shown that many Muslims also send their children to Catholic schools because there is a discipline there, there are some values you can join, which you can recognize and which you follow.” (Quote 5.20)

#### **5.4.b Religious classes**

One of the returning issues in the interview is the question of mandatory classes on Christendom including teaching about other religions and the possible nature of religious instruction in public schools.

The epitomic issue that has been discussed publicly and politically is whether or not the mandatory classes on Christendom with religion in elementary school should e.g. teach the Lord’s Prayer and the most common hymns from the Lutheran tradition. The argument in question is whether they are so fundamental to Evangelical Lutheranism that if they are not taught, a proper understanding is impossible.

We put the question to JC, the human rights specialist, as he could reflect the issue in the light of the European Court of Human Rights grand chamber decision in *Folgerø and Others v. Norway* (Grand Chamber Judgment 15472/02, 29.06.2007), and places it in the problematic Danish context. We asked whether he thought it was acceptable to include the hymns and the Lord’s Prayer:

JC: “Yes, I actually think you could do that. At least with the songs, right? With the Lord’s Prayer, I’d have a tougher time with that. If my daughter came home and said to me that they had to pray the Lord’s Prayer, then I’d try to make sure that they had an opportunity to say they don’t want to do that. [...] On the other hand, when there are strongly religious Christian cabinet members promoting hymns as a significant aspect of their integration policies, then that has an entirely different tone for me. There’s a difference if it was an integration project launched from above or if it’s a local school being visited by the Crown Prince and he was going to something in a church. It depends on the context. We live up there in Lyngby, and there they attend nativity plays and they go to church and they sing and it’s a perfectly natural part of their education. But I hope that they also learn about Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, the nature religions and the non-religions in the course of their schooling. There aren’t many immigrants in Lyngby and those that are, I’d hope that they and their parents’ religion is addressed in the class room in a sensible manner. [...] They also need to know that there are people out there who believe in something completely different and it’s about this and this and their fundamental beliefs are like this and this. That’s why I personally don’t think it should be called Christian education. I think it

should be called religious education. Christianity is a natural part of it, and in a country like Denmark it takes up some bulk of it. I think it would be a huge disservice to us all if we don't educate each other in what the principals of for example Islam are since about 250,000 people in Denmark do commit themselves to Islam. If you don't know about the five pillars of Islam by the time you reach the seventh grade, then I believe we have failed." (Quote 5.21)

PVB, the female Member of Parliament, does not see the school topic as 'religious classes'. When asked whether the subject should be called 'religion,' 'Christianity' or 'Life stance,' she explains the topic as follows:

PVB: "80% of the subject should still reflect that culturally, it is a Christian nation we are in. But the exemption clauses are a remnant and the content descriptions has also become a remnant lately, a remnant from a time when there were no differing perceptions. It has become much better than its reputations... the content description of Christian education. We're going about and discussing how it's all so bad but it's not. There is room for the major religions and there is room for many things in that subject, but the exemption clauses come from back then when proselyting was allowed in the subject." (Quote 5.22)

AMA, the integration mayor in Copenhagen, address the problem of the very wording and name of the mandatory classes on religion in school:

AMA: "I fully believe that we need to have religious education instead of Christian education. I believe that Christianity should be a large part of the religious education since it is a large part of our culture and our history. It has a special place and it will probably stay that way for many years to come. It needs to have a central place in the religious education. The most important thing for me is that we have religious education instead of solely Christian education... then you'll just have to accept things if some students don't want to participate. Jehovah's Witnesses are also exempt from Christian education. We've made part of our integration polic into this cooperation between Christians, Jews and Muslims. ... That was during a time with some unfortunate cases where some young Muslim, in my eyes, abused their religion to say "we are Muslim and that is why we harass Jews and Christians." It was a hot topic in the media but luckily, we didn't see much of that in Copenhagen, but it was something that the media picked up on." (Quote 5.23)

The problem of conflicts between Muslim and Jewish children, or rather the artificial non-reflected imitation or reproduction by children of the conflicts, could perhaps be limited by proper introduction to these religions in school. Or so TB, the judge, suggests:

TB: "I think religious education only makes sense if you tackle and deal with all the different religions and that's what you do in high school. But as I've seen for myself and via my children, Christian education in the schools tends to be a bit missionary. There I think you could spend more time educating on the different

kinds of faith and building up this tolerance that one can be just as good as another.” (Quote 5.24)

We would be naïve not to think that there is prevalent treatment of majority religion in Denmark. Although there are several provisions to help alleviate the differences, school is one of those places, where the secularized Christian traditions keep showing up. But that should not mean that the instruction into the other religions should not be qualified and up to standards. And that, unfortunately, has been the experience of NB, the imam:

NB: "... it's important in a post-secular society that we talk about these things. It's ok to celebrate Christmas; it's ok to have Christmas parties in the school; it's ok that you have confirmation education; but it's not okay that you can't teach about Islam when half the students or 90% of the students are Muslims and four years have passed in school and you haven't even touched upon it, haven't even properly discussed it. What's important is that the education, what's being taught and the curriculum, that it's put together along with Muslim organizations, theologians and so on, just like in other European countries. It's a problem: I was for example at a high school – just to give an example – where there was a religious day and there was a student who asked me: "How can you as an imam accept that Muslim women can't go to heaven because it says so in the Koran?" And then I said; "Where did you hear that?" "Our teacher taught us that." – And she was sitting right next to us .... Its things like that that can make me angry and upset, that we still don't have factual information about other religions in Denmark. Many of the writers, writing about Islam in Denmark, they already have an agenda, they already have a predisposition on how they're going to present Islam and how it'll end up reaching you." (Quote 5.25)

BL, the Chief Rabbi, who shares the acceptance of a dominant Christianity for historical and pragmatic reasons, stress in agreement with NB not only the proper and serious introduction to the religions, but also the possibility of an exemption from both classes and curriculum. This returns to the debates after the decision on Folgerø and Others v. Norway, where the option of exemptions were part of the matter.

BL: "I've discussed this with Bertel Haarder [Former minister of Education and also of Ecclesiastical Affairs] some time ago, when we were talking about exemption from education and I said to him, I believe that the real problems arise during the early classes. There I mean it's necessary for the Muslim families and the Jewish families to say: we want the child exempt from the religious education because it is heavily based on Christianity and the New Testament and all that and it'll be terribly confusing or some such. But on the other hand, I can easily say that the higher classes of primary school or high school should have religion as a class. Of course there can be a problem if a Jewish student or a Muslim student has an exam in, I don't know, the Sermon on the Mount, or something. You could say that's a professional opinion; that the student has to go through that, I don't

really think there's any problem with that." (Quote 5.26)

### **5.5 Religious dress codes in institutional public space**

There are two aspects of the contemporary discussions of the religious dress and headwear and both of them concern the traditions of headwear and dress often associated with Islam. However, one aspect has to do with the burka or the full face veil in public in general, and the other has to do with a highly relevant and heatedly debated issue of judges and lay judges wearing any religious symbols.

The two issues are intertwined in the debates, and in these matters we see how presumptions of both symbols and secularism are tenets of the discussion.

As has been the experience in the interviews, it is often the imams who frame the problems most clearly, partly because it concerns them, but very much also because the question of headwear in Islam is far from as straightforward as is often assumed in a general context:

NB: "Principally, I think that you should respect all religious symbols, even burqas. But there can be some practical limitations, practical challenges that do, for example, wearing a burqa or a cross that is really big – I've seen that – that's unpractical. It can also be a t-shirt where it says something religiously provocative. And then you have to..."

Q: "So it can be too visible and with that, provocative, or it can be unpractical: you can't perform well in your job?"

NB: "Yes, it can be unpractical in regards to your work, such as school teachers where mimicry and facial expression and eye contact can be important in regards to the pedagogy. It can be difficult having a woman with a burqa present in let's say a kindergarten class. Then that person can – in a dialogue of course – be told: it may be hard; so you can be given some other tasks so you could maybe use your education for something else. Be welcoming like that. [...] But let's get back to the burqa thing, there's one very important point: It can also be because of religious reasons that I'd say no because I know that Islam does *not* require you to cover your face. There are some other requirements. And that would make me say that I have a religious reason for not allowing you to wear a burqa because this Muslim free school has this position towards it." (Quote 5.28)

There seems to be two general concerns regarding the burqa in public; one is of identifying oneself to police officers, to the bus driver and even to friends, and the other concerns professionalism.

SA: "I have a friend that I met at the Frederiksberg Mall. The only way I recognized it was my friend was because she was holding her child. It's because she was wearing a burqa. But when she saw me, she said: "It's me!" so I had no trouble talking to her even though I couldn't see her face. But I know that other people don't feel the same way I do. I can see that." (Quote 5.29)

It is assumed that one cannot be as professional a nurse, or day care helper, or a teacher if wearing the burqa. But, that is not reason for discrimination against religion in public.

HOB: “I believe that if you want to put religion aside, like it doesn’t exist, then the public space, and not just the public space, then it’ll only make room for those that have no distinction and I believe that is wrong. As said, I believe the preference should be that we are a Christian country with a Christian cultural heritage and I feel good about that and it is expressed... if you as a Jew walk around with a kippa then I don’t think you will be allowed to go far through a train or sit there without being exposed to mockery or harassed. And that’s why I believe that the tolerance level isn’t that high. It could both be the Christian that doesn’t understand what it’s all about but it can also be amongst the Muslims. So I think there should be room for the cashier in Irma to wear a headscarf or wherever you’re sitting, it’s alright by me but then respect should cross paths, from Muslim women that the cashier at nr. 2 is wearing a cross, that that is also legitimate.”  
(Quote 5.30)

It is a quite general trend in the interviews that religious symbols and headwear – to some extent – is perfectly acceptable. There is however not necessarily agreement on whether it is a good or a bad thing, and that has to do with the signals sent in the public sphere and the signals that go against our individual ideas about public order and public tranquillity.

AMA: “A good example is the burqa – many people think that headscarves are completely legitimate. I’ve also spoken to some kids who say that this isn’t even an issue at all and these are kids you wouldn’t necessarily expect to be so open. In regards to burqas, it is my position that if it impedes professionalism then I don’t think it’s all right. If you can professionally and academically prove that wearing burqa makes you a poorer educator because the children become uncomfortable... personally and politically, I don’t like burqas but I wouldn’t ban them or something; still, I believe that burqas are somewhat oppressive to women, completely different than the other kinds of headscarves. Just like I don’t care, politically, for people walking around with a swastika on their back. I also think that sends the wrong signals but we can’t ban that.”  
(Quote 5.31)

The comparison of the burqa and the Nazi swastika, with it’s subtext of assumed extremism, is problematic from an academic and a politically correct point of view, but the association in common between the two is one of oppression and a threat to personal safety and comfort. HOB points to something that might remedy the situation. Professionalism needs to be taken by itself; there is no reason to question it. Likewise, religious symbols and religion in the public are here to stay, but there might be a need for publicly expressing one opinion and attitudes. Not that everyone wearing the religious headwear is assumed to be in favour of shari’a punishments, but that in a public space we must have the courage of our

convictions and enter in to deliberation on these important issues:

HOB: "So the question is, how do we get rid of some of these uncertainty factors. If the person in question wants to work and treat the patients that he or she has, and they live up to the professional standards, then I have no problem with that. That also goes for the legislation so if there's one sitting there with a headscarf and you're not sure if you're judging based on Shari'a or if it is... - at the courts or in the parliament, then I think it's problematic. I would say it's a lot about how you can make clear your convictions and behavior in this. But the starting point that the freedom within the mutual respect is there... I believe the opposite: That you want to suppress that and suppress religious expression in the public space, that kind of neutrality, I have a hard time believing that it's sustainable." (Quote 5.32)

In the interviews there is a measure of degree of what the public sphere is, and most interviewees agreed that in principle it is important to distinguish the public sphere where everyone meets at random or freely – which is the park or open street – from the public sphere where we must all be able to address ourselves. In using this distinction when reflecting on nurses and other medical professionals wearing religious headwear, DN argues that taking your religious business to a public place where everyone by necessity comes once in a while should not be allowed:

DN: "Now we're entirely in the public space and by that I mean a public hospital where there are no private institutions taking part in the daily operations. It has to be like that, that everybody is equal; you shouldn't be met with religious symbols maybe other than a pin, used for historical reasons. People like me aren't allergic to religious symbols, but symbolism is symbolism and it's there where you start to affect people's attitudes towards a religious direction within the public institutions. That is, if there is a priest, and I really believe this is a problem because he affects dying people in a specific religious direction and he is allowed to do that and proselytise in this place. If he has to be there, and he is allowed there, but then there has to be an alternative as well." (Quote 5.33)

Before we turn to the special case of religious wear worn by judges, JC gives a word of warning against taking the distinction of the public spheres to far, because the limit is impossible to draw. There is a right for everyone to have religion, but not to dictate to other what they can or cannot do. Weighing individual right against public concern is as always the crux of the matter:

JC: "You can take the judges and you can take the uniformed personnel such as the military or the police and then you can also take the nurses and say that since they're wearing uniforms, they have to align as well. Then you can take the librarians since you should be able to walk into a library and receive religiously neutral counselling and then you remove it from there. Then you can take the educators since you don't want them raised like that and so on and so on. There

would be no end to it and it'll be the individual citizens, lording over the others since they'd want it in their own way. The human rights convention: Every parent has the right that their child is raised in concordance with their own religious conviction. It's a beautiful principle but it doesn't mean you can't teach religion that is, you can't indoctrinate and there has to be a balance. But if it becomes, like, that every citizen can decide that I don't want to see this if it offends me then you're really exerting excessive power in regards to others in society. It'll end up being a violent power since I decide what others can and cannot do. That's the other extreme that I can see. We can become so sensitive that we can't tolerate other people if they aren't exactly like me." (Quote 5.34)

### **5.5.a The special case of the religious headwear in courts**

In Denmark, we have seen the recent special case of the amendment to the Civil Procedure Code (section 56) regarding judges' appearance in courts, and many of the interviewees return to discuss the symbolic use of law. In 2009, parliament made it illegal for a judge or a lay-judge to wear religious headwear and other visible religious symbols while in court. Although generally phrased, it was understood to address Muslim women wearing the scarf or even the burqa. The legislation has been criticized for regulating a marginal problem, but similar legislation has been passed in several European countries. For Muslims and most others of religious conviction it is difficult not to see this as disproportionate and invalid use of legislation.

SA, who as a trained lawyer and devout Muslim, helped write the Muslim organisations response to the legislation:

SA: "I wrote a response to the parliament's justice committee, back in the day, from the Muslim joint council about it and I said I haven't said which religion I belong to. The headscarf I'm wearing, it's like my pants and my shirt and shoes, and it's a piece of my clothing. And that's what they discuss in the preparatory work for the court, where they say that if it is sufficient to create an idea that I'm a Muslim... then I think: Are you considerate of the people who get convicted if they've had a bad experience with somebody wearing glasses, would they then say: "I don't want to be judged by that judge because he wears glasses. It gives me a bad feeling. I'm suspicious that he'll have prejudices?" That's kinda ridiculous. I don't think you should mess about in what people wear. Luckily I have a great deal of backing from the legal system because the judges themselves, the judiciary and the bar council and DJØF and so on, they don't take that law seriously." (Quote 5.35)

In addition to her professional reflections and her religious background, SA also serves as a lay-judge, and in her experience the presumed problem is non-existent:

SA: "Sometimes you get these looks from ... when for example the police come in as witnesses or ... I had a hooligan in the other day; They'll look up but they're so focused on what's going on in the court that the novelty wears off within two

minutes and then they had to focus on other things. It doesn't really affect, in any way, my judgment; I rule according to the rules I'm supposed to and that's the Danish legislation as it is at the time I'm judging, right." (Quote 5.36)

Almost all of the interviewees have reflections on the headwear in courts legislation, but the most of the profound reflections come from those who are legally trained. TB, who is a judge herself, reflects on the motivation for the legislation:

TB: "I honestly believe this proposal came to be adopted because people are scared of shari'a and that it may have an influence, but no matter what, it didn't end up, as if the entire jury duty system and the court system is such that it can be done, that I'm a Muslim without wearing a headscarf. Nobody can see that. We have to judge based on the rules adopted in our society. Probably there are some ethnic Danes thinking: Damn, she's sitting there with a headscarf on and now I'm probably going to get my hand chopped off or whatever they do in that system but that's what's wrong, if somebody is thinking like that. It's not that she has a specific belief."

Q: "So you would expect that the jury and the judges represent the Danish legal system. But do we share the commonalities that lie behind it all? Do we agree on the common values that should be applied in this common legal system?"

TB: "I would say that that is something we have to believe in since we don't really have a list over the people we choose. We choose them because they are citizens in a certain area and they have to be of all kinds, they have to be because they are representing the Danish society at large. And it is our obligation as judges, we don't become judges if we don't apply the Danish legal system and it is our duty to keep them in line. There are some toads amongst them, very active in the Danish People's Party asking if the person shouldn't be deported for example and then we say no because you really can't do that in a case like this and that's that."

Q: "So these conflicts of value exist, independent of people's religion?"

TB: "Exactly. We are not alike and it can be all kinds of things playing a role, such as politics. All kinds of things can make the difference." (Quote 5.37)

To this, BP, who is the general secretary of the social workers association, adds in a very pragmatic way an observation on the political agenda behind the legislation:

BP: "Again, I would like to point out that the Danish People's Party is doing what they can to create a problem. All this about whether judges can wear headscarves, which I am reminded of every time I turn on my computer, since I have an image of a judge wearing a burqa. It's a non-issue, since it doesn't exist and should there be a judge in a burqa, then you'll have to trust her being educated enough to retain that position." (Quote 5.38)

The most significant reflection here is that the conflicts from their lives, from their religion or from other convictions that people bring into the courts, will always be there. The value-conflict and the personal differences

are what make the institutions human and accessible, and the professionalism which is an equally constituent part of the courts, is what makes the courts, judges and decisions accountable and consistent.

In the interview with SA, she adds a personal reflection on how her religion is exactly that, which helps her in the earnest and pragmatic task as a lay-judge:

SA: “Yes, but no, I can’t split it up like that because my belief in God is that God made everything and everything going around in the world, it comes from God, even though it’s secular for that matter. But I can see how it clashes sometimes, for example, I’m also a magistrate in the courts; I remember when this terrible law came into effect, against religious headwear, there you feel like there is a clash of religion versus the secular system. There, you try to say as a Muslim, can I affect this direction so there is a possibility I can both be a Muslim and a judge, say in the city court. So you try to unite that, you try to find a way to the solution.” (Quote 5.29)

### **5.6 On shaking hands:**

Shaking hands with women is another of those problems that caught public attention and where it seems there is little or no actual conflict. This concerns both genders. There was an episode a few years ago with a young Muslim woman running for parliament, who said that she would not shake the hands of her male colleagues for religious reasons. Similarly, and in fact as consequence, the Chief Rabbi, BL, relates a story from then minister for ecclesiastical affairs, who would not welcome anyone who would not shake her hands:

BL: “I was pointing at some ethical problems, creating a conflict between religion and democracy. And that was, for example when Birthe Rønn Hornbech, which I by the way not only respect but I know her privately as well and all that, she says: “If an imam comes for an official visit to Denmark and doesn’t shake my hand as the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs then I wouldn’t receive him.” There is a part within Judaism as well where some men don’t shake hands with women. She has to respect that. And she shouldn’t put norms ahead of the religious context. [...] With that I believe that the Danish public, that is being made up of our Minister, she is forced to be tolerant enough that it is accepted. She has to, in the name of the freedom of religion in Denmark, she has to accept that this is a person of a different system of values [...] I believe she is representing the Denmark in the official sense, as a society, giving people the freedom of religion. And with that, I think she’s mixing the issue around imams and Muslims into a context which I do not find to be worthy.” (Quote 5.40)

The remarkable thing about this quote is that the Chief Rabbi refers it in the context of the judges wearing religious symbols. The professionalism that he and other religious leaders are maintaining as the true criteria for doing the job is the same professionalism that he

does not see in the minister for ecclesiastical affairs. She is mixing her private and perhaps political opinion with the position of trust that she has on behalf of the general public.

### **5.7 The Royal Family**

A special case in Denmark regarding the public sphere is the fact that the Royal Family has ties to the *Folkekirke* following section six of the Constitution, which stipulates that the monarch shall be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This – and the fact that ministers in the *Folkekirke* are regarded as civil servants – means that the senior ministers, deans and bishops are invited to certain events of state such as the New Years Audience and in religious ceremonies such as the royal weddings and baptisms.

Regarding the religious minorities in Denmark there is a slight difference in the relationship to the Royal Family and state events. If the Chief Rabbi requests an audience with the Queen or decides to attend the funeral of a member of the Royal Family, he will usually be granted the audience in recognition of his role and position in the Danish religious life, based on acknowledgement which was given the Jewish society already in 1685, that is: during absolutism. He is however not invited to the yearly new year's audience or to regular occasions in the royal family as head of state. Regarding his public profile, the Chief Rabbi is comparable to the bishops and this is recognised in the order they each greet the Queen. He is not invited to the special royal or state occasions, but in practice he has a lenient opt-in possibility if both he and the Royal Household deem it appropriate.

### **5.8 Conclusions:**

There is a very old tradition for what is called free schools in Denmark of both religious and political character. They must live up to the general requirements and goals for primary and secondary schools in Denmark, but they decide themselves the planning of the curriculum in order to reach these goals, and they are allowed to supplement with e.g. daily prayers etc. There is however also a rather recent legislation ordering also these schools to prepare for the living in a democratic society. This legislation is generally problematized among leaders of schools etc, but not very much discussed in our interviews. The state of course treats public and private schools differently – that is the very idea with having the free schools.

Some political parties in Denmark think that especially religious schools threaten social cohesion – others that this plurality ensures social cohesion. Among our interviewees some of the young Muslims who have tried to integrate themselves are now responsible for children's upbringing – and they have, surprisingly for themselves, decided to place them in private

schools or religious schools because they find the general school milieu too secular especially with regard to moral norms. In the same time these young, both Muslim and Christian leaders, represent a clear understanding of globalisation, they also want their children to be able to function in a global age, which is also an argument for using private schools.

The traditional religious minorities would of course be glad to be given economic state support for establishing or maintaining their buildings, but they don't want to pay the price that the Lutheran church pays. So at the end of the day they prefer to be self-sufficient. But they do want to get fair treatment with regard to or even support for the building of their own buildings, which has not always been the case. There is maybe also a lack of professionalism in small groups behind small minorities or new minorities, recently arrived in the Danish society. The state could maybe help more here – but that becomes a political question.

In order to appreciate the nuances of the debates on religion in the courts, we need to see the spectrum of symbols from those that truly express the very core values of society to the symbols that truly challenge these values. And it is important to remember that there is little agreement on what the core values are in Denmark, which is what sparks the tension. In addition, symbols work as communication, in that the meaning thought to be embedded in the symbol is often only discernable to those who know or agree while those who disagree only see the contrast. As such the headwear may mean freedom of religion or expression to one interviewee while it is oppressive and deviant to the other.

As legislation becomes symbolic and starts addressing matters of the court room and the aspects that has to do with the protection of values that are of no concern to the courts, the minorities start opting out of the civic legal system. The religious courts by contrast becomes places where the religious identity is not only welcome, it is encouraged and reinforced. We see a dual creation of new identities. In effect, there is a negative targeting in the public courts – and legislation, and in media and in public debates – and a positive affirmation of religious identity in the religious institutions.

## 6. State Support to Religions in Denmark

### 6.1 General introduction to the law on state support to Religions

It is, as will be seen in this chapter, difficult in a Danish context to discuss state support to churches and religious communities with a focus solely on financial support. The questions also include discussions on distinction between state, church and religious communities, it includes organisational support, it includes ownership of church land and religious buildings, and it includes decisions in the general public on the role of religion in the public space. There are many overlapping arguments from the analysis in chapter five on religion in the public space. We have, however, tried to sort the two by in this chapter keeping focus on finance as the central argument and including elements, which are related to financial and juridical status. Seen from our perspective, questions regarding the role of religion in the mass media could at better have been analysed in chapter five. Given the decisions in RELIGARE, we have included this discussion here, since it is of course also a matter of economy and law, whether or not to broadcast from religious services on a daily and weekly basis. The same goes for the discussion regarding education of religious leaders and questions regarding upholding the inclusion of theology in the universities – also these questions are so much more than questions regarding economic and legal support and very tightly related not to questions regarding support, but to questions regarding the role of religion in the general public institutions.

Historically, since before the Reformation, the church was an independent legal organisation, including church buildings, monasteries and other parts of the religious organisation in Denmark can be said to be established on basis of private funding and endowments. These gifts were at that time regarded as personal donations to the church. This was only slightly changed after the Reformation of 1536 where the king took over some of the land, owned by especially the bishops and consequently bishops were regarded as royal officials, representing, but also paid for, by the king. Still the local community, vicars and priests were self-supporting, financially speaking. They lived from the farmland, belonging to each vicarage supplemented from the tithes etc.

This system of financing within the *Folkekirke* was changed after 1919, where the state again took over considerable amounts of church land. This expropriation meant that it was not any more possible for local church ministers to live from the land, belonging to the church. At the same time the system of tithes was abolished.

As a result of these changes, the economy of the *Folkekirke* was then in general changed through the 20<sup>th</sup> century from having been based on natural resources to become based on church taxes paid by members of the *Folkekirke*. From the late 1960's, the priests within the *Folkekirke* received

equal salaries, no longer depending on the size of the vicarage. The members of the *Folkekirke* pay these taxes only, but as sort of organisational support taken in by the state together with taxes for municipalities and state purposes.

As a further support, the state also pays a direct financial support, paid by all taxpayers through the state taxes. This support is seen as a reimbursement for the expropriation of the bishops' land at the reformation, thus the state has to pay the salary for the bishops. It is also partly seen as reimbursement for the expropriations in 1919, thus the state pays 40% of the salary for a fixed number of vicars. Finally, the direct financial state support is seen as a reimbursement for civil obligations, done by the church, especially the keeping of the civil registration and of public cemeteries except in ten major cities, where the municipality runs the public cemeteries.

Also other religious communities, namely the 11 especially acknowledged, keep books for civil registration and have access to organise cemeteries for their own members. They do however not get any direct financial support from the state. The same is the case for any of the other religious communities. Even maintenance of the buildings or cemeteries depends solely on the payment from the members. The religious communities outside the *Folkekirke* do not have the possibility of asking the state to collect church taxes for them, as is done for the *Folkekirke*, that is: they do not get this indirect organisational support. Indirectly however the members of religious communities have the possibility of deducting what they pay to a religious community in their personal income taxes (a possibility which is not open for members of the *Folkekirke*). Another indirect support is that other religious communities than the *Folkekirke* are exempted from taxes as companies, whereas the *Folkekirke*, strangely enough, pays value added tax.

It is a complex situation and all issues are resolved by legislation and approved of case by case by the public authorities as well as by the courts. The explanation of course being that any other approach opens for the much bigger question - who actually owns the remaining church land and church buildings? And who owns expropriated church land from 1536 and 1919? And is there such a thing as the *Folkekirke*, which owns itself? Or is the state the owner? In Iceland, to mention a particular example, this has recently been sorted in a political and legal decision that the state owns it all on behalf of the people. In Sweden, the opposite solution came through as part of the separation of church and state in the late 1990's. In Norway as also in Denmark, this struggle lies ahead.

The relevant legislation is as follows:

**LBK nr 1352 of 05/12/2010.** Lov om folkekirkens økonomi – the law on

financial affairs within and financing of the *Folkekirke*.

For the other religious communities, the following legislation is relevant:

**LBK nr. 1017 of 28/10/2011:** Ligningsloven – The law on financial accountability.

**LBK nr. 175 of 23/02/2011:** Skatteforvaltningsloven – The law on tax administration;

**LBK nr. 1376 of 07/12/2010:** Selskabsskatteloven – The law on corporate tax.

The national legislation in Denmark in regards to taxation is quite extensive but it does as mentioned establish that religious groups and societies other than the *Folkekirke* are exempt from taxation and that individual taxpayers can deduct their gifts to religious communities, except the tax members of the *Folkekirke* pay. The system is in no way logical.

From case law can be mentioned:

**SKM.2008.760.SR** – An unnamed religious society wanted to clarify if it was exempt from tax. The tax council concluded that any religious communities approved by the Ministry of Justice would be exempt from tax.

**SKM.2010.596.SR** – A church council could provide computers to both unpaid workers and volunteers without triggering a tax. Paid workers, however, were not exempt from the tax.

In regards to case law, previously only religious societies recognized by a royal decree were exempt from taxation but as the case law testifies, in current times, being approved by the Ministry of Justice has the same effect.

**U 2008.342 H** was a spectacular case which was seen at the Supreme Court. An independent group of five Catholics claimed the current system was against the constitution and against international human rights in three points: the lack of equality in regards to state support to the *Folkekirke* and no state support to other religious communities; the fact that citizens who are not members of the *Folkekirke* have to pay a higher price for funerals at the cemeteries; and the upholding of the civil registration within the *Folkekirke*. The Court held that the state support to the *Folkekirke* was partly a repayment for earlier expropriations and could thus not be against freedom of religion for others; that the differential payment for members and non-members of the *Folkekirke* in regards to funerals had its basis in the fact that members of the *Folkekirke* pay for upholding the cemeteries through church taxes, not paid by non-members; and that civil registrations could be seen as mere public administrative obligations, done by the church for the state. The case has not been brought to the European Court of Human Rights.

Religious media can apply for the right to open radio channels on equal footing with other mass media, but there is no legislation giving religious mass media any advantages, on the contrary. On the other hand, the public radio as part of its public service obligation broadcast a morning prayer from the *Folkekirke* sent live from the cathedral in Copenhagen each morning. This must be regarded as a huge indirect mass media support.

The Christian daily, a newspaper also with internet services, get news paper supports along side with other small mass media – no advantages or disadvantages in being a religious news paper.

Finally, it can be mentioned that Danish universities offer education as theologians. Priests in the *Folkekirke* must prove to have passed exams as a Danish theologian. Two private theological schools exist, claiming to be more biblical, but they have up till now not been given the right to offer public exams. There are up till now no education programmes relevant for becoming a religious leader within Jewish or Muslim communities (but of course education in sociology of religion, history of religion and Islamic studies). A private education relevant for other Protestant churches than the *Folkekirke* has just been approved to get the right to give public exams, because there is found to be a labour market and because the education is based on academic, not confessional norms and standards.

## **6.2 On State Support to religious elements in media**

It was not clear from the start how the question about the role of religion in the mass media should be presented and discussed. It is an area which has been researched also in a Danish context, but in other analyses the question has somehow been mixed with questions regarding the general milieu in the public debate. Thus, asked about the general relevance of this investigation, one of the answers – after having confirmed the relevance of the questionnaire as such – the Human Rights officer answered:

JC: “Perhaps you could miss them a bit with the way things have generally developed. There is a prominence of Christian debaters not participating in the reflection of their own values. [...] Not enough at least, in regards to the positions they place themselves in. By the way, that goes for a lot of interesting societal debaters. The one pushing through his message, unapologetically and loudest, he is typically the one getting the screen time. It has more to do with the media image... You’ve seen a number of very strong, and often female, theologians taking a big part in the public debate. I see it as the religious Christian aspect plays a much larger role today in the public space than it did ten years ago. I think it is a consequence of the whole foreigner and immigrant debate, to have a Christian answer to what is seen as the threat from Islam. That’s why I think they’re getting more screen time, which I don’t think they would have gotten if there was not such a big debate about immigrants.” (Quote 6.01)

This observation, that the general picture in the media regarding religion has changed, is also part of the reflections from the bishop over the role of religion in the public space. The outset of this question is, that there was a heated debate over the last years on whether or not the public radio, *Denmark Radio*, should still transmit a daily morning service from the Lutheran cathedral of Copenhagen, which has been the case since the radio started broadcasting, or whether this would and even should be cancelled. The then conservative Minister of Cultural Affairs underlined that this morning service should be kept as part of the morning transmissions; it was however moved to a more hidden channel, resulting in a dramatic fall of listeners; now given new life by also being sent over television. Thus, broadcasting religious services is part of the Danish *kulturkampf*. The bishop comments on this:

PSJ: “The religious content on Denmark Radio is being heavily scrutinized. Is it biased towards the *Folkekirke*, is it biased towards religiosity, Christianity...? There are some that ask... I don’t think so... it’s become very difficult to be too biased when you think about the fact that Denmark Radio now also has, among others, an obligation to explain what “Danish” is all about. I’ve just made myself into a spokesperson because all this talk about cultural heritage, I don’t really care for it because I’m no custodian, I’m no museums inspector. Cultural heritage, that sounds a bit too much like a museum too me. I mean, I participate in a living culture, which is constantly evolving... We use our faith to understand, comprehend and even misunderstand things with, sometimes.”

Q: “But would you say, if we take the Denmark Radio and the religious aspect and... would you say you that one should keep the strong Christian components, with the *Folkekirke* and then additionally add in the other religions or should you just keep the heavy Christian aspect, with the *Folkekirke* or should you just try to be more neutral?”

PSJ: “I think you should keep a strong dissemination. We live in a society where we can just as well acknowledge that the modern western world, such as ours, it doesn’t work without arguments. Can’t just lean back and say: 80% of us, we’ve always been here and we have the longest history here, more than yours. That’s not what I want. Not at all. We need to have this discussion all the time and then have dissemination. And we should also talk about the Islam and the other religions... and there should, as it’s already done, of course be transmitted from the synagogue. .. All the way around, I mean the entire spectrum, but it can’t help anybody if we suddenly start pretending we’re all atheists. And I also believe that many people calling themselves atheists are unambiguously Lutheran because a lot of them, they probably think that... with all due respect because I don’t want to be condescending towards non-believers. (Faith dissemination in Denmark’s Radio) must reflect the Danish people; and the Danish people are now composed of ... we have more religions.” (Quote 6.02)

In this reflection, the bishop argues not only that religious transmissions from the *Folkekirke* should be upheld. He is also arguing that also other religious services from as broad a group as possible should be part of

public media, thus defending religious voices in the public space, not only as voices on religions, but also as the voices from the religious communities themselves, and not only as part of analysis and discussions, but also as direct religious services.

The bishop at the same time underlines that his argumentation is not based on any idea of cultural heritages. Religions are here, they are part of the current public life, and that is the main argument for why they should be supported also within broadcasting instead of being forced out of public life.

### **6.3 State support to the *Folkekirke***

All our interviewees have difficulties in distinguishing the questions regarding financial support to the *Folkekirke* from what could be seen as organisational support or, from another point of view, as a question of church autonomy.

We have therefore decided in this part of the analysis first to present the reflections from each of our interview persons in more or less full length and after that to give our own interpretative analysis.

The starting point is interpretative. In a Danish context, the most common approach is to underline the special role of the *Folkekirke*, legally speaking, and the state obligation according to section 4 in the constitution to support the *Folkekirke*, an obligation which is related only to the *Folkekirke*, not to the other religious communities, and which thus establishes a rule of discrimination within Danish religion law – a rule of discrimination which is often argued to be in opposition to general human rights. The constitution establishes a situation where the state has obligations in relation to religion, in international human rights perspectives often understood as in opposition to a norm of state neutrality. It is therefore of interest first to invite to reflections from the Human Rights Officer:

JC: “To me, it must be a basic prerequisite in society that even though we don’t have equality in religion, since the *Folkekirke* and the protestant/Lutheran belief has a different position in Danish society [the other faiths must have some options]. I think that you practically have to make sure that everybody has the same opportunities to express their religion. So that’s why my answer would be that they should have made it equal for all, but so be it.”

Q: “Some of the other larger faiths are saying that since we have a church tax, shouldn’t we also be able to make a demand in taxes?”

JC: “I would think that to be fair. If the administrative process was to be figured out then you could say that I would like to give my 0,85% to religion number 27. I think it’s fair that a state should offer that assistance.”

Q: “Fundamentally, don’t you have an idea, a vision, that the state should keep all things religious at an arm’s length and not go around helping religious societies. On the contrary, I’m hearing of a perception that says it’s a part of life so if you

give a little assistance to make it work, then it's all right?"

JC: "Once you've said A, then you have to say B as well. If you start saying that the members can demand a certain percentage and choose which religion to give to, then I don't see any reason to why they shouldn't be able to. If it's somewhat practical for the others to do so, that is. The basic condition is that we do have a *Folkekirke*. Are we okay with that? Well, yes we are. Could you change that by changing the constitution? Yes, you could probably do that too. They did it in Sweden and nobody was any worse off. It would become something else. It would be an entirely different tradition." (Quote 6.03)

In short, this is the Danish way within the current constitution. It is of course possible to change it, but as long the constitution has not been changed then there is no real argument for claiming equality. The real arguments are around securing also religious communities outside the *Folkekirke* as good a situation as possible.

And the bishop argues very much along the same lines. He however also includes the delicate question on church autonomy or establishing of a board for the church, which he thinks one has to establish in one way or the other. We started this part of the discussion with the bishop by asking him to give sort of a legal approach to how the *Folkekirke* could be interpreted, legally speaking:

Q: "When you compare the *Folkekirke* with other institutions in Danish society, is it A.P. Møller, that is, a large enterprise you compare it to, or is it the school system you compare it to, that is, a public administration area, or is it like the sports world which is run privately and is business minded?"

PSJ: "Well, I rarely draw parallels, it all fits together, it is in a theological sense that it has to for as many people as possible. It has to be inclusive to as many as possible. ... But there should be a change in how the state and the church relate to each other. I don't doubt for a minute that if the pledge clause was met, that it is necessary for us to give a clear answer, now more than ever. And it's necessary that something is done about that. There are many reasons for that. One of the reasons is that the *Folkekirke* has become politicized in a negative way. That's problematic. The *Folkekirke* has become really politicized. And I don't think the parliament would want to touch on the legislation ruling the *Folkekirke* in the future. I can imagine there being some politicians that would draw a line there. There are. I imagine some kind of Church Board or Church Council. Now we've gotten the diocesan councils so luckily, now the bishops have someone they can consult with. It's no less necessary on a national level. As said, I hope the state lives up to the financial obligation."

Q: "The economic relation between the *Folkekirke* and the state, that's what, two-three elements, they charge members of the *Folkekirke*, which finances about 85% of all the Church's expenses. Then partially, the state budget grants 15% and covers those expenses and thirdly, the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs determines the size of national church tax, which the members pay and decides on the budget, for what the money is to be used on. These three functions, do you imagine any of them being changed?"

PSJ: “Yes, the third and the last one there, that will probably be changed. There are many decisions that need to go through a church council or something. And it’s obvious that if it goes about that the laws of the land are radically changed, then it may come to that that we’re sitting there, discussing whether it’s alright that the church is supported by the state. It’s a possibility that we’ll have a state where this subject is taken up, I don’t know. It’s not hard to imagine.”

Q: “What you’re saying about the registration law, did I understand you correctly, that it’s possible that the *Folkekirke* would no longer have a role in the civil registration of Danish citizens?”

PSJ: “Yes, if it no longer has that role, then clearly the state would reconsider changing its mind on the financial support to the *Folkekirke*.”

Q: “What if we say: there has to be some changes to the relation between the church and the state but fundamentally, there should still be some kind of support. That support, in your eyes, is that support solely financial or is it other kinds of support?”

PSJ: “It’s also financial but today, when the state is increasingly considering itself secular, where I the *Folkekirke* is playing a role is that the church should also, occasionally, be its conscience. We’ll be that, but in no way will it be inappropriate. That is the church’s job. That goes for the Catholic Church, well any church really. It is the role of all religions. And that role is fulfilled I think.”

Q: “Do you imagine that you could draw in the other religions closer to this role, in a organizational manner or in other, supportive ways?”

PSJ: “We do it like this, as you can see, now we’re three major religions, right, going in together with the Copenhagen municipality and saying; hey, we’re together. We believe in different stuff and we’d like to argue with each other but we can unite and fight this threat of violence.”

Q: “Could you support that, and should you support that, with organizational or financial methods? It has been suggested that just like the members of the *Folkekirke*, other religions could have their members pay a percentage, just like the church tax, via the state.”

PSJ: “I know, there is a phenomenal piece of that, I’ve read it through but there were some adjustments... I think the state could do that.”

Q: “In Norway, the model is the opposite: it’s the state that pays the expenses not only the Norwegian Church but also the others. And they do something similar in Sweden.”

PSJ: “I think the state could take that up on them. I think the other religions; they shouldn’t just solely be subjected to the law on public access. It may well be that we’re subject to that but we also receive support from the state. Whether the other religions want to be subjected to that, I don’t know. The transparency is quite an advantage for our Church.” (Quote 6.04)

There is no doubt of the position by the Lutheran bishop in Copenhagen: the *Folkekirke* must have its own governing bodies, able to decide over the budget, and the role of the state must be changed from leading the *Folkekirke* on national level to become a role of support – as also envisaged in the constitution. The line of argumentation concerning financial support is thus intertwined with reflections on organizational support or – suppression? – or at least lack of organizational responsibility because of lack of bodies to deal with these questions. The analysis is

however even deeper related to questions regarding the role of religion in the public space: the state must support the very idea having public religions arguing with a different voice than political voices in questions on politics, society and individual needs.

This quotation from the newly elected bishop of Copenhagen is maybe more interesting and breaking news in a Danish context than in a European context. What is here said in a mild tone and with a very reflective way of formulation is, that the constitution of 1849 should finally be implemented in the Danish society, meaning that the state should stop running the *Folkekirke* and start supporting the *Folkekirke*, setting also the church ministers free to have a public voice. Question however being whether or not this is already too late – whether the question regarding church structure and financing is already too much included in what has been the most central value debates in the Danish society for a very long time: is Denmark a Christian country, which consequences do the answer to that question have on the presence of non-Christian/Jewish faith communities, and which role does the *Folkekirke* have when answering that question?

The human rights officer in his reflections on the role of Christianity in the public media mentioned a group of theologians, very visible in the public space. He also mentioned concrete names (deleted in this context, since they are only of interest for a Danish public), and among the persons he named was another of our interview persons, a female theologian who among others is an appointed member of the steering committee in the Danish Radio. Her main argument is that the country as such benefits from the current organisational and economic situation for both the *Folkekirke* and other religious communities in relation to the state. Here is her line of arguing:

Q: “So when we in Denmark have a scheme where the state, financially, structurally and normatively, supports the *Folkekirke* and at the same time gives full freedom to other religions to fend for themselves without any supports given there, what is your evaluation of that?”

KWH: “I think it’s excellent because I’d say there is no state church but a *Folkekirke* and you can argue all about that but I believe it is quite crucial. And with that, you pointed out that, well, the country isn’t neutral. It’s a Christian country. That doesn’t mean everybody is a Christian but it means the official wrappings is, our flag is, it’s our markers. The parliament opens up with a church service and so on.”

Q: “When you say it benefits the state, did I get that right? Or is it society or the country?”

KWH: “Yes, it benefits the country”.

Q: “Does it also benefit the *Folkekirke*?”

KWH: “Yes, I actually think it does. I think we’re much more privileged than, let’s say, the East German church which is a lot like us, but it’s in utter dissolution. As a church, we’re very spoiled and by that I mean we may not know how privileged we are and we’re lazy and we don’t care and we care mostly about

how large our manses are and all that. But the problem in the *Folkekirke* isn't the structure. The problem is spiritual limpness, in my opinion."

Q: "What about the other religions in Denmark? Today, the reality is that there is no formal support of any kind. .... That is, priests can attain the authority to perform marriages, religious societies can be recognized to be able to wed and then there are deductibility and residence permits to foreign preachers. What is your comment to the position of the other religions?"

KWH: "They have total freedom. That's a beautiful thing. You wouldn't have that if you were a church in the Middle East or something, so it's freedom. And sure, freedom can be tough because then you have to fend for yourself but its freedom and it's beautiful."

Q: "Shouldn't the *Folkekirke* also have this beautiful freedom?"

KWH: "It does. The good thing about the *Folkekirke* is that, and in these days, I think it is its strength, that it is bound. It is bound to the words of the constitutions, which say in paragraph 4 that it's not just anything we give our support to, it's the Evangelical-Lutheran Church. So the *Folkekirke* has complete freedom to be an Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It is highly privileged, of course it is but I think it should be too."

Q: "A part of the financing of the *Folkekirke* is that the members pay about 85% of the expenses, but they pay them through the church tax which is charged alongside the municipal tax and the state tax. There have been suggestions that a similar church tax could be charged for the Catholic Church and the other religions in Denmark, which would have..."

KWH: "Yes, it's another attempt at this equality craze, that we are evil, evil, evil, people if people aren't treated equally but... we discriminate! Yes, because we do have differences, we give the privilege to one certain direction, which is the Evangelical-Lutheran. We've done that since 1849, 1536, what do I know, and we're going to keep doing that. We shouldn't be ashamed of ourselves, we should be proud of ourselves, and I believe that the Catholics should be pleased because they enjoy a freedom of religion which they've given reluctantly and very slow in granting to others. I mean, sorry if I say. A lot of heretics have been burned through the ages and the Catholic bishop can freely express his Catholicism here, luckily." (Quote 6.05)

This line of arguing has been the most common understanding of State, Church and Religion relations in Denmark until very recently, arguing a cultural and economic support to the *Folkekirke*, combined with an organisational and confessional binding to not only the gospel, but also to the state, as benefit for both the same state, but especially for the people – and in the same time arguing that the amount of freedom of religion is total in Denmark (precisely based on this concept), in opposition to both Catholic traditions and current Muslim or at least Middle Eastern practices. There are lots of provocations for non-Danes in this way of thinking – are there also any lessons to learn about degrees of freedom both for religious communities and for individual religious persons in different systems?

However, it is also a position, which is under increasing pressure among elites in the Danish society. The newly elected Member of Parliament, herself a practising member of the *Folkekirke* throughout her entire life,

formulated the changed understanding of the need for both the *Folkekirke* and the state to establish a sort of distinction between church and state and maybe establishing a sort of autonomy for the church. Her reflections are the following:

MB: “It is my impression that within the last 10 – 15 years, the state interference with the church matters, now I’m not talking about internal matters but matters of finance and structure, it’s been increasing. When the state starts to interfere in a detailed manner, then something happens to a church: something happens to the life around the parish councils, something happens to the commitment of the people hired in the churches. If you have the traditional triangle, where you have the state, the market and civil society, in that you can say that the church has evolved into, it’s more into the state area. But at the same time, it’s also become more involved in the market area: Many speak in the terminology of the free market when we’re talking about the *Folkekirke* today and both evolutions, I believe, are unfortunate. Then I’d rather have we look into: “what about civil society, what are the tasks of the congregation?” That is, if the congregation really is the cornerstone of the church, what is their role? Have we in reality sucked the life out of the congregations by saying this is done or fixed by the state or “we as a church will adapt to our consumer base” – I mean, some are really talking about the customers in the *Folkekirke*; they talk of selling the message, talk of marketing and so on. To me, that is an alien terminology in regards to what the church should really be about, that is the core of the church, the being itself, I mean where the important thing is to preach the gospel and how do we frame this preaching so the church becomes a living church. So I would much rather have given strength and room to the civil population – in this case the congregations – so they can bear more, out of their own free will. And that’s the liberal aspect of it, you could say.” (Quote 6.06)

This approach combines her liberal political standpoint with a perspective on the church and especially the individual congregations as part of the civil society – self-upholding parts. Her wish is to reformulate the relations between church and state in order to gain a more balanced and neutral role of the state, not based on political ideological motives in relation to state ideology, but more based on motives related to an understanding of the church as self supporting and self organising. Thereby one could say that she has a more congregational or even bottom-up perspective on what church is and should be.

The existing system includes among others that the church ministers are civil servants. This arrangement is by many seen as an advantage for the priests: they get a fixed and clear salary as everyone else in modern society, they get holidays and are covered by mechanisms from the Danish model of regulating the labour market, that is: through collective negotiations and agreements. Thus, the rather few church ministers who are employed outside the *Folkekirke*, they realise that they are not covered by any good collective agreements and thereby only have an individual contract to base

their function upon. When problems arise, that will of course give problems and there are in the Danish society former ministers from free congregations who have bitterly tasted the lack of legal security, however maybe not so many that the problem has really been clear. Or, the other way around: should also the *Folkekirke* change organisation, then there would be a need for securing the function of the ministers within such a re-organized the *Folkekirke*. We discussed the matter with the leader from a diaconal organisation. As the former chairperson of the organization of church ministers, we expected that she would fight for the rights of the ministers to keep up with the existing system – but she did not:

HC: “Regarding the *Folkekirke*, I believe it needs some kind of constitution and it’s been needing it for a long time and now it’ll get one smacked in my face because nobody has really been wanting to do it, its got a lot to do with laying out the economy, theology, the law and all that because the system as it is, rests upon an understanding that is quite dense with all the players, including members of the parliament. And that’s no longer there and in the next generation, the politicians will have completed backed away.”

Q: “What’s the main problem that a constitution would fix?”

HC: “It has to include the churches own administration of its economy, including the question of property ownership, I think, because a lot of emotions, they’re tied up with the bricks, right. Now, as said, I’m a minister in one of the parishes where a church is closing down but hasn’t been closed down yet and there are some heavy emotions there, embedded in the building itself ... But then you have to figure out whether it’s a piece of cultural heritage and thus the responsibility of society or whether it’s a church, run as a church and a place to gather for the congregations.” (HC, p 17)

Q: “Should you still charge the tax church alongside the municipal and the country tax?”

HC: “That doesn’t seem very natural I think because there is already an independent association. It’s just a mess that you call it a church tax, it doesn’t have anything to do with taxation but it’s probably because it’s charged at the same time. It’s a membership fee and really, you could call it that.” metery

Q: “So in the future, who is going to administrate and organize the economy in the *Folkekirke*?”

HC: “That would be the church itself. So it’s a good thing that there is the civil registration because then you have some tools at your disposal, I think” (Quote 6.07).

The organizational vision of the *Folkekirke* for the future, here presented, is that of an association, which is self-responsible for the economy, but which in the same time also has the economic basis for being so, among others through the ownership of the cemetery and so on. Not a single word on possible difficulties for church ministers in the future – it is as if her vision is that the church ministers would simply change their identity in a changed structure.

It is thus, to conclude, fair to argue that the common approach to

understanding state, church and religion relations and among that also questions regarding organisational structure, economic basis and state support has changed especially among those of our interviewee's who are talking from a *Folkekirke*-internal position. It is not long time ago that such an interview among elites would result in a clear vision parallel to that of Ms KWH - this is our model and we should keep it. It is also striking, that the arguments for changing the model are not especially – as one could have expected – taken from an international understanding in Human Rights or International Law on Religion. Those envisioning a changed organization and changed forms of economic support are doing so from the perspective, that that would support both the church and the state better. That is: it is the basic and very Danish understanding of what serves the people, which has changed.

We of course also asked interview persons from other faith communities about the same questions: state support to religious communities in form of both economical and organisational support. The main question is whether one should strive towards stripping the *Folkekirke* of support or whether one should strive towards giving some support from the state also to other religious communities. First the interviewee from the Catholic Church:

ET: “Regarding state support to churches and religions, then I would distinguish between grants and service. Grants, that's stuff like the state paying for the salaries of the bishops and 40% of the priestly pay checks. Service is stuff like Skat [Tax] charging for the money that people have to pay. We don't want grants, we would prefer not to be paid by anybody other than ourselves but we would like to have some help, to do some things. There is no doubt that if the *Folkekirke* didn't have this arrangement that the Catholic Church does in Denmark, then it would've gone bankrupt a long time ago.” (Quote 6.08)

The argument is that collection of membership fees through the state tax system is much more effective and thus gives a much higher degree of economic certainty than a system of collecting membership fees through collecting money at the services – even though members of faith communities, but not members of the *Folkekirke*, have the possibility of deducting the gifts they give to the religious community from their income taxes. In order to gain a higher degree of economic safety, the Catholic Church in Denmark thus a couple of years ago suggested that other religious communities than the *Folkekirke*, who wished so, could get support from the state to collect church taxes. Today the church tax is a sort of a membership fee, collected by the state for the *Folkekirke* and at a different rate in different areas of the country. The state could in the same way also be informed from e.g. the Catholic Church, which rate of the income of members of that church should pay and thus support the other religious communities by collecting also their need of church taxes or

member fees. The system would of course need to be adjusted in regard to whether there should be a previous acceptance from the individual members of the church said or they should only be allowed to opt out of the system with the consequence that they also opted out of their church. There are also other technical details, but there is also experience with finding solutions to these things in countries such as Norway, Iceland and Sweden as well as e.g. Italy who all have different sorts of church tax systems for not only the majority church.

The proposal from the Catholic Church in Denmark has been supported from the Council of Danish Churches and was also discussed in the central committees within the former centre-right government, who however rejected the idea with the formal argument that the state is only obliged by the constitution to support the *Folkekirke*. There were political arguments behind the rejection. The then government, supported by Danish People's Party, would not take a fight on possibly collecting membership fees for Muslim communities. The current government has not yet reacted on the same proposal. In regard to Muslim communities one of the most recent discussions in Danish society has been precisely on financial support, namely on who should pay for the building of a mosque in Copenhagen.

Currently nobody has a full overview over the economy in faith communities. Independent organisations and charities in Denmark are normally obliged by law to inform publicly about their entire economy, religious communities are however exempted from that law, because it was thought that the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs was supervising them. That is however not the case and should also not be the case. Currently however this means that there is a loophole in the legislation, meaning that members of religious communities have no right to get information about the economy in the community; equally there is also no right for neither public authorities nor the public as such to get information about financial data within faith communities.

We also asked ET about this loophole. Does he mean that the religious communities ought to be transparent and accountable?

ET: "When it comes to demands that can be made to the religions, I am very minimalistic. What demands do you make to a professional organization, associations and businesses? It's true that if you have any kind of business, then somebody is making money and of that money, surely you have to account for that and pay taxes. The public access into the conditions of the religious societies, in that, I feel the burden of proof should be on those that want it. What are they going to use that for and why do they need it? What is it all about?"

Q: "The question of leadership, organization, budget, finances – would you accept a reasonable access by the public, similarly to what the public has access to in the large companies?"

ET: "If they're not actual businesses and they don't pay taxes, then no. We're continually closing in on the question of the law on funds. Those that say it should

apply do carry the burden of proof and argumentation. They must tell us what the purpose of it is, if it should be incorporated. What purpose does it serve that the public has that knowledge about these societies? That's not certain at all. I'm quite pragmatical when it comes to that. I know how it goes, when journalists don't have anything to print and parliament members don't have political issues in need of questioning and response and when officials are sitting there, spending billions trying to answer completely inane questions. We simply don't have the strength to do that. If we suddenly had more resources, then they'd be used for something other than this silliness. So I ask, what is the legitimate purpose that the state and the public need an insight. In what's written about the church tax, we write that the society is granted a lump sum. They don't need to know what each individual has paid because then they'd be looking into their private economy. We must trust that the IRS is functioning properly. They say 40 million kroner have come in, then you'll get 40 million, but the church often has to account for how the money's been spent internally. That's also for the sake of the members." (Quote 6.09)

In relation to the building of a mosque the current situation is that such a building will require economic support from abroad, i.e.: Saudi Arabia. On the one hand Denmark can say nothing to this, since the Danish state is also supporting the Danish Church abroad, not only in Southern Schleswig, but also in cities and countries worldwide. On the other hand there is a general feeling that if the Danish state was to support the Muslim faith communities in better ways, e.g. by collecting membership fees, then there would not be the same need for economic support from other countries.

We asked one of the Muslim interviewees about this regarding the economic security in Muslim groups in Denmark and whether or not he would prefer indirect state support in the form of organisational help to collect membership fees or other things and we asked whether or not the state should have a role in regard to religious communities in general. He answered:

AWP: "The state already does that since the *Folkekirke* gets parts of its funding from the state, so you already have a state funded religions; but then the other religions can get a § 8a with approval and then get some tax deductions for their members. And that's all fine but I should think it should be changed. There are a lot of models you can look at; there's the Norwegian one and the Swedish and the Italian and all these different ones you can look at, how you can make sure there's a better economical option for the religions, or just like the Italian where you can pay to both cultural institutions and religious ones, and so on. It can be changed so things are a bit more evenly spread." (Quote 6.10)

The economic foundation of a mosque is a political hot issue, also because there is a general feeling that even though money doesn't smell, they might draw with them some obligations for the receiver. As formulated by the mayor of integration in Copenhagen:

AMA: "I've been on the offensive with that agenda and I've said, I'm happy as the integration mayor in Copenhagen, that our second biggest religion now has a place where they can practice their religion. For me, freedom of religion is about you being able to practice your religion within decent frames. I've also said there that I'm happy we're getting a mosque but I'm happier, politically, for the one being built on Amager. We've had a good, constructive dialogue all the way through with the Muslim Common Council. They have an independent board. I'm aware that that financing, in both places, cannot be done without outside funding. We still don't know where the money is coming from. It wouldn't do for any of them if the money was from states we're not that fond of but again, as long as it is not illegal. Doesn't AP Møller sometimes deal with those we don't quite like and do we ever do anything about that?"

Q: So you think that in reality, we should have more active policies on religion in Denmark so the state and the municipalities could give financial aid in the construction of religious buildings?"

AMA: "I've thought a bit about that. I wouldn't mind it all if the state or the municipalities would start doing it. You'd just need to find the right frame of mind since it'd be a sore subject. Then you should also be making demand, I think."

Q: "What kind of demands would you make?"

AMA: "One of the reasons I really like the mosque in Amager is that it has an independent board. They've also said that they will preach and do their Friday prayers in Danish."

Q: "I've sometimes made myself a proponent of transparency and being accountable or publicizing the names of the leaders in the organization and that the structure of the organization is transparent. There has to be a public insight into what funds are going in and out."

AMA: "You're absolutely right. If you give the public support to some – if you finance something in other organizations then you of course have some requirements and then the same requirements would apply here."

Q: Would you have the same demands if there were no state money involved?"

AMA: "I don't know. Perhaps I would encourage it instead of demanding it. The thing is that politically, we work in general terms that is we start with encouragement and then initiate a dialogue. If that doesn't work, then you could think about a demand but I haven't thought much about it." (Quote 6.11)

The political vision here formulated is more concentrated on the possibility of getting a Mosque in the near future, but also closely concerned with the organizational structure behind the Mosque. Asked about rules on transparency and accountability, which are normally standards this mayor and her party would be in favour of, she is however more hesitating, comparing a faith community with the biggest multinational firm in Denmark instead of with near relations in an organization. Thereby she also – at least for Danish ears – shows very clearly, that this topic is delicate.

Also the Rabbi was asked about financial support to religious communities and about transparency etc. He answered:

BL: "I've been asked several times: What about the Swedish model? And then I'd

say, I'll tell you when I've gotten a mathematician to calculate whether it's worth it. The thing is that I'm not sure, like the Jewish society is getting smaller and smaller – it is: the Jewish society is shrinking, not least because people are leaving; the young ones are going to Israel and so on. So I'm not sure it's the proper way to go and say that every member triggers some kind of payment. But on the other hand, then I think there are some things that you should be given. For example I think the registration, the fact that I work for the state that should be eligible for funding, just like the sacristan. Because my secretary spends a whole lot of time on all of that, which on the one hand we consider an advantage, a bigger advantage than most others, because we have such a need to go back into the ancestry, a lot more than other societies around here.”

Q: “So the performance ratio is not proportional?”

BL: “No, not at all.”

Q: “Would you want it to be? What would it take?”

BL: “Again, that's the question of what really lies in the word economic funding? If there is a requirement of accountancy or some such along with the funding, then it's more problematic because I still believe that it's a very important part of Danish society that the religions are allowed to keep to themselves as long as they behave. That's a very important thing.”

Q: “Does the Jewish society have public records? (B: yes) which they automatically present to the authorities in a ... on the homepage (B: yes) or some such. So what you're talking about here, that's some kind of regulation that goes beyond public records because you already do that (B: Yes).” (Quote 6.12)

The Jewish community is as mentioned very small – around 7,000 people – and can thus not support a very complicated administrative system. But given this, the Rabbi is not arguing against financial support. He is however arguing against more control than transparency itself, which he is very much in favour of.

Also the Secretary General from the Baptist Association had many reflections on both state support to and favouring of the *Folkekirke* and questions in relation to a possible economic or organisational support to other faith communities as well as directives on transparency and so on. The starting point in regards to state relations to religious communities among Baptists, also in Denmark, is that the state ought not to deal with religious affairs, no matter whether economic, organisational or dress codes etc. That also means that a model with a state supported *Folkekirke* is against the normative ideas within a Baptist church, also in Denmark. Asked more concretely about the proposal from the Catholic Church that faith communities on equal footing with the *Folkekirke* was offered support from the state to collect membership fees, the Baptist Secretary General answers:

LMH: “We've actually debated this in the Baptist church. I believe there were some people that were proponents for us asking and charging a church tax for Baptists as well. However, we can't reach an agreement about it. I don't think so. Because we have this attitude... Most people have the attitude that state and

church shouldn't be mixed. In the 70's when there was a lot talk about associations and where you had a lot of youth associations to get government grants. That movement has gone pretty much the opposite way in the 00's where a lot of associations have been dissolved because they've said: We shouldn't think about grants, we should actually make it a virtue to be economically independent ... And not think about how we're going to squeeze as much as possible out of the public coffers. That's unethical – and it's not the Baptist way.” (Quote 6.13)

The argument is clear-cut. It would be unethical and un-Baptist. This is not only about what is economically effective. It is also about a deeply felt – or rather: deeply believed – understanding of what a faith community is or ought to be. Thus also in relation to majority support and structural discrimination:

Q: “So you think that you should legally privatize the *Folkekirke* and at the same time, you should, politically, culturally or morally, include all the churches and religion a bit more in the public space? Is that what you mean?”

LMH: “Yes, I think it could be said like that. I think that equality would mean that we all had the same opportunities to... I don't know if it's called judicial opportunities... I can tell you what it's about. I'd like to be a priest at a hospital for example or at a prison and I can't become one because it has to be a Lutheran priest. I find that discriminating. I know the reasoning behind it because what if somebody comes and wants to baptize their child and then I wouldn't baptize them, right, or there can be all kinds of issues. But I think it would enrich our society if there was more equality and if there were different kinds of priests at hospitals and prisons. Or if there was no different on who has to pay to be buried at the cemeteries. Then there were public cemeteries. That we'd be married at the city hall and then do a churchly marriage ceremony afterwards or go to the mosque or the Jehovah's Witnesses or wherever we want to go and get some kind of blessing. To me, that's equality and religious recognition of each other.” (Quote 6.14)

The newly elected liberal Member of Parliament was also asked about whether or not the state should support other religious communities – organizational or structural or financial. Even though her general understanding is that Denmark is a Christian country, her approach to organizational and economical matters is more liberal, focusing on establishing equal opportunities:

MB: “The other religious communities, I believe that, even though we shouldn't be afraid to say that Denmark is a Christian country and we live in a Christian society, then I'm very attuned to the fact that we actually have – and should preserve – the freedom of religion. I would like to see a development where the church and state economy are separated. Many find it offensive that the state pays the salaries of the priests and if you're an atheist or a Buddhist why should you be paying for the priests in the National Church? But I have a feeling, and I want this supported, that you could actually do this: to separate that part of the finances. The state should continue to pay for the preservation of our cultural heritage, the

old churches and so on, everybody would understand that. I feel that you could easily say the *Folkekirke* should be paid off by the church tax. Period. If you separate that, then you remove some reasons for objections, for a lot of people. – Stuff like this, it muddles the debate, because for me, let's start by doing something that should be simple enough. Along with that, I'm also open to the idea that the state could demand church tax, or whatever you call it, from the Catholic and I don't know whether Muslims are even allowed to do something like that but anyway, the larger religions, you say to them, if you want society to provide the same services that we give to the *Folkekirke* then we'd provide that for you as well. It can't be that difficult, bureaucratically, if you know who the members are of the different communities. And with that, I think we can take a step in the right direction by saying we have freedom of religion in Denmark.” (Quote 6.15)

She thus supports the Baptist and Catholic view that the current situation increases inequality among faith communities in a way, which is neither fair nor necessary. Also the theologian who is a left wing Member of Parliament argues along the same lines: as a matter of recognition:

PVB: “As it is today, we're turning our back to the religions, we see them, almost all the religions, even the Jewish society and the many Muslim societies and the Catholics, as sects. It's just before I think they have a sect-like status. So they're recognized on paper but on other hand, you can't have legislation telling people this religion is exactly like the National Church. The Catholics want that the state should charge membership fees and that you in civil registry handle things differently and so on. That has been denied outright, without any reasoning, other than the majority being something specific. That's not recognition.

You could imagine that if the state demands membership fees for the religions, just like the *Folkekirke* charges through taxes, then you could ask for transparency in regards to accountancy, in regards to what practices the religions have when people opt out of them, what goes on when people join in, what are their rights and duties towards these religions and so on.”

Q: “What if the religious societies say: “That's all very well, the rights given are nice but we're not interested in public access to our accounts and budgets and we're not interested in knowing about, least of all supervision, in regards to the rights and options for our members”?”

PVB: “I think that's problematic because I don't want a model where religion is completely in the realm of the private, outside the reach of the public but I don't want us to a non-secular society either. I would like a middle road where we make religion part of the society and community, somewhere between the state and the free market; I think that would be in the best interest of the religions, even though they don't believe that, to be a part of society, both in regards to rights but also with their duties. I would like to start this dialogue on how best to do this without offending the religious communities and without being suspicious of them. But I also think we should move towards a place where they don't have the status of a sect and I think a lot of them have that today.” (Quote 6.16)

The religious organizations ought to accept transparency and accountability simply because they are acknowledged and recognized parts of the civil

society – instead of striving for a status as a sect, suspected from the general public as well as public authorities.

This question about suspicion towards religious identities and norms was also highlighted in a totally different, however equally interesting part of our interviews. The leader of an organization of publicly employed social workers in her interview mentioned reflected on questions regarding *acknowledgement and recognition* of faith communities in relation to general norms and standards for social work. Her worry was about decreasing norms and standards for the social work for certain groups in the society, legitimated through the idea that these groups are religious, a position which she saw as discriminatory:

BP: “Yes, currently there is a strong discussion regarding ethics and professionalism because we are challenged, on both fronts, with the concurrent political discourse and direction which is increasingly creating poorer conditions for socially vulnerable Muslims and others with a non-ethnic Danish background.”

Q: “What do you mean with this? What are you thinking about?”

BP: “Yes, a series of new rules have come into play which de facto discriminate in Denmark. For example, we’ve gotten “starthjælp” which is a sort cash aid, half as much as what’s usually given, and it’s given to people who haven’t been living in Denmark 7 years combined of the last 8 years, and that aid is conditioned by a lot of things and the fact is that over 90% of the recipients have a non-western background. We have what we call the 450 hours rule, which will soon become a 250 hours rule, which is a rule that demands married couples receiving aid to each earn 450 hours of regular work within the past two years to keep their right, to be able to get the aid. If they can’t do that, then the one that’s been mostly away from the workforce loses his aid and then that’s what you’ll have to live in, including the kids. That rule simply homes in on non-westerners. Together, these two rules mean for example, what we at SFI call ethnic segregation, where many are evicted from their apartments since they can’t pay their rent. When you’ve been following the political development through many years, then it’s very clear. One special clause after another, going ahead without anybody mentioning ethnic minorities.”  
(Quote 6.17)

The last voice to be included in this discussion concerning organisational and economic state support to the *Folkekirke*, to religious communities, and the related questions regarding equal opportunities or equality as such, belongs to the high ranking civil servant of Danish nationality from the European Commission:

Q: “Is it a political goal, to support religion in some form, considering the freedom of religion or?”

CS: “I think you should look at what religion really is: Is it religious schools, is it religious kindergartens, is it nunneries, is it preservation of buildings, is it paying for the clothes of the bishop? I mean, there are probably a long list of things where I’d say that some of these services provided are similar to some other, provided by

others and which very well could just have been provided by the state. And then there are some which are very close to the altar where they should be left to be dealt with. And maybe you could look at it, all of this. You could say that this stuff, on this end of the scale, that's the job of the state or it could co-finance and this other stuff, the congregation has to pay for that because it's their own values so they'll finance that themselves. Then, if the Danes say that we're all in this together and we want a National Church that pays for that, then you could make a deal about it. But I honestly can't see why we pay for the strictly religious assignments of the *Folkekirke* and we don't pay for the Muslim equivalent. And really, I think we should do that: it also gives a bit of an insight into what's going within these societies."

Q: "So you actually think it's a good idea that the state charges a church tax for the members of the *Folkekirke* and then does it for the Muslims and etc.?"

CS: "I must admit that one of the reasons I'm still a member of the *Folkekirke* – that is one of the reasons, not the only one – is that I believe the tribal instinct is so deeply ingrained within us that we want to channel it some place where it won't mess up. And a National Church under democratic control is a nice thing. It could be disseminated."

Q: "And that would mean, when I said words like transparency and accountability, then they wouldn't be foreign words to you, in regards to religious societies?"

CS: "No, no, not at all. I think that would be fine. And it goes for the Catholic Church and the Muslims; it goes for all of them. I think that's fair." (Quote 6.18)

Here is no hesitation: members ought to pay themselves for the most religious part of the economy and could get state support for more common dimensions, such as schooling etc. And all religious communities, no matter how they are financed, ought to be bound to general norms of transparency and accountability – but they are also general norms, not only supported by the European Commission, but simply part of *Acquis Communautaire*.

#### **6.4 Subventions to different projects**

This distinction between budget for the most religious dimensions of the work and budget for e.g. social work of schooling as part of the work of an organisation with a religious ethos is of course both relevant and central in an analysis of state support to religious communities.

We discussed the question with the minister who is leading a huge Christian organisation focussing on the social needs in society. Our questions concerned information:

Q: "Who finances Danchurchsocial's work and who are the employees?"

HC: "In 2010, our revenues were at 211 million DKK and in that about 35% of it is from gifts, including contributions from charity shops and about 65% from state grants."

Q: "... headed under "privately collected means" because volunteers work there?"

HC: “Yes, exactly, and because there’s a difference with state means; because we garner a lot by working closely with municipalities or the state, from pools from different ministries or from cooperation agreements with the municipalities or what we call § 18 – grants, which is some money the municipalities get from the state to give away on volunteer work. So it’s a big hodgepodge of different sets of cooperation with the state. But a bit half and half.” (Quote 6.19)

The imam, working at the national hospital, had information to give regarding the cultural function of his work:

NB: “I’ve just been hired as a coordinator for the resource team at the hospital but I also work as a volunteer imam and have been since 2005, so that means I’m attached to, I’m not hired, because there are no positions as a hospital imam in Denmark today, like with hospital priests and so on. So that’s why you can’t hire me or somebody else as a hospital imam or a hospital chaplain as they would say in England. So I have, as part of my not quite official work but as part of my position at the hospital also the responsibility of taking care of the people that die, that need a funeral, that need care, support, heart-to-heart conversations, that need mediation and have questions about bioethics, blood transfusions, abortions, autopsies or just being a mediator at a hospital with, for example the respirator issue – is it equal to murder, isn’t it... to try to see what can be done when a patient or his relatives ask me: Would it be alright within Islam to turn off his respirator? What about sedatives, how much can he get so he sleeps in? And so on... these are all issues that I need to relate to in my position as imam at the hospital. So that’s just giving you an overview of what I do.”

Q: “Who finances this organization? What is the purpose of this organization, of which you are a coordinator?”

NB: “It’s a visiting service, it’s a cultural mediation of sorts we’ve got here and we also teach and advise the personnel at the hospitals.”

Q: “But in this cultural mediation, if I’m getting this right, lies both the cultural mediation in regards to patients and in regards to the personnel?”

NB: “Yes. The mediation goes on between patients, relatives and the personnel. Sometimes, it can also be between patients and relatives if some conflict arises. Other times, it’s just practical stuff but then it’s not mediation as such, for example if you need to bring a family member from another country to visit a cancer patient, a patient terminally ill, no, I don’t like the word, - a palliative patient, then you’d do some practical work where we can come in and... or a letter of complaint... we are 35 volunteers in the team. I am the only one hired as a coordinator. So it’s a volunteer service.”

Q: “I understood, before we began this interview, that there are four large hospitals in Copenhagen which have gone in to finance this cultural mediation team (yes). What reasons do the hospitals have to do that? What is their reasoning, what needs have they seen which have made them set aside a part of their budget labeled “cultural mediation”?”

NB: “It’s something to do with the freedom of religion, the constitution, the human rights declaration...”

Q: “So it’s simply been the freedom of religion?”

NB: “Freedom of religion, Joint Commission Standards, an accreditations company, American, where all hospitals are accredited and some of the standards that they have involve spiritual support to patients and relatives. So we have the

new, Danish quality model launched at the end of 2009, cf IKAS, Institute of Quality Assurance and Accrediting in Health Care ([www.ikas.dk](http://www.ikas.dk)), a semi-official organization which launched the Danish model of quality for all private and public hospitals in Denmark with a set of standards, over 100 of them, which are now being implemented in municipalities, apothecaries and so on.”

Q: “Is spiritual caring a part of those standards?”

NB: “Religious and cultural support for the patients and relatives is included and in the guidelines, there is stuff like diet, modesty, clerical assistance and one last thing which I can’t recall right now, that’s all included. This goes for all – it isn’t directed to Muslims but it’s a cultural and religious support. It’s the first time, as I see it, for hospitals, that you have some standards targeting religion and culture. It’s never happened before. The reason for that, I think, is the American accrediting organization, which has included it. But then the hospitals have suddenly been in a hurry: What if they ask us about that? We need some kinds of standards for diet, modesty... so you’ve sent it in a hearing and all this stuff has happened.” (Quote 6.20)

The Christian diaconal organisation, lead by HC, is more than 100 years old, and Danish society is used to these organisations, even though there is maybe not a common knowledge regarding e.g. the fact the voluntary work means half part of the income for an organization of that type. We have however also included this long quotation from the interview with the hospital imam, because the very existence of non-Lutheran religious service in the general public is very new in Danish society, cf also the interview with the secretary general of the Baptist association, who would like to work as a hospital or prison chaplain, but cannot get this type of jobs due to her confession. There is no doubt that state support to these parts of public welfare in the future will include also a changed understanding of confessional claims and standards.

### **6.5 Public funding of the religious leaders training**

Theological research and education has been part of Danish universities since the first university was established in 1492. The faculty of theology at University of Copenhagen, as well as the theological education at Aarhus University are not confessional. It is not legal to require a certain confession by the teachers and scholars hired to these parts of the universities. Even though that is the case, some see these faculties as part of state support to the *Folkekirke* – others understand them as a natural part of highest possible education in a field with an existing labour market. Three of the Danish universities also include research and teaching in topics in relation to Islam, including religious studies and a Centre of European Islamic Thought at the faculty of theology in Copenhagen. Even though this centre is established at the faculty of theology and even though the education in theology is formally not confessional, there is however no doubt that the training is oriented towards Lutheran Christianity. Thus

Christian evangelical churches have tried to establish their own educational possibilities, Catholics follow university training in other countries and Muslims have to go to England or Germany for academic training. It has been debated for a while whether there should be established a formal theological training in Islam in Denmark. We asked also some of our interviewees about that and the hospital imam answered, that:

NB: “Yes. Definitely! It also has to be interdisciplinary. It has to be across the board, I mean stuff like what is Muslim counseling for example but also stuff like confidentiality, social conditions, how Denmark is built up... internship so you could learn about... on equal footing to hospital chaplain education which is given at places such as Løgum monastery. Something like that.”

Q: “Like an extra training after a theological master’s degree. In your opinion, what kind of academic education should the universities offer?”

NB: “If that’s what you’re talking about, normally we call it imam training, it’s not really, well firstly its theological education because you can’t just become an imam just because you’ve studied theology but I think you could easily make an extra training period but also a master’s degree in interaction with the other Muslim organizations in Denmark, offering up a Muslim theological education. In the beginning maybe just a bachelors, and then work up towards a master’s degree.”

Q: “In coordination with the other Muslim associations in Denmark. What is needed, that those who get this education can get a job afterwards?”

NB: “What’s needed is some kind of recognition of the study and clearly it will be recognized if it’s being offered by the universities.”

Q: “Who should recognize it; is it the universities who should, that is the ministry of science or is it...”

NB: “Yes, or the ministry of education. It doesn’t matter, as long as there is recognition that we have a theological bachelor which everybody can take, something that’s non-denominational, which is scientific and so on. There is some critique that we cannot have an imam training because it is religious and not scientific and so on, but we have examples from many European and Muslim countries that you can have theological schooling that is academic and not religious. The confessional, as I see it, is important on another level, if you’re to function as an imam, but you can do that elsewhere, also with the universities, just like with the pastoral seminars, which also have a connection to the theological faculty. So definitely... !”

Q: “So you could really just build it completely parallel to the theological university educations with subsequent confessional training.”

NB: “Yes. And if you could see that there weren’t enough enrollments – if there simply wasn’t enough demand – then you could create a model that included Norway and Sweden, a Scandinavian model, together with some of the other faculties, maybe even draw Aarhus in, I don’t know... in that way, make a solid model, structured. That could be an idea, maybe you could think of other models. The question is whether these people, those that have taken a Muslim theological education, whether they will be able to use it afterwards. They’d need jobs: Municipalities, universities, social institutions, mosques, prisons, hospitals and you also have institutional priests and company priests, they’ve been talked about. There are a lot of options but that of course requires an open discourse that it

comes up as an agenda. Instead of just saying: Imams don't know anything, they're good for nothing and just look at that stupid statement; they don't even know how things work. You have to say: Okay, we would like to tell you how it works but we'll do it together, in cooperation, where you also get to decide the curriculum, with the other Muslim umbrella organizations. Instead of isolating, involve. That's what we've been seeing so far; imams and theologians have been isolated, they've not been involved and really, that's the real problem, as I see it. Some higher ups are saying: We don't need them at all: they are a problem and they're making things worse." (Quote 6.21)

We have included this long quotation, because it shows the situation regarding questions such as confessional identity; labour market; and acknowledgement very clearly, not only in relation to Islamic education, but also in relation to all types of theological training.

There is however also a price to be paid in being an Imam on the government payroll or even under public education and not all are prepared to pay such a price:

Q: "As I understood you earlier, the role of an imam is quite broad. Could you imagine it being the work of an imam to be partially paid and then to travel up the schools and tell a bit there or be a part of an educator corps, or if it should be somebody else...?"

AWP: "No, I don't think it should be imams and I'd really also say that as my position is today, where I'm not paid to be an imam, that's the most ideal position. That's because then I don't have to answer to anybody but me and God and the congregation I face, but I'm on no payroll. I see that as a problem for those that are on a payroll because you have to be a bit loyal to the hand that feeds you."

Q: "But then in a municipality or regionally, having a couple of consultants hired that have graduated school...?"

AWP: Yes, that could be a solution. I just think we're missing a debate about the issue. Just like we need other debates in Denmark, I think we need a debate on this entire religion education subject, as a whole, because if it lies in some old adopted forms which are basically not good enough for the society we have today.

Q: But you'd like some imam training?

AWP: Yes.

Q: What kind of labour market would it be used for if you also believe it is an ideal form not to be paid?

AWP: It's possible that some of them could be paid but then they have to be paid in some way that's from a neutral platform. For example, imagine a mosque where they have a board and the board deals with the day-to-day stuff and could even be the ones hiring and dismissing an imam, because somebody has to do it, but where the salary of the imam comes from a fund and not from the board itself, that is, where the board has a formal function in regards to appointments and dismissals but they're not the ones paying the wages so you avoid that.

Q: What is it that you want to protect: is it the freedom to preach that you want to protect?

AWP: Yes, it is. But it is to say that it is the internal freedom to preach. So you can stand there and look your congregation in the eyes.

Q: Could you imagine if they simply said: Out of concern and protection of the

Muslim freedom to preach, we're hiring imams as state officials?

AWP: No, because then you under a ministry, no no, that's the last thing that I'd want... it'd be terrible to have a political boss. No. [Laughing] That goes double. Internal freedom to preach. But also protection against outside influence, I mean wouldn't... that's the last thing I had imagined, that Muslims would be subjugated to some ministry and there'd a publically elected politician sitting there, bossing around what you can and can't do. No thank you!" (Quote 6.22)

## **6.6 Public funding of religious heritage**

Religious buildings in Denmark are funded by those religious communities who wish to have them built. That goes for both the building and the maintenance. Thus, the economic support from the state to the *Folkekirke* does not include any funding of the church buildings. They are kept through the financial means from established through church taxes, paid by members only. That means that e.g. only church members paid for a recent restoration of a tourist sight as Our Saviours Church in Copenhagen with a golden spire, where it is possible to walk outside on to the top, even though the price was more than 10 million Euro.

Our general understanding from the interviews is that it is maybe seen as more relevant for our interviewees that the state pay for such a restoration of the church building, relevant for more than the use for confessional means, than for the salaries for church ministers. It would also be easier for other faith communities to both receive and ask for public support for buildings, cf the discussions regarding the mosque. We did however not ask directly about this in the interviews, and can thus not present any relevant quotations.

## **6.7 Conclusions:**

The Danish constitution established a distinction between the *Folkekirke* and other religious communities in their relation to the state. The distinction can be interpreted as based in basic facts as long as the Lutheran church is the church of the majority of the population, the state is obliged to support the church and so long the state also has the right to decide the internal structure in this church. Others will however interpret the constitution in more moral or religious terms. In its Lutheran heritage, the state is obliged to support precisely this church, keeping it as central dimensions of Danish society. Churches or religious communities should not have autonomy vis-a-vis the state, but has to follow the general rules and norms in society, except when it comes to regulation of the religious dimensions of the function of the church or community.

As can be seen from this chapter both understandings of the differential treatment of the Lutheran church compared to other religious communities in Denmark are changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and they are changing quickly. Among the leaders here interviewed it suddenly became a

minority standpoint to argue for intertwinement between state and the *Folkekirke*, whereas the majority of interviewees argued for changed relations. This, both in order to let the church become more church and in order to try establishing better conditions for other religious communities.

What these better conditions should contain of is however not clear. Total freedom has its advantages and many leaders are not prepared to give up any of these. On the other hand economic certainty also matters, as does possibilities of education etc. Nothing can be concluded at these points, except that questions regarding state support are questions, which interest that part of the public in Denmark, interested in the role of religion in the secular 21<sup>st</sup> century society.

On the other hand it is also our common and general understanding on basis of these interviews that the European Union or the European Court of Human Rights should not do anything about equality among religions in Denmark, state support to religious communities or the status of the *Folkekirke*. To find solutions for the future in this area is a matter for the Danes. Also the general feeling is that trying to analyse the area is not a 'good' case, politically seen. But the new government says in its policy papers that a commission will be appointed to give an overview over problems and possible solutions. It of course remains to be seen how the commission is appointed and which solutions can be suggested.

## **7. Conclusions: Basic Tensions of Religion and Secularity in Denmark<sup>9</sup>**

The aim of this report is threefold and as such the conclusions will follow a threefold structure.

*First*, we give conclusions on the basic tensions and conflicts of governance of religions diversity. The survey set out to investigate, how secular and religious leaders as well as governing institutions in Denmark understand the relations between law and religion in a contemporary context and how they see basic tensions and conflicts unfolding (On 'Basic Tensions,' by prof. Veit Bader, see appendix C). This is examined specifically within the four chosen research area of the RELIGARE project. In turn these were religion and family law, religion and the labour market, religion in the public space, state support to religion. The chapters in the report follow these, and thus the conclusions in section 7.1 below will begin by summarizing the results from the four research areas. Because the basic tensions were identified both as specific and general, they also raise a series of overall questions to be answered. These concern the tensions between individual and collective autonomy, between religious freedom and other human rights, between religious freedom and security issue, and between formal equal treatment and substantive equal treatment. In section 7.2, we have identified these possible overall basic tensions of law and religion relations in Denmark. We see this part of the investigation as related to the introductory chapter on the state of the art in Denmark, and the question of overall conclusion is whether the state of the art is changing in Denmark and to which extent European tendencies are visible also in the Danish context. We will focus on how and where the Danish state, church and religion relations are currently under pressure.

*Secondly*, the aim of the investigation is to present Danish empirical research results and through this establish a framework for comparison with other European models. The hypothesis behind the common socio-legal investigation in the RELIGARE project was that in European countries a path dependency exists in relations between law and religion in the four chosen fields of research. This path dependency may be related to the internal self-perception in the major religions of the country. On the basis of this hypothesis, six countries representing different majority models were identified for socio-legal investigation. In the Danish context the question was, to which extent a Lutheran influence can be identified

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<sup>9</sup> This conclusion is written after the model already mentioned pp. 20-21, however to this chapter Hanne Petersen has contributed with additional written inputs. The conclusion has been discussed at meetings involving the full Danish RELIGARE team. The ideas presented here thus reflects views supported by the full team.

and to what extent it is still visible and of contemporary importance in relation to law. These conclusions are given in section 7.3.

*Thirdly*, in the final section, 7.4, of the conclusion, we will present some limited and general recommendations that address themselves to both the international European research and policy agenda and to the domestic Danish state of affairs.

## **7.1 Main results from the four areas of basic tensions**

### **7.1.a Religion and Family Law**

Amongst the interviewees from the legal and administrative sphere and amongst the leaders from the Danish national church, the *Folkekirke*, the question of religion and family law was the most surprising. The general understanding among representatives of the majority perspectives is that law is secular, that secular law holds jurisdiction and that established religion has little to say regarding conflicts in family matters, because the law governs the family with concern for public order. If people have the need for other solutions regarding family and religion, this is open for deliberation and alternative resolution. To most interviewees it is of little importance whether the practical solutions chosen are inspired by religion, as long as Danish family law is upheld and public order is maintained. This is the starting point for a democratic society, some of the interviewees argue. In cases that are potentially conflicting, our collective societal responsibilities embedded in the family take priority over individual religious matters for the interviewees, who thus tend to represent collective rather than individual interests. This regards gender, sexuality, ethnicity, political convictions as well as religion. In relation to these issues multiculturalism, tolerance of dissent, and a diversity of practice are well established, and all of the interviewees stress that minority religions enjoy freedom of religion and a fair amount of accommodation.

That being said, problems and areas of conflict do exist within the fields of religion and family law, and differences seem to exist between the establishment and the minority religious leaders over the issue of what a marriage is. In the interviews, the Imam, the Catholic counsel and the Rabbi all stressed the importance of the symbolic and religious aspect of marriage and subsequently of divorce. In this perspective, marriage remains the right order for social life and remains at the core of the family. The administrative establishment seems to agree with this focus on marriage, as it seems to be a cornerstone of the public order. However, government claims *de facto* jurisdiction to define the marriage, not as a religious institution, but as a publicly recognized order equally available to all to enter into and to dissolve accordingly. Further, rules and practices for divorce differ between minority religions and the norms and rules

governing divorce for the majority community, whether it is considered religious or secular. This concerns also same-sex or gender neutral marriage. This question, however, seems to be a divider within most religious groups, including the *Folkekirke*. On the one hand, it points to the contested limits of secular state governance of religious organizations and on the other, to contested minimum standards of internal autonomy available to religions.

Many of our interview persons from an Islamic context have many reflections on conditions and validity for establishing and dissolving marriages. Imams argue for the preservation of time honoured family regulations and insist, for example, on mandatory mediation before divorce and distinguish between the civic and the religious institution. They do this to protect the religious institution, but also to protect the social and economic interest of women and children upon entering and dissolving marriage. They in principle recognize state jurisdiction, and try to fight the so-called limping marriages or partial divorces and struggle against opportunistic forum shopping. However, they have limited social authority and impact, and although they stress their concerns, they have no authoritative and uniform solutions to present.

Presented with the same questions regarding recognition of marriage, divorce and religious mediation, interviewees from Catholic and Jewish contexts see no initial parallel to the situation for Muslims, especially because they feel that their internal marriage courts or tribunals or advisory institutions are precisely just that: advisory and not mandatory. According to them this becomes very clear in the internal teaching and their social regulations, and they insist that no one is forced. However, they consider using social pressure, where this is a last resort in order to achieve a fair solution.

Overall it must be stressed, as it is by the interviewees, that most of the struggles and conflicts mentioned can be limited to one of two types. Some of the conflicts are deliberately malicious or products of socially unacceptable behaviour on behalf of a few rotten apples, but these are very few and may be found at all levels of most societies and has little to do with religion. The rest of the conflicts are products of misunderstandings, ongoing re-negotiations and reinterpretations that are the well-known signs of a society in change and people struggling to understand their new identities and new lives.

However all - Muslims, the Catholic and the Jewish as well as the Christian majority and minority interviewees - warn against three likely overall scenarios of conflict.

*Firstly*, in their view there seems to be widespread confusion, myths and misunderstandings concerning religion generally in the population at large. Media, politicians, radical religious protagonists and old entrenchments

seem to produce more of a cacophony of outcries than a constructive dialogue. Most of the interviewees call for greater clarity of thought, principles, language and discourse when addressing the conflicts arising from the question of religion and family law. Because the social and religious *modus vivendi* amongst minorities has only recently become a matter for public affairs, there has until recently been a state of exclusion of minority affairs now being remedied. However, in the present situation of uncertainty and subsequent confusion well-established social and religious modes of handling marriage and divorce in the minority religions are sometimes mistaken for either social abuse or for misrepresentations by the legal counterparts. The *Nikah* marriage, for example, is not a legally established institution and should not be mistaken for such. There is a need for a general understanding that in some instances religious and customary practices grant social and cultural and religious *legitimacy* to relations or dissolution of relations in the local, religious communities without this requiring formal legal recognition by Danish law. In addition, in the religious communities and in society at large there is further need to understand that some relations require formal legal recognition in Danish society by the Danish legal order in order to secure certain legal consequences, such as custody, inheritance and so on.

According to most of the interviewees, the holy commitment in marriage must be celebrated socially and religiously. Legal public order must govern the secular aspects of relationships between adults including marriage. No single interpretation of marriage – neither religious nor secular – should take priority over another, but a distinction must be knowingly maintained for a new legal intertwinement to be established. In this context it should also be remembered that the last half-century has witnessed considerable changes in lifestyle and relations between adult members of the majority community, no matter whether self-identified as secular or religious. Increasing numbers of divorce, cohabitating couples and single households have given legitimacy to more complex forms of intimate relations and family life. Complexity in family life and family law is thus not only a religious/non-religious issue, but also an issue of reconstitution of family life in late modernity.

*Secondly*, and this is an aspect of the first point, the deliberate obscurity of certain aspects of socio-religious life remains counterproductive and leads to use and manipulation of subversive strategies that have always been applied in any social sphere. In the interviews, there are plenty of examples of malicious harassment, provocations and examples of spouses dragging their feet. Religious minority leaders consider instruments of social pressure as reactions to this, such as making such harassment publicly known in the community. Religious leaders seem to focus more on community than on individual aspects of divorce. Parties in divorce cases

sometimes find models of dual and overlapping consensus between the two systems, e.g., mothers getting custody in Danish courts and sharing it with fathers according to Muslim norms. It is important to stress that while deliberate harassment and malicious intent is unacceptable, there must be room for authority of families to regulate the minor issues of their own lives.

*Thirdly*, there is reason to consider the possibility of ‘mixing instruments’ from different traditions in order to reach acceptable solutions. Alternative dispute resolutions might be more open to such solutions and legal innovations. Some interviewees warn against being afraid of other legal systems and rules being acknowledged in Denmark. The interviews also demonstrate that minority members individually mix norms according to their ‘religious conscience.’ There is not much evidence pointing to more international than local forum shopping. But there are overlaps between legal, religious and social norms and practices, which may create uncertain family status.

### **7.1.b Religion on the Labour Market**

The Danish labour market is regulated by collective agreements between the labour market parties and is supplemented by international conventions, which in the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century means increasingly by EU-regulation. Industrial labour contracts were predominantly considered public and collective secular contracts covering secular relations. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Protestant religious affiliation had sometimes been required as access to specific jobs. These Protestant privileges were gradually eradicated from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Collective labour agreements represented a model of secularization and accommodation to a changing production and a changing labour market. Around the turn of this century this secular model is challenged. Individuals voice an increasing demand for freedom to practical and symbolic expression of religious affiliation at the workplace. Equally, employers demand loyalty and decorum from employees and claim the prerogative to recruit and dismiss employee accordingly. An ambivalent recognition of such demands for religious performance, loyalty and decorum from both employees and employers is expressed by several of the interviewees. Their views of regulation and their evaluation of emerging practices and norms are characterized by a certain ‘confusion’ or lack of clarity. As with religion and family law, one of the basic tensions at play is expressed as contradictory and ambivalent views of the governing principles and norms. Neither easy nor clear answers nor solutions can be given. The limits to reasonable demands, the categories of personnel who can justifiably be met with such demands, and the nature of the communities that legitimately may present such demands are unclear.

The interviews disclose a discrepancy between contemporary formal legislation and the prevailing views of the interviewees and we see new claims are being made about both religion and the secular. In our topology, it is important to keep in mind the fourfold working distinctions between (i) the explicitly religious labour market, (ii) the religiously or socially organizations that perform a public or publicly sponsored assignment (iii) the private organizations and businesses that employ both religious and non-religious employees, and (iv) the secular and public organizations such as municipality, hospital, army and schools. Until recently, the *Folkekirke* has been understood as part of the public institutions in this typology, but with a clear Evangelical-Lutheran ethos and with explicit state support.

The first of these four categories consists of explicitly religious organizations, churches and the other religious communities distinct from *Folkekirke* alike. Questions are related to whether or not distinctly religious organizations with a diaconal, missionary or faith based school ethos should be placed in this category. Within this field of organizations, the ethos is explicit and from the interviews it seems that the faith communities do not distinguish between the value and importance of the jobs performed. All work together for the greater benefit of religions foundational to the community or organization. There is agreement that crucial members of staff such as ministers and secretary-generals must be religiously committed to the ethos and worldview of the organization. When asking about other employees, there seems to be disagreement. Although court cases demonstrate that it is illegal to discriminate in hiring co-workers of one faith only, interviewees accept that loyalty and adherence to the principles can be demanded. Religious affiliation could be likened to a brand or a trademark, where disloyalty to the 'product' cannot be tolerated. Not only membership is demanded, but also to some degree personal conviction from nearly everyone within a religious core organization. This opinion is growing and surprisingly well established, especially if the organization has a very clear mission statement and especially if the organization is rather small. This change means that a traditional distinction among personal faith and a general loyalty and respect for the religious organization does in many corners not seem to be enough anymore. It seems as though these religious organizations are claiming organizational 'personhood' and identity, which would grant them the rights and protections to institutionally perform their collective beliefs as if the community or organization as an employer was indeed an individual.

The really hard cases for this faith-based labour market seem to arise when the interviewees from religious organizations and institutions are asked about employment of e.g. divorced people and homosexuals. Discrimination of such individuals is strictly forbidden in Danish legislation, but the 'deviance' from discrimination law in favour of more

restrictive and directly or indirectly discriminatory religious norm seems to be equally significant. From the interviews, it seems explicit that co-workers jeopardize their employment if revealed to be divorced or homosexual, and their continued affiliation depends on their conduct. If the divorced employee had initiated the divorce or if the homosexual is not the least ashamed, this could be seen as disloyal and contradictory to the ethos of the organization. Such cases are highly problematic, and the freedom of religion principles seems unable to navigate the issues.

The second of the four types of employers in the labour market of concern for this report are the faith-based organizations such as private schools or social organizations with a religious ethos such as diaconal work. Here the responses of the interviewees are more divided. The general trend seen with regard to the before mentioned group is also visible here. This means that many are prepared to accept requirements of loyalty not seen before. It is no longer enough to declare that one is not working against the ideas of the organization, but explicit loyalty towards the governing social mission and norms including the norms of appropriate behavior are demanded. That means that in this area it is likely that the difficult cases are to be found.

The tensions concerning loyalty, behaviour and active support of the foundation seem to fall into two areas. Firstly, what is acceptable with regard to secular jobs within semi-religious organisations? Here the defining question in the interviews was; "...is it acceptable to expect religious loyalty from the cleaner in the local church?" Secondly, which normative requirements can a faith-based organization – such as a religious private school or kindergarten – performing secular functions with support of public means demand from their employees in general? Here the defining question remains: "is it acceptable to require Catholic faith from the schoolteacher in mathematics?"

As long as the employers only demand individual conviction or loyalty, many employees accept that. It would, however, be seen as very foreign in the Danish society, if an employer would demand a certain morality, or claim that family morals could influence the possibility to get a job in faith-based organizations. The interviewees mention examples of court cases from other European countries, such as the cases of *Schüth v. Germany* (1620/03, Chamber judgment 23.09.2010) and *Obst v. Germany* (425/03, Chamber judgment 23.09.2010). Such claims are generally not in tune with Danish popular and legal culture, which means that most Danish faith-based organizations and Danish leaders are not ready to make such radical legal claims.

The third of the four types in our distinction is the private organizations and businesses that employ both religious and non-religious employees. Businesses are private and run in principle for the sake of business and as

such are part of the non-religious labour market. However, they are still employing a wide range of different people, who bring with them their religion when they come to the work place. Similarly to the public institutions, there are no religious claims to be made from the employers and the possible violations and discriminations likely to be directed towards the employee. However, and this has been a strong claim in Danish cases, the businesses do have a prerogative to direct uniform codes, grooming codes and the wearing of explicit religious symbols. In the same way that religious organizations claim ‘a religious brand,’ so do the businesses claim an ethos or a ‘corporate culture’ that needs to be respected. Primarily, this means that public ethical standards and professional standards must be met. However, it also means that a conservative brand store can remove employees from customer contact or even have back office personnel dress according to the corporate uniform code. In this regard, the interviews reveal an inclination towards separating or downplaying the religious from the professional. This means that complete abolishment of religious symbols might be going too far, but that making room for prayer-rooms may be giving too many concessions to religion. Not all the interviewees, however, agree with this. Many of the religious interviewees advocate an individually negotiated accordance. One interviewee even stressed that an employer who would not make time for prayer, would need to find someone else to hire. Unfortunately, this is a luxury that not all have, and many do find a minimum of accommodation essential for even their professional and economic lives. Overall, although the interviewees approach the matter from different directions, most find that the legislation and litigation should be kept at a necessary minimum and that there should be greater room for informal agreements between employer and employee within the limits of the law and reasonable accommodation.

With the fourth of the four typologies, that is the secular and public organizations, we enter the utterly public domain. This public, secular labour market seems primarily challenged by two basic tensions. One is the question of the individual religious performance of the employee, especially illustrated by the use of the veil and the other is the question of a need for time off for religious holidays other than the dominant, historically Christian, legally authorized and protected holidays. Here the views are divided. Some interviewees find that employers should accept a veil, while others would fight against any religious clothing since they hold that religious clothing does not belong in a secular working space. Similarly, some male interviewees hold that religious clothes are only related to women and thus symbols of suppression of women. Several of the interviewees were furious over the legislation prohibiting religious clothes in courts combined with a general rule that all shall wear a gown while on

the bench. The legal professionals in the interview see this legislation as an example of trying to turn down a more female pluralist mode of clothing in general, while playing symbolic legislation and politics at the same time. All adhered to the general rule that discrimination on the basis of religion is prohibited in the general labour market. Some saw rules prohibiting religious clothing as an example of or attempt at indirect religious discrimination, even though court cases and legislation rule differently. However, divided the interviewees were as to the interpretation and role of the religious headwear, almost all agreed that the full coverage of the face in the *burqa* was unacceptable, no matter how professional or qualified they might be. – It should also be mentioned that the *Folkekirke* classically has been understood as a general public institution with only very few possibilities for requiring e.g. religious loyalty from others than the priests. The interviewees draw inspiration for this from the European changes. That seems to be changing alongside with the general change in these matters, so that in the future it might be possible to formulate religious loyalty claims also to others working within the *Folkekirke*.

The question of the holidays was an interesting one that addressed the Lutheran heritage and the established ways of the majority. Lutheran secularism is reflected in work and vacation regulations and traditions covering school and work. The general holidays are closely linked to the Christian calendar, which enjoys a practical protection. Holidays of present minority religions, such as Ramadan and Rosh Hashanah, are not considered. In the interviews there is a tendency among interviewees from minority religions towards suggesting a freedom to agree on an add hoc basis about the distribution of religious holidays. Each could according to his or her religion arrange their work-hours, and Christians, Muslims and Jews might even benefit mutually from covering each other's holidays. Such a freedom to change the public holidays may not gain general and popular support, but it is, however, a clear expression of the 'flexibility-with-job-security' brand of public business typical to Denmark.

Overall the current state of religion on the labour market clearly reflects changing social norms and legal landscapes. Practical solutions have been reached through individual and employer driven accommodation based on a principle of fairness. The focus on 'identity politics' of the different religious attitudes in the labour market seems to be gaining much attention. However, this *modus vivendi* is no longer considered sufficient by several of the interviewees. The proper degree of consideration for religious identity remains contested by the interviewees from different religious communities. The danger it seems is that religious belief or corporate loyalty will gain superiority as a protected right of organizations on the labour market and to a destructive degree downplay the importance of

protecting against other discrimination such as class, gender, professionalism, sexuality and so on.

### **7.1.c Religion in the Public Space**

Many of the issues regarding religion and the labour market seem to be similar or comparable to the problems of religion in the public sphere. Many of the key agents and organizations are the same and many of the sub-issues from the other areas of interest feed into the question of the public and private, the sacred and the secular. However, issues and concerns in the public sphere are less likely to be covered by general national legislation and case law than the other areas. Political norms, identity concerns, constitutional and media traditions play a more important role.

In the RELIGARE focus on tensions and potential conflict, the public sphere is the most likely place for such conflicts to unfold. This is not only where we meet each other, but this is also a space that most claim access to and acceptance from. This is the natural place for political norms to be expressed and here debate will focus on the circumstances we share, the values we must discuss and the commonalities that everyone must tolerate. In order to give structure to a debate about the Danish public sphere, we suggested a tentative analytical diagram of two spectra of availability of symbols and exposure of secularism, respectively. At the one extreme of the one axis there can be no symbols in the public sphere and at the other every symbol is allowed. On the other axis, the one extreme is a secular public space, where none of the religions are present and at the other extreme is a public sphere where religion is welcome and where everyone is allowed and allotted their say. At the centres of each theses axis, we find the neutral positions. Within such a diagram, we find the possible positions that frame this complex debate.

Perhaps the most common concern regarding religion in the public space is the public tone and the public discourse. Dominant Lutheran secularism, traditionally understood as a neutral or benign position, is questioned by Christian minority representatives and the leaders from other religious groups. The evidence of the Christian tradition, history or heritage seems, however, to be visible and even influential everywhere. Church bells ring at least every Sunday morning, churches are a part of every small town, Christian names are common, Christian references are frequent in literature and media and although most call themselves 'cultural Christians' the *Folkekirke* enjoys an 80 % membership rate and most of these members have incorporated Christian holidays and celebrations into their lives. That being said, the Christian interviewees see a marked reduction in public Christian virtues and voices and in general they fear for the continued role of religion in the public space.

The reason for this has to do with the tone in the struggle between the religious and the secular. Religion nowadays enjoys a popularity and attention unprecedented these past 50 years, yet the religious values are increasingly being scrutinized and problematised in media and in the public. This continued contestation has an impact on public religion. The Jewish minority no longer considers itself an undisputedly accepted community, making up part of Danish society, as they did 25 years ago, and the Jewish minority feels alienated. Representatives of the Christian 'majority' feel more 'religious' and less cultural and national than earlier. A Danish convert and imam reflects on the need to mould and express religion in a new context and to build bridges between different parts of society.

Nevertheless, the secular seem as important a bulwark as the Evangelical-Lutheran heritage for the Danish understanding of religion in the public space. As the Catholic advisor reminds us; just as we may be social without being socialist or national without being nationalist, we may be secular without being secularist. The secular is a distinction and not a separation, and according to some of the interviewees, this is a product of the Lutheran Christian mindset. Christianity is understood as promoting freedom and freedom is the hallmark of the secular ideals. In the public space, being secular is an inclusive argument that addresses itself to the religious argument. The *Folkekirke* continues to enjoy normative gravity, and more or less "secular Christianity" is considered a public good that despite its widespread appearance excels by knowing when to limit itself in the public space. Danish society must have a number of common and crucial public service institutions, where religion remains neutral and a non-issue. Amongst these are the municipality, the hospital, the public schools and many of the other welfare institution.

Some of the fundamental problems arise when we start considering symbols in the public space. As a general trend religious symbols and headwear is considered perfectly acceptable in theory by the interviewees. Symbolism as personal expression seems acceptable, but there are serious difficulties about how to draw the line and about how to receive and understand the symbolic expressions. Indeed, much of what seems as a symbol in fact holds little symbolic value to the wearer and many of the symbols actively communicated go unnoticed in the public. Symbols representing majority Lutheran secular culture, such as cross on the Danish flag, are hardly perceived as religious, whereas minority symbols are predominantly interpreted as religious even though they may also be customs, fashion, traditional, empowering or protests. Religious dress codes are in general seen as very strong symbols, also in the general public, attracting very much attention. We see the strong confrontations in this field as a confrontation on strong symbolic languages. As symbols work as

communication, the *meaning* thought to be embedded in the symbol is often only discernable to those who know or agree while those who disagree only see the provoking contrast. As such the headwear may mean freedom of religion or expression to one interviewee while it is interpreted as oppressive and deviant to the other.

One of the other serious conflicts presented in the interviews came as a consequence of the legislation banning the wearing of religious symbols in the judiciary. Enacted in 2009 without any practical cases having been experienced prior to the law, the law is considered ‘symbolic’ legislation seen as a response to the perceived symbols. A secular female union leader considers the ‘burqa-problem’ a ‘pseudo-problem,’ while lawyers and judges alike argue that the law will never be recognized as applicable.

Another concern regards places of worship. What goes for symbols can also be seen at places of worship. A symbolic interpretation of the places of worship in the public sphere is of course legitimate and to some extent appropriate. However, it must be maintained that religious buildings like mosques and cemeteries are less of a symbolic and aggressive intrusion into the public and more of a necessity or utility needed in religious life. Building of mosques, upkeep of cemeteries and closing of churches have received considerable media attention, and the fear of ‘foreign’ economical and spiritual influence has dominated the discourse. A young female Copenhagen mayor of integration has established a council of cooperation with the Christian Lutheran bishop of Copenhagen, the Jewish Rabbi and an Imam in order to contribute to a prevention of violent clashes between radicalized members of these communities. The involved and interviewed members consider this very favourably. The mayor also underlines the need for a less biased education on religious issues.

The last of the major concerns in the public space regards the issue-complex of religion in schools. In Denmark, this is a concern both in public schools and in the religiously oriented private schools. In Danish public schools ‘Christianity’ is taught as an ordinary exam topic at all levels, providing a legally established opt-out possibility, even though the content is covering not only information about Lutheran Christianity, but also about other religions. The topic is in some corners still seen as privileging of the majority belief tradition, however beginning to be questioned along with non-Christian religious symbols in public space becoming contested issues. No serious demand for banning such symbols in public schools has been voiced.

Free schools with a religious ethos have been seen as central in the plurality of the schooling in Denmark and are a very old tradition both religious and political impact. Such schools must meet the general goals for primary and secondary schools in Denmark, but they decide themselves the planning of the curriculum in order to reach these goals, and they are

allowed to supplement with e.g. daily prayers and so on. There is however rather recent legislation ordering these schools to prepare for the participation in a democratic society. Such legislation is generally challenged among leaders of schools, but not very much discussed in our interviews. In addition, some political parties in Denmark think that especially religious schools threaten social cohesion, while others see the plurality as ensuring social cohesion.

A final point is that legislation is apparently becoming more symbolic. It is addressing matters of the courtroom that have to do with the protection of values that is of no concern to the business of the courts. As a consequence minorities start opting out of the civic legal system. The alternative dispute resolution of the religious courts by contrast becomes places where the religious identity is not only welcome, but is encouraged and reinforced. We see a dual creation of new identities; there is in effect a negative targeting in the public courts (and legislation, and in media and in public debates) and a positive affirmation of religious identity in the religious institutions. As such, addressing religiously coloured mediation becomes a performative symbolic confession.

In sum, in order to appreciate the nuances of the debates on religion in public spaces of the courts, the schools and the media, we need to see the secular in a relation to the religious rather than in separation from it. In Denmark, secularism as a political programme rests on the ability to distinguish in the intertwined nature of our institutions. Equally, we need to see the spectrum of symbols ranging from those that truly express the very core values of society to the symbols that truly challenge these values. Therefore, it is important to remember that there is little agreement on what the core values are in Denmark, which is what sparks most of the basic tensions. As with several of the other concluding observations, there is a definite contestation of religion in the public space.

#### **7.1.d State support to Religions**

State support to religions in Denmark can conceptually be divided into (i) direct and indirect economic support, (ii) administrative and educational support, and (iii) support with regard to status in the Danish society. In practice these are often correlated, but the distinction is important, especially when mapping out majority domination and possible discrimination of minorities.

Historically, all religious communities in Denmark were established on the basis of private funding and later on a system of natural economy. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the economy within the *Folkekirke* was in general changed from having been based on natural sources and subsistence economy to become based on church taxes. From the late 1960's the priests within *the Folkekirke* received equal salaries, no longer depending on the

size of the vicarage. These taxes are paid by the members of the *Folkekirke*, which still make up a considerable part of the population. They are organizationally collected by the state together with taxes for municipalities and state purposes. In this way, the state offers a direct organisational and administrative (and in this respect also indirect economical) support to the majority religious community organized in the *Folkekirke*. The state further grants direct economic support through the state taxes, paid by all tax payers independent of their religious affiliations. One of the historical arguments for this support is (partly) that it serves as a reimbursement for the expropriation of the bishops' land at the reformation in 1536, which required the state to pay the salary for the bishops. Another historical argument is that it serves as a reimbursement for further expropriations of church land in 1919. The reimbursement for this expropriation serves as an argument for the payment by the state of 40% of the salaries for the ministers. Finally, direct financial state support is seen as a compensation for civil administrative obligations performed by the Church, especially the keeping of the civil birth registration and the upkeep of all public cemeteries.

Eleven explicitly recognised religious communities keep civil registration books and have access to organize cemeteries for their own members. Neither they nor any of the other religious communities get any direct economic support from the state; neither for maintenance of buildings nor for anything similar. They do not have the possibility of having the state collect church taxes either. Indirectly, however the members of other religious communities have the possibility of tax deduction of their personal income taxes of payments to a religious community. This does not apply to the *Folkekirke*, but some of the related religious ethos organisations are exempt. Other religious communities than the *Folkekirke* are exempted from business taxes, which constitutes a further indirect support, whereas the *Folkekirke* pays value added tax.

This economic pattern of support demonstrates an incremental model. In practice it has – not surprisingly – privileged the majority religious community. The existing highly blurred mix of state administration and established church has a lack of support among the leaders with insight in the system. It is a paradoxical model in as far as it is confusing, and most likely indirectly discriminatory, but nonetheless it seems so far to have a relatively high legitimacy amongst tax payers. Generally payment of income tax can be said to have high legitimacy in the majority of the population in Denmark, and payment of church taxes may benefit from this general attitude. Practical administrative customs, and loyalty towards – or limited criticism of – the religious and cultural tradition may also play a role, since resignation from membership due to economic arguments so far has been relatively limited.

A Catholic religious interviewee claims that if the Danish *Folkekirke* had not had this tax collection privilege, it would have gone bankrupt long ago. The existing model was supported by a few interviewees, who still uphold a reminiscence of their childhood relations between people and church, or by interviewees who would fight for re-establishing the Danish society as a Christian society. The large group in the middle, who would normally have supported the model, is increasingly embarrassed by its unfairness towards other religious communities or towards how it is seen abroad. The impression after the interviews is that the support for the economic Danish church model in this group seems to be withering.

In Denmark, a number of broadcasting media stations are publicly owned, but run by appointed boards under government oversight and financed by licence fees. Generally, these cover religious news, but specifically the radio channels cover majority religious issues and church services on a daily, regular and weekly basis. However, this is seen as a part of the public service requirements and state does in no way influence or censure media programming, editorial decisions or has mandatory coverage demands.

Media attention towards symbolic religious performance by members of minority religious communities has been considerable over the last decade, where especially the Cartoon crisis has produced thousands of articles as well as media and other public discussion. In comparison issues concerning economy or economic privileging of the majority belief community and indirect discrimination of minority belief communities have been insignificant. A few of the interviewees, amongst other a female protestant theologian with a significant public profile, defends the majority privileges in a rather sweeping way and has in her media performance been very critical towards especially Islam and symbolic religious performance. Economic privileges for the majority religions have neither led to case law, legislative changes nor substantial media debates. In this respect, where no 'fear of small numbers' exists the concern is stronger among the majority about minority religious communities and potential foreign financing of their institutions, such as mosques, schools and so on.

In addition, there is a legal case, which was briefly related in the interviews regarding a concern in the public debate. Being accused by a government minister of being in favour of stoning women, a Muslim public individual had indicted the minister in a defamation case which was decided in favour of the Muslim. The attorney fees, however, for the Muslim individual were great and has subsequently been a financial burden for him, whereas the minister's attorney was paid by the government office because the minister spoke in office. The case points to a practical imbalance between principal freedom of speech and the position government power in the public sphere.

In sum, the existing differential treatment results in freedom, but not equality in religion law, but there are significant arguments for upholding it. In spite of the growing internal dissatisfaction with and criticism of the model the common and general feeling is that the European Union or the European Court of Human Rights should not dictate policy or force change. Solutions for future equality in this area should be found on a local level. In its programme of governance, the newly elected government announced that a commission will be appointed to give an overview over problems and possible solutions.

The traditional religious minorities would of course be pleased to be given financial state support for establishing or maintaining their buildings, but they do not want the state dependency that the *Folkekirke* has. At the end of the day they may prefer to be self-sufficient. They do, however, want fair treatment with regard to or even support of the construction of their own buildings. This has not always been the case. Small or new minorities, recently arrived in Denmark, often have lower educational levels than majority society and may suffer from a lack of professionalism organizationally and in other respects. This could be a scenario where the state might offer help and support in order to compensate for the indirect economic discrimination of minority communities, and in order to uphold the political legitimacy of the economic and legal privileges offered to the majority community.

## **7.2 Concluding reflections on the general basic tensions**

The main question in this survey is whether there are eventually increasing basic tensions and conflicts between basic rights in regard to religion. The aim was to see how normative structures hold deeper, implicit religious and cultural biases and how the legal institutions and agents are dealing with these. These questions both concern empirical evidence of tensions and normative reflections on what needs to be changed. In the report, we have given evidence of the specific instances of basic conflict in Denmark and in the previous sections we have summarized and concluded on these. The general basic tensions, however, are related to questions regarding individual and collective freedom of religion; collective religious freedom and other human rights; religious freedom and public order as well as security; and finally possible tensions between formal equality before and in the law and more substantive equal treatment understood as negative freedoms of religion contra positive freedoms of religion. Although these tensions are analytically separate, the conclusions below will demonstrate that in Denmark they are intertwined and they seem to point to profound and culturally deep-rooted tensions that perhaps more of socio-political challenges than they are strictly speaking legal problems.

### **7.2.a Possible tensions between individual and collective autonomy regarding religion.**

The Danish system is a system, which grants a total protection of individual freedom of religion. Nobody argues that there should be any problems with individual right to have, to adapt or to change ones religion. On the contrary, the freedom of religion for people whose religion is organized outside the context of the *Folkekirke* is also as secure as is practically possible. Although the state will only approve religious organisations for marriage registration and tax exemption if they uphold common sense mandatory organisational minimums, such an approval is not compulsory. In addition, there are no requirements regarding organizational structure or regarding public overview and religious communities are even not obliged (as are other organizations in the society) to inform their own members or the public about economy and legal basis for the organization. Thus transparency and accountability are not concepts, which are compulsory for Danish religious communities and the freedom must seem striking for an outsider view.

When it, however, comes to the 80% of the Danish population, who are members of the *Folkekirke*, there is no collective freedom of religion, if that concept means freedom from state interference in religious and organizational matters. On the contrary, and that is the current debate in the Danish society, there is no legal or *de facto* clarity about decision-making authority or internal autonomy in the *Folkekirke*. It remains to be seen, to which extent the *Folkekirke* will have administrative autonomy and autonomy to decide for itself regarding the core of religious freedom.

In addition, it is necessary to reflect on the numbers of members in the Danish *Folkekirke*. Membership here is still seen as a majority norm. To be Danish by default means to be part of the *Folkekirke*, and other religions and religious communities are seen as increasingly foreign. Furthermore, the *Folkekirke* is contributing to general state structures, and does sociologically speaking hold influence on certain matters which is outside the frame of other communities.

As can be seen from the interviews, this is one of the most heated topics in Danish law on religion debates and some sort of autonomy will obviously be the result. As the Danish model is changing, it will be of great interest to see if an independent Lutheran transformation is possible and if Denmark will produce the true, religiously neutral, soft secular model to which it has been aspiring since the constitution.

The governing principle of future models of state, religion and church relations will be the degree of tensions between collective religious freedom and other basic human rights within such a model. Currently in Danish society, there is a growing concern about the religious claims and demands made by organisations and communities on the believers,

members and followers. The freedom to decide individually is on likely collision course with the collective concerns.

### **7.2.b Possible tensions between collective religious freedom and other basic human rights**

The questions of possible tensions between different sets of rights are in Denmark raised regarding religious clothing in the labour market. The freedom to work and the freedom to believe seem to be resolved by the collective powers of the labour market and there is evidence to be optimistic. However, as businesses further a lenient accommodation, media and public discourse seem to frame another possible tension. The deeply rooted question which seems to be politically explored by certain parties is whether wearing the burqa or the hijab is really the result of an individual religious understanding and even if so, should the general public then accept that as a commonly accepted norm in the society – or should the general public even require an open-mindedness not only in habit but also in clothing? As people voice their opinions in this matter, it turns into a second-order problem, for should the general public be tolerant towards also those who don't seem so tolerant themselves? Most feelings and reflections in these interviews had to do with whether or not women and children can get the same amount of individual freedom if the religious communities get a larger extent of autonomy. In this context, it is worth noticing that it came as a surprise for many of our interviewees that they should reflect on family law in relation to questions regarding religion and secularity. In a Danish context family law and labour law only indirectly has to do with religion, and many wish it to remain so. It is our estimate that we have only seen the beginning of conflicts in regard to religious norms on both the religious and the secular labour market.

Freedom of speech is well established in Denmark and currently holds strong political force in Denmark. However, there is a concern when putting freedom of religion against freedom of speech. The defamation case against a government minister, which was decided in favour of the Muslim, where the attorney fees of the government minister by the state, illustrates a socio-economical bias against the protection of freedom of religion and against defamation. Although, the decision was in favour of the Muslim individual, the structural and financial pressure seems to be discouraging for minorities. The case sparked popular support in favour of the Muslim and a movement is collecting economic donations to help pay the attorney fees due. The case is unique in Denmark and received a lot of media and political attention, and seems to point to culturally profound tensions that are perhaps more of socio-political tension than they are strictly speaking legal problems.

### **7.2.c Possible tensions between religious freedom and public order and/or security**

The same fear of pressure from religious groups towards individuals was very obvious when it came to possible religious conflicts or tensions between religious groups. Most of our interviewees referred to tensions between Muslim and Jewish youngsters and explained about initiatives taken in order to counteract to such situations. Conflicts have, however, not reached an amount nearing a public order/public security situation.

Turning the issue around, there is in the interviews evidence of a concern that religious problems are misconstrued or misunderstood in the public debate. This has specifically to do with Islam and the cases of terrorism seen both nationally and internationally. Although there is no evidence of a legal misconception of Islam as terror and a threat to security, such is clearly implied at many levels of the public debate. In that regard, however, Danish examples do seem to be neither special cases nor the most illustrative ones.

### **7.2.d Possible tensions between formal equal treatment of religious and non-religious individuals and collectives before the law and more substantive equal treatment.**

A society as the Danish does not give much space for negative freedom of religion. An argument that it is a right for the individual to live in a social and public context without any religious influence seems to be uncommon. A public sphere without religion seems nearly impossible in the Danish society. Of course, one can get the children exempted from religious classes in school even though they are non-confessional, and one does not need to watch when the Queen addresses the nation and asks that God protects Denmark each year on New Years Eve. However, the national flag is an old crusader symbol, the passport has a picture of the crucified Christ from national cultural heritage, and the major religious Christian celebrations remain public holidays and are supported by the state through special legislation.

There are of course voices in Danish society, who wish that there could be a more decisive freedom from religion. Interestingly enough they are, however, not represented among our interviewees (even though we had expected a couple of our interviewee to represent this view); the concerns are e.g. not voiced through the human rights officer or the academic from the Humanist association. This informs us to which degree Denmark is still a country where Christianity is supported by public opinion. Whether or not this has to do with the underlying confessional background or, maybe more likely, with the fact that the *Folkekirke* has not been involved in many revolutionary conflicts in the past, is an open question.

### **7.3 Danish conclusions of general relevance for the European and national public**

The most general conclusion from the Danish investigation is that there are indeed several tensions and conflicts in Danish society in relation to both religious and legal norms and their interrelationship. These are not, however, easily identifiable ‘basic tensions’ in the way this concept has been used in the RELIGARE context. The interviewees do not identify issues concerning freedom of and from religion as a basic conflict, especially when looking at distinctly Danish aspects of general relevance. There are of course specific conflicts between individual and collective autonomy; conflict between collective religious freedom and other human rights; tensions between religious freedom and public order; and some tension over disproportionate lack of equality, formal and substantial. But legal norms and instruments do not seem to be the most appropriate tools to solve these conflicts. The tensions in Denmark are not of a sort, which could be seen as human rights conflicts where individual or collective human rights are under pressure. The conflicts and tensions illustrated in the report concern substantial, complex and even paradoxical conflicts, debates or tensions that reflect the nature of Danish state and the conditions of religion in Danish society. The sentiment is that as these relations are intertwined but distinguishable, so are the conflicts. There is a general understanding, even among religious minorities, that Danish society with its inherited structure also in religious matters is the given, common society, which history passed on to this generation. It has to be reformed softly, slowly and through public deliberation in order to maintain the values worth protecting and change what needs to be altered. The historical roots are recognized by the interviewees and it is recognized that this is how change in Denmark has always come about, even from before the constitution.

A metaphor might be suited to illustrate how the basic conflicts are framed as intertwined and deeply historically rooted. In Denmark, the three core governing institutions - Parliament, Government and Supreme Court - are all housed in the same castle, Christiansborg, in the centre of Copenhagen, where also the Monarch has her representative rooms. In the world, this is the only example of a common housing for all the three institutions. To boot, directly associated with the castle is the castle church, Christiansborg Slotskirke, where a service is held on the morning of the annual inauguration of the legislative and parliamentary year. Expanding the picture even further, it is worth noting that the current castle, built from 1906 to 1928, is the fifth castle on the grounds. The first castle dates back to 1167 C.E. and the ruins of this first castle are still visible beneath the current walls. This order is assumed to represent the people in its near entirety, because the people are assumed as homogenous as the governing

order. Benedict Anderson (1983) has conceptualized such a situation as *Imagined Community*; Warburg, Gundelach and Iversen (2008) have in their research on the sociological representation of the same used the concept *common mindset*; and Warburg (2009) has added several reflections on how the original American concept *civil religion* could be used to understand the Danish religion-model. In this report, we have more often used the concept *intertwinement* (Christoffersen 2006), since it has been our aim to show the current day order of Danish soft secularism where the three branches of government, the monarch, and the church in one castle are resting on the remnants of old, illustrate how understanding Danish conflicts must entail an appreciation for the associated and intertwined nature of Danish soft secular governance, the virtue being not separation, but a knowledge of differentiation of powers of state and of religious matters.

Despite the historic explanatory power of the metaphor and the assumed stability of the intertwined soft secularism, there is in the interviews an almost urgent awareness that things are changing. As the stable walls fall victim of desedimentation, the stable historical model seems to come to an end. Some – not among our interviewees but in the society as such – have even pictured the Danish law on religion model with the Berlin Wall in early 1989. Cracks in all three relationships between state, the *Folkekirke* and religion in general begin to appear. The current conflicts reveal in a paradoxical way the basic tensions that were assumed solved, yet at the same time they express that the nature of the order was inherently instable.

There are enough of examples of this instability from the last decade in a Danish context, witnessing e.g. increased demands for loyalty towards the *Folkekirke* which have gone along with an almost obsessive concern with religious minority symbols in the public sphere, e.g. primarily the burqa, which was described as one of the secular interviewees as a ‘pseudo-problem’. Large parts of Western societies – and so the Danish – have identified Islam and terrorism almost without reservations during this first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This goes especially for politics and media, and has had spill over effects on legislation and legal culture. The politics of fear has strongly influenced the first decade, and in a Danish context the Cartoons crisis brought this to a so far unseen global attention, and raised a lot of questions locally. After 11 September 2001, the global and local developments have demonstrated and underlined a general feeling of fear and insecurity for the general future of Danish society and not least the welfare state, whether religious, secular or intertwined.

Due to these general developments of the global, the European, and the local Danish developments, Danish religious law both in regard to the majority church and to minority churches cannot easily return to their 19<sup>th</sup> century roles as, on the one hand, a staunch supporter of the state and on

the other hand as free, but excluded from the general public. The role of religion in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – whether within the *Folkekirke*, within other religious communities or based on a more broad new age approach – has yet to be identified. Part of the question is whether the future brings coexistence or competition among faith communities with global links and local aspirations. Thus, it is the impression from the interviews that the foundation of the Danish model of state and *Folkekirke* intertwined is not as stable as so far assumed. Future generations are to an increasing extent voting with their feet in religious matters. They cannot be expected to become automatic members through baptism by birth, as was the case in much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, where the present generation of leaders grew up. They cannot be expected to perform religious marriages, and may be not even burials. Solutions for the future have yet to be identified, but the interviews suggest that the old order cannot easily identify them and maybe also cannot produce the needed solutions.

The list of unsolved questions is of course long. What role will the state – and other financial sources – play in the future in regard to religious communities? Will the state become religiously neutral? Will religions experience equal treatment? Will there be a growing conflict between individual and collective freedom of religion? Will the public sphere be a field of deliberation of religion, or will it become increasingly secular with growing European influence? Or will we be witnessing a growing tendency towards renewed responsibility instead of renewed conflicts also within the triangle public authorities, *Folkekirke*, and other religious communities?

The labour market has become increasingly concerned with demanding corporate loyalty from employees. If religious employers are able to demand further exemptions from consideration of individual human rights due to a reference to protection of religious freedom, this may lead to an augmentation of employer prerogatives and of management rights of these employers. This is especially relevant in a European labour market, where welfare provisions are already offered by faith based employers. Such developments may end up limiting individual freedom of belief.

We seem to witness the paradox of a paradigm in shift. Political, legal and religious arguments that were strong at the time of the constitution in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century do not seem reasonable in the face of the contemporary challenges. That counts not only for the Danish solutions in the Danish constitution, but also for attempts of importing European standard solutions. The potential paradigm shift follows from the challenged position of the existing governing order. The norms that used to be clear identifiers of majority and clear separators of minorities have themselves become intertwined and the result is confusion. Muslims now clearly identify themselves according to the social norms of the *Folkekirke*. The norms of separation have ceased to operate and are being taken over by

a new interpretation of the becoming like the *Folkekirke*. This in turn means that the standard of belonging to the *Folkekirke* has been voided of its explanatory power? Such a challenge and change of the historically dominant legal, political and cultural model of relations between the state and the dominant Protestant Church may lead to a new model, the content of which is at this moment not clear.

Many of the interviewees still think that the absolute freedom of religion, which religious communities now enjoy, is mostly relevant for small minorities who are members of other communities than the *Folkekirke*. In a more pluralistic society, requirements regarding rights and possibilities for not least women and children and other vulnerable groups *could* be, but will not necessarily be framed by law and on an equal footing. In such a scenario, the future opens up for a more equal treatment of religious communities in Denmark, but also for more state influence on the organization, not least in regard to openness, transparency and accountability.

It is also possible, that a future Danish model will consider internal independence for religious communities instead of applying a concept of full autonomy. The Danish constitution guarantees seats for Faroese and Greenlandic members in parliament, and has established regimes of self-determination for these communities, which has been continually expanding and developing. In this respect, the idea of coexisting and overlapping – that is intertwined – legal systems is already practiced. It might be possible to apply a parallel idea of coexisting norms in the religious sphere. That is, however, still considered alien in Danish society and most arguments of full autonomy for religious communities, applying parallel legal orders, still seem far off in Denmark. This becomes especially clear in relation to family law. In spite of this, most interviewees are open for pragmatic solutions and possibilities, and there might be a future for religious dispute resolution mechanisms, legitimized through concrete needs among users rather than theoretical approaches from the religious communities.

One possible development for the future is that Denmark may appear as an even more secular state. Equally likely, however, seem to be the possibility that the common public space might also appear more religious, and be based on a general acceptance of individual freedom of religion as well as a growing religious pluralism in society with a presence for a more differentiated picture of collective freedom of religion. There is no doubt that religious communities and especially religious leaders will play a more public role than has been the practice before in Denmark, voicing religious arguments and religious norms. It is also our understanding that the Danish model of teaching religion in the public school as a common school subject will be widened and broadened. The consequence would be that most

pupils would know more about all religions from the perspective of an academic approach, whereas in depth knowledge about one religion will be taken out of the public school system. Thus a rather different possible route to appear in the future might instead of an increasing secularisation and secularism be the opposite: a new form of *interconnected responsibility*<sup>10</sup> between public authorities and religious communities, including the *Folkekirke*, and thus responsibility not only for the collective positions, but also for the individual needs.

It has surprised us to realize that there is a higher acceptance of religious identity on the labour market than the Supreme Court cases ten years ago showed. If this is a common trend in society, it also means that religious organizations are allowed to voice religious claims regarding loyalty to a higher degree than we would have expected. This is something to be considered more generally by actors in the labour market and beyond. Some of the court cases are however decided on basis of a more legalistic and formalistic understanding of what is acceptable. This discrepancy between an emerging wider acceptance of requirements of religious loyalty and stricter legal limits to demands of loyalty (reflecting a more secular ‘spirit’ of labour law) seems to present a remaining area of conflict.

Finally, as already pointed out it is our understanding on basis of these interviews that the existing state-*Folkekirke*-model is greatly challenged. There seems to be a general expectation by most of our interviewees that the *Folkekirke* will get a more distinct organizational structure, possibly resulting in a more religious, more confessional identity. Thus, the Danish model for soft secularism with a discernible intertwinement of state and religion is under pressure, and that is the case because it is basically already in conflict with its own constitutional basis. Many voices both from majority religion and from secularist strands argue for a change. Interestingly enough, voices from minority religions are silent or support the existing model. They might basically want a more equal treatment, but they do not want to fight a change at the expense of the majority church.

The secularist opposition to the existing relation between the national church, the monarchy, the state and the public elites has become stronger. It is being coined from specific secularist organizations, but what has a larger impact is that the generations under forty do not to the same degree as earlier belong to the *Folkekirke* or do not use it as much as elder generations (but did they ever do that?). This has a huge impact and this is why the soil under the old institutions seems to erode.

There is no doubt that the upkeep of the existing huge state involvement in the *Folkekirke* had to do with the Lutheran heritage. The interviews show that what happens currently in old Lutheran state and church systems

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<sup>10</sup> This concept is suggested by Hanne Petersen.

elsewhere in Europe may also happen in Denmark. There is a tendency towards a change, but not necessarily to the European Catholic and Calvinist models of state neutrality combined with church autonomy and ecclesiastical laws and courts. Many in the old Lutheran contexts would still argue that law is basically secular, but that precisely this secular law is obliged to establish room for freedom of religion, and they therefore strive to find other solutions than hierarchical autonomous churches with independent and parallel legal jurisdictions of their own.

It is our impression from the introductory remarks to our interviews that the interviewed elites to a certain degree accept that the European Union system has an interest in religion in relation to other policy areas. They do also, but to a less remarkable extent, accept that churches and religions ought to engage in these areas and they of course know that European Union politics and European Union law indirectly influence churches and religious communities.

Several of the interviewees are, however, not interested in European Union outlining policies in the field of religion, church and state. These questions are seen as national policy matters, not only based on formal arguments such as lack of competences, but also based on a material stand to these topics as being part of the identification of the national state. There is a long-standing and well-known scepticism towards the European Union in Denmark. This scepticism has a spill over effect on issues concerning religious issues and conflicts, which are in a Danish context and tradition so far understood as local or national issues of relevance for individuals. Thus European institutions, both courts and other European Union institutions, should consider these traditions and how they influence the understanding of the legitimacy of European initiatives and decisions in local contexts.

#### **7.4 Possible recommendations:**

1) In the interviews, we were fortunate enough to speak with the Imam, the Chief Rabbi, the Bishop and the Mayor for Integration Affairs, all from Copenhagen. Independently of one another they mentioned regular dialogue meetings, which the Mayor had given an institutional frame. Although there are not that many significant conflicts among the groups, it seems that voicing and addressing them had helped resolve both matters of intra-religious conflict, but had also helped attune mutual expectations between the municipality and the religious communities. The key to their success, it seems, is addressing the actual matters at hand rather than discussing problems of doctrine or the Israel-Palestine conflict. It is unclear, however, whether and how this would be a solution for national agendas, but there is little evidence that any serious attempts have been made.

2) Generally strengthening interreligious dialogue is strongly recommended but it should not be especially privileged in comparison with dialogue among other civil society partners. The widespread fear of dialogue among the religions, as it has often been expressed in Denmark, should be assuaged, as the experience mentioned in 1) justifies.

3) In employment there must be an accommodation, which takes account of the reasonable demands of the various religions. There is enough evidence from around Europe which indicates that it can be done and that it can improve labour relations.

4) It is necessary to clarify the formal status of the national church and the other religious communities.

5) In such a context it is necessary to be careful that a balance is maintained between the rights of the religious community and the rights of the individual members.

6) In an environment where tendencies towards expanding employers' expectations of their employees' loyalties, it is important that this development does not go too far in impinging the rights of the individual, also when the employer is a religious organisation.

7) Arising out of the interviews comes a demand for greater transparency in the governance of religious organisations and communities and faith-based organisations. Many already make public their financial, governance, and structural decisions, but it would be in the Danish tradition to make as much as possible of this information public. The legal instruments are already available and the implementation would be straight forward. In addition, it would empower the individual member, it would open up religions to the public and it would counteract rumours and suspicions about foreign influences.

8) Finally, the EU principle that the governance of religion is a responsibility under the member states and not the Union needs to be reiterated.

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## **Appendix B: The Danish interview persons with short introductions**

*Elites from political, administrative and judicial context:*

AMA, female, 27, elected mayor for Integration in Copenhagen city council, representing the center-liberal party. By profession: BA scient.pol & BA Law. Studies MA Law at University of Copenhagen. Single. Father member of the *Folkekirke*, not baptised as a child, but chose to be confirmed and thus also baptised at the age of 14. Recently decided to cancel membership of the *Folkekirke*.

PVB: Female, 36, Member of Parliament, representing the Socialist Peoples Party; Responsible for among others ecclesiastical affairs for her party; mentioned as possible minister of government for ecclesiastical affairs, but instead leading her group after the September 2011-elections. Theologian by profession. Married and mother to two small girls; Born into a working class family. Attending the *Folkekirke* on a regular basis.

MB: Female, 54, Member of Parliament first time at the September 2011 elections, representing a new liberalistic party. Among others vice-chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Ecclesiastical Affairs. By profession: MA in Political Sciences and MA in Philosophy. Former editor of a major newspaper in the south-western part of country; former vice counsellor at Aarhus University (nr 2 university by size in DK), responsible for education; former director in the Public Danish Broadcasting organisation. Married, 3 grown up children. Lives in the same parish, where she grew up (and mentions that as something which was common earlier, but now is rare). Attending the *Folkekirke* on a regular (monthly) basis, Grundtvigian inspired context.

TB: Female, 56, judge in the Eastern High Court and chair of the administrative equality body and thus by profession a lawyer. Does of course not speak on behalf of the Court. Married civilly, two not baptised or confirmed children. Born in working class family, first academic in family. Baptized as child and member of the *Folkekirke*, wants to uphold that relation, attends church at Christmas and at family occasions. Sees the *Folkekirke* as central for Christian values in the society.

CS: Male, 60, civil servant in the EU Commission and speaks of course only on his own behalf. Brought up in and educated as economist/political scientist in Switzerland and Denmark and first jobs in Danish Foreign Service. Married, wife with Greek background. Grandfather church minister. Baptised as child and upholds his membership of the *Folkekirke*,

among other because it relates him to Danishness as sort of tribe-culture. Has served as a member of church councils within Danish Church Abroad. Understands himself as rooted in a combined secular/humanistic and Christian value tradition.

*Labour Unions and other National independent organisations*

BP: Female, 50, chair for the labour union for social workers in the municipalities, working among others with practical integration of migrants and questions regarding religion in this context. Generally engaged in social politics and the turn of the welfare state. By profession a social worker herself. Speaks on her own behalf, not on behalf of the organisation. Background in lower middleclass (workman) with traditionally gendered division of labour. Baptized and confirmed, not married (neither legally nor religiously), one of the children also confirmed, the other not, depending on personal choice. Has cancelled membership of the *Folkekirke* due to the use of money on buildings instead of being an open institution, focussing on social responsibilities.

JC: Male, around 40, director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights. By profession a law professor. In his professional work focussed on human rights in general, not specially focussed on freedom of religion. Explicitly that he does not speak on behalf of the Institute. Sees questions regarding his own religious background and commitment as personal/private, but agree to inform about parts of his story, which is that he was not baptized as a child, but in relation to becoming confirmed at the age of 15 in the *Folkekirke*; he found it very exiting that a grown up person had set aside a whole season to talk about existential questions with such youngsters. Cancelled membership of the *Folkekirke* some years ago in relation to becoming a member of a different religious community, but does not make a fuzz of that and does not see that as having changed his understanding of basic societal questions. The general legal milieu in Denmark understands, according to JC, itself as hard core secular with clear distinctions between religious and political norms, but he has realised that state, law and religion is much more intertwined than would be acceptable in other countries.

*Elites from Churches and Religious Communities*

PSJ: Male, 52, elected bishop (primus inter pares) in the *Folkekirke*, the diocese of Copenhagen. Master of Theology from University of Copenhagen and Master of Arts in Theological Understanding, Industrial Society, University of Hull. Worked as minister with the *Folkekirke* to (Danish) seamen in Hull, England, as Navy chaplain for the Danish Royal Navy in Copenhagen (thus also taken part in military operations) and as a parish minister in Copenhagen. Theologically inspired among others from

Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican and Roman-Catholic theology and practice. Married, two grown up daughters.

NB: Male, 36, imam at Rigshospitalet, the National Hospital in Copenhagen, Coordinator for the Ethnic Ressource Team at Rigshospitalet and three other Copenhagen based hospitals. Born of Pakistani immigrant parents in Denmark, Danish school education, 6 years of Islamic Theological training from Islamic International University in Islamabad. Supplementary studied Muslim Chaplaincy in Leicester, England, studied Muslim Counselling and other supplementary courses in order to get a basis for functioning as the first official Hospital Imam in Denmark, a function he has been a motivator for in the context of Islamic-Christian Study Centre and two big hospitals in Copenhagen, and which has been welcomed by the already present chaplains from the *Folkekirke*. Earlier worked as Imam in a prison, as schoolteacher at Muslim free schools etc. Family background in immigrant family, father non-educated taxi-driver, mother interpreter, parents later divorced, mother a huge also religiously based engagement in the Pakistani milieu, siblings all academic education. Understands Islam as a dynamic way of leading life based on experiences and on practice and identity more than as a religion.

AWP: Male, 57, functions as an imam in Nørrebro, a prevailing Muslim area of Copenhagen. By profession: book seller, relief worker, free intellectual. Married, father to four children. Born in a common non-practising Danish-Finnish working class socialist family in the countryside in north-eastern Jutland with no religious practice; baptized and confirmed in the *Folkekirke*, but left the church at the age of 16. Studied Buddhism, later followed Hinduism, and was part of the movements of the 68-generation. Has always been religious, chose to become a Muslim at the age of 28 in 1982, that is: before Islam became present in the Danish public milieu.

ET: Male, 79. Stands now in the public as a central voice from the Catholic milieu in Denmark. Runs among others an internet based news radio from a Catholic perspective. Retired as a very well known politician at regional and national level, former chairman of the national ethical council. By profession teacher in a Catholic school. After retirement from school and from politics two years of studies in Paris at the Catholic University, biblical theology. Active in the National Council of Churches in Denmark. Married, children and grandchildren. Born in a family with a Catholic mother and grandparents. Does not see himself as minority – “The Catholics are half part of all Christians in the world,” he is often saying with a smile...

BL: Male, 65. Rabbi in the Jewish community in Copenhagen since 1976, chief rabbi since 1996. Born by Danish parents, the families immigrated to Denmark in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from Ukraine and Lithuania. Parents were refugees in Sweden in 1943. Parents in law were captured by the Nazis, sent to Theresienstadt concentration camp, and freed in April 1945. Himself educated in Denmark, followed by a year in Israel, served in the Danish army and then rabbi-exam in Israel 1971-76. Married, 3 children raised and educated in Denmark all of which now married and live in Israel. 6 grandchildren.

LMH: Female, 50, part time church minister in a Baptist church on Bornholm and part time appointed general secretary of the Baptist churches in Denmark, based in Copenhagen. By profession journalist, at the age of 39 educated theologian from the Baptist Seminary. Also studies in Israel. Ecumenical oriented. Married, two grown-up children and a grand child. Grew up in eastern Jutland.

*Central voices from the public discourse*

DN: Male, 36. Independent intellectual. Contributes to the media and functions as external university teacher, educated as Master of Arts in Anthropology, Aarhus University. Published on scientifically based, humanistic Darwinist anthropology. Member of and former press representative for the newly established association of Humanism. Married. Grew up in Aarhus.

SA: Female, 39. Independent intellectual. By profession a master in Law from University of Copenhagen, master in journalism, bachelor in Arab and currently doing a BA Turkish languages along with Islamic art and architecture at Oxford University. Teaches Danish, history and social sciences at a Muslim private school. Active in different Muslim organisations, especially supporting the building of a Mosque in Copenhagen. (Does not want to reveal her civil status). More or less grown up in Denmark, with a very mixed globalised family background both with regard to nationality and to religions (Christians, Shia-muslims, Sunni-muslims, following different law schools). Sees herself as much more religious than the parents' generation. Follows Sunni-Islam, earlier the Maliki, now the Hanafi law school. Wears religious veil, which has made problems as she functions as lay judge in court. Distinguishes between the use of Shari'a as a norm to follow in private life (which she does) and as a legal code to be followed in Muslim countries.

HOB: Male, 38, minister in a Free Church, related to, but not part of the *Folkekirke*, elected chair man for the pietist 150 years old internal mission. Theologian, educated from Aarhus University and with a connection to Menighedsfakultetet (a conservative private Lutheran School of Theology). Has worked as a teacher at both conservative private schools of theology in Denmark, has been a missionary for the Danish Israel Mission and church minister in the Danish Lutheran church in Israel, part of Danish Church Abroad. A voice from the Evangelical oriented side of Danish church life. Single but in relationship, grew up in a lower middle class/working class country side milieu in Jutland in a religious home.

KWH: Female, 41. Independent intellectual theologian, editor of the Free Press Magazine Sappho.dk. Vice-president of the Free Press Society, writer and columnist as well as housewife financed by the family bread winner (a rather seldom choice in the Danish context). Very active in the media, member of commissions, organisations etc, active in the Kierkegaard-inspired old-school-Lutheran organisation *Tidehverv* giving voice to theological dimensions of a nationalist approach related to the Danish People's Party. Married, school children. Background in a Lutheran minister's home, father later very active in national politics and a central figure in Danish People's Party as Member of Parliament, a seat her sister acquired after him at the latest parliamentary election.

HC: Female, 54. Recently appointed full time national leader of Kirkens Korshær, a very well known and broadly respected diaconal organisation with focus on supporting vulnerable and exposed people, such as prisoners, psychiatric patients, people who try to suicide, poor people, junkies, and the homeless. The organisation has 400 employees and 7.000 voluntary workers. It runs soup kitchens, hostels etc, primarily financed through private means and especially through thrift shops. By profession theologian, former church minister and former teacher within the *Folkekirke*. Active in organisations, among which earlier elected chair of the labour union of church ministers. Married to an academic, who is also working in folkekirken. Four children, all of which under education. She herself grew up as child of a church minister, later bishop, who originally came from working class, that is: an academic home with focus on social needs.

## Appendix C: The Danish quotes

The quotes cited in the report in their Danish original.

### *Quote 3.01*

JC: ”De må jo fortolke, hvad deres religion tilsiger dem. Der hvor jeg så mener, at man i et demokratisk samfund må prøve at regulere det på, det er ved at sige, at udgangspunktet i vores samfund er, at der gør vi sådan her. I ønsker noget andet, og så må de have argumentationsbyrden for, at det er noget andet, som modstridende for, at det er værdifuldt for os, og som vi har besluttet demokratisk, at sådan skal det være. Så på en måde er de underlagt det danske demokratiske samfunds beslutninger.”(JC, p 17)

### *Quote 3.02:*

JC: ”[It has to be] ... inden for en ordre publique, og hvad betyder så det? Der er det let nok for jurister at skrive, at vi anerkender ægteskabet, med mindre det strider mod ordre publique-hensyn, men hvad er så det? Der tror jeg, at man ville komme ned til at sige, at det bliver meget konkrete politiske vurdering af, hvad kan vi acceptere i det danske samfund af “besynderlige ordninger”, som “mærkelige mennesker” fra “fremmede religioner” kommer og vil have os til at tolerere i humanismens navn. Det er der, hvor dilemmaet opstår. Hvor langt skal vi gå? Udgangspunktet må være, at der ikke kan være noget i vejen for, at man gør det på en anden måde, så længe at det andet ikke er for provokerende ift. vores værdisæt. Hvor den grænse så går, det er ekstremt individuelt. Det bliver nødt til at blive besluttet på samfundsplan”(JC, p. 17)

### *Quote 3.03*

PVB: Det er den lette løsning, som altid bliver kastet på bordet, og som jeg selv har været med til at kaste på bordet, når det drejer sig om homovielser, når det drejer sig om noget, vi ikke - - . Når det bliver svært i forhold til vielsesmyndigheden i disse godkendte trossamfund, så er det meget lettere at sige: lad os hive det væk, så er der ingen, der må. Man kunne også forestille sig at man indgår en dialog med de her imamer om, hvad det er det her danske samfund består af, for jeg tror bare, det andet kan give noget skyggeboksning eller kan bevirke, at så får man aldrig nogensinde kendskab til, hvad der foregår. Så får man undermineret imamernes autoritet. Nogle ville synes, at det var ganske glimrende. Jeg ville synes, at det ville være ærgerligt for alle dem, der godt kunne finde ud af at overholde reglerne.

### *Quote 3.04:*

PSJ: Det er klart, man trækker jo nogle religiøse traditioner ind, altså man trækker kulturer og traditioner ind, det er klart. Men i adgangen for religiøse ledere – incl præster i folkekirken – ligger nu ikke at de religiøse ledere så også trækker en religiøs retsorden med ind i ægteskabet. Det ligger slet ikke i det danske vielsesbegreb, som jeg ser det. Det gælder i øvrigt tilsvarende, hvis man forestillede sig, at mennesker bliver civilt viet på rådhuset og dernæst religiøst viet i folkekirken, hos imamen etc. Heller ikke der åbnes der for en religiøs retsorden. Den religiøse vielse er alene en velsignelse, som i Danmark kan trække dansk civilret med ind – ikke andet.

*Quote 3.05:*

Selve indgåelse og opløsning af ægteskab, det mener jeg er et juridisk anliggende, og i virkeligheden er det en borgerlig institution, og det skal vi holde fast ved. Hvordan man så bliver rådgivet, det vælger mennesker, som så vælger at blive viet i et eller andet trossamfund. Hvordan den rådgivning skal finde sted, det må de trossamfund selv om.

*Quote 3.06:*

SA: “Jeg er fx blevet inviteret til en forlovelse her på lørdag. Det er sjovt, de kalder det forlovelse, for det, de gør, er faktisk, at der er en imam, der vier de to mennesker. Så i mine øjne er de to mennesker islamisk set halal over for hinanden, de kan gøre, hvad de vil med hinanden, så de er gift inden for islamiske regler i hvert fald. Så jeg ser et ægteskab indgået foran en imam med vielsesmyndighed, det er et ægteskab, selvom nogle kalder det forlovelse.” (SA, 8)

*Quote 3.07:*

SA: “Jeg formoder da, at imamerne fortæller folk, at de bliver registreret efterfølgende som ægtefolk inde hos kommunen. Jeg har faktisk aldrig tænkt over det, fordi jeg har altid tænkt det sådan. [...] Altså, når man er gift for en imam, er man gift! Jeg har aldrig tænkt på den måde der. Det har heller ikke interesseret mig, om dansk ret ser mig som gift eller ikke gift; fordi islamisk set er jeg gift. Hvad jeg så er if. dansk ret, det har jeg aldrig rigtig sådan interesseret mig for. Det må jeg indrømme.” (SA, 8)

*Quote 3.08:*

AWP: “Nej. Jeg vier folk uden bemyndigelse. Laver ene og alene en religiøs vielse.” (AWP, 6)

*Quote 3.09:*

AWP: “Så er vi nogle få, og jeg er en af dem, som har valgt ikke at søge en kommunal vielsesbemyndigelse, for jeg er slet ikke interesseret i at lave en civil vielse. Den er mig evigt ligegyldig set i en religiøs kontekst.

Selvfølgelig råder jeg folk til, når de får lavet en ene og alene religiøs vielse hos mig, så råder jeg dem til også at få lavet den civile vielse. [...] hvis man skal have sit forhold halal, jamen så er der nogle bestemte ting, der skal opfyldes, for at det kan blive det, og det vil jeg selvfølgelig altid råde folk til. Men om man så også vil have et civilt registreret ægteskab, det er så noget andet. Men der fortæller jeg jo også folk, at når jeg laver denne her vielse, så giver den dem ikke automatisk de rettigheder, som man har helt automatisk i fbm. en civil vielse. Det skal de være klar over.

(AWP, p 24-25)

*Quote 3.10:*

ET: “Ægteskabet er et sakramente, og det er brudefolkene, som meddeler det til hinanden.”

Q.: Det er ikke præsten, der meddeler det?

ET: “Præsten er vidne, og han er dét vidne, som er bemyndiget til at konstatere, at nu har de giftet sig med hinanden. Vi bruger ordet 'vie' på dansk, men i virkeligheden så vier han dem ikke, men de vier sig til hinanden. Det basale i katolsk ægteskabsret er, at man ikke kan få lov at vie sig til et andet menneske, hvis det ikke er helt frivilligt; hvis man ikke er myndig; hvis man ikke er tilregnelig og ikke er i stand til at tage vare på sine egne anliggender.” (ET, p 19)

*Quote 3.11:*

BL: “Som udgangspunkt var ægteskabet en sikring af kvinden. Altså, det er jo en sjov ting, at vi stadigvæk har den tradition, at vi i ægteskabskontrakten fortsat har en økonomisk transaktion, som godt nok kun er symbolsk, da økonomiske relationer mellem jøder i vore lande helt og fuldt retter sig efter landets.” (BL, p 13)

*Quote 3.12:*

SA: “... der er en del muslimer, som tror, at hvis man bliver islamisk gift, så skal man også blive islamisk skilt. Det er der ikke noget, der hedder, for hvis hun også er dansk gift, og hun får en dansk skilsmisse, og det bliver offentliggjort, så i fht. islamiske regler, så er offentliggørelsen af, at de er skilt fra hinanden, den er gyldig, islamisk set, også. Så jeg ser faktisk en hel del mennesker – ikke så mange som før, men det har været – at de er gift, og de er registreret dansk gift, så lader de sig skille men lever alligevel sammen. Måske vil de have sociale ydelser, jeg ved ikke hvad, men det er faktisk en synd i islam, at de gør det, fordi det er blevet offentliggjort, at de er blevet skilt, men alligevel bliver de ved med at bo sammen. Og så siger manden: jamen vi er jo ikke islamisk skilt! De har ikke forstand på det. Det forstår ikke det juridiske i islam, at når det er offentliggjort, så er det en skilsmisse; han har offentliggjort, at han har skilt sig fra hende på dansk.

Om det så er dansk ret eller ikke dansk ret, det har ingen betydning; den gælder islamisk set. Det er der faktisk mange, der ikke er klar over.” (SA, p 10 - 11)

*Quote 3.13:*

NB: “En mand kan jo i princippet godt sige, at ’jeg skiller mig af med dig’, og så blive skilt. Det er lidt sværere for kvinden, for hun kan ikke bare sige: ’Nu går jeg ud’, selvom der er forskellige meninger om det – det skal jeg nok komme tilbage til – i traditionel forstand så vil kvinden skulle gå til kadien, til muftien, og igen mæglingråd, og så hvis hendes grunde var gode nok, så ville hun kunne søge om skilsmisse. Det ville også have noget at gøre med hvilken kontrakt, man havde, da man indgik ægteskab, om der var nogle særlige betingelser for skilsmissen, og hvis de indgår der, så vil det også være muligt for hende at søge skilsmisse.” (NB, 48:55)

*Quote 3.14:*

BL: “Vi tillader jo skilsmisser som en religiøs del af tingene. Vi har ikke nogen ret til at lave skilsmisse i Danmark, fordi præsterne ikke har nogen ret til at lave skilsmisse. Men da er det jo så sådan, at når folk har fået deres civile skilsmisse, så søger de rabbineren om at få den religiøse skilsmisse. Og den er naturligvis retsgyldig i jødisk forstand. Og det er der jo sådan set ingen problemer i. Men det hænger jo først og fremmest sammen med det, at vi har jo i udgangspunktet har vi ikke noget, der hedder illegale børn. Hos os er et barn, der fødes, et legalt barn, fuldstændig ligegyldig om det er med partneren eller ikke med partneren eller hvem det er. Det eneste tilfælde, hvor der kan være et problem for barnet, det er, hvis moderen lever sammen med en jødisk mand og får et barn med en anden jødisk mand. Så har vi problematikken, for så er der nogle regler for dette her barn. Og det vil vi så til enhver tid undgå, og derfor siger vi, at vi skal have parterne til at få lavet den her religiøse skilsmisse (BL, p 12)

*Quote 3.15:*

Q.: De kan godt bo hver for sig, men retsvirkningerne består?

ET: “Ja. Det der så kan være et problem, er, om man overhovedet blev gift i første runde. Hvis det i realiteten skete tvangsmæssigt; hvis man var så umoden, at man i realiteten ikke kunne tage ansvaret for handlingen; hvis man fx var psykisk syg, ja, så må man konstatere, at det ægteskab egentlig aldrig er blevet indgået. Ofte bruges udtrykket, at man så "kan få sit ægteskab ophævet", men det er upræcist; spørgsmålet er, om man kan konstatere, at det ægteskab er "nul", dvs. annulleret ikke som en handling, men annulleret som en konstatering. Forudsætningerne var der ikke.” (ET, 19-20)

*Quote 3.16:*

ET: "Jeg synes, at det er et forkert system, fordi samtidig med, at jeg fuldstændigt anerkender ægteskabets uopløselighed, så synes jeg også, at man på urealistisk vis tiltror en sådan domstol at fastslå, hvad der egentlig skete i sin tid. Det man skulle gøre, det er, at man skal give dem et rigtig langt kursus i, hvordan det hænger sammen med ægteskaber. Så må man sige, at nu ved du, hvordan dette hænger sammen, og så må du i din samvittighed tale med Vorherre om det. Hvis du i din samvittighed og efter at være blevet undervist siger, at sådan forholdt det sig, og det skriver du under på for Gud og mennesker, så lægger vi det til grund. I virkeligheden synes jeg, at det er latterligt i mange af disse tilfælde at prøve at træffe en objektiv afgørelse." (ET, p 22-23)

*Quote 3.17:*

PSJ: "Forældet! Jeg er ikke den rigtige til at spørge om dét, men jeg opfatter det som forældet, fordi jeg anser dem for at være skilt, når de er skilt. Det er så svært at få sit ægteskab annulleret."

Q: "Den type instanser findes jo både hos katolikkerne, i mosaik trossamfund og i muslimske sammenhænge?"

PSJ: "Ja, det kan jeg ikke gøre meget ved, og det tror jeg heller ikke, at det sekulære samfund kan. Men indefra i de respektive religiøse samfund må praksis dog på et eller andet tidspunkt komme i en eller anden form for eftertanke."

Q: "Vil du opfatte den type instanser som mæglinginstitutioner?"

PSJ: "Den katolik, der går hen og bliver skilt, og ikke kan få annulleret sit ægteskab, gør stadigvæk bare det, som vedkommende finder rigtigt et par år efter men kan jo så ikke blive gift. Der er nogle svære implikationer for vedkommende; vedkommende er udelukket fra nadveren osv. Men det er ikke nogen implikationer, som kan ordnes her, af os andre, af det sekulære samfund." (PSJ, 14-15)

*Quote 3.18:*

Q: "Når du nu siger det der med ensartede regler, er du så nede i den detalje, eller er det et mere generelt billede, du har?"

HC: "Det er nok mest det generelle billede, altså igen ud fra de forskellige diskussioner, jeg har lyttet med på eller læst lidt med på, om skal man have særlige, private domstole, om jeg så må sige, til at udrede familiefejder eller konflikter eller utroskabsdrøftelser, havde jeg nær sagt, eller konflikter omkring det og sådan noget."

Q: "Hvad er det for et hensyn, du gerne vil beskytte?"

HC: "Det er hensynet til den svage."

Q: "Hvem er den svage?"

HC: "Det vil jo selvfølgelig altid være en konkret vurdering, men sådan som jeg mener at – eller i hvert fald selv som borger i samfundet forsøger

på at være med til at understøtte, så er det det, at en svag part har mulighed for at bringe sin anke frem for en uvildig part.”(HC, p 11)

Q.3.19:

Q: ”Indgås der ægteskabskontrakter i det danske, muslimske miljø i dag?”

NB: “Ja [...] Der hvor de enkelte konflikter ligger, det er, når der ikke er enighed om, at man skal skilles, ikke, og især fra mandens side: han vil ikke give slip, fx, og kvinden siger: ”Ja, jeg vil gerne skilles med dig”, ikke.”

Q: ”Binder kontrakterne de muslimske mænd mere end traditionel familieret? Skal mændene også have grunde i kontrakterne for at blive skilt?”

NB: “De er der jo allerede på forhånd, og det er der også for kvinderne delvist; fx hvis manden slår eller ikke opfylder sociale, følelsesmæssige, seksuelle behov, ikke giver økonomisk bidrag... At de her grunde er nok til, at en kvinde kan sige: ved du hvad, du giver mig ikke mit månedlige bidrag, det fungerer ikke økonomisk, og vi har ikke nok til at leve med, så jeg vil gerne skilles fra dig.” (NB, p 29)

*Quote 3.20:*

NB: “Nej, de skal have nogle grunde. De skal ikke bare skilles. Der er nogle moralske, etiske regler for, at de kan ikke bare sige: ’Nu kan jeg ikke lide dig mere’. Det ville ikke være en grund for at give en skilsmisse. Så en mand kan ikke bare komme en dag og sige: ’Nu vil jeg gerne skilles fra dig, fordi du har haft den der blå kjole på. Den kunne jeg ikke lide.’ Det ville ikke være grund nok, og det er derfor, når de her sager normalt går ind til de her mæglingstinstanser, så vil man også høre, om der er grund nok. Man vil inddrage den lokale imam eller mufti til de her ting [...] Der, hvor forskellene ligger, sådan som jeg har forstået, det er, at en kvinde kan godt få skilsmisse, men når hun søger om det, så skal hun til et mæglingråd, og så skal hun have nogle specifikke punkter, som er i overensstemmelse med den islamiske lovret ligesom manden, men der er bare – måske kan man sige det – stærkere krav, som kvinden skal have. Kravene er lidt strengere.” (NB, p 29)

*Quote 3.21:*

PSJ: ”Det har jeg aldrig spekuleret på, altså der vil optræde nogle forhold, som jeg ikke har tænkt igennem. Det er formentlig sådan nogle forhold, hvor den anglikanske ærkebiskop Rowan Williams for nogle år siden var ude at sige: jamen det kan man nemt komme ud for. Men jeg tror nok, jeg ville sige, at hvis det kunne hjælpe på vej hen imod en eller anden løsning, der taler vi en eller anden mæglingstinstans, det kunne hjælpe på vej... Den skal jeg vende mange gange inde i hovedet, den der, det er interessant...”(15)

*Quote 3.22:*

SA: "Hvis man indgår et islamisk ægteskab med alle de regler og pligter og rettigheder, der hører til, så kan der jo opstå det, fx lad os sige, at manden så ikke vil betale sin medgift. Hvad så, hvad gør man så? Så kan jeg – det er faktisk meget nemt, for jeg får de her spørgsmål en gang imellem – så kan man sige: hvis ikke medgiften er betalt, så kan du offentliggøre: jeg er ikke gift, medgiften er ikke betalt. Og så er det lige meget, hvad han siger, så skal han bevise, at medgiften er betalt, og kan han ikke det, så er du ikke gift i offentligheden. Den er nem nok. Men så er der det problem, fx: 'Han forsørger mig ikke. Hvad gør jeg så?' Hun kan ikke gå til kommunen, fx, og sige: min mand forsørger mig ikke, fordi det er jo kun hendes kæreste if. danske regler, hvis ikke hun er blevet registreret som gift. Så er det, at bliver nødt til at gå til en imam eller en respektabel person eller til hans familiemedlemmer og sige: 'Prøv lige at se! Min mand han opfylder ikke sin forsørgerpligt'.

*Quote 3.23:*

BL: "... Hvis det er sådan, at det udelukkende er chikaneri, så vil jeg tage den beslutning efter en periode, som godt kan være en rum tid, at gennemføre skilsmissen.

Q: Altså, hvis det at modsætte sig skilsmissen er udtryk for chikane?

BL: "Ja, kun for chikane. Der er ikke noget økonomisk, det er kun et spørgsmål om, jeg gider ikke, at han skal ikke have lov til at... eller hun skal ikke have lov til at få et ordentligt liv [...] Jeg har faktisk i øjeblikket ét tilfælde, hvor at pigens tidligere mand absolut ikke vil noget som helst, og det er udelukkende chikaneri. Og der er det jeg har prøvet adskillige gange. (BL, p 13)

*Quote 3.24:*

BL: "Jeg kan godt sige dig, at i den ene af sagerne har jeg faktisk overvejet at offentliggøre det; at offentliggøre, at fyren her er simpelthen ... fordi han er aktiv i menigheden, han har en stor, stor omgangskreds. Det ville man gøre i jødiske menigheder rundt omkring i verden, der ville man simpelthen sige: ham der eller hende der ... Jeg har dog ikke gjort det. Jeg synes, at vores menighed er for lille til, at den kan bære det der..." (BL, p 14)

*Quote 3.25:*

Q: "Er der nogle sanktionsmidler, nogen form for pres, som ligger inde i islamisk retstænkning, som man sætter i værk?"

SA: "Hvis vi har en islamisk domstol, hvor kvinder kunne gå til, ja, så kunne der være nogle sanktioner, som fx hvis han ikke opfylder sine regler, så kan han få nogle formaninger, og så kan han... Nu spørger du mig om nogle juridiske, islamiske spørgsmål. Jeg kan lige slå det op helt præcist i

de forskellige retsskoler, hvordan de holder det, men der er nogle sanktioner, og i sidste ende kan det ende med, at det ikke er et ægteskab, hvis ikke han opfylder de regler, han skal. Hun har også rettighed til nogle ting. Men når vi snakker om Danmark, så kan man ikke gennemføre de her regler, der ville være. Så bruger man socialt pres i stedet for.” (SA, p 9 - 10)

*Quote 3.26:*

ET: “Det siger kirkeloven, men det bliver ikke overholdt mange steder. Fraskilte gengifte går til alters, og de bliver ikke afvist. Det kan godt være, at en sognepræst en dag vil sige på tomandshånd, at det her ikke er i orden. Men de færreste sognepræster vil sige det. Hvis nogen kommer op, og der ikke er tale om en arrangeret provokation, bliver vist væk. Ingen, der kommer op og rækker hånden frem for at gå til alters, vil blive afvist på stedet. Det gør man ikke.” (ET, p 21)

*Quote 3.27:*

Q: ”Når du siger, at de tilhører deres far, ud fra hvilken juridisk tankeform siger du det?”

SA: “Det er jo selvfølgelig islamisk set, fordi parret prøver at leve i overensstemmelse med islam, og han er deres far, og de bor hos ham. Det betyder ikke, at de ikke kan bo hos hende, når de har lyst. Der kommer de, når de har brug for penge, nogle gange, og når de er sure på deres far, så kommer de til hende. Men altså, de har delt det op på den måde, at da børnene nåede den alder, islamisk set, som de skulle, så var det ham, de boede hos. Sådan er de islamiske regler, ikke? [...] Hvis hun så siger: ”Okay, jeg får barnet if. lovgivningen, dansk lovgivning giver mig barnet, jeg har automatisk forældremyndigheden,” jamen så kan hun jo bestemme, i og med at hun bruger sin forældremyndighed, at hun vil dele barnets bo- og opholdssted med sin eksmand, med faren. Så der kan jeg ikke se, altså det er jo ikke et brud på dansk lov, fordi dansk lov giver rigtig stort albuerum til frie aftaler. Kun hvis der er en tvist, lige pludselig, og man bliver uenige, der er det så, at den kan smække, fordi der kan manden måske sige: ”Jeg har min islamiske ret osv.,” og så vil kvinden, ”Jo, som muslim sige: den vil jeg ikke tage fra dig, for selvfølgelig skal du have lov til at have barnet, når det er, du gerne vil passe på barnet og have ansvar for barnet. Det er jo noget, hun kan bestemme, i og med at hun har forældremyndigheden.” (SA, p 5-6)

*Quote 3.28:*

Q: ”Kunne man forestille sig, at trossamfundene selv etablerede alternative konfliktløsnings-institutioner ved f.eks. imamer, rabbinere, ægteskabsdomstol?”

PVB: ”Det kunne jeg sagtens forestille mig, og nu skal man passe på, man ikke kommer i samme problemer som den engelske ærkebiskop, der netop havde de her forslag og ideer til, hvordan man kan løse nogle problemer, og det tror jeg bestemt ville være en mulighed. Det eneste, jeg engang imellem bliver bekymret for, det er, at i dansk ret og dansk lovgivning har kvinder og børn altid været underordnet og dårligere stillet i et retssikkerhedsmæssigt perspektiv, og det ved man jo også traditionelt set, at i langt de fleste trossamfund er det kvinderne og børnene, som bliver underordnet juridisk og traditionelt. Sagen er, at kampen for at modarbejde, det skal et eller andet sted også komme indefra. Hvis man så giver mulighed for, at det ikke kun er de religiøse normer, der er på banen i sådanne mæglingsinstitutioner...”

*Quote 3.29:*

HC: ”Det kunne da godt være, at mediation er et redskab, der evt. ville kunne bruges, men igen: med de der mellemveje der er jeg også altid sådan lidt mistænksom over for, om det bliver overgreb; igen altså også det med at bringe offer og gerningsmand sammen og - jeg synes, det forekommer mig, at det ligger meget snublende nær, at det bliver den svage part, som igen bliver taber i det.”

Q: ”- Altså den retsudvikling, der er i strafferetten om konfliktmægling i strafferetten, den er du faktisk også temmelig tøvende overfor?”

HC: ”Ja, altså jeg er bange for, at det - . Noget af det er, det er sådan en behagelig måde at løse ting på, og så bliver vi gode venner og -. Det er jo selvfølgelig karikeret fremstillet, men det er sådan lidt den tankegang, som jeg er bange for ligger bagved, i stedet for det ubehagelige, og også noget, som kan give konflikter, at sige: Vi må tage stilling til fordel for det menneske eller de mennesker, der her er blevet begået uret overfor.”(HC p 12)

*Quote 3.30:*

BL: “Vi har situationer, hvor overrabbineren blive benyttet i konflikter mellem jødiske parter. Det er ikke særligt ofte, men det er sket, det er sket [...] Det kræver jo, at begge parter er indstillede på, at jeg har en juridisk afgørelse, som man jo i princippet er nødt til at acceptere på forhånd. Jeg kan jo ikke hverken sende politi eller noget som helst ud omkring det. Men det sker. Ikke særlig ofte. Og det er jo det, som helt misforstås, når vi taler om det med sharia-lovgivning og alt muligt, fordi det har ikke noget med sharia-lovgivning at gøre, for øvrigt er det altid problematisk at tale om, men altså det er helt klart, at her har du et tilfælde, hvor at to jøder har et mellemværende, som de siger: det kunne vi godt tænke os, at rabbineren afgør for os. [...] Og det har jo så udgangspunkt i, at parterne skal være enige om, at det er det, man beslutter sig til. (BL, p. 12)

...BL: "Nogle steder har du jo det, at du har menighedsrabbinere, og så har du jo nogle rabbinere, som er ansat i det, der hedder Beth Din, som er den jødiske ret. Men det har vi jo ikke her. [...] Så jeg vælger to religiøse mennesker til at være en del af det. I sidste instans sidder jeg aldrig alene. Det kræver ikke nogen, hvad skal jeg sige, særlig uddannelse eller noget; det arbejde, der er som en voldgift; [...] Det er med udgangspunkt i, at det er to mennesker, som har en rimelig religiøs habitus." (BL, p 15)

*Quote 3.31:*

AWP: "Man arbejder i Danmark hele tiden med arbitrære domstole eller med voldgift. Fx når man laver en overenskomstforhandling; det er jo ikke en domstol, det er en voldgift, man laver, men den er bindende for de parter, som har sat sig ved det bord, der er den bindende. Der kan man jo sagtens lave nogle voldgiftsdomstole i Danmark, der tager nogle særlige andre typer sager op. Og det synes jeg i høj grad, der er brug for; som det er lige nu, fx, så kommer skilsmisssager tit til mig. Men hvem er jeg? Altså jeg er en eller anden gammel hippie fra Djursland; hvorfor skal jeg sidde og være med i skilsmisssager. Hvad kvalificerer mig til det? Det gør et lille ord på fire bogstaver, men det synes jeg ikke er godt nok. Hvis vi i stedet kunne få oprettet en eller anden form for voldgiftsdomstol, hvor man havde, lad os sige, ti kvalificerede jurister, sagsbehandlere, socialpædagoger, og jeg ved ikke hvad for noget, nogle lægdommere af en eller anden art, hvor man så kunne kalde tre ind ad gangen, og så sidder de så tre dommere der på en fem-timers session hver anden torsdag eller et eller andet, og så kan folk komme; og alle dem, der træder ind ad den dør, de lægger et eller andet symbolsk beløb for at gå ind ad den dør, og så tiltræder de samtidig: det binder for os. Så kunne man få løst mange konflikter på den måde i stedet for, at det det skal ned til sådan en lille sidegade, som der var en, der kaldte mig engang, en selvbestaltet andenrangsimam. Jeg blev så godt nok forfremmet senere hen, for jeg blev tredjerangs senere hen, så det må jo være op ad rangstigen (haha). Hvorfor skal det lande på mit bord? Det er da ikke godt nok." (AWP, 21-22)

*Quote 3.32:*

NB: "Der er nogle imamer, som siger: Vi har brug for en instans, som har støtte også fra det offentlige, en offentlig anerkendelse, legitimation, og man kan gå ind og lave familieretlige [...] kendelser, som ville hjælpe kvinder, som fx er fastlåste i deres ægteskaber, som er indgået på muslimsk vis. Der kræves det i nogle tilfælde mægling, især hvis kvinden selv ønsker at få en skilsmisse; i islam der må både mænd og kvinder søge skilsmisse, men præmisserne for dem er lidt forskellige, og derfor så er der brug for et mæglerråd, og det er noget, som nogle imamer vil sige er vigtigt. ... Jeg mener ikke, man kan bruge udtrykket domstol. Jeg mener, at det her skal

gøres i samarbejde. Hvis der skal være en mæglingsinstans – lad os bare holde os til ordet 'mæglingsinstans', en muslimsk mæglingsinstans – så skulle det være et tværfagligt samarbejde mellem de juridiske, de sociale og de økonomiske aspekter. [...] Jeg kan se, vi mangler et sted, hvor vi kan sende de her kvinder til. Hvilken autoritet har jeg til at skrive et brev, som vil blive godkendt? Jeg kan godt gøre det, hvis de ønsker det, men jeg synes, at de her kvinder skal have et mere formaliseret, struktureret sted, hvor de kan gå. Nogle af de her kvinder, der ringer rundt til imamer forskellige steder, bruger så meget tid på at finde ud af det; de bliver forvirrede, de bliver kede af det nogle gange, når de ikke kan få de løsninger, som de selv ønsker. Jeg synes, vi skal have en instans, som tager hånd om de her ting og prøve at finde en model sammen." (NB, p 10-11).

*Quote 3.33:*

AWP: "Der må jo kun være én straf for én forbrydelse, altså det skal ikke være sådan, at man skal straffes af flere forskellige for den samme forbrydelse. Men hvis man kunne finde nogle værktøjer i andre traditioner, som kan være med til at resocialisere eller sætte plaster på såret, eller hvad man nu kan, jamen så synes jeg, det vil være udmærket."

Q: Jeg tænkte i virkeligheden ikke, at man skulle straffe dobbelt, men man kunne straffes halvt i to forskellige paradigmer, således at der er...

AWP: "Nej, nej. Det tror jeg ikke, for så er man netop inde på, hvor man skal have flere parallelle retssystemer til at køre i fht hinanden; nej, det jeg tror ikke vil være en god ide ... altså fra Danmark har man jo brugt det, når man har skudt på folk i Afghanistan eller Irak, så har man jo faktisk fra dansk side været ude og betale blodpenge. Men det er jo så fordi det er en tradition i dén del af verden."

Q: Det er ikke noget, der hører til her?

AWP: "Nej, ikke andet end hvis det på en eller anden måde kan forhindre en eskalering af en eller anden form for konflikt, som er der, men hvor konflikten ikke nødvendigvis har udartet sig endnu til noget regulært kriminelt, men hvor den kunne gøre det, med mindre der blev betalt en bod."

*Quote 3.34:*

TB: "Nu er jeg jo mægler by heart, og jeg synes, at alt hvad der overhovedet kan mægles, det er det bedste for alle mennesker. Hvis de kan sætte sig ned og selv finde ud af det, så ville det være det bedste. Hvis det er mig som retsmægler i retssystemet eller, om det er en skolelærer, imam osv., som sidder som faciliterende person, det er for mig lige meget. Hvis det nu ikke lykkes, så har de altid domstolene, de kan komme til. ... I min verden er en mægling kun afsluttet, hvis alle parter har accepteret aftalen. Så er det deres aftale og ikke mæglerens bestemmelse. Det er min

opfattelse. [... Men,] hvis det er sådan, at de har skrevet under på en klar aftale, så kan de stadigvæk godt gå til domstolene og sige, at der var tvang involveret og argumentere mod, at aftalen blev truffet på forkert grundlag. Men ellers er det en bindende aftale.” (TB, 500 – 539)

*Quote 3.35:*

JC: “Hvis det er inden for rimelighedens grænser, og hvor de så er, det kan man diskutere. Men det er klart, hvis der er en eller anden familietvist på Nørrebro, og så kommer der en imam og siger, at nu skal der altså være stokkeslag på ham her. Det går ikke. Men vi straffer jo heller ikke ved brug af slag længere. Mit grundsynspunkt er, at man skal ikke være bange for, at andre landes retssystemer og retsregler bliver anerkendt i Danmark. Eller at der foregår twisteløsning ved mægling eller hjemme over middagsbordet, som vi med stor retfærdighed kan blande os uden om. Det er klart, at hvis man så siger, at jeg dræbte din søn, men jeg mæglede med imamen. Så ville jeg stadigvæk sige, at det kan vi ikke, da vi ikke har rådighed over denne sag, men det har staten. ... Så kommer man tilbage og spørger, om det er inden for rimelighedens grænser. Er det normativt acceptabelt? Det at folk bliver tvunget til at indgå i en aftale, som alle ville synes var fuldstændig rimelig, det ville man nok leve med, men hvis du bliver tvunget ind med en uformel tvang i noget, hvor samfundet ville sige, at det er fuldstændig urimeligt. Det er det, samfundet prøver at modvirke, når vi går imod imam-mægling. Vi går ikke imod den fx fornuftige og afbalancerede “mosaisk trossamfunds”-mægling mellem åbne og uddannede frie parter, der bare har brug for en løsning. Det vi går imod, når vi overhovedet har den debat, så er det der, hvor magtudøvelsen er for stor. (JC, p 19)

*Quote 3.36:*

Q: Er sharia og kanonisk ret sådan nogle klare retssystemer, som er klart adskilt fra andre retssystemer, så du kan sige: ”Nu anvender jeg sharia, nu anvender jeg dansk ret”?

SA: Jeg synes, der er nogle ting, der bliver blandet sammen der i dine spørgsmål; sharia er et meget stort lovkodeks, der kan bruges forskelligt, alt efter hvilke situationer, retsskoler osv, men sharia som lovkodeks er beregnet til at blive brugt i et muslimsk samfund. Og så kan man sige, at jeg som privatperson – det er også en del af sharia, at jeg beder, at vasker mig på den bestemt måde, at jeg har en vis holdning til forskellige ting; men jeg ser det ikke som en [...] Jeg adskiller det ikke fra mit virkelige liv; jeg tænker ikke over, når jeg går over gaden for rødt, om jeg bryder sharia, men jeg tænker på sikkerhedshensyn og lovgivning, og hvis jeg får en bøde, så får jeg en bøde, som jeg jo selvfølgelig betaler, men jeg tænker ikke på, at det her, det er sharia og det her det er dansk lov. [...] det tror

jeg, fordi jeg ser dansk lov som nogle spilleregler, der gælder der, hvor jeg bor. Det kan godt være, at der er en religiøs regel, jeg så ikke kan komme igennem med, men det er de spilleregler, hvor jeg bor. Jeg har en mulighed for at påvirke dem, og jeg gør, hvad jeg kan i mit arbejde som muslim i Danmark, at påvirke de regler; og det er derfor, jeg skrev det høringssvar til retsudvalget. Men spilleregler er noget, der bliver fastsat i fællesskab også, så jeg må vælge: vil jeg følge den spilleregel, eller vil jeg ikke følge den spilleregel? Jeg har så valgt i nogle tilfælde at følge den spilleregel, fordi det er det mest hensigtsmæssige for mit liv, og andre gange kan jeg måske sige: jeg følger ikke den spilleregel; jeg følger i stedet for min religiøse spilleregel. (SA, p 5)

*Quote 3.37:*

KWH: “Jeg vil gerne væk fra det der med at tale om religion i det hele taget, fordi det afhænger unægteligt af, hvad det er for en religion. Jeg synes, det er rystende, at vi skal opleve polygame forhold i Europa igen i dag. Altså jeg synes virkelig, det er et civilisatorisk tilbageskridt, at vi skal tilbage til vikingetiden-agtigt. Hvis religionsfrihed bruges som argument for, at den slags ting skal ske, så må vi nødt til at kikke kritisk på religionsfrihedsbegrebet igen. Det er det, der er... Og så vi man så sige, jamen kan vi så ikke lave et klart princip om, hvad det er, vi kritiserer? Nej, vi bliver nødt til at se konkret på det, ikke, og vi bliver nødt til at sige ligeud, at vi vil ikke have vielse af mindreårige, og vi vil ikke have polygame forhold. Hvorfor er polygami ikke i orden? [...] Jeg bruger det som en slags twist-argument for folk: hvis folk siger, at det skal staten ikke blande sig i; folk må gifte sig, som de har lyst til, så dumper de hos mig. Jeg synes selv, det er svært at argumentere for, fordi det er nemlig: hvorfor synes vi ikke, polygami er i orden? Hvorfor synes vi ikke det? Det er meget svært; det er jo, fordi vi har en kulturel, moralsk, religiøs bagage med os, hvad enten vi er klar over det eller ej.” (KWH, 14-15)

*Quote 3.38:*

CS: “... jeg mener egentlig ikke, at eksplicit religion hører hjemme dér [in the legal system]. Det, man laver i et retssystem, det er værdibaseret, og hvor kommer de værdier fra? Altså de kommer jo alligevel fra noget kristeligt eller noget normativt et eller andet sted fra. Der hvor jeg ligesom vil have et problem, det er, hvis man tager noget muslimsk et eller andet, og så giver det en eller anden særlig status, og så samtidig tager man noget hinduistisk og så tager man noget fjerde, og så laver man sådan et sammensurium af forskellige konfliktløsningsmodeller, som gør, at der bliver mangel på gennemsigtighed og mangel på forståelse, og til sidst så siger folk: hvad er egentlig retstilstanden her? Fordi I kan åbenbart vælge imellem hvad der lige passer jer bedst. Så vi går lidt på shopping. Det er

sådan en slags supermarked. Og det lyder selvfølgelig meget smart, men er i virkeligheden overfladisk” (CS, 11-12)

*Quote 3.39:*

JC: “...vi har en verden, hvor vi normalt anerkender, at hvis folks ægteskab er undergivet colombiansk lovgivning, så kan det godt blive brugt her i Danmark. De boede nu engang i Colombia, og så flyttede de herop, og et halvt år efter var de blevet skilt. Så er det den måde, det er reguleret på. På den ene side er det konsekvensen af, at sådan gør vi altid. Folk har frihed til at indgå aftale og konfliktløse, som de nu engang vil. Konfliktløsning med en imam er for mig ikke værre end alle mulige andre former for konfliktløsning. Så længe det foregår inden for rimelighedens grænser.”

Q: ”Religion er ikke et argument i virkeligheden?”

JC: ”Nu prøver jeg at retfærdiggøre det ud fra en sekulær betragtning, hvor jeg siger, at nej det er ikke derfor, men samtidig vil jeg sige, at ja det er derfor, at der skal være en plads til det. Religion kan spille en særlig rolle for, hvordan folk regulerer deres internt personlige forhold, og det skal der være plads til. Hvis man ikke anerkendte det åbne synspunkt, så ville man komme til at undertrykke en masse gode måder at regulere forhold og løse konflikter på. Det skal man være varsom med.”

*Quote 3.40:*

Q: ”Vil du så internt folkekirkeligt sige: det skal vi, fordi vi har teologi til det? er det sådan en argumentation?”

PSJ: ”Ja ja. Jaja. Jeg mener, vi bør. Jeg mener, nu taler vi om noget principielt. Vi bør gøre det af pastoralteologiske årsager, af teologiske årsager. Når jeg vægrer mig ved at sige, at den modsatte position er god teologi, så er det jo fordi, det er selve det grundteologiske udgangspunkt, som er forkert. Det er ikke ordentlige teologiske udgangspunkter, man kan ikke have det bibelsyn, som er det grundlæggende teologiske udi den position, ifølge min allerbedste overbevisning”

*Quote 3.41:*

PSJ: ”Nej. Det kan jeg ikke få mig til.”

Q: ”Ville du gerne?”

Nej. ”Det vil jeg ikke! Det er et spørgsmål, som er op til de enkelte trossamfund.”

Q: ”Så trossamfund skal kunne opretholde sin vielsesbemyndigelse, selvom de ikke vil vie homoseksuelle?”

PSJ: ”Ja. Folkekirken tager sit eget standpunkt i denne sag. Det er os selv, der bestemmer det her I Folkekirken og tilsvarende har de andre trossamfund ret til selv at bestemme, hvad de vil.”

*Quote 3.42:*

ET: ”Nu snakker man jo om at kunne indgå kønsneutrale ægteskaber. Her ville jeg sige, at det sekulære samfund kan lave en sådan ordning. Det kan man have en politisk mening om, og jeg har – uafhængigt af min katolske opfattelse af spørgsmålet om homoseksualitet – den opfattelse, at indførelse af sådan en ordning i realiteten vil afsvække samfundets beskyttelse af det almindelige ægteskab og dermed af familie og børn. Jeg mener af rent sociale og antropologiske årsager, at det vil være forkert at gøre. Så vil det blive sådan, at man lige pludseligt ikke kan have hensynstagende lovgivning ift. familier, fordi det så også skal gælde de andre. Det svarer til, at en nogen ikke må gå med Dagmarkors mere, fordi man ikke vil have, at andre går med tørklæde. Derfor er jeg imod. Det ville være udtryk for sekularisme, hvis man sagde, at frikirkerne også er forpligtet til at have kønsneutrale vielser. Grundproblemet er her, at religionsfriheden ikke kun er individuel, men den er også kollektiv. Man siger, at folkekirkens præster vil være frit stillede, men folkekirken vil ikke være frit stillet. Det er så næppe noget praktisk problem, fordi der er folkekirkepræster nok, der hjertens gerne vil gå med til det.”

*Quote 3.43:*

Q: ”Hvis Folketinget ændrer ægteskabsloven, så I også kunne vie homoseksuelle, hvordan ville I så reagere på det?”

LMH: ”Det, vi har snakket om, er, at vi ønsker ikke at blive stillet i det dilemma. Så derfor ville vi nok overveje at aflevere vores vielsesbemyndigelse. [...] Der er dem, der vil sige, at de anerkender et homoseksuelt par, eller homoseksualitet også som kærlighed fra Gud, som er et udtryk for, at det er legitimt, og det skal også kunne registreres eller velsignes. Og så er der dem, der siger, at det har intet med kærlighed at gøre; det er en vrangforestilling, måske næsten en sygdom, og det er noget, man enten skal bede om helbredelse for, eller man skal leve afholdende resten af sit liv, hvis man har de tendenser. Så vi har hele spektret. [...] et eller andet sted har vi det nok sådan, nogle af os i hvert fald, hvor vi siger, at der er også vigtigere ting at snakke om end det. Altså vi synes egentlig, at det er jo så lille en del af det, det er at være kirke, og så bliver det det, der bliver et stempel, på en eller anden måde. Det er vi nogle, der ikke bryder os om.” (LMH: p 13-14)

*Quote 3.44:*

DN: “En fuldstændig kønsneutral ægteskabslov, hvor man siger, at de mennesker, som elsker hinanden, og som ønsker at indgå et partnerskab med hinanden, og de forskellige juridiske forpligtelser der følger med ved at leve i det sekulære samfund ved at indgå et ægteskab. Disse indgår uagtet af, hvad forskellige religiøse grupperinger nu engang måtte mene, at

ægteskabsbegrebet rummer hos dem. Nu er det altså et juridisk begreb, som vi også anvender i Danmark, og det er først og fremmest borgernes forhold til hinanden og stat, hvor det her er interessant. Hvad de enkelte trosretninger derude så ønsker at gribe og gøre i efterfølgende, det blander jeg mig ikke i, men det vi fra statens side har valgt at kalde et ægteskab det... har I andre kriterier, så gør I det. Det I laver derude, det har ikke noget juridisk gyldighed for os, da det er jeres egen ceremonielle symbolske konstruktion.” (DN, p 20-21)

*Quote 3.45:*

HC: “Nu har jeg jo i mange år haft det synspunkt, at jeg synes ikke, at der skulle være en juridisk ægteskabsstiftelse, heller ikke i folkekirken. [...] Jeg synes jo, at det, at man har en ægteskabsindstiftelse, som er ens for alle, igen – det er jo sådan meget gennemgående i det, jeg siger – på rådhuset eller hvor, det nu er, at samfundet træffer beslutninger om det, og så kan den eller de, som vil det, gå til deres respektive trossamfund og modtage en velsignelse, eller hvad man nu definerer det som.” (HC, p 12)

*Quote 4.01*

AWP: ”Jeg tror egentlig, det ville være en fordel for hele arbejdsmarkedet, hvis man havde lov til at flytte rundt på sine fridage i langt større omfang, end man har i dag. Jeg ved eksempelvis fra transportsektoren, bybuskørsel og togkørsel og alt muligt, der er man jo rigtig glad for muslimerne, for de vil gerne arbejde til jul, mens der er mange klassisk danske ikke-muslimer, som helst ikke vil arbejde til jul.”

*Quote 4.02:*

SA: ”Jeg synes, man skulle lade folk selv om at aftale det med deres arbejdsplads. Jeg har været så heldig, at når jeg har arbejdet på en muslimsk arbejdsplads, så har jeg fri i slutningen i ramadanen. Hvis min arbejdsplads ikke ville være en muslimsk arbejdsplads, så ville jeg forhandle mig frem til det; og hvis min arbejdsgiver ville være så sur og dum, at ’nej, du kan under ingen omstændigheder få fri i slutningen af ramadanen til den muslimske jul!’, jamen så ville jeg sige: ’Tak for en god arbejdsoplevelse, jeg siger op.’”

*Quote 4.03*

BL: ”På den ene side er det blevet nemmere, fordi folk har mere fri, dvs. at du kan generelt placere dine fridage... Men vi har haft faktisk en skolelærer, der blev nægtet at afspadsere sin fridag på jødiske helligdage. Og vi har også fået en ændret holdning i gymnasierne, nemlig det, at I gamle dage afleverede man en seddel fra overrabbineren til rektor, hvor der stod, at vedkommende bedes fri mandag og tirsdag til Rosh Hashana, og så

var den sag klaret. Det gør man ikke længere. I dag bliver en forsømmelse til Rosh Hashanah regnet som en forsømmelse.”

*Quote 4.04:*

BL: ”[Jeg] skriver til undervisningsministeriet hvert femte år, og hvor vi beder om, at de officielle eksamener ikke skal ligge der og der, fordi det er jødiske helligdage, og det er generelt noget, der bliver accepteret. Og jeg vil sige, at det sker indimellem. Faktisk havde jeg sidste år to elever på ... de havde fået besked på, at de skulle møde op på en prøveeksamen på en af de jødiske helligdage, der lå der omkring pinse. ... Og der havde læreren givet besked om, at der var ingen mulighed for sygeeksamen, og der var ingen mulighed for, at de kunne gå op på et andet tidspunkt. Så henvendte de sig til mig, og jeg skrev til rektor eller hvad han hedder, og jeg skrev sådan og sådan og det var et problem for dem og hvordan, han ville tackle det der, og så, jeg fik, der gik 10 minutter, så skrev vedkommende tilbage: jeg har meddelt, at de skal ikke til eksamen. ... Så generelt vil jeg sige, at tingene kan løses.” (BL, p 5)

*Quote 4.05:*

“Hvorfor skal folketinget engagere sig i, hvordan folk går klædt, og hvorvidt der er lokaler til daglig bøn?” (Quote 4.05)

*Quote 4.06:*

DN: Mit personlige råd til virksomhederne når jeg er blevet spurgt om det, det er, at jeg synes, at I skal tænke jer rigtig godt om, når I laver den slags ting for ellers, kommer I til at gøre folk mere etniske, end de rent faktisk er. I skal koncentrere jer om, at medarbejdere er medarbejdere, og så må I se, om I ikke kan adskille det private og det religiøse fra deres arbejdsliv. Jeg oplever det faktisk heller ikke som noget stort problem. Det kan være et problem i de virksomheder, der har lavt uddannet arbejdskraft fx i rengøringsfirmaer og fabriksarbejde, der har du ofte folk, som er lidt mere religiøse, da religion spiller en større rolle den gruppe mennesker. De vil gerne have disse ting til rådighed, ligesom nogle danskere gerne vil have motionsrum til rådighed. Så synes jeg, at man må gå ind i en forhandling om at imødekomme det. Sikrer vi, at arbejderne bliver på stedet ved at lave disse foranstaltninger? I en eller anden guddoms hellige navn synes jeg, at det er farligt fra start at lave bederum, da det understreger nogle forskelle frem for at... (DN, p 16-17)

*Quote 4.07:*

PSJ: ”Jeg synes ikke, at man skal pålægge arbejdsgiver muligheden for et bederum. Men jeg synes at det ville være en stor fejl at pålægge dem ikke at gå med kors eller tørklæde. Det er livstydningstegn, det er jo slet ikke

neutrale tegn. Det er så stor en del af deres personlighed, så jeg vil synes det var forkert at tvinge dem til at lægge det fra. Det kan være i forbindelse med udøvelse af bestemte arbejder, hvor der er et uniformsregulativ.”

*Quote 4.08:*

BP: ”Ja, jeg har det generelt sådan, at hvis man arbejder i en offentlig institution, så må man have respekt for den institution, man er i og de mennesker, der kommer der. Jeg synes hverken, at man skal gå dybt nedringet eller have guldsmykker over det hele eller gå i lårkort eller skilte meget med, at man har en bestemt tro over for de mennesker, der kommer her. De har brug for at få en oplevelse af, at her bliver der behandlet ud fra en objektiv person, der kender reglerne og ikke så meget andet. Hvis det var meget demonstrativt, så ville jeg have et problem med det.”

BP: ”... man skal kunne se hænderne og føre en fornuftig og nærværende samtale, som ikke hele tiden rummer, at man sidder og tænker, hvad der mon foregår inde under alt det der. Så kan man ikke have sådan et job. Det er også et valg, man gør sig, hvis man vil skilte så meget med sin tro, for så vælger man altså også nogle ting fra ift. at kunne have forskellige job.”

*Quote 4.09:*

AWP: ”Jeg har selv som skoleleder haft en burkaklædt kvinde ansat i en børnehaveklasse. Og jeg vidste så godt, når hun kom ind i børnehaveklassen, så tog hun ansigtsdækket af og tumlede rundt med børnene ligesom alle mulige andre. Hun var en knalddygtig pædagog.”

Q: ”Kan hun også godt være dagplejemor?”

AWP: ”Det kan hun vel, hvis de forældre, der synes, at deres børn skal i pleje der synes, det er i orden. Hende, jeg havde der, var en knalddygtig pædagog, uddannet i Danmark, og da vi havde skærpet tilsyn fra undervisningsministeriet på den samme skole, kunne jeg godt se, at de var lige ved at falde bagover, da de kom ind på lærerværelset og så, hun sad der, og de sad og skævede til hende ud af øjenkrogen engang imellem. Og da hun så pludselig åbner munden og begyndte med alle fagudtrykkene og bare fyrede løs, så kunne de jo godt se, at der sad jo et menneske og vidste, hvad hun snakkede om.” (AWP, 6)

*Quote 4.10:*

PVB: ”Jeg har det nok lidt sådan, at dagplejeren fra Odense var et godt eksempel på, at man ikke kunne varetage sit job på en ordentlig måde, hvis barnet ikke kan se et ansigtsudtryk, og hvis de forældre, der kommer og henter og afleverer barnet, ikke kan se hendes ansigtsudtryk, og så synes jeg, det er i orden, at Odense kommune går ind og opstiller nogle retningslinjer.”

*Quote 4.11:*

PSJ: "For mig at se må jeg sige, at hvis vedkommende bærer et kors, det ville jeg jo ikke have noget imod overhovedet, hvis vedkommende kom med en halvmåne, ville jeg ikke blive anfægtet, eller et tørklæde. Alt i orden. Jeg vil dog sige, at vi lever i en kultur, hvor vi ser hinanden ansigt til ansigt og i øjenhøjde med hinanden, så derfor vil det, der aldeles tildækker ansigtet ikke være acceptabelt i sådan en sammenhæng. Men jeg kunne i øvrigt heller ikke drømme om at forbyde det i samfundet. På gade og vej. Altså hvis man har lyst til at gå aldeles tildækket, er det ok, men jeg vil have lov til at sige: men jeg vil ikke ansætte sådan en."

*Quote 4.12:*

PSJ: "Den skal tages et andet sted, fordi ellers så tror jeg, vi kommer til at trykke nogle mennesker for hårdt og i det her tilfælde synes jeg, at man må være så sensibel over for, hvad der foregår i deres liv. Meget ofte har de kvinder, som går med tørklæde, meget ofte har de haft en ganske gevaldig kamp, formentlig både med deres far og deres mor for at få en uddannelse og få den uddannelse, som de allerhelst vil have. Måske også for at gifte sig på en anden måde, og så for ligesom at afbøde lidt for alle de kulturelle kampe, så tager de det tørklæde på. Det har jeg i hvert fald hørt nogle eksempler på. Så synes jeg ikke, jeg skal komme og bestemme noget. Det er en måde at mistænkeliggøre dem på. Der er foregået en kamp, som vi andre ikke kan gøre os begreb om og ikke skal blande os i."(s 9-10)

Q: "Er der ikke både inden for de kristne grupper i Danmark og inden for islam og måske også inden for jødedom i Danmark en stigende fundamentalisering, altså religiøse grupper bliver stærkere og skaber stærkere normer for deres egne, som gør, at det bliver sværere at lave det flyt?"

PSJ: "Det er et godt spørgsmål. Der er ingen tvivl om, at pressen henvender hele tiden sin opmærksomhed mod den præst, som hænger en nisse, eller mod den imam, som ikke er klar i spyttet på stening eller mod den rabbiner, som måtte komme for skade at sige noget om bosættelser på Vestbredden, men i et vist omfang er det et presseskabt fænomen."

*Quote 4.13:*

LMH: "Jeg kunne godt tænke mig at være sygehuspræst, fx, eller fængselspræst, og det må jeg ikke blive, fordi der skal man være luthersk præst. Det, synes jeg også er diskriminerende. Jeg kender jo godt begrundelsen, for tænk, hvis nu der kommer nogen, der vil have deres barn døbt, og jeg så ikke vil døbe vedkommende, ikke, eller der kan være mange andre spørgsmål. Men jeg synes, at det ville berige vores samfund, hvis der var mere lighed, og hvis der var flere forskellige slags sygehuspræster eller fængselspræster."(LMH, p 3)

*Quote 4.14:*

BP: ”Det tror jeg faktisk er ulovligt ligesom, at man heller ikke kun må søge en mand eller en kvinde. Det synes jeg ikke er i orden. Det kan godt være, at man ville vælge den... men det er jeg faktisk ikke engang sikker på, man må.”

Q: ”Hvad, ville du mene, var i orden, før sådan en institution kunne drives i den fagligt religiøse blandede ånd, der nu var?”

BP: ”Det er oplagt, at man må fremlægge, hvilket værdigrundlag man arbejder på. Der er ingen tvivl om, at hvis der bliver sagt, at der bliver arbejdet ud fra et kristent værdigrundlag, så ved de fleste danskere, hvad det er.”

Q: ”Og det må man også spørge til hos ansøgeren?”

BP: ”Ja det må man klart. Hvis man nu heller ikke måtte spørge ude på Toms om, hvorvidt et samleband var et sted, man kunne tænke sig at stå. Jeg synes, at det er i orden. Men jeg synes ikke, at det er i orden, at man må spørge, om du er medlem af folkekirken og så vælge fra på den baggrund.”

Q: ”Du siger altså, at man ikke må spørge til folks indre overbevisning, men man må gerne spørge, hvordan de forholder sig til den arbejdsplads, de skal være på? Og Hvordan de kan praktisere på den arbejdsplads?”

BP: ”Ja og om de kan se for sig, at de kan arbejde under de værdier og normer, man får præsenteret. Det er da klart, og det ville man da gøre hvor som helst. Her hos os har vi en særlig rummelig familiepolitik, så hvis der er nogle, der har syge børn, så synes vi godt, at de må blive hjemme et par dage. Det er da det samme.” (p 4-5)

*Quote 4.15:*

Q: ”På de arbejdspladser, som har sekulære opgaver, eller sekulært religiøse opgaver, sygehuse eller skolevirksomhed, og som har et religiøst ethos. Hvor meget skal man kunne lægge vægt på personlig overbevisning, og hvor meget skal man kunne lægge vægt på arbejdspladsens regler?”

PSJ: ”Trosovervejelsen, den synes jeg er vigtigt. Seksualitet, der er jeg ikke sikker på, at jeg synes, man skal kunne lægge vægt på, der er jeg nok så meget borte af sådan en kristelig oplysning, det er mere faglighed, det kommer an på.”

Q: ”Indgår i en teologi i et andet trossamfund eller i en frimenighed, at teologien skal vise sig i praksis, og det vil sige, at vi vil ikke have nogen ansat, der er fraskilt, vi vil ikke have nogen bøsser ansat, vi vil ikke have nogen kvinder ansat, der får en abort; dels vil vi ikke ansætte dem, og dels vil vi fyre dem, hvis de gør det alligevel – hvordan ville du stille dig til det?”

PSJ: ”Det ville jeg ikke synes, var rimeligt.”

Q: "Og det er det, jeg spørger om, altså vil du mene, at samfundet lovgivningsmæssigt skulle acceptere det?"

PSJ: "Nej. Nu kommer vi ind i gråzonerne. Nej, det ville jeg ikke."

Q: "Vil du mene at samfundet lovgivningsmæssigt skal acceptere, at folk bærer religiøse symboler (ja), men samfundet skal ikke lovgivningsmæssigt acceptere former der kan føre til ansættelse eller afskedigelse af folk, bortset fra selve troen?"

PSJ: "Ja. Der kan være nogle trosmæssige begrundelser. Altså når der er et bestemt trossamfund, så må man sige, at der er nogle bestemte overbevisninger, som jeg godt kan forstå, hvis arbejdsgiver lægger vægt på. Men derudover mener jeg ikke, man skal kunne fyre folk på deres etiske forhold."

Q: "Der var et eksempel med et ydre missionselskab, som ville have en troende økonomimedarbejder. Ville du sige, at hvis de efterspurgte en økonomimedarbejder, som i sin holdning kunne understøtte og være loyal over for og aktivt bidrage til missionselskabets formål, det ville du acceptere?"

PSJ: "Ja!"

Q: "Jeg har personligt en grænse, et argument, der hedder, at man kan ikke tillade sig på en arbejdsplads at spørge efter folks interne overbevisning, forum internum, personlig faith, men jeg vil gerne spørge efter ydre praksis. Er det en relevant sontring for dig?"

PSJ: "Ja, det kunne det meget godt være. Det har jeg aldrig tænkt over, så du byder mig noget her, som virker relevant. Det er meget folkekirkeligt at sige, at vi skal ikke granske folks hjerter og nyrer, deres indre overbevisning. Jeg vil ikke acceptere, at en homoseksuel ikke kunne blive lærer på den begrundelse. Det ville jeg finde meget upassende. Det må handle om overbevisningen, ikke om seksualiteten."

Q: "Og du ville understøtte at staten skulle sige, at det var retligt forkert. Den fyring var i strid med ...?"

PSJ: "Ja det tror jeg, jeg ville mene, at det bryder jeg mig ikke om. Der er man skredet ud over grænserne. Man går ind i personligheden der. Det ville jeg ikke kunne acceptere."

Q: "Vil du forvente i den situation, at folkekirken så har en intern ledelsesret til at tage stilling til decorum-spørgsmålene? Eller vil du forvente, at der var en eller anden fælles arbejdsret i samfundet som sådan som du trak på, eller er det en kombination? Kan du følge mit eksempel?"

PSJ: "Det kan jeg. Men jeg bliver også nødt til at tilstå, at jeg ikke er afklaret på det. Det er det, der bliver så frygtelig besværligt ved den kirkeordning, som skal ændres (Q: den skal ændres?) ja, men som har så mange implikationer, som nu kommer. Det bliver jo nok en blanding."

Q: En blanding, som er, at du vil forbeholde dig intern ledelsesret, men den skal være, rammes af fælles arbejdsretlige regler?

PSJ: "Ja, for det, jeg er liv-ræd for, det er, hvis vi siger, at vi skal have en intern ret i kirken. Jeg er så bange for den kirke, som kan gå hen og udvikle parallelsystemer. Det er vi ret gode til i forvejen."

Q: "Det hele skrider langsomt fra hinanden?"

PSJ: "Ja. Det bliver en løjerlig institution i samfundet. Derfor så tror jeg nok, at jeg meget tror, at opgaven altså hele tiden består i at kalibrere vores egen opfattelse uden at blive vindbøjtler; men på det lovgivningsmæssige område, der skal vi være så integreret som muligt. I hvert fald som folkekirke. Jeg vil ikke forlange det af de andre, men jeg ville ønske, at de tænkte det samme." (p 4-6)

*Quote 4.16:*

HC: "I udgangspunktet står der i vores grundregler, at Kirkens Korshær søger sine medarbejdere blandt den danske folkekirkes medlemmer, og det, vi så siger: Det at søge er jo ikke det samme som at finde, så dér, hvor vi finder medarbejdere, som passer ind i det, vi gerne vil have, så er der mulighed for, at landsstyrelsen kan give dispensation. Men det normale, om jeg så må sige – og det skal siges i selve det brugerrelaterede arbejde – det er, at vi har et varemærke, som er, at vi arbejder på den danske folkekirkes grund, og derfor er det dét, man vil møde. Det er meget aktuelt for os, for vi har lige været indklaget for ligebehandlingsnævnet og fået en afgørelse her for 14 dage siden, som siger, at det var forkert. Konkret var det med baggrund i en stillingsannonce, som vi havde i som organisationskonsulent, og hvor der stod: "medlemskab af folkekirken". Det var der så en dame, som har indbragt for ligebehandlingsnævnet."

Q: "Og medarbejderne hhv. i den offentlige del af virksomheden og den private del af virksomheden?"

HC: "Vi skelner jo ikke sådan imellem det, altså de er medarbejdere i Kirkens Korshær alle sammen. Det der med, at der er nogle herberger, der er driftsoverenskomst, det er mest sådan en teknisk ting. Men medarbejderne er jo af alle slags; altså som jeg lige sagde: på Blågårds Plads har vi en muslim – vi har i øvrigt også flere muslimer ansat her i samme område, fordi vi driver noget fodboldklub og lektiehjælp for drengene der i området, og der er nogle unge mænd, som mig bekendt er muslimer, som står for det."

Q: "Men det er undtagelsen, sagde du lige, det kræver en dispensation. Hvad er den almindelige medarbejder?"

HC: "Den almindelige medarbejder er medlem af folkekirken og ellers, som sagt, så kan der gives dispensation, hvis den leder, som leder det arbejde, hvor man gerne vil have ansat én, lægger vægt på, at det skal være netop dén person."

Q: "Har den almindelige medarbejder en faglig uddannelse (ja), eller er det fru Jensen, hvor børnene er flyttet hjemmefra?"

HC: ”Nej, altså vi har jo både ansatte og frivillige medarbejdere her, og vi kalder dem alle sammen medarbejdere. Vi har ca. mellem 7-8.000 frivillige og ca. 400 ansatte medarbejdere, og det er jo nok mest de ansatte, vi skal måske tale om i denne her sammenhæng, det ved jeg ikke. Det er i hvert fald dér, hvor kravet om folkekirkemedlemskab er.”

Q: ”Okay, så det krav stiller I ikke til de frivillige medarbejdere?”

HC: ”Nej. Men vi stiller det krav, at de skal kunne arbejde ud fra Kirkens Korshærs kristne livs- og menneskesyn.”

Q: ”Hvad er din kommentar til det her spørgsmål om medarbejdere i folkekirken?”

HC: ”Jeg synes jo, at det er grundlæggende mærkeligt, at organister ikke skal være medlemmer af folkekirken, eftersom musikken jo er den primære lovsangskilde og etablerer det forkyndelsesrum, som det talte ord så lyder i.”

Q: ”Vil du også synes, at kirketjenere og gravere, at alle medarbejdere i folkekirken faktisk skulle være medlemmer, eller at man skulle i hvert fald stille loyalitetskrav til dem?”

HC: ”Ja, loyalitetskrav, vil jeg sige, også ud fra erfaringen med, at jo ikke mindst medarbejderne på kirkegårde jo er en meget søgt samtalepartner for folk, der færdes der.”

Q: ”Hvis vi nu bliver på arbejdsmarkedet, så placerer jeg altså jeres organisation et sted, hvor I kan stille krav til ledende medarbejdere – sådan vil jeg opfatte retspraksis, og I kan stille loyalitetskrav til de øvrige medarbejdere. Hvad er det for en sag, du fortæller mig, I har haft?”

HC: ”Vi har egentlig haft flere, alle sammen vist nok initierede af Center for Racediskrimination og Ligebehandling. De har arbejdet meget ihærdigt med de her ting og i den sammenhæng udset sig Kirkens Korshær. Vi har ikke fået nogen påtaler, om jeg så må sige, tidligere. Den seneste her, som så som sagt var en organisationskonsulent, som jo altså i den diakonale virksomhed, som Kirkens Korshær er, skal rådgive lederne i diakonalt arbejde og diakonalt folkekirkeligt arbejde, som det jo er, og derfor havde vi det krav, selvom der jo altså ikke var brugerkontakt i den stilling men en rådgivning i at arbejde diakonalt.”

Q: ”Mener du, at retlige konflikter omkring præstestillinger i den katolske kirke burde kunne forelægges for de almindelige domstole og arbejdsretlige institutioner?”

HC: ”Ja, det mener jeg.”

Q: ”Og hvis du nu som formand for præsteforeningen havde medlemmer, som var ansat i baptistkirkerne i Danmark eller metodistkirkerne, altså frikirkerne, hvad ville du tænke der? Ville du ønske at have forhandlingsret? Og ville du ønske, at det var den almindelige arbejdsretlige tænkning, eller ville du sige: det må de klare selv som et internt anliggende?”

HC: ”Jeg ville mene, at det skulle være lige så vel... på samme måde almindeligt reguleret med de redskaber, som vi i øvrigt bruger på arbejdsmarkedet.”

Q: ”Der var for nylig to sager ved Den europæiske Menneskerettighedsdomstol; den ene handlede om en organist i en katolsk kirken, og den anden handlede om en, om jeg så må sige, udenrigsminister hos mormonerne i Europa. Begge sager drejede sig om, hvad lutheranere ville kalde moralske spørgsmål, altså livsstil, udenomsægteskabeligt samliv, som jo både for katolikker og mormoner er en central del af trosudtrykket. Og de var altså blevet fyret begge to pga. udenomsægteskabeligt samliv. Både mormonerne i Europa og den katolske kirke påstod sagen afvist fra den europæiske menneskerettighedsdomstol, netop fordi livsstilen var en central del af trosudtrykket og derfor efter deres opfattelse ikke noget, som menneskerettighedsdomstolen skulle være kompetent til at behandle. Til båndet tænker jeg på Obst og Schüth (36:34). Hvad tænker du om sådan en tilgang fra de to trossamfund? Eller hvordan ville du se på sådan en retsudvikling i en dansk sammenhæng?”

HC: ”Grundlæggende er jeg jo tilhænger af, at der er ligebehandling for alle. Jeg kan jo ikke sådan lige se rundt om alle hjørnerne i de der sager, som du lige kort beskriver. Umiddelbart så må man jo sige, at det forekommer ikke i almindelig overensstemmelse med et arbejdsforhold, at ens private virksomhed eller måde at leve sit liv på har indflydelse der, ud over hvis man kan trække det der loyalitetskrav eller loyalitetsforventning og sige: du har skadet din virksomheds produkt, hvis man nu skal oversætte det til andre, ved at miskreditere det i din livsførelse. Det ville heller ikke være utænkeligt for almindelige, ikke-religiøse virksomheder, at noget sådant...”

Q: ”En eller anden form for decorum-begreb?”

HC: ”Ja, at ens hele fremtræden, herunder også i fritidslivet, herunder også hvordan man omtaler sin arbejdsplads osv. Det er jo også almindeligt brugt, også hvis der kommer nogle konsekvenser af det, hvad du skriver på facebook om, hvor dum chefen er og alt sådan noget, ikke, så vi har jo meget flydende grænser også i denne her sammenhæng.”

Q: ”Men forstår jeg dig rigtigt, når jeg samlende konkluderer, at du nok mener, at domstolene skulle have mulighed for at tage sagen men i sin analyse af sagen skulle lægge vægt på loyalitet og decorum og her under også de religiøse argumenter, men samtidig skulle lægge vægt på personens ret til et privatliv og afbalancere det?”

HC: ”Ja, altså der ville jo ikke være nogen fuldstændig knivskarp måde at skære det på, tænker jeg. Du konkluderer udmærket, ja, og så bliver det jo op til den normdannelse, der til enhver tid er imellem de ting.” (HC, p 2-4)

*Quote 4.17:*

Q.: ”En person som hele tiden viser, at han i sin praksis og sit ordvalg modarbejder den virksomhed eller har en anden religiøs opfattelse.”

TB: ”Jeg tror, at jeg må svare det samme. Det må være omfattet af de regler for, hvad en arbejdsgiver kan forvente og tåle af sin medarbejder, og man kan selvfølgelig ikke tåle, at medarbejderen så eksplicit modarbejder virksomheden. Man kan jo også lave dresscodes, der gælder generelt.”

Q.: ”Nu er det pæne og velopdragene medarbejdere, den her arbejdsgiver har, så de siger ikke noget. Men lige så snart de har fri, så går de hen til en anden religion på den anden side af gaden, og det er helt tydeligt, at det er der, de udøver deres religion. ... Det er klart, at de i deres holdning har et andet synspunkt, og de er stadigvæk opvaskere. Måske er det en kirketjener, som ikke alene er med til at vaske gulv, men som også er med til at byde velkommen til begravelsesgæsterne og sørge for stemningen i huset.”

TB: ”Jeg begynder at blive lidt mere usikker på kirketjeneren. Der, synes jeg, at vi er oppe i et niveau, hvor jeg godt kunne forstille mig, at det havde en betydning, at man tilhørte den samme klub som den, man var tjener i. Men i bund og grund ændrer det, du siger, ikke rigtig ved min holdning. Det er fritidsspørgsmål. Så længe man agerer ordentligt og loyalt, når man er på arbejde. Ved loyalitet mener jeg ikke, at man ikke må mene noget andet, når man er på arbejde og heller ikke, at man ikke må tilkendegive det. Man skal bare ikke være en medarbejder, der modarbejder sin arbejdsplads.”

Q.: ”Nu forestiller vi os, at det er en del af Kristelig Fagforenings lokalkontors praksis, at man har morgenandagt hver morgen, hvor man synger salmer, beder en bøn og læser af Biblen. Så får man en medarbejder ansat, der er dygtig til fagforeningsarbejde, men ikke vil være med til de morgenandagter. Er firing berettiget?”

TB: ”Jeg synes da, at der burde være den rummelighed, at man kunne sige, at så måtte de lade være med at være med til morgenandagten, men de kunne stadigvæk udføre de funktioner, som er blevet ansat til.”

Q.: ”Nu har vi en lærer på en markant kristen friskole, som er på den religiøse højrefløj i Danmark, hvor man er meget klart imod abort, skilsmisse og praktiseret homoseksualitet. Den ene lærer får en abort, den anden bliver skilt, og den tredje viser sig at praktisere sin homoseksualitet, og de bliver fyret. Hvad mener du om sagerne? Vi kan også bare sige, at de slet ikke bliver ansat, da der under ansættelsessamtalen bliver spurgt til deres homoseksualitet, abortforhold og familieforhold. De siger så, at det er ulovligt at spørge til det, og de kommer så til dig.”

TB: ”Som jeg forstår det, så har vi her med en kristen friskole, hvor det simpelthen er fundamentet for den her skole, det er sådan. De må jo som lærer fremstå på et niveau, hvor det kan være sagligt og seriøst begrundet, at de ikke agerer i strid med skolegrundlag. Der ville jeg nok sige, at det

skulle man ikke tåle som arbejdsgiver fordi, det er et fælles grundlag for den skole og fordi, de er på det niveau ift. forældre, hvor det har betydning, at man har samme fælles grundlag. Det er derfor, man har den skole. Det, jeg tænker hele tiden, det er, hvor er det ift. de diskriminationsregler, jeg kender. Der tror jeg godt, at man kunne nå frem til det resultat, som jeg nævner her.”

Q.: ”Det handler jo netop af denne her kombination af den etos, der er i virksomheden, og hvilke loyalitets krav både ift. holdning og handling kan man stille til de medarbejdere dels, når man vil ansætte dem og dels, når man vil afskedige dem.”

TB: ”Som udgangspunkt kan man jo godt sige, at det er klart diskriminerende, at man som udgangspunkt begynder at tale med sin kommende medarbejder om, hvorvidt de har tænkt sig at blive gravide, og hvis de gjorde, ville de så få en abort. Men her har vi altså at gøre med en virksomhed, hvor det er værdigrundlag, som man må acceptere som medarbejder, hvis man vil være der. Ellers må man lade være med at være der.” (TB, p 20 – 21, l. 591 – 646/p 6-7)

*Quote 4.18:*

KWH: ”Jeg synes, man skal have en vis grad af frihed, når det er en friskolelovgivning, man har. Ellers må man bare sige: Vi vil ikke have en friskolelovgivning, fordi du kan ikke både blæse og have mel i munden. Hvis man vil have kristne friskoler, så kan man jo ikke forhindre dem i, også at have et gammeldags, kristent syn på nogle af tingene. Så det synes jeg, ville være underligt. Ja.” (p 5)

*Quote 4.19:*

HOB: ”Jeg tror, at de situationer der ville ofte afhænge lige meget af, hvordan folk selv tackler det. ... Det kunne også, nu nævnte jeg før med en, der er gengift. Man kunne også gå et skridt længere tilbage og sige en, der så var fraskilt. For mig ville der være forskel der. Det kunne også være, vi havde en medarbejder, som kom ud i en skilsmisse. Kan vedkommende så stadigvæk være ansat? Der vil jeg sige umiddelbart ja, men det vil komme meget an på, hvad er årsagen til den skilsmisse, og hvordan vil vedkommende selv forholde sig til det, og hvad vil vedkommende selv gøre osv. Så det ville afhænge meget af en samtale. Men det vil være på en række andre felter, altså det kan også være, som vi har haft med folk, der meldte sig ud af folkekirken. Der vil vi stadigvæk fastholde vores identitet, at vi er folkekirkeligt arbejde. Men ... hvis man var nået til enighed om at kunne arbejde sammen stadigvæk dér, så kunne man også stadigvæk være ansat... der skal være en god vidde, men i en god loyalitet og i en god tillid til hinanden.” (p5)

*Quote 4.20:*

HOB: "...man kunne da komme i situationer, hvor vi har slået en stilling op, og hvor der er en, der søger stillingen, og hvor vedkommende vil være kvalificeret, men hvor der vil være... nu ved jeg ikke nødvendigvis under køn, men altså det kunne jo fx være, hvis det var på grund af seksualitet, at der er en, som vi vil sige, at vedkommende vil vi ikke ansætte, fordi det går imod vores værdigrundlag."

Q.: "Eller I vil fyre vedkommende, fordi vedkommende begyndte at praktisere sin homoseksualitet" ("JA"). "Vil du mene, at så dan skulle det være, sådan skulle I have lov til at organisere jer, eller...? Hvordan ser du legitimiteten bag den lovgivning i fht jeres praksis?"

HOB: "Ordet diskrimination, det kan blive et meget stærkt ord. Diskrimination kan jo betyde, at hvis man siger, at der er ingen, der bliver diskrimineret, så betyder det, at så er der nærmest en ladeport for den individuelle til selv at sætte andres dagsorden. Jeg er helt klart med på, at hvis det handler om, at folk bliver decideret diskrimineret på grund af deres seksualitet og nærmest på den måde bliver offentligt hængt ud og meget andet, det er jeg klar modstander af. Der mener jeg, at når det gælder samfundet, eller skal jeg udtrykke det evangelisk-luthersk: i det verdslige regimente, da mener jeg, at der skal der være vidde til, at folk kan..."

Q.: "Det, du mener med det verdslige regimente, vil det være Toms Chokoladefabrik eller Føtex eller..?"

HOB: "Der vil jeg sige, ja, hvor det er et stykke arbejde, håndværksarbejde eller hvad nu det er. Men det er klart, at hvis der er, altså man kan sige de mere ideologisk betonedede, teologisk betonedede, som vi er, da er det ikke kun arbejdsregelsæt, der råder, men der er også et idegrundlag som selve identiteten for det virke. Og der synes jeg, at balancen må være, at den organisation, som har en profil og siger: det er det her, vi står for, og inden for de rammer ansætter vi, og kan du leve med i den profil, jamen så skal der virkelig være gode grunde til, at vi ikke... altså der kan jo selvfølgelig være andre kvalificerede ansøgere, men der skal diskriminationen ikke finde sted. Og så tænkte jeg faktisk også med de sager fx, der har været; kristne friskoler, hvor det også netop med ordet kristen friskole, jamen så er der også en profil kommet på der. Der er en grund til, man er oprettet som en friskole, ligesom hvis man var en Rudolf Steiner-skole eller en..."

Q.: "Men er det en grund, hvor du også ville forvente, at det også giver sig udslag i krav til folks livsførelse uden for skolen, altså lærernes livsførelse uden for skolen? Er det homoseksualiteten igen; det er jo ikke sikkert, de praktiserer homoseksualitet på skolen, vel, men i sit private hjem bor man sammen med en homoseksuel partner eller har en homoseksuel praksis."

HOB: "Ja, det vil jeg mene, det gør. Netop fordi, når du står som, hvis vi tager skoleeksemplet, hvis du står som voksen, som lærer dér, og også egentlig på den måde bærer med dig skolens identitet og skolens profil, og

man så har en adfærd, også selvom det er privat, det vil jo højst sandsynligt ikke være skjult, så vil det stå i kontrast til hinanden, og det mener jeg for en skolebestyrelse, der må det være uheldigt.” (HOB; p. 7-8)

*Quote 4.21:*

Q: ”Må man lægge vægt på i sit valg af den bedste, hvordan vedkommende stiller sig til islam, også inden for forskellige retninger inden for islam?”

NB: ”Nej, man kan ikke gå bestemt ind i det religiøse, men man kan gå ind i forhold til menneskesyn og spørge ind til spørgsmålet omkring, hvordan du ser på diversiteten, fordi vi har så mange muslimske elever i skolen – Hvordan ser du på den måde, som vi driver vores privat-, friskole på i dag? Vi gør sådan og sådan, hvad synes du om det? Så på den måde får man jo nogle svar fra den pågældende. Men jeg synes ikke, at man skal lægge et ultimatum for, at en muslimsk friskole skal have en muslim som skoleleder”. (p 8)

*Quote 4.22:*

ET: ”Det man ville forvente er en overholdelse af en loyalitetspligt. En ting er, at de katolske børn som kommer i kirke om søndagen, de ser ikke Hr. Jensen til søndagsmessen, men de heller ikke Hr. Jensen stå uden for og sige, at de spilder deres tid derinde. Det er en loyalitets forpligtelse. Men der kan jo være situationer. Hvis jeg nu som katolsk skoleleder pludselig rendte fra min kone og børn og flyttede sammen med en 20 år yngre lærerinde, som var ansat på skolen. Så tror jeg selv, at jeg ville indse, at det ikke gik.”

Q: ”Der bliver livet et vidnesbyrd, der taler imod det mundtlige vidensbyrd?”

ET: ”Ja. Det gør det”. (p 7)

*Quote 4.23:*

Q: ”Stiller I religiøse krav til alle medarbejdere?”

BL: ”Nej. Og jeg synes heller ikke, det ville være rigtigt. Vi har ikke-jødiske lærere på skolen. vi har muslimske medarbejdere på plejehjemmet, og det eneste, vi stiller krav over, det er loyalitet over for den arbejdsplads, du er i.”

Q: ”...og mht. forældrene, børnene på skolen, er der nogle krav dér?”

BL: ”Den ene part skal være medlem af Mosaisk Trossamfund. Den ene part, som kan være medlem, skal være medlem.” (p 6)

*Quote 4.24:*

JC: ”Min grundholdning vil være den, at organisationer, der er ateistiske eller troende, bør kunne holde sammen på sig selv, uden at få trojanske heste indenfor. Hvis det så gør, at man ift. andre trossamfund skal sige, at

de får lidt videre rammer, det kan jeg udmærket leve med. Man kan også sige, at udgangspunktet er, at trossamfund har nogle særlige videre rammer. Det har folkekirken så ikke, fordi den er folkekirke, og derfor må man leve med nogle lidt snævrere rammer.”

JC: (commenting on two concrete cases from ECtHR (Schüth & Obst): ”Jeg ville sige, at hvis du er ansat i en kirke, i et mormon samfund eller i et mosaisk trossamfund, så er der altså regler for at være der. Lad nu være med at komme og bruge retssystemet på det pjat, fordi du vil være organist der. Det er bare ærgerligt, så må du spille klaver et andet sted. Det ville være min grund holdning. Det er simpelthen for pjattet til, at det skal være en international menneskerettighedskrænkelse, at en religiøs organisation ikke må bestemme noget, som er en grund værdi for dem. Man krænker en religiøs organisations grund værdi ved at knalde ved siden af, eller hvad det nu var, ham den anden havde gjort.”

Q: ”Ville det også være din grund holdning, hvis vi var på det arbejdsmarked med en religiøs etos - i Danmark fx Diakonissestiftelsen, Kirkens Korshær eller en menighedsbørnehave, ville du også i en menighedsbørnehave acceptere, at her havde vi en ledelse, der sagde, at dette skal være en klar kristen menighedsbørnehave, så vi vil ikke have nogen ansat, som får en abort?”

JC: ”Ja, det tror jeg, at jeg ville gøre. Der kan altid komme en situation, hvor man kan sige: ej, her må vi trække grænsen. De er tusind mennesker, og det er bare en bogholder, der får en abort, fordi hun bliver voldtaget. Der kan altid være grænsetilfælde, men mit grundsynspunkt ville være, at de her organisationer må i et eller andet omfang have lov til at have Berufsverbot på, at sådan her vil vi have, at det skal være, og vi vil ikke have dette indenfor. Så kan man diskutere, hvordan de så kan forvalte det. Igen skal man sige, at hvis du har en alternativ mulighed, altså hvis du kan være organist et andet sted, så må man leve med det. Hvis det var jernbanearbejdere, og der kun var én arbejdsgiver, så var det noget andet. De mister deres levebrød, hvis de ikke kan arbejde der.”

JC: ”Grundlæggende synes jeg, at hvis man vil arbejde i en religiøs organisation, må man leve med, at man skal være religiøs. Jeg håber, at dem, der arbejder på Institut for Menneskerettigheder, ikke føler, at de skal mene noget bestemt om menneskerettighederne. Herunder mener jeg, at jeg har min egen fortolkningsfrihed, og det håber jeg også mine medarbejdere synes. Jeg tror, det ville være svært, hvis man havde en medarbejder, der hele tiden gik ud og kritiserede alt, hvad der havde med menneskerettigheder at gøre. Hvad vil du her så? ... N.N., der vandt foreningsfrihedssagerne som medlem af de kristne, han søgte et job i Brugsen, da han vidste, at så skulle han være medlem af SID, og så kunne han fremprovokere en sag, og det i sig selv synes jeg, at sagen skulle være diskvalificeret som noget pjat, fordi det bare var en anledning til at

fremtvinge en stillingtagen til noget, som Menneskerettighedsdomstolen ikke skulle have blandet sig i.” (JC, p 12-13)

#### *Quote 5.01*

HOB: Jeg synes nogle gange, det der kan være lidt ærgerligt ved det danske samfund, det er næsten, at man gerne vil lovgive til det neutrale. Og hvad er så neutralt? Hvad er normaliteten? Vi kan jo ikke glemme det at være kristen, at det har forskellige udtryk. For mig er der flere faser i det, og ... første fase er, hvis vi også efter Grundloven vil holde fast i, at Danmark i den forstand er et kristent land, jeg vil måske også hævde primært har historiske omstændigheder, men stadigvæk er den en del af vores kristne eller danske kulturarv at være kristne. Så på den måde mener jeg, at det kristne islæt, også de religiøse symboler og de udtryk, der er der, at de må have en præference. Og det mener jeg også i det offentlige rum, at det må være legalt. (HOB, p 10)

#### *Quote 5.02*

BL: ”Jeg tror, at jeg oplever, jeg ved ikke, om det er indbildt, men jeg tror, at jeg oplever, at det jødiske samfund i dag er blevet et... bliver set på anderledes i Danmark end det gjorde for 25 år siden. Dengang var det jødiske samfund en del af det danske samfund. I dag er det jødiske samfund en del af de fremmede samfund.”

Q: ”Det er en del af de fremmede oven i købet? Altså ikke alene en del af en dansk minoritet, der skal beskyttes, men en del af de fremmede?”

BL: ”Ja, fordi folk... Det gælder folk, det gælder faktisk også for politikere: det der med at skelne mellem muslimer og andre, det kan de sgu’ ikke finde ud af. Det er meget...”

Q: ”Det er meget interessant men enormt problematisk”

BL: ”Det er der slet ingen tvivl om, at jøder i dag er mere fremmedgjorte i Danmark, end de har været tidligere.” (BL, p 6)

#### *Quote 5.03*

PSJ: ”Mht. spørgsmålet mellem det religiøse og det sekulære, der synes jeg, at vi er i en meget kompleks situation i Danmark. Jeg tror, hvis du henvender dig til de fleste præster, så vil de sige: aldrig har det været så enkelt at være præst; aldrig har spørgsmålene og samtalerne været så gode, aldrig har det været så enkelt at føre en dåbssamtale, fordi der faktisk – man kommer ind til biddet nu. Hvis du spørger kollegerne, som var i deres velmagtsdage for 30 år siden, så dengang var det rigtig svært, fordi da blev man næsten anset for at være til en side, hvis man også interesserede sig for det teologiske - . Det behøves vi ikke mere. Det synes jeg overhovedet ikke, vi gør. Jeg synes derimod, vi mødes af en velvillig forståelse. du kan se, stort set intet kan røre sig, uden det har pressens bevågenhed, både det

skandaløse, men også sociale tiltag egentlig, og såmænd også religiøse tiltag. Det er meget interessant, fordi der er ingen tvivl om, at det er ikke bare en stemning, som løber med, altså den er ikke sådan, hvad skal man sige, destineret ind i folkekirken.”

Q: ”Så det, du siger, er, at de religiøse værdier er blevet meget mere anerkendte (ja) og accepterede eller efterspurgt?”

PSJ: ”Efterspurgte og jeg tror også anerkendte, fordi ellers så ville man nok ikke have den umiddelbare interesse i det.”

Q: ”Men samtidig er det blevet mere problematiseret?”

PSJ: ”Meget mere problematiseret, og det er den modsat løbende tendens, der er, at man kan se både i offentlige institutioner men sandelig også store, private foretagender, der tidligere ikke var så bange for at støtte kirken; det der med at noget er religiøst, det er altså også blevet farligt. Det er en problematik, tror jeg, som nok skal føres tilbage til 2001. Og en stigende religiøs problematisering rundt omkring i verden, at det er altså gået op for vesteuropæere nu, at religion er noget, der sidder meget dybt i mennesker, det er noget, der generer meget stærke og også meget store tanker. Et eller andet sted så ved man godt, at vel er der et meget stort fredspotentiale i det her, men der er altså også et voldspotentiale og et modsætningspotentiale.

Q: ”Ligger der også i det, du siger, at folkekirken tidligere har været en givet del af det danske samfund, så er folkekirkens givethed blevet mere hvad? problematiseret?”

PSJ: ”Det bliver man nødt til at sige, at det er klart, at der er andre religioner i Danmark nu. Vi har altid, stort set det meste af tiden, levet med, at mosaisk trossamfund har mere eller mindre altid været et københavnerfænomen. Nu er der også mange muslimer i landet, og det er ikke et københavnerfænomen. Det er blevet et nationalt fænomen nu.” (PSJ, p 2)

#### *Quote 5.04*

AWP: “Kristendommen har rigtig, rigtig mange udtryk og udtryksformer, som er betingede af historie, sociale forhold, prædikanters tolkninger, kulturer og alt muligt andet, og retninger, selvfølgelig, inden for kristendommen. Det samme har islam. Det, som er det store, spændende eksperiment for øjeblikket, det er jo, hvordan ser islam ud, når islam udleveres igennem en dansk selvforståelse? ...] vi står overfor, hvor vi som muslimer skal ind og finde denne her identitet, altså hvor jeg som dansk skal bevare ejerskabet over min danskhed, samtidig med at jeg tager ejerskab over islam; mens andre, lad os sige børn af ny-indvandrerfamilier eller lignende, de skal tage ejerskab over deres danskhed, mens de bevarer deres islam. Jeg er jo ikke blevet araber, jeg er ikke blevet tyrker, jeg er ikke blevet pakistaner, jeg er ikke engang blevet københavner. Jeg er jøde; og så er jeg godt nok også nørrebro'er. Det med at fastholde sin egen

identitet og så påtage sig en religiøs identitet samtidig er jo så med til at forme en religion ind i en ny udtryksform. [...] Hvad muslimer eller islam kan bidrage med ind i samfundet her, det er jo fx, at vi er en del af den dynamik, der foregår i et samfund. Danmark er jo ikke en statisk størrelse, og intet samfund er statisk, så som en del af den dynamik, der ligger i et samfund, der er jo også – og i særdeleshed i globaliseringens tid, som vi er i nu, der er der jo også, at Danmark skal forstå og adaptere alle de forskellige befolkningsgrupper, der er. Der har islam da i høj grad sat den dagsorden i spil. (AWP, 10)

*Quote 5.05:*

ET: ” Hvor sekulært er Danmark?” ”Sekularisme er ikke det samme sekularitet. Man kan godt være national uden at være nationalist, man kan være social uden at være socialist, man kan sågar være kommunal uden at være kommunist. [...] Ordningen er, at vi har et sekulært samfund, og det er godt fordi, at sekulariteten er religionsfrihedens forudsætning. Vi har ikke et sekularistisk samfund, og det er der nogen, der prøver at bilde os ind, og de vil gerne have, at vi får det. Et sekularistisk samfund er religionsafvisende, og det er det danske samfund jo ikke. Vores Grundlov starter med, at der er en kirke, der skal have statens opbakning, og de andre trossamfund er forresten også nævnt. Det der er interessant, hvor ikke kun majoritets religionen, men også minoritets religionerne er nævnt i Grundloven. Der eksistens berettigelse er fastslået i Grundloven. Dvs., at vi er sekulære på den måde, at vi ikke afviser religion. Vi er ikke religionsfjendtlige. Vi er tværtimod religionsaccepterende.”

*Quote 5.06:*

KWH: ”Det sekulære samfund er, at der ikke er en hellig lov, et teokrati, der bestemmer, hvordan vi skal indrette vores samfund; der er frihed. Vi kan skændes om stort og småt, om vi skal have monarki, republik, fri abort eller ikke fri abort, og vi slår ikke op i nogle religiøse lovebøger for at finde ud af det. Men vi har samtidig en nær kontakt til det religiøse; vi har måske oven i købet en stat, der støtter det. ... Det sekulære samfund er netop et samfund, der sagtens kan være sammenvævet med det religiøse, men hvor du bare har friheden til at kunne skændes om det sekulære samfunds indretninger. Det sekulære samfund er jo det danske samfund, vil jeg sige. [...] ”Man kunne også sige, jeg er sekulær, fordi jeg er kristen. [...] Det er den frihed, jeg i virkeligheden har fra kristendommen, man kan bruge. Det er også det, at det sekulære bliver frigjort af kristendommen. Der er ikke nogen lovebog, der er ikke nogen Shari’a, der er ikke nogen paragraf; vi skal skændes frit, fordi det her det er kejserens rige; her kan vi skændes.” (KWH, p 12-13)

*Quote 5.07:*

DN: ”Det offentlige rum er det rum, vi alle sammen befinder os i hele tiden. Der er to offentlige rum: der er statslige offentlige rum, og så er der det offentlige rum, der betyder, at vi er uden for vores privatliv. De to rum er forskellige, da der i det offentlige rum er plads til forskellige synspunkter. [I det brede offentlige rum,] der skal vi have lov til at tørne sammen, og der vil jeg fastholde, at mit synspunkt er bedre end deres, men de har lige så meget ret til at have deres synspunkt, som jeg har det. Det andet offentlige rum, og det er der, hvor jeg har været, og hvor det Humanistiske Samfund er meget aktivt, det er det offentlige rum, der har med statens institutioner at gøre. Dvs. alt fra socialkontoret til biblioteket til folkeskolen til alle de andre steder, de er religionsneutrale.” (DN, p 6)

*Quote 5.08:*

JC: ”Vi har haft en meget lang tradition for at have det her kors i vores flag, og det er ikke længere et religiøst symbol for danskere. Det er flagsymbol. De fleste danskere, tror jeg, har koblet af og ser ikke et kors, og derfor symboliserer det ikke en religiøs manifestation for, at der er kors i flaget. Det kan så blive misforstået, når der kommer folk hertil, ligesom hvis vi tager til Tyrkiet og ser halvmånen, hvor man godt er klar over, at det er muslimsk symbol, og man er også godt klar over, at det her er et kristent symbol, men den betydning har det mistet i hverdagen. Der var også en, der rejste spørgsmålet, hvorvidt vi så ikke må have Jellingstenen mere på indersiden af vores pas. [...] Jeg oplever, at omfanget af religiøse symboler i det offentlige rum er beskedent i Danmark ift. alle mulige andre lande. Eller på lige fod og lige så beskedent som i mange andre lande. Vores grund holdning er dog stadigvæk, at vi opfatter religion som en privat sag. Derfor kan det godt være, at jeg som dansker kommer til at koble en forbindelse fra, hvilket jeg selv har gjort, men det kan så være der for andre, og måske skulle man arbejde med at nedtone den. Men jeg må indrømme, at før debatten opstod, der havde jeg slet ikke tænkt over det.” (JC, p 5)

*Quote 5.09:*

DN: Folkekirken blev jo statskirke, og det har den været rigtig længe, og det smitter selvfølgelig af. Symboler har det med at betyde et eller andet i en periode, og så bliver det afkoblet lidt fra det, det rent faktisk startede med. [...] Jeg er ikke til den fetisering af symboler, og jeg tror ikke, at de har den her magt. Symboler er det, vi gør dem til, og det er det, vi ligger i dem, og vi mennesker kan forny noget og lægge det i graven igen. Jeg ser ikke nogen grund til at gå i gang med at lave en form for... det minder jo lidt om Sovjet Union, hvor man ændrede historien, så den passede den nye måde, man gjorde tingene på. Man tager sin historie med i sine

overvejelser. Der var den, og her er vi i dag, men at begynde at ændre på den, så den passer til nutiden, det synes jeg ikke er nogen god ide. (DN: 13)

*Quote 5.10:*

Q: "Hvad er så religiøse leders rolle i et offentligt rum?"

PSJ: "Ja, den er jo så nok blevet ret meget ændret og her kan jeg nok komme til at sige noget, som man synes er sådan lidt for langt fremme i skoene, men det vigtigt, du kan se i januar måned, da var jeg foranlediget af Udenrigsministeriet med til at arrangere en fredskonference for de irakiske, altså Dansk Folkeparti syntes jo, det var forkert at vi gjorde det, at vi accepterede, at religiøse ledere spillede den rolle, som de gjorde må jeg jo bare sige, at hvis man vil have fred i Irak, så skal vi have fred imellem religionerne, og vi skal også have fred inden for de forskellige... Der kan man godt sidde heroppe og sige, at religiøse ledere har ikke nogen politisk magt. På den måde er vi blevet godt og grundigt afmonterede og vi synes, at det er udmærket, at det er sådan, men andre steder i verden er det ikke tilfældet."

Q: "Dels er det andre steder i verden ikke tilfældet, og dels er Danmark en del af andre steder i verden, (ja) og derfor var du vært for den konference, men dels så nævner du jo netop også det københavnske initiativ, hvor den politiske ledelse siger: Her er en vold, der er stigende, den er religiøst betinget; vi må have de religiøse ledere på banen. Og det er nyt i Danmark?"

PSJ: "Det er nyt i Danmark, men jeg tror også, at... det er da helt klart, jeg har da selv oplevet det et par gange som biskop, at man, når man siger et eller andet, hvor man selv synes, at det her det kan forekomme at være sådan lidt almindeligt, folkekirkeligt pipperi på sidelinien, og så siger det bare paf! I det offentlige rum ..."

Q: "Så det, du siger, er, at ikke mindst biskopperne i folkekirken har... deres talerstol er blevet meget større?"

PSJ: "Ja, det tror jeg, den er. Alle... altså også præsternes talerstol er blevet meget større... Det kan vi jo også se, der er nogle, der synes, der er blevet for meget af det, at vi blander os alt for meget... præsterne, siger de nu, blander sig for meget i den offentlige debat." (PSJ s 7)

*Quote 5.11:*

Q: Nu er der en aktuel debat i Danmark om, at man vil indrette et kapel, et nyt sygehuskapel, som er det sted, hvor... Nej, vil du ikke beskrive, hvad et sygehuskapel er?

PSJ: Jo, men det er jo, hvad skal jeg sige, et rum indrettet til en overgangsrite mellem liv og død

Q: Så de pårørende kan tage afsked med de døde der, og så man de derfra blive kørt til kremering eller til begravelse...

PSJ: Ja, der kan man så blive kørt enten til begravelse eller til kremering. Og de rum har jo indtil nu for en dels vedkommende formentlig været indviet (som kristne kirker) til kristent brug, og det vil sige, at de så også har været udstyret med de fornødne religiøse tegn, det er klart.

Q: Jeg mener, om man fortsat skal indvie kapeller ved offentlige sygehuse som kristne kapeller?

PSJ: Det er jeg ikke helt sikker på, at det er i orden. Når en kristen præst kommer ind, der er det på en måde meget nemt at være dansk teolog, fordi ordet og bønnerne helliger rummet. Det behøver ikke være indviet på forhånd.

Q: Så du vil have, at rummet skulle stå uden religiøse symboler, uden særskilt indvielse, og så skulle den præst eller den imam, der tog rummet i brug, etablere det som dét religiøse rum?

PSJ: Det ville i hvert fald være godt. Som protestanter har vi jo ikke noget problem med at gøre det. Der kan være andre kristne trossamfund, som har vanskeligere ved at gøre sådan. Men der synes jeg måske nok, at der skal vi være meget agtpågivende.

Q: Kirkegårde og begravelsespladserne i Danmark er som udgangspunkt, altså de 150 af dem ligger rundt om folkekirkens kirkebygninger, er indviede i kristendommen. Ti af dem drives, eller ti kommuner driver dem, men også de er kristent indviede, og så er der nogle særskilte afdelinger. Skal vi fortsat indvie kirkegårde?

PSJ: Ja, det synes jeg, vi skal. Det synes jeg faktisk, vi skal. Jeg er lige blevet spurgt om, hvad jeg synes, om ateisterne skal have en bestemt afdeling på en kirkegård, og da må jeg så sige, at det fatter jeg ikke engang, at de spørger om, for hvis de ikke tror på noget, er det så ikke ligegyldigt, hvor man bliver begravet...? Og det er ikke engang for at være fræk, jeg siger det, jeg begriber simpelthen ikke, at det skal være et problem. Så kan det da være lige meget, om man kommer i jorden, den er jo ikke indviet for dem.

Q: Der hvor du ser problemet, det er for muslimerne eller jøderne eller?

PSJ: Det er noget helt andet, altså ligesom ude på Vestre Kirkegård, så må vi have hver sin afdeling. Katolske kirker også og sådan... (p 8)

*Quote 5.12:*

TB: "Jeg ved ikke, hvad alternativet skulle være, og vi skal jo et eller andet sted hen. Så det synes jeg da er fint nok. Eller skulle vi have en neutral plæne et eller andet sted, hvor man kunne proppe os alle sammen ned i. Det bedste ville være, hvis hvert trossamfund havde sin egen [...] Der må jo være forskellige ritualer og forestillinger om, hvad der sker efter døden. [...] af respekt for dem ville det optimale være, at hver sin trosretning havde sin egen gravplads."

*Quote 5.13:*

AMA: “ ... det som jeg var med til, var åbningen af den mosaiske Kirkegård ... den var vi jo med til at restaurere og et af kravene til, at vi ville give så mange penge til at være med til dette, det var, at det skulle åbnes op. Det er ikke blive så meget åbnet op, som jeg ønskede, men det er dog blevet åbnet op. Det er der faktisk mange, der har stor interesse i.”

Q: “Er det blevet åbnet op med en form for vagtordning, eller er det blevet åbnet helt op som en park, så man bare kan gå der?”

AMA: “Det er desværre det, den ikke er. Jeg tror, at de synes, at det er lidt privat. Og så tror jeg også, at det er det med chikane. De har jo vagter på i det, de er blevet udsat for noget chikane og ødelæggelse af gravpladserne.” (AMA, p. 3, l. 116 – 134)

*Quote 5.14:*

BL: For to år siden bliver jeg gjort opmærksom på, at der er nogle penge, der kan søges i Københavns kommune til ganske bestemte formål. Jeg lagde hovedet i blød og lavede et forslag om, at vi skal åbne Møllegade begravelsesplads. Det er jo dog et ret fantastisk område. Det har været lukket i så og så mange år på grund af sikkerhed og alt sådan noget, og det bliver fantastisk vel modtaget stort set af alle partierne, og i løbet af ingen tid bliver der bevilliget 1 mio kroner. Flot og alt det der. Og så får vi så skrivelse fra Københavns kommune, at nu er der kommet 1 mio. kroner, sådan at den kan blive til en åben begravelsesplads. Og så skriver jeg til dem: Kære venner, I skal lige vide, at åbningen af sådan en begravelsesplads, det er ikke Assistens Kirkegård. Det vil sige, vi skal have sikkerhed. Vi skal først og fremmest vi have sikkerhed. Det er noget, vi kræver, at vi ikke kan have åbent hele tiden, men vi har nogle bestemte tidspunkter. Det er der slet ingen forståelse for, det kan de overhovedet ikke forstå.

Q: Det du svarer, det er, at det kan ikke blive en park, hvor der er offentlig adgang?

BL: Præcis. Og det kan de ikke forstå derinde. Hvis jeg siger at, når den der million - og det er altså embedsmændene, det skal jeg lige sige - den er givet på basis af, at I holder åbent. Og så skal jeg altså jo så bruge kræfter og tid på at forklare dem, at det her det er altså sådan her, og vi kan godt åbne tre gange om ugen, men det bliver tre gange fire timer, og så må vi se, hvordan og hvorledes det udvikler sig. Og der kan du altså se her, jeg nævner det bare som et eksempel på, at der er jo nogle ting der, som man altid lige skal se på, hvad er det, fordi det er jo ikke nogen umiddelbart... Jeg kan godt forstå embedsmændene omkring det der, for der nogle regler for hvordan og hvorledes. De kan ikke sætte sig ind sådan umiddelbart i den problematik, som ligger i, at vi gør noget som dette. (BL, p10 - 11)

*Quote 5.15:*

NB: Muslimerne har brug for en moske [og] statens rolle er at facilitere moskeopbygningen. Nu sagde jeg 'moske' i starten; jeg synes ikke, det er den allervigtigste opgave, men vi tager den først. Staten skal facilitere moskebyggeriet, men ikke kun moskebyggeriet men også facilitere en dialog, som siger: Alle er velkomne her; at det ikke er et problem at have en moske. [...] Jeg vil nok sige, at staten skal betale en del af det – den del, som muslimerne ikke selv kan anskaffe, som er problematisk, fordi på den ene side, så vil staten også et eller andet sted ikke have, at man får penge ind fra Iran eller Saudi-Arabien [...] Det ville være danske muslimer, det ville være danske myndigheder – om man så vil kalde staten eller myndigheder, det er ligegyldigt – det ville være et dansk projekt, og det er det, jeg ønsker, at det skal være et dansk projekt uden indflydelse... Men på den anden side vil jeg også sige, det gør ikke så meget, hvis der er andre muslimske lande, eller vestlige lande, som giver penge og støtter projektet, så længe at forventningerne er på plads. Forventninger om, at der ikke skal være indflydelse fra fx Iran omkring anliggender, som har noget at gøre med moskeen og med muslimer i Danmark. (NB, p 8-9)

*Quote 5.16:*

Q: Hvem skal finansiere byggeriet af en egentlig moske i København?

AWP: Det skal muslimerne.

Q: De danske muslimer eller muslimer fra udlandet?

AWP: Det må alle. Alle dem, der vil. Ikke-muslimer må også gerne være med!

Q: Tak. Også fremmede stater?

AWP: Også fremmede stater – bare det er betingelsesløst. Det vil jo være et absolut kriterium for overhovedet at skulle modtage midler fra noget sted, vil jeg mene, til trods for, at man som Danmark har været ude og bygge kirker og selv skulle bestemme, hvem der skulle stå på prædikestolen, ja så synes jeg faktisk ikke, at vi skal have nogen udefra til at bestemme, hvem der skal stå på prædikestolen i moskeerne i Danmark.

Q: Skal der være offentlighed omkring sådan et byggeris økonomi?

AWP: Tja, det har jeg ikke nogen problemer i. Det synes jeg er fint nok.

Q: Hvem skal organisatorisk bære sådan et byggeri?

AWP: Det skal muslimerne i Danmark.

Q: Kan de det?

AWP: Ja, det kan de. Muslimernes Fællesråd kan godt. Muslimernes Fællesråd har den styrke og den størrelse, der gør, at man kan.

Q: Skal staten eller kommunen gøre noget?

AWP: Nej, det skal de ikke. De skal give de tilladelser, der er nødvendige for at kunne lave de her byggerier i overensstemmelse med gældende byggelovgivning for det enkelte område.

Q: Skal der være minareter?

AWP: Ja, gerne

Q: Skal man kunne kalde til bøn?

AWP: Nej. For det giver ingen mening. Der kommer jo ikke folk til bøn, fordi vi kalder ud over Amagerbrogade eller et eller andet. Det gør der ikke. Folk her ved godt, hvornår det er tid til bøn; de går til bøn, når der skal være bøn.

Q: Skal man så også holde op med at ringe med kirkeklokkerne, for folk ved godt, hvornår der er gudstjeneste?

AWP: For min skyld gerne. (AWP, p 11-12)

*Quote 5.17:*

NB: ”Hvis du spørger mig: hvad kunne en model være?, så vil jeg sige, at jeg er selv usikker, men jeg synes, jeg er ret sikker på, at vi skal have et samarbejde mellem de muslimske organisationer; lad os bare tage de to, som er de to paraplyorganisationer, som er de største, og så kan man tage en shia-muslimsk organisation med og så sige: Vi sætter os ned og prøver at finde ud af, hvordan vi laver en model for, hvordan vi skal drive danske moskeer i Danmark. Det er jo første skridt, og så må de jo finde ud af... Så jeg er ret sikker på, hvilken model, vi skal følge: Vi skal lave en model sammen, og der skal staten have en vis indflydelse, der skal være delvis autonomi i det her, pengene skal helt ikke komme udefra, det skal være noget, som minder om et dansk projekt så vidt muligt. (NB, p 10-11)

*Quote 5.18:*

BL: Det er jo vores problem med i dag, at eleverne fra Carolineskolen [Den jødiske privatskole i København], der er gymnasier, de ikke vil være på. Her er en så overvejende del af muslimske børn, at der er en vis erfaring i, at der er nogle problemer omkring det. Vi har faktisk været ude for. Det er noget næsten, der kommer hvert år, at når de søger gymnasier, så er der et eller to af børnene, der bliver placeret på de gymnasier, hvor de ikke vil være. I nogle år havde jeg en meget god kontakt til en af rektorerne på et af Hellerup-gymnasierne, og så sagde han: Ved du hvad, du ringer bare til mig, så skal vi nok finde ud af det. (BL, 25-26)

*Quote 5.19:*

Q: ”Kan du ikke lige, inden du går videre, forklare, hvad du mener med religiøst betinget vold i København?”

PSJ:”Ja, at konvertitter fra islam og kristne bliver chikanerede; at muslimske kvinder får hevet tørklædet af! At nogle mennesker kan finde på sådan noget, det er fuldstændig ubegribeligt, og at der skal råbes ord efter dem; at en jøde ikke kan gå på Nørrebro med en kippa på hovedet uden at risikere at blive mødt med tilråb eller overfald. Det ser vi en stigende

tendens til. Ikke katastrofalt, men vi ser en tendens. Derfor er der ingen grund til at lave en skræmmekampagne, men Københavns kommune vil heldigvis gerne gå ind og lave en advarselskampagne og en oplysningskampagne, og vi er så tre religiøse ledere, som har stillet os til rådighed i den kampagne, fordi vi selvfølgelig ikke vil leve i sådan et samfund. Naturligvis vil vi ikke det.”

Q. ”Og hvem er I tre? altså dig og...?”

PSJ: ”Det er Zubair Hussein fra Islamisk Fælles Forum, og så er det Finn Schwarz, som er formand for Mosaik Trossamfund, og så er det mig.”

Q. ”Og det er integrationsborgmesteren i Københavns kommune?”

PSJ: ”Ja, det er Anna Mee Allerslev, der har bolden. Og det må jeg sige, jeg har stor agtelse for Københavns kommune, at man ser noget i anmarch, og så skynder man sig at tage hånd om det, inden det udvikler sig til et problem.”(PSJ, p. 8)

*Quote 5.20:*

NB: [The children] De går i privatskole. De går i en katolsk privatskole i Taastrup. Det er der i øvrigt mange, der gør, og man har også kunnet læse sig frem til, at mange muslimer sender deres børn i katolske skoler, på grund af, at der er disciplin, der er nogle værdier, som man kan tilslutte sig, som man genkender, som man følger. (NB, 7)

*Quote 5.21:*

JC: ”Ja det synes jeg egentlig godt, at man kan. I hvert fald det med sangene, ikke? Det her med Fader Vor, det ville jeg have det svære med selv. Hvis min datter kom hjem og sagde, at de skulle bede Fader Vor, så ville jeg måske gøre noget for at sikre mig, at de havde en reel mulighed for at sige, at det har jeg ikke lyst til. [...] På den anden side så når det er stærkt kristne ministre, der går ud for at promovere salmesang som et væsentligt element i integrationspolitikken, så får det for mig en anden klang. Der ville være forskel på, om det var et integrationsprojekt sat i søen oppefra eller, om det var en lokal skole, der fik besøg af kronprinsparret og skulle til noget, der var i en kirke. Det afhænger af konteksten. Vi bor oppe i Lyngby, og der går de til krybbespil og går ned i kirken og synger, og det synes jeg er en fuldstændig naturlig del af deres skolegang. Men jeg håber da også, at de lærer noget om jødedom, islam, hinduisme, buddhisme,

naturreligioner og ikke-religioner i løbet af deres skolegang. I Lyngby er

der ikke så mange indvandre, og dem der er, der vil jeg da også håbe, at deres og deres forældres religion bliver italesat i klasseværelset på en

fornuftig måde. [...] de skal i øvrigt også vide, at der findes nogle mennesker, der har et helt andet, som går ud på det og det, og deres grundforestillinger er sådan og sådan. Jeg tror, at det er vigtigt, at man har en forståelse for andre religioner. Derfor synes jeg heller ikke personligt, at det skulle hedde kristendomsundervisning. Jeg synes, at det skulle hedde religionsundervisning. Kristendommen er et naturligt led i det og må i et land som Danmark fylde meget. Jeg tror, at vi ville gøre os alle sammen en utrolig bjørnetjeneste, hvis vi ikke uddanner hinanden i, hvad grundprincipperne er i fx islam, da 250.000 mennesker i Danmark alligevel bekender sig til dette. Hvis man ikke kender til de fem grundsøjler i islam, når man går i syvende klasse, så mener jeg, at vi har fejlet.”(JC, p 8)

*Quote 5.22:*

PVB: ”80% af faget skal stadigvæk afspejle, at det er en kulturkristen nation, som vi befinder os i. Men fritagelsesparagraffen er et levn og indholdsbeskrivelsen er på det seneste også blevet et levn fra en tid, hvor der ikke fandtes andre anskuelser. Det er blevet meget, meget bedre end sit rygte ... indholdsbeskrivelsen i kristendomsundervisningen. Man går stadig væk og diskuterer, at det er så galt så galt, og det er det jo ikke. Der er plads til verdensreligioner, og der er plads til mange ting i det fag, men fritagelsesparagraffen stammer tilbage fra dengang forkyndelse var tilladt i faget.” (PVB p 6)

*Quote 5.23:*

AMA: “Jeg mener klart, at vi skal have religionsundervisning fremfor kristendomsundervisning. Jeg synes, at kristendomsundervisning skal fylde en stor del af religionsundervisningen, da det som sagt er en stor del af vores kultur og vores historie. Det har en anden plads, og det kommer det formegentlig til at have i mange år. Det skal en central plads i religionsundervisningen. Det vigtigste for mig, det er, at vi får religionsundervisning fremfor kristendomsundervisning. ... Så må man måske acceptere, hvis der er nogle elever, der ikke vil deltage. Jehovas Vidner får jo også lov til at blive undtaget for kristendomsundervisningen. Vi har lavet som en del af vores integrationspolitik det her samarbejde mellem kristne, jøder og muslimer. ... Der var på et tidspunkt nogle uheldige sager, hvor nogle muslimske drenge i mine øjne misbrugte deres religion til at sige, at “vi er muslimer, og derfor chikanerer vi jøder og kristne”. Det blussede meget op i medierne, men heldigvis så vi det ikke så meget i København, men det var noget, der var oppe i medierne.”” (AMA, p. 3-4)

*Quote 5.24:*

TB: Jeg synes, at religionsundervisning kunne give mening, hvis man netop kom rundt i forskellige religioner, og det gør man jo også i gymnasiet. Men sådan som jeg praktisk har oplevet det i folkeskolen gennem mig selv og gennem mine børn, så kan det jo næsten tendere til at være missionerende i kristendomsundervisningen. Der synes jeg, at man kunne bruge tiden meget bedre på at åbne øjnene for, at der er forskellige måder at tro på og underbygge den her tolerance i, at det ene kan være lige så godt som det andet. (TB, p. 8-9)

*Quote 5.25:*

NB: "... det er jo vigtigt i et postsekulært samfund, at vi snakker om de her ting. Det er i orden at holde jul; det er i orden at holde julefester i folkeskolen; det er i orden, at man har konfirmationsundervisning; men det er ikke i orden, at man ikke kan undervise i islam, når halvdelen af eleverne eller 90 % af eleverne er muslimer, og der er gået fire år i folkeskolen, at man ikke har taget det op, har ikke engang diskuteret det på saglig vis. Det, der er vigtigt, det er, at den undervisning, som så kommer, at den også er tilrettelagt pensum sammen med muslimske organisationer, teologer osv., ligesom man har i andre europæiske lande. Det er et problem; jeg har fx været på et gymnasium – bare for at give et eksempel – hvor der var en religionsdag, hvor der var en elev, der spurgte mig: "Hvorfor kan du som imam acceptere, at muslimske kvinder ikke kan komme i himlen, fordi det står i Koranen?" Og så sagde jeg: "Hvor har du det fra?" "Det har vores lærer undervist os i." –Hun sad så lige ved siden af... Det er sådan nogle ting, som kan gøre mig vred og ked af det, at vi ikke har saglig information om andre religioner i Danmark. Mange af de forfattere, som skriver om islam i Danmark, de har allerede en intention om, de har allerede en forforståelse af, hvordan jeg skal præsentere islam, og hvordan den skal komme ud til jer. (NB, p.12)

*Quote 5.26:*

BL: "Jeg har diskuteret med Bertel Haarder [Former minister of Education and also of Ecclesiastical Affairs] i sin tid, da vi talte om fritagelse for undervisningen, hvor jeg sagde til ham, at jeg mener, at der hvor det virkelig er problematisk, det er i de små klasser. Der mener jeg, at det er nødvendigt for de muslimske familier og jødiske familier at sige: vi ønsker barnet fritaget for religionsundervisning, fordi den er i den grad baseret på kristendomsundervisningen og Det ny Testamente og sådan noget lignende, og det bliver frygtelig forvirrende eller sådan noget lignende. Til gengæld kan jeg udmærket sige, at grundskolens øverste klasser eller gymnasiet har religion som et naturligt fag. Der kan selvfølgelig være et problem i, hvis en jødisk elev eller en muslimsk elev kommer op i, hvad ved jeg, bjergprædikenen, et eller andet. Man må kunne sige: det er jo en

professionel holdning; at eleven skal igennem den, synes jeg egentlig ikke er noget problem.” (BL, p 24-25)

*Quote 5.27:*

Q: ”Over til folkeskolens undervisning”

PSJ: ”Ja, den skal være neutral...”

Q: ”...og hvad vil det sige, at den skal være neutral?”

PSJ: ”Jamen det er lidt det samme, som det er i Danmarks Radio, altså om man skal bede Fadervor og den slags ting. Det vil jeg finde unaturligt, at man gjorde.”

Q: Men folkeskolen, altså i Danmarks Radio vil du gerne have transmission af gudstjenester, ikke, men i folkeskolen vil du ikke have noget, der ligner religionsudøvelse?

PSJ: Nej, det vil jeg helst ikke. I det omfang, at man går ned i kirken og holder en julegudstjeneste, så er det klart, at der skal man ikke være pjattet og så lade være med at fortælle børnene om det. Så pjattet må man ikke blive.

Q: Skal man så også kunne gå i synagogen og deltage i gudstjeneste i synagogen?

PSJ: Selvfølgelig! Selvfølgelig! Selvfølgelig! Selvfølgelig skal man kunne det.

Q: Og du vil også gerne lade dine børn gå med i moskeen og deltage i en gudstjeneste?

PSJ: Ja, selvfølgelig. Jamen altså, jeg ville da være glad, om de kom hen og så, hvordan det foregik et andet sted.

Q: Din forgænger i embedet havde jo, altså Kronprinsbrylluppet var her i Københavns domkirke, og i den forbindelse havde de københavnske kirkeskoletjenester arrangeret, at man lærte bryllupssalmer ude i de københavnske skoler (jaja, selvfølgelig), og så var der 800 unger og bisp Erik hernede på Vor Frue Plads og inde i kirken og bryllupssalmer. Er det sådan noget, du mener?

PSJ: Det kører vi jo hvert år, det der. Og der er vi påpasselige, altså vi har lige haft det. Det er en stor fornøjelse, en kæmpefornøjelse. Stor spas. Jesper Stange og jeg, vi havde herovre i Vor Frue Kirke for en måneds tid siden, og der er vi så påpasselige med, at vi synger salmer, vi fortæller om kirkerummet og fortæller på den måde jo også om kristendommen. Vi beder ikke Fadervor, vi lyser ikke velsignelse.

Q: Så I opfatter salmerne som en del af, hvad man også kunne sige en litterær, musikalsk tradition og viderefører det.

PSJ: Det er det i høj grad. Men der er også et religiøst udtryk. Dem bliver vi jo nødt til at sige til mennesker, at det er jo klart nok for enhver, som sidder med det her, det er jo klart for enhver, som lytter til Bach: Det her,

man kan jo ikke sige til dem, at det er ikke er religiøst. Vi ville jo lyve for dem, hvis vi sagde: Det her, det er aldeles neutralt, for det er det jo ikke.

Q: Så I vil opretholde Bach og salmerne i skoleundervisningen og i kirkeskole-samarbejdet, men fadervor og velsignelsen skal børnene hente i kirken alene.

PSJ: Ja, det synes jeg. Det synes jeg. Bevar mig vel, hvis der er en skole, hvor det er naturligt at bede Fadervor, så skal man gøre det. Men ellers ikke. Det er anderledes på de religiøse skoler, altså på de katolske skoler eller friskolerne osv, det er jo noget helt andet.

Q: Der vil man netop tillade, at man har en religiøs markering

PSJ: Ja, det må man gøre. Der ved man jo så også, inden man går ind i det, at det er en del af pakken. Med Danmarks Radio - hvorfor vil jeg ikke have religionsudøvelse på skolen, når jeg accepterer det i Danmarks Radio? Der er jo den kæmpeforskel, at Danmarks Radio der kan man bare skrue ned. (PSJ, p. 8-9)

*Quote 5.28:*

NB: Principielt synes jeg, at man skal respektere alle religiøse symboler, også burkaer. Men der kan være nogle praktiske begrænsninger, praktisk udfordringer, som gør, at det med fx at have en burka på eller et kors, som er rigtig, rigtig stort – det har jeg også set nogle af – være for upraktisk. Det kan også være en t-shirt, hvor der står et eller andet religiøst, som er provokerende. Og der må man...

Q.: Altså det kan være for synligt og der igennem for provokerende, eller det kan være upraktisk: man kan ikke udføre sit arbejde?

NB: Ja, det kan være upraktisk i fht. den opgave, som man har, som fx folkeskolelærer, hvor mimik og ansigtsudtryk og øjenkontakt nogle gange kan være vigtigt i fht. pædagogikken. Der kan det være svært at have en kvinde med en burka til stede i fx en børnehaveklasse. Så må vedkommende – i dialog, selvfølgelig – få at vide: Det er måske svært; så kan du måske få nogle andre opgaver, så kan du bruge din uddannelse til noget andet, måske. På den måde være imødekommende. [...] Men lige tilbage til det med burka, en meget vigtig pointe: Det kan også være af religiøse grunde, at jeg personligt ville sige nej, fordi jeg ved, at i islam behøver man ikke at tildække sit ansigt. Der er nogle andre krav. Og det vil så gøre, at der vil jeg sige, at jeg har en religiøs grund til, at du ikke må have burka på, fordi den her muslimske friskole har denne her holdning til det. (NB, p. 13-14)

*Quote 5.29:*

SA: Jeg har en veninde, som jeg mødte i Frederiksberg Centeret. Den eneste måde, jeg kunne kende på, at det var min veninde, det var, at hun havde sit barn i hånden. Det var, fordi hun havde burka på. Men da hun så

sagde: 'Det er mig!', så havde jeg ingen problemer med at snakke med hende, uanset at jeg ikke så hendes ansigt. Men jeg ved, at andre har det ikke på den måde, jeg har det på. Det kan jeg godt se. (SA, p 13)

*Quote 5.30:*

HOB: "Jeg mener, hvis man vil putte religion væk, som om at det ikke eksisterede, så ville netop det offentlige rum, og det er ikke kun det offentlige, så gør det kun plads til dem, som ikke har noget udtryk, og det mener jeg er forkert. Som sagt, jeg mener, præferencen må være på at vi er i et kristent land, der har en kristen kulturarv, og det har jeg det godt med, at det kommer til udtryk. ... Hvis man som jøde kommer med en kippa, så tror jeg ikke, man fik lov til at gå ret langt gennem toget eller sidde dér uden at blive diskrimineret eller chikaneret. OG derfor mener jeg faktisk, at tolerancen den ikke er særlig stor. Det kan både være den kristne, der ikke forstår, hvad det handler om, men det kan også være blandt muslimer. Så jeg synes jo, at hvis der skulle være plads til, at man kunne have tørklæde på fx som kassedame i Irma, eller hvor man sidder henne, så er det fint for mig, men så skal respekten også gå fra muslimske kvinder til, at kassedamen, der sidder ved nr. to, at hun har et tydeligt kors på, at det er lige så legalt."(HOB, p. 9)

*Quote 5.31:*

AMA: "Et godt eksempel er burka – mange mennesker synes, at tørklæder er helt legitime. Jeg har også talt med nogle unge, som siger, at der slet ikke er noget spørgsmål, og dette er nogle unge, som man ikke nødvendigvis forventer, er så rummelige. Mht. burkaer der er min holdning, at hvis det bremser for fagligheden, så synes jeg ikke, at det er i orden. Hvis man professionelt og fagligt kan bevise, at det at have burka på gør, at man er en dårligere pædagog fordi, børnene bliver utrygge ... Personligt og politisk bryder jeg mig ikke om burkaer, men jeg vil ikke forbyde det eller noget; dog synes jeg, at der i burkaen ligger noget meget kvindeundertrykkende, som er helt anderledes end de andre slags tørklæder. Ligesom at jeg politisk heller ikke bryder mig om, at nogle går rundt med et hagekors på ryggen. Det synes jeg også, at der ligger nogle meget forkerte signaler i, men vi kan jo ikke forbyde det."(AMA, p 5-6. 294-317)

*Quote 5.32:*

HOB: "Så spørgsmålet er, hvordan kan vi komme nogle af de der utryghedsfaktorer til livs. Men hvis vedkommende vil arbejde og behandle de patienter, som vedkommende har, og lever op til sin faglighed, så har jeg ikke noget problem dér. Det gælder også lovgivning, så er det klart, at hvis det er en, der sidder med et tørklæde, og man ikke er sikker på, om det

primært er sharialovgivning, der bliver dømt efter, eller om det er... – ved domstole eller i folketinget - så synes jeg jo, det er problematisk. Jeg vil sige, at det handler meget om, hvordan er det, man får tydeliggjort sin overbevisning og adfærd i det her. Men i udgangspunktet, at friheden i den gensidige respekt er der, det... Jeg tror det modsatte: at man vil undertrykke det og undertrykke religiøse udtryk i det offentlige rum, den neutralitet har jeg svært ved at tro på, at den er levedygtig.” (HOB, p 11-12)

*Quote 5.33:*

DN: Nu er vi inde i et helt offentligt rum, og det vil sige et offentligt sygehus, hvor der ikke er nogen private institutioner, der tager del i den daglige drift. Det må det være sådan, at alle er lige sådan, at man ikke skal mødes af religiøs symbolik i andet end måske en knappenål af historiske årsager. Folk som mig er ikke allergiske over for religiøse symboler, men symbolik er symbolik, og der hvor man begynder at påvirke folks holdninger med en religiøs retning inden for de offentlige institutioner. Dvs., at hvis der er en præst, og det mener jeg faktisk er et problem, da han påvirker døende mennesker i en særlig religiøs retning, og han har lov til at gøre det og missionere på det her sted. Hvis han skal være der, og han må gerne være der, men så skal der også være et alternativ. (DN, p 8-9)

*Quote 5.34:*

JC: Du kan tage dommerne, og du kan tage uniformeret personale som militær og politi, og så kan du jo også tage sygeplejerskerne og sige, at siden de også bærer uniform, så skal de også ensrettes. Du kan så også tage bibliotekarene, da du også bør kunne gå ind på et bibliotek og få religiøs neutral rådgivning, og så fjerner du det der. Du kan også tage pædagogerne med, da du ikke skal opdrages i overensstemmelse osv. osv. Det bliver skruet uden ende, og det bliver den enkelte borger, der skal bestemme over alle andre, da jeg vil have det på min egen måde. Menneskerettighedskonventionen: enhver forælder har ret til, at ens barn bliver opdraget i overensstemmelse med forældrenes egne religiøse overbevisning. Det er meget smukt princip, men det betyder ikke, at man ikke må undervise i religion, hvilket vil sige, at man ikke må indoktrinere, og der skal være balance. Men hvis det bliver sådan, at hver enkelt borger skal bestemme, at jeg ikke vil se på noget som helst, som kan fornærme

mine holdninger - så udøver man i virkeligheden en overdrevet magt over

for andre i samfundet. Det ender med at blive en voldelig magt, da det er mig, der bestemmer, hvad de andre må gøre og ikke må gøre. Det er det,

som jeg ser som det andet yderpunkt. Vi kan blive så nærtagende, at vi ikke kan tåle, at folk er der, hvis de ikke er præcis ligesom mig, fordi jeg vil bestemme det hele. (JC, p. 9)

*Quote 5.35:*

SA: ”Jeg skrev et høringssvar til folketingets retsudvalg i sin tid fra Muslimernes Fællesråd om det, og jeg har anlagt den mening, at jeg har ikke sagt, hvilken religion, jeg har. Det tørklæde, jeg har om hovedet, det er ligesom mine bukser og min skjorte og sko; det er et stykke af mit tøj. Og så er det jo, at de diskuterer i forarbejderne til retten, hvor de siger, at hvis det er egnet til at fremkalde en ide om, at jeg er muslim. ... Så tænker jeg på: skal man tage hensyn til de folk, der bliver dømt, hvis de har en dårlig oplevelse med en, der har briller; vil de så også sige: ’Jeg vil ikke blive dømt af den dommer, for han har briller. Han fremkalder noget dårligt hos mig. Jeg er mistænksom over for, at han dømmer med fordomme’? Det er jo lidt latterligt. Jeg synes ikke, man skal blande sig i folks tøj. Heldigvis har jeg en rigtig stor opbakning fra retssystemet, fordi dommerne selv, dommerstanden og advokatrådet og DJØF osv, de tager simpelthen ikke den lov alvorligt.”(SA, p. 12-13)

*Quote 5.36:*

SA: Nogle gange får man nogle blikke fra..., når fx politiet kommer ind som vidner eller... Jeg havde en hooligan forleden; de kigger de jo nok op, men de er så optagede af det, der sker i retten, at nyhedsværdien forsvinder i løbet af to minutter, når de skal koncentrere sig om andre ting. Det har jo heller ikke haft nogen som helst indflydelse på den måde, jeg dømmer; jeg dømmer jo efter de regler, jeg skal dømme efter, og det er jo så dansk lovgivning, sådan som den er på det tidspunkt, hvor jeg skal dømme, ikke. (SA p 3-4)

*Quote 5.37:*

TB: “Jeg tror i bund og grund, at det forslag kom til verden og blev

vedtaget, fordi man er bange for Sharia-lovgivning, og at det kan have en

betydning; men uanset hvad, så endte det jo ikke med, at hele domsmandssystemet og retssystemet er sådan, at det godt lade sig gøre, at jeg er muslim uden, at jeg har tørklæde på. Det er der ikke nogen, der kan se. Vi skal dømme ud fra de regler, der er de vedtagne i vores samfund. Der er sikkert også etniske danskere, som tænker: hold da op, hun sidder med tørklæde på, og nu får jeg sikkert hugget hånden af, eller hvad man gør i

det system der, men det er jo det, der er galt, hvis der er nogen, der tænker sådan. Det er ikke, at hun har en tro.”

Q: “Så du ville forvente, at domsmænd og dommere repræsenterer det danske retssystem. Men er vi fælles om det normative fællesskab, der ligger bagved? Er vi fælles om de værdier, der lægger bagved om, som skal spille ind i anvendelsen af det fællesretssystem?”

TB: “Jeg vil sige det på den måde, at det er vi jo nødt til at tro på, da jo ikke udtager fra lister, hvad det er for nogle mennesker, vi udtager. Vi udtager dem fordi, de er borgere i et vist område, og de kan være alle slags, og det skal de faktisk helst være, da de skal repræsentere det danske samfund over en bred kam. Og det er så vores forpligtelse som dommere, og vi bliver jo ikke dommere, hvis vi ikke dømmes efter det danske retssystem, og så er det jo vores forpligtelse at holde dem på stien. Der er da mange skrubbudser, nogen som er meget aktive i Dansk Folkeparti, som spørger, om ikke vedkommende skal udvises fx, og så siger vi nej, det kan man overhovedet ikke i disse sager, og sådan er det.” Q: “Så de værdikonflikter eksisterer uafhængigt af folks religion?”

TB: “Fuldstændig. Vi er netop ikke ens, og det kan være på alle mulige andre ting som politik. Det er alt muligt, der gør forskellen.” (TB, p 7 – 8, 1 215 – 238)

*Quote 5.38:*

BP: ”Igen vil jeg sige, at Dansk Folkeparti gør, hvad de kan for at skabe et problem. Hele den her historie om, hvorvidt dommere må have tørklæder på, som jeg bliver mindet om, hver gang jeg tænder min computer, da jeg har sådan et billede af en dommer i burqa. Det er et pseudoproblem, da det ikke eksisterer, og skulle der sidde en dommer i burqa, så må man have tillid til, at hun er uddannet til det.” (BP, p. 11)

*Quote 5.39:*

SA: ”Ja, men jeg kan ikke dele det op på den der måde, fordi min tro på Gud er, at Gud har skabt alt, og alt, hvad der sker rundt omkring i verden, det kommer fra Gud, og om det så også er det sekulære, for den sags skyld. Men jeg kan jo se, at man clasher nogle gange, fx er jeg også lægdommer i retten; jeg kan huske, da der kom den der forfærdelige lov imod religiøs hovedbeklædning, der føler man ligesom, at der clasher religionen imod det sekulære system. Der prøver man så som muslim: kan jeg påvirke det her i den retning, så at der er en mulighed for, at jeg både kan være muslim og fx dommer i byretten. Så man prøver ligesom at forene det; man prøver at finde en genvej til løsningen.” (SA p 3)

*Quote 5.40:*

BL: "Jeg pegede på nogle etiske problemer, der kom i konflikt med religionen og demokratiet. Og det var fx, når Birthe Rønn Hornbech, som jeg i øvrigt både respekterer og kender privat og alt det der, hun siger: 'Hvis der kommer en imam på officielt besøg i Danmark og ikke vil give mig hånden som kirkeminister, så vil jeg ikke modtage ham.' Der er en retning, det er der også inden for jødedommen: der er nogle mænd, der ikke giver kvinder hånden. Det skal hun respektere. Og hun skal ikke sætte normer over en religiøs sammenhæng. [...] Der synes jeg, at den danske offentlighed, altså bestående af vores kirkeminister, hun er nødsaget til at være tilstrækkeligt tolerant til, at det er accepteret. Hun skal i navnet af religionsfrihed i Danmark, der må hun acceptere, at der kommer en med en anden norm. [...] Jeg mener, at hun repræsenterer det officielle Danmark, som er et samfund, som giver mennesker religionsfrihed. Og derved synes jeg, at hun blander hele problematikken omkring imamer og muslimer ind i en sammenhæng, som jeg ikke synes er værdig."(BL, p. 7)

*Quote 6.01:*

JC: "Måske kunne man savne lidt det her med den generelle udvikling. Fremkomsten af aggressive kristne debattører, som ikke deltager i refleksionen over deres egne værdier."

Q: "Gør de ikke det?"

JC: "Det oplever jeg ikke, at de gør. Ikke i tilstrækkelig grad ift. de positioner, de tillader sig at indtage. Det gælder i øvrigt generelt for mange interessante samfundsdebattører. Den der tæver sit budskab mest firkantet og hårdest igennem er typisk den, der får sendetiden. Det er mere noget med medie billedet. ... Man har set en række meget stærke og så tit kvindelige teologer fylde meget i den offentlige debat. ...Jeg oplever sådan set, at det kristent religiøse spiller en meget større rolle i dag i den offentlige debat om samfundsmæssige spørgsmål, end det gjorde for 10 år

siden. Jeg tror, at det er en konsekvens af, at man i led med udlændinge- og

indvandrerdebatten har haft behov for at finde det kristne modsvar på det, man har opfattet som en trussel fra islam. Derfor får de taletid på en måde, som jeg ikke tror, de ville have haft det, hvis man ikke havde haft så meget udlændingebat." (JC, p 3)

*Quote 6.02:*

PSJ: "Trosstoffet på Danmarks Radio bliver der kikket meget voldsomt på. Er det for ensidigt over imod det folkekirkelige, er det for ensidigt over imod det religiøse, det kristne...? Det er der jo nogle, der spørger sig om. ...

Det synes jeg jo ikke. ... Det er meget vanskeligt at blive for ensidig, når man tænker på, at Danmarks Radio nu altså bl.a. har en forpligtelse til at forklare godt, hvad dansk går ud på. Jeg har selv lige gjort mig lidt til talsmand, for alt det der snak om kulturarv bryder jeg mig ikke så meget om, fordi jeg er ikke nogen kustode, museumsinspektør, kulturarv, der går der sådan lidt for meget museum i det for mig. Jeg mener, jeg deltager i en levende kultur, som hele tiden udvikler sig med... vi bruger vores tro til at forstå, begribe og også til at misforstå med sommetider, i øvrigt.”

Q: ”Men ville du sige, hvis vi nu tager det omkring Danmarks Radio og religion og..., vil du så sige, at man skulle opretholde en stærk formidling af kristendom folkekirkeligt set og så supplere med andre religioner, eller skal man bare opretholde en stærk formidling af det kristne, det folkekirkelige, eller skal man blive mere neutral?”

PSJ: ”Jeg synes, man skal opretholde en stærk formidling. Vi lever i et samfund, hvor også vi lige så godt på en eller anden måde kan erkende, at i et moderne vestligt samfund af vores karakter er der ikke noget, der dur uden argument. Ikke noget med at lægge sig tilbage og sige: 80 %, vi har altid været her, det er os, der har den længste historie, længere end alle I andre. Det er ikke det, jeg vil. Overhovedet ikke. vi skal have diskussionen hele tiden, og så have formidlingen. Og der skal selvfølgelig også orienteres om islam, også orienteres om de andre religioner... og der skal også, som der allerede bliver gjort, der skal selvfølgelig også transmitteres fra synagogen. .. Hele vejen rundt, altså hele spektret om, men det kan jo ikke hjælpe noget, at vi pludselig begynder at lade som om at vi er ateister alle sammen, Og så tror jeg i øvrigt også, at mange af dem, der kalder sig ateister, er entydigt lutherske, fordi meget af det, de tænker nok i høj grad... og det er sagt i respekt, det her, fordi jeg ønsker ikke at være nedladende overhovedet over for ikke-troende. (Trosformidlingen i Danmarks Radio) må afspejle det danske folk; og det danske folk består nu i højere grad... har vi flere religioner.”

*Quote 6.03:*

JC: For mig at se må det være en grundforudsætning i samfund, at selvom

vi ikke har religionslighed, da folkekirken og den protestantiske-lutherske

tro har en anden stilling i det danske samfund [må de andre trossamfund have nogle muligheder]. Jeg tror, at man praktisk skal sørge for, at alle har lige gode vilkår for at udøve sin religion. Derfor ville mit svar være, at det burde jo nok være lavet på samme måde for alle, men so be it.

Q: Nogle af de andre store trossamfund siger, at vi har også kirkeskat, kunne skattebilletten ikke også opkræve for os?

JC: Det ville jeg synes, var helt rimeligt. Hvis det administrativt nogenlunde var til at finde ud af, at man så der kunne skrive sig ind og sige, at jeg stemmer mine 0,85% til trossamfund nummer 27. Det synes jeg er rimeligt, at man som stat udøver den assistance.

Q: Grundlæggende har du ikke en forestilling om, at staten burde holde armlængde til alt, hvad der hedder religion og lade være med hjælpe trossamfund. Tværtimod hører jeg en opfattelse, som hedder, at det er en del af tilværelsen, så hvis man ved at udøve lidt assistance til at få det til at fungere, så er det i orden?

JC: Når man først har sagt A, så må man også sige B. Hvis man først siger, at medlemmerne kan opkræve en vis procentsats og selv kan allokere til det trossamfund, så kan jeg ikke se nogen grund til, hvorfor de ikke skal kunne gøre det. Hvis det er nogenlunde praktisk muligt for de andre. Grundforudsætningen er så også, at vi har en folkekirke. Lever vi okay med det? Ja det gør vi da i og for sig. Kunne man vælge ved en grundlovsændring at lave det om? Ja det kunne man sikkert også. Det har de gjort i Sverige, og det er der vist ikke nogen, der er døde af. Det ville så blive noget andet. Det ville blive en helt anden tradition. (JC; p 11)

*Quote 6.04:*

Q: Når du sammenligner folkekirken med andre institutioner i det danske samfund, er det så A.P. Møller, altså en stor erhvervsvirksomhed, du sammenligner med, eller det skolevæsenet, du sammenligner det med, altså et offentligt forvaltningsområde, eller er det sportsverdenen, som er privatretligt drevet og business- eller foreningsorienteret?

PSJ: Jamen jeg paralleliserer jo nok meget sjældent, det hænger sammen, det er sådan teologisk også, at det her skal være for så mange som muligt. Det skal inkludere så mange som muligt. ... Men der bør komme en ændring på relationen mellem kirke og stat. Jeg er ikke et øjeblik i tvivl om, at hvis løfteparagraffen blev opfyldt, at det er nødvendigt for os at kunne give klart svar i højere grad end hidtil. Og det er også nødvendigt, at gøre noget ved det. Det er der mange grunde til. En af dem er, at folkekirken nu er blevet politisk på en negativ måde. Det er problematisk. Folkekirken er blevet meget politiseret. Og jeg tror heller ikke, at folketinget i så høj grad fremover vil ønske at gå ind i den folkekirkelige lovgivning. Jeg kunne godt forestille mig, der er nogle politikere, der ønsker en grænse her. Det er der. Jeg forestiller mig en eller anden form for kirkemøde og kirkeråd. Nu har vi fået stiftsrådene, så det er heldigvis kommet dér til, at biskopperne har nogen de kan rådføre sig med. Det er ikke mindre nødvendigt på landsplan. Som allerede sagt, så håber jeg, at staten vil leve op til den økonomiske forpligtelse

Q. Den økonomiske relation mellem staten og folkekirken, det er lige to-tre elementer, de opkræver systemet medlemmernes kirkeskat, som finansierer 85 % af folkekirkens udgifter. Dels giver finansloven staten et tilskud på 15 % af udgifterne, dels som det tredje, så fastsætter kirkeministeren størrelsen på landskirkeskatten, som medlemmerne betaler, og beslutter budgettet for, hvad det skal anvendes til. Er der nogle af de tre funktioner, du forestiller dig at ændre?

PSJ: Ja, den tredje og sidste dér, den vil formentlige blive ændret, Der er mange beslutninger, der skal ned i et kirkeråd eller lignende. Og så er det klart, at hvis det er sådan, at der ændres væsentligt på landets love og den slags ting her i landet, så kan det selvfølgelig komme dertil, at vi også kan tale med hinanden om, om det er betimeligt at folkekirken fortsat støttes. Det kan godt være, at vi har en stat der har den debat, det ved jeg ikke. Det kunne man godt forestille sig, at der ville blive.

Q. Det du siger med registreringslove, hører jeg dig rigtigt, at det er, at man kunne forestille sig, at folkekirken ikke længere havde en rolle i civilregistreringen af de danske borgere

PSJ Ja. Hvis den ikke har det, så er det klart, at så vil staten også overveje at ændre på det økonomiske tilskud til folkekirken.

Q. Hvis vi nu tager og siger: der skal ske nogle ændringer på relationen mellem staten og folkekirken, men grundlæggende bør der fortsat være en understøttelse. Er den understøttelse i dit billede alene økonomisk, eller er der andre former for understøttelse?

PSJ Den er også økonomisk, men i dag hvor staten i højere og højere grad opfatter sig selv som sekulær, så der hvor jeg synes at folkekirken gør brug af sin magt, der skal kirken også have lov til indimellem at være dens samvittighed. Det bliver vi nok, men ikke på nogen upassende måde. Det er en kirkes opgave. Det er også den katolske, altså det er enhver kirkes opgave. Det er alle trossamfunds opgave. Det er også blevet varetaget, synes jeg.

Q. Forestiller du dig, at man kunne trække de andre trossamfund tættere ind i den opgave på nogen organisatoriske eller understøttelsesmæssige måder?

PSJ: Det gør vi jo så sådan her, nu kan du jo se, nu er vi så tre trossamfund, ikke, som går sammen i fht. Københavns kommune og siger: hov, her står vi sammen. Vi tror noget forskelligt, og vi vil gerne have lov til at diskutere med hinanden, men vi kan stå sammen om at bekæmpe vold.

Q. Kunne man understøtte det, og bør man understøtte det med nogen organisatoriske eller økonomiske midler? Der har været forslag om, at ikke alene folkekirkens medlemmer men også de andre trossamfunds medlemmer kunne få opkrævet kirkeskat vi skattebilletten, fx.

PSJ. Det ved jeg godt, der findes et fornemt stykke arbejde faktisk, jeg har læst det igennem, men der var nogle justeringer.... Det synes jeg godt, at staten kunne.

Q. I Norge er modellen modsat: der er det staten, der betaler udgifterne for både Norske Kirke og de andre. Og man gør noget i den stil i Sverige  
PSJ. Ja. Det synes jeg godt, staten kunne påtage sig. Jeg synes, de andre trossamfund, de skal i hvert fald bare ikke pålægges aktindsigtslov.. Det er godt at vi er underlagt aktindsigt, men vi modtager jo så også støtte fra staten., Om de andre trossamfund vil underlægges de regler ved jeg ikke. Den store åbenhed er i hvert fald en fordel for vores kirkesamfund.

*Quote 6.05:*

Q: "Så når vi i Danmark har en orden, hvor staten både økonomisk og strukturelt og normativt understøtter folkekirken og samtidig giver fuld frihed til andre trossamfund, til at de må klare sig selv, men der er ikke nogen støtterelationer dér, hvad er så din vurdering af det?"

KWH: Jeg synes, det er glimrende, fordi jeg vil jo sige, det er ikke nogen statskirke, men en folkekirke, og det kan man så skændes om, men jeg mener, det er ret afgørende. Og dermed har man netop også, altså man kan sige, landet er ikke neutralt. Det er et kristent land. Det betyder ikke, at alle er kristne, men det betyder, at den officielle indpakning er, vores flag er, vores markeringer. Folketinget begynder med en gudstjeneste osv."

Q: "Så du siger, det gavner staten, hører jeg det rigtigt? – eller samfundet eller landet?"

KWH: "Ja, det gavner landet."

Q: "Gavner det også folkekirken?"

KWH: "Ja, det tror jeg faktisk, det gør. Jeg tror, vi er meget mere privilegerede end fx den østtyske kirke, som jo på mange måde ligner os rent konfessionelt, men som jo er fuldkommen i opløsning. Vi er meget forkælede som folkekirke, og det vil så sige, vi ved måske ikke, hvor privilegerede, vi er, og vi er dovne, og vi er ligeglade, og vi går mest op i, hvor store præstegårdene er og sådan nogle ting. Men problemet i den danske folkekirke er ikke det strukturelle. Problemet er en åndelig slaphed, mener jeg."

Q: "Hvad med de andre trossamfund i Danmark? I dag er situationen jo, at der ikke er nogen formelle støtterelationer af nogen slags. .. Altså, præster kan få vielsesbemyndigelse, trossamfund kan være anerkendte til at vie, og så er der en fradragsret og opholdstilladelse til udenlandske forkyndere. Hvad er dine kommentarer til den position for de andre trossamfund?"

KWH: "De har fuld frihed. Det er en skøn ting. Det ville du ikke have, hvis du var kirke i Mellemøsten eller sådan noget, så det er frihed. Og det er klart, frihed kan jo være hårdt, for så skal du klare dig selv, men det er frihed, og det er skønt."

Q: "Skulle folkekirken ikke have den samme frihed, som er skøn?"

KWH: "Det har den da også. Det gode ved folkekirken er jo, og det tror jeg, at i vore dages folkekirke er det en styrke, at den er bundet. Den er

bundet til grundlovens ord, som siger, § 4, at det er ikke hvad som helst, vi støtter, det er den evangelisk-lutherske kirke. Så folkekirken har fuld frihed til at være evangelisk-luthersk kirke. Den er dybt privilegeret, selvfølgelig er den det, og det mener jeg også, den skal være. ”

Q: ”En del af folkekirken finansiering er, at folkekirken medlemmer betaler 85% af udgifterne, men betaler dem via kirkeskat bliver opkrævet sammen med kommuneskat og statskat. Der har været stillet forslag om, at man tilsvarende kunne opkræve kirkeskat for den katolske kirke og andre trossamfund i Danmark, som vil have...”

KWH: ”Ja. Det er igen et forsøg på den her lighedsdyrkelse, at vi er nogle onde, onde, onde mennesker, når vi ikke giver alle lige meget, men... vi diskriminerer! Ja, for vi gør forskel, for vi privilegerer én bestemt konfession, som er den evangelisk-lutherske. Det har vi gjort siden 1849, 1536, hvad ved jeg, og det skal vi da blive ved med. Vi skal ikke være så flove over os selv, vi skal være stolte af det, og det synes jeg, katolikkerne skal være glade for, at de nyder en religionsfrihed, som de selv har været sindssygt langsomme om at give til andre. Undskyld mig, altså. Der er blevet brændt en del kættere i tidens løb, men den katolske biskop kan frit udøve sin katolicisme her; heldigvis for det!”

*Quote 6.06:*

MB: det er mit indtryk, at især inden for de sidste 10-15 år der er statens indblanding i kirkens forhold, og nu tænker jeg ikke de indre anliggender, nu tænker jeg også omkring økonomi, struktur, at det har været tiltagende. Og når staten kommer til at gribe ind meget detaljeret, så sker der noget med en kirke; der sker noget med livet omkring menighedsrådene, der sker noget med engagementet blandt de mennesker, som er ansat i kirken. Min tilgang til det er, at vi bliver nødt til at have mere armslængde i det forhold. Hvis du har den traditionelle trekant, hvor du har staten, markedet og civilsamfundet, der kan man sige, at sådan som kirkens forhold har udviklet sig, der er der blevet mere stat. Men der er egentlig også blevet mere marked: mange tænker i en markedsterminologi, når vi taler folkekirke i dag, og begge dele mener jeg sådan set er uheldigt. Så jeg vil hellere have, at vi kigger på: ‘hvad med civilsamfundet, hvad er menighedernes opgaver’? Altså hvis menigheden virkelig er kirkens byggesten, hvad er deres rolle så? Har vi i virkeligheden suget liv ud af menighederne ved at sige, at dét klarer eller ordner staten, eller ‘Vi vil som kirke markedstilpasse os vores kunder’ - altså nogle taler ligefrem om kunderne i folkekirken; man taler om at sælge budskabet, man taler om at markedsføre osv. Det er, for mig at se, en terminologi, som i den grad er fremmed i fht. det, som egentlig bør være kirkens kerne og kirkens væsen, altså hvor det væsentlige er forkyndelse af evangeliet, og hvordan sørger vi så for at lave rammer om den forkyndelse, som gør, at kirken faktisk bliver

en levende kirke. Så jeg vil meget gerne have styrket og givet plads til, at civilsamfundet - og det er så i dette tilfælde jo menighederne - kan bære mere af egen fri vilje. Og det er så det liberale i det, kan du sige.(MB, p 2)

*Quote 6.07:*

HC: ”For folkekirkens vedkommende, så mener jeg jo, folkekirken skulle have en forfatning, og det har den jo skullet have haft længe, og nu får den det formodentlig sådan lidt hovedkuls tumlende, fordi der ikke rigtig er nogen, der har villet gøre det sure, lange forarbejde som at udrede økonomi, teologi, jura og alt sådan noget, fordi den ordening, som jo er, hviler på et forståelsesgrundlag, som skal være meget fintmasket hos alle aktører, her under også Folketingets medlemmer. Og det er det ikke længere, og i næste generation vil det slet ikke være det for folketingspolitikere.”

Q: ”Hvilke hovedproblemer skal løses med en forfatning?”

HC: ”Det skal jo indebære kirkens egen administration af økonomi i højere grad, her under kommer ejendomsforholdet jo meget på banen, tænker jeg, for det er jo der, rigtig mange følelser er bundet, det er jo i murstenene. Nu er jeg som sagt sognepræst i et af de sogne, hvor en kirke skal lukkes og endnu ikke er blevet det, og der er jo rigtig stærke følelser i mursten. ... Men der må man jo finde ud af, hvad der er kulturarv og dermed samfundets opgave, og hvad der er kirker, der skal drives som kirker og som samlingssted for menighederne.” (HC, p 17)

Q: ”Skal man stadigvæk opkræve kirkeskat sammen med kommune- og landsskatten?”

HC: ”Det forekommer jo ikke videre naturligt, synes jeg, for hvad der jo er en selvstændig forening allerede nu. Det er jo også noget rod, at man siger ’kirkeskat’; det har jo ikke noget med skat at gøre, men det er så formodentlig, fordi det bliver opkrævet sammen. Det er et medlemsbidrag, og det kunne man jo så kalde det og praktisere efter det.”

Q: ”Hvem skal opkræve og administrere og organisere økonomien fremover i folkekirken?”

HC: ”Det skal kirken jo selv. Så er det jo godt, man har fået civilregistreringen, så man har nogle redskaber til rådighed rent maskinelt, tænker jeg.” (HC, p 18)

*Quote 6.08*

ET: Vedrørende staters støtte til kirker og trossamfund vil jeg skelne mellem tilskud og service. Tilskud det er sådan noget som, at staten betaler bispelønninger og 40% af præstelønninger. Service er sådan noget, som at Skat opkræver de penge, som folk skal betale. Vi ønsker ikke tilskud, og vi vil meget nødtigt have penge af andre end os selv, men vi vil gerne have

hjælp til at få noget gennemført. Der er ikke tvivl om, at hvis folkekirken ikke havde den ordning, den katolske kirke i Danmark har, så var den gået fallit forlængst. (ET, 4)

*Quote 6.09*

ET: ”Når det imidlertid kommer til de krav, der samtidig kan stilles til trossamfund, er jeg meget minimalist. Hvilke krav stiller man til en faglige organisationer, foreninger og erhvervsvirksomheder? Det er rigtigt, at hvis man overhovedet har noget som helst erhvervsmæssigt, så der er nogen, der tjener nogle penge, så skal der selvfølgelig betales skat, og man skal aflægge regnskab for det. Den offentlige indsigt i trossamfundenes forhold der synes jeg, at man må sige, at bevisbyrden må ligge på dem, der gerne vil have det. Hvad skal de bruge det til, og hvorfor skal de have det? Hvad er det for noget?”

Q: ”Spørgsmålet om ledelse, organisation, budget, regnskab - ville du acceptere en indsigt fra offentligheden, der svarede til den offentligheden har i store virksomheder?”

ET: ”Hvis det ikke er erhvervsvirksomheder, og hvis de ikke betaler skat nej. Vi kommer tæt på hele spørgsmålet om fondslovgivning. Dem der siger, at det skulle det være har jo bevis- og argumentationsbyrden. De må fortælle, hvad formålet er for, at det skulle indføres. Hvad er formålet med, at det offentlige har den viden om trossamfundene. Det er jeg ikke sikker på. Jeg er rent pragmatisk, hvad det angår. Jeg ved, hvordan det virker, når både journalister ikke har noget stof til deres avis, og folketingsmedlemmer ikke har nogen politik skal stille spørgsmål og have dem besvaret, og embedsmænd sidder og bruger milliarder på besvarer fuldstændigt åndssvage spørgsmål. Det har vi slet ikke kræfter til. Hvis vi pludselig fik flere kræfter, så skulle de bruges til noget andet end det pjank. Så jeg spørger, hvad er det legitime formål med, at stat og det offentlige skal have et indblik. I det ve har skrevet om kirkeskat, der skriver vi, at trossamfundet får et samlet beløb, som er kommet ind. De skal heller ikke have at vide, hvad den enkelte har betalt, for så ville de jo få indblik i hvad, der er folks personlige økonomi. Vi må stole på, at skattevæsenets systemer fungerer ordentligt. De siger, at der er kommet 40 millioner kr. ind, I får 40 millioner kr., men kirken skal ofte gøre regnskab for, hvordan denne har fordelt pengene internt. Det er lige så meget af hensyn til egne medlemmer.”(ET, p 7)

*Quote 6.10*

AWP: ”Det har staten jo allerede i og med, at for det første at folkekirken får en del af sine midler via statsmidler, så der har man jo allerede et statsstøttet trossamfund; men så kan andre trossamfund jo få en § 8a med godkendelse og dermed få nogle skattefradragsfordele til deres

medlemmer. Det er for så vidt fint nok, men jeg synes, det burde ændres. Der er mange modeller, man kunne kigge på: der er både den norske og den svenske og den italienske og forskellige andre, som man kunne gå ind og kigge på, hvordan man kunne sørge for en bedre økonomisk mulighed til trossamfund, eller som den italienske, hvor man kan betale både til kulturinstitutioner og religiøse osv. Der kan godt laves om på det, så det blev lidt mere ligeligt fordelt.”(AWP; 11)

*Quote 6.11:*

AMA: “Jeg har været meget offensiv på den dagsorden og har sagt, at jeg er rigtig glad som integrationsborgmester i København for, at vores næststørste religion nu får et sted at udøve deres religion. For mig handler religionsfrihed også om, at du får lov til at udøve din religion under ordentlige rammer. Der har jeg også sagt, at jeg er glad for, at vi får en moske, men jeg er mest glad politisk for den, der kommer på Amager. Her har vi haft en god, konstruktiv dialog hele vejen igennem med Muslimers Fællesråd. De har en uafhængig bestyrelse. Jeg er godt klar over, at finansieringen begge steder ikke kan lade sig gøre uden nogen penge udefra. Vi ved endnu ikke, hvor pengene kommer fra. Men det kan ikke lade sig gøre for nogen af dem, hvis de kommer fra nogle stater, som vi normalt ikke er så glade for, men igen så længe det ikke er ulovligt. Handler AP Møller ikke også engang imellem med nogle, som vi ikke er særlig glade for, og gør vi måske ikke også selv det?”

Q.: “På den måde synes du i virkeligheden, at vi skulle have en mere aktiv religionspolitik i Danmark, så stater og kommuner kunne give finansielle bidrag til at etablere religiøse bygninger?”

AMA: “Jeg har tænkt lidt over det. Jeg ville ikke synes, at der var noget galt i, at stater og kommuner ville kunne gøre det. Man skulle bare finde nogle klare rammer, da det ville blive et ret ømt emne. Så skulle man også kunne stille krav, synes jeg.”

Q.: “Hvilke typer krav, ville du stille?”

AMA: “En af grundene til at jeg er glad for den moske, der kommer på Amager, det er, at den har en uafhængig bestyrelse. De har også sagt, at de vil lave deres prædiken eller fredagsbønnen på dansk.”

Q.: “Jeg har nogle gange gjort mig til fortaler for transparens, og at man skal stå for regnskab for eller offentliggøre navne på, hvem der er ledere i organisationen, og at strukturen i organisationen er gennemsigtig. Der skal være offentlig indsigt i, hvilke midler der går ind og ud.”

AMA.: “Det har du helt ret i. Hvis man giver offentlig støtte til noget – hvis man finansierer noget til alle andre organisationer, så har du selvfølgelig nogle krav, og det vil selvfølgelig være de samme krav.”

Q.: “Ville du stille sådanne krav til trossamfund selvom, der ikke var offentlige penge i det?”

AMA: "Det ved jeg ikke. Jeg ville måske hellere end at stille krav til det opfordre til det. Det er jo sådan, at vi arbejder politisk generelt, det er, at vi starter med at opfordre og indgå i dialog. Hvis det så ikke virker, så kunne man jo overveje et krav, men jeg har dog ikke tænkt så meget over det." (AMA, p 4-5, l 183- 212)

*Quote 6.12:*

BL: Jeg er jo blevet spurgt flere gange: Vil du gerne have den svenske model?, og så vil jeg sige: det vil jeg fortælle jer, når jeg får en matematiker til at regne ud, hvad der kan betale sig. Sagen er jo den, jeg er ikke sikker på, at for det jødiske samfund, som jo i dag bliver mindre og mindre – det gør det jo; det jødiske samfund bliver færre og færre, ikke mindst fordi folk rejser herfra, de unge rejser til Israel osv. Så er det ikke sikkert, at det er en særlig rentabel vej at gå hen på at sige, at hvert medlem udløser nogle penge. Men på den anden side, så er der da nogle ting, som jeg synes at man bør tildeles. Altså jeg synes fx, at den registrering, det at jeg arbejder på statens vegne, på en eller anden måde burde være tilskudsberettiget ligesom kordegnen. For det er jo en meget, meget stor tid af min sekretær, som faktisk bruges til alle de der ting, som vi på den ene side jo selvfølgelig synes er en fordel for os, måske endnu større end mange andre, fordi vi jo meget ofte har behov for at gå tilbage i slægterne, meget mere end nogle af de andre samfund har.

Q: Så der er ikke proportionelt ydelsesforhold på den måde?

BL: Nej, det er der slet ikke.

Q: Ville du gerne have det? Og hvad skulle der til?

B: Det er jo igen et spørgsmål om, hvad ligger der i et økonomisk tilskud? Hvis der i et økonomisk tilskud samtidig ligger et krav på, at så har vi altså også et tilsyn eller et eller andet, så er det jo mere problematisk, for jeg mener jo stadigvæk, at det er en meget vigtig del af den måde, vi har samfundet på i Danmark, nemlig at religionerne får lov til at passe sig selv, hvis bare de opfører sig ordentligt. Det tror jeg er en meget vigtig ting.

Q: Har mosaik trossamfund offentlige regnskaber? (B: ja), som de automatisk stiller frem for offentligheden i en eller anden... på hjemmesiden (B: ja, ja) eller sådan noget. Så det, du taler om her, det er et tilsyn, som gik længere end til at kræve offentlige regnskaber, for det har I allerede (B: Ja). (BL, p 10)

*Quote 6.13:*

LMH: "Vi har faktisk diskuteret det i baptistkirken. Jeg tror, der var nogle, faktisk, der ville være fortalere for, at vi bad om, at man også opkrævede en kirkeskat for baptister. Men vi kan ikke blive enige om det. Det tror jeg ikke. Fordi vi har den der holdning... De fleste har den der holdning, at stat og kirke skal ikke blandes sammen. I 70erne, hvor der blev meget

foreningstænkning, og hvor man lavede ungdomsforeninger mv for at få offentlige tilskud. Den bevægelse er nærmest gået den anden vej her i 00erne, hvor der er en masse organisation, der er blevet opløst, fordi man har sagt: Vi skal ikke tænke i tilskud, og faktisk skal vi gøre en dyd ud af at være uafhængige af økonomisk... og ikke tænke i, hvordan vi malker mest muligt ud af nogle offentlige kasser. Det er uetisk — og ubaptistisk.” (LMH, p 7)

*Quote 6.14:*

Q: Så du synes, at man retligt set skulle privatisere folkekirkens organisation, og samtidig skulle man politisk eller moralsk eller kulturelt inkludere alle kirker og trossamfund mere i det offentlige rum? Er det sådan, jeg skal forstå det?

LMH: Ja det, kan godt være, det er sådan, det kan formuleres. Jeg synes, at lighed ville jo i højere grad være, at vi alle sammen havde mulighed for nogle... Jeg ved ikke, om det hedder statsretlige muligheder eller... Jeg kan fortælle, hvad det handler om. Jeg kunne godt tænke mig at være sygehuspræst, fx, eller fængselspræst, og det må jeg ikke blive, fordi der skal man være luthersk præst. Det, synes jeg, også er diskriminerende. Jeg kender jo godt begrundelsen, for tænk, hvis nu der kommer nogen, der vil havde deres barn døbt, og jeg så ikke vil døbe vedkommende, ikke, eller der kan være mange andre spørgsmål. Men jeg synes, at det ville berige vores samfund, hvis der var mere lighed, og hvis der var flere forskellige slags sygehuspræster eller fængselspræster. Eller at der ikke var den forskel på, hvem skal betale for at blive begravet på kirkegårde. At det var offentlige kirkegårde. At vi alle skulle giftes på rådhuset, og så kan man lave en kirkelig velsignelsehandling bagefter, og så kan man gå i moskeen eller Jehovas Vidner eller hvor vi nu går hen og får en eller anden form for velsignelse. Det er for mig lighed og en religiøs anerkendelse af hinanden. (LMH, p 13)

*Quote 6.15:*

MB: "De andre trossamfund, der mener jeg, at selvom vi ikke skal være bange for at sige, at Danmark er et kristent land, og vi lever i et kristent samfund, så er jeg meget opmærksom på, at vi faktisk har - og skal bevare - religionsfriheden. Jeg ser gerne en udvikling, hvor vi får skilt statens og kirkens økonomi. Det er en anstødssten for mange, at præsternes lønninger er betalt af staten, og hvis du er ateist eller buddhist, hvorfor skal du så være med til at betale præsterne i den danske folkekirke? Men jeg har en fornemmelse af, og det er det, jeg gerne vil have underbygget, at det kan man faktisk godt gøre: trække den del af økonomien ud. At staten fortsat skal betale for bevarelse af vores kulturarv, de gamle kirker osv., det vil alle have en forståelse for. Det er min fornemmelse, at man sagtens vil

kunne sige, at folkekirkens aktiviteter skal betales af kirkeskatten. Punktum. Hvis man får skilt det ad, så får man fjernet nogle anstødssten for mange. - Altså sådan noget, som forplumrer debatten, for mig at se, så lad os starte med at gøre det, som burde være relativt enkelt. Samtidig med det så er jeg også åben overfor, at staten fx kan tilbyde at opkræve kirkeskat, eller hvad man nu skal kalde det, for katolikker, og jeg ved slet ikke, om muslimerne må den slags, men altså at man i fht. de større trossamfund, der er, siger, at hvis I gerne vil have det som samfundet yder, den service, som vi yder til folkekirken i dén henseende, så vil vi gerne gøre det for jer også. Det kan ikke være bureaukratisk kompliceret, hvis man ved, hvem der er medlem af de pågældende trossamfund. Og dermed synes jeg, at vi også går et skridt i den rigtige retning i fht. at sige, at vi har religionsfrihed i Danmark." (MB, p4)

*Quote 6.16:*

PVB: Som det er i dag, vender vi trossamfundene ryggen, vi opfatter næsten alle trossamfund, selv mosaisk trossamfund og de mange forskellige muslimske trossamfund og katolikkerne, som sekter. Det er lige før, jeg synes, at de har sektlignende status. Så anerkendelsen er på papiret, men man kan på den anden side heller ikke lovgive om, at folk skal synes, at de her trossamfund er fuldstændig jævnbyrdige med Folkekirken. Katolikkerne ønsker, at staten skal opkræve medlemsbidrag, og at man i civilregistreringen håndterer tingene anderledes osv. Det er blevet afvist blankt, uden nogen form for argumentation andet end, majoriteten er et eller andet bestemt. Det er ikke anerkendelse.

Man kunne forstille sig, at hvis man som stat opkræver medlemsbidrag til trossamfundene, som vi på samme måde opkræver medlemsbidrag for Folkekirkens medlemmer over skatten, at så kunne man også kræve gennemskuelighed ift. regnskaber, ift. hvilken praksis der er i trossamfundene, når folk gerne vil melde sig ud af trossamfundene, og hvordan det foregår, hvordan folk melder sig ind i trossamfundene som en del af aftalen omkring rettigheder og pligter for de her trossamfund.

Q: Hvis nu trossamfundene siger: "Det er meget fint, rettighederne var fine, men vi er ikke interesseret i offentlighed omkring regnskab og budgetter, og vi er ikke interesseret i viden om og slet ikke tilsyn mht. medlemmers rettigheder og muligheder"?

PVB: Det, synes jeg, er problematisk fordi, jeg vil ikke en model, hvor vi gør religion til fuldstændig privatsfære uden for fællesskabets rækkevidde, og jeg ønsker heller ikke, at vi skal være et ikke-sekulariseret samfund. Jeg vil gerne den her mellemregning, hvor vi gør religionen til en del af samfundslivet og fællesskabet. Og fordi vi i høj grad er et samfund, der baserer sig på civilsamfundet og fællesskaber, som ligger mellem stat og marked, så synes jeg, det er i trossamfundenes interesse, også selvom de

ikke selv synes det, at blive en del af samfundet på både rettigheds- og pligtsiden. Jeg vil gerne være med til at tage dialogen om, hvordan vi bedst kan gøre det uden at krænke trossamfundene og uden at mistænkeliggøre dem. Men jeg synes også, at vi skal bevæge os hen et sted, hvor de ikke har sektstatus, og det, synes jeg, mange af dem har i dag. (PVB, p 5)

*Quote 6.17:*

BP: Ja, i øjeblikket er der en stærk diskussion omkring etik og faglighed, fordi vi bliver udfordret på begge dele med den aktuelle politiske diskurs og retning, der i høj grad laver dårligere vilkår for socialt udsatte med

muslimsk baggrund og ikke-etnisk dansk baggrund.

Q: Hvad er det, du mener her? Hvad tænker du her på?

BP: Der er kommet en række nye regler, der de facto diskriminerer i Danmark. Fx har vi fået starthjælpen, som er en kontanthjælp, der er halvt så stor som almindelig kontanthjælp og som tildeles mennesker, som ikke har boet i Danmark sammenlagt syv ud af de seneste otte år, og den er betinget af en hel masse, og det faktum af over 90 % af modtagerne har

ikke-vestlig baggrund. Vi har det, der hedder 450-timers reglen, der om lidt

bliver til en 250-timers regel, som er en regel, som kræver, ægtepar på

kontanthjælp hver især skal optjene 450-timers helt almindeligt arbejde

inden for to år for at bevare retten til begges kontanthjælp. Hvis ikke de kan det, så mister den der er længst fra arbejdsmarkedet sin kontanthjælp, og så skal man leve for en inklusiv alle børnene. Den regel rammer de facto

også ikke-vestlige indvandrere. Til sammen betyder de to regler fx, at vi har

det som SFI kalder etnisk segregering ift., hvor mange der bliver sat ud af deres lejligheder, da de ikke kan betale deres husleje. Når man har fulgt med i politikudviklingen igennem mange år, så kan se det her vældig klart. Der er den ene særbestemmelse efter den anden, der bliver argumenteret igennem uden, at der bliver sagt etniske minoriteter. (BP: p 7)

*Quote 6.18:*

Q: Er det et politisk formål at støtte religion, på en eller anden måde, af hensyn til religionsfriheden eller?

CS: Jeg mener, man bør se på hvad er religion: Er det religiøse skoler, er det religiøse børnehaver, er det nonneklostre, er det bevarelse af bygninger, er det betaling af bispens påklædning? Altså der er sikkert sådan en hel lang liste af ting og sager, hvor jeg vil sige, at nogle af de services, der ydes, ligner nogle andre, der udbydes af andre, og som lige så godt kunne være lavet af det offentlige. Og så er der måske nogle, der er meget tæt på alteret, hvor de sådan set godt selv kunne ordne det. Og det kunne man måske kikke på, alt det der. Man kunne så sige at det her, der ligger i den ende, det er en offentlig opgave, eller der kunne være co-finansiering eller medfinansiering, og det andet, det må menigheden selv betale, fordi det er jo deres eget værdivalg, så det finansierer de selv. Hvis så danskerne siger, at vi er alle sammen sammen om det der, så vi vil gerne have en folkekirke, der betaler det der, så kan man måske aftale det. Men jeg kan egentlig ikke se hvorfor man så betaler for den danske folkekirkes strengt religiøse opgaver og så ikke betaler for nogle tilsvarende muslimske. Og dybest set synes jeg man burde gøre det: det giver også lidt indseende med, hvad der sker inde i disse trossamfund.

Q: Så du synes faktisk, at det er en god ide, at staten opkræver kirkeskat for medlemmerne af folkekirken og så gøre det samme for muslimerne etc?

CS: Jeg må da indrømme, at en af grundene til, at jeg stadig er medlem af folkekirken – altså jeg siger én af grundene, ikke den eneste – det er, at jeg mener, at det der stammeinstinkt er så dybt inde i os selv, at jeg vil gerne have det kanaliseret et eller andet sted hen, hvor det ikke går galt. Og en folkekirke under demokratisk kontrol er en fin konstruktion. Den kunne godt udbredes.

Q: Og det vil sige, nå jeg siger ord som transparency og accountability, så ville det ikke være fremmede ord for dig i relation til trossamfund?

CS: Nej nej, slet ikke. Det synes jeg vil være helt fint. Og det gælder den katolske kirke, og det gælder muslimerne, og det gælder dem alle sammen. Det synes jeg er rimeligt. (CS. 15)

*Quote 6.19:*

Q: Hvordan finansieres Korshærens arbejde, og hvem er medarbejderne?

HC: Vi havde i 2010 en omsætning på 211 mio. i Kirkens Korshær, og i forhold til den er ca. 35 % indsamlede gaver, herunder bidrag fra genbrugsbutikkerne, og 65% forskellige offentlige tilskud.

Q: ...som går under betegnelsen 'privat indsamlede midler', fordi det er frivillige, der arbejder der?

HC: Ja, lige præcis, og fordi det er til forskel fra offentlige midler; for vi driver jo så en del i samarbejde med kommuner, eller med staten, fra puljer fra forskellige ministerier eller fra samarbejdsaftaler med kommunerne eller det, der hedder § 18-midlerne, som er nogle penge, som kommunerne får fra staten til at give videre til frivilligt arbejde. Så det er sådan et kludetæppe af forskellige samarbejder med det offentlige. Men sådan nogenlunde halvt af hvert. (HC, p 3-4)

*Quote 6.20:*

NB: "Jeg er lige nu indsat som koordinator for ressource teamet på hospitalet, men jeg fungerer også frivilligt som imam og har været det siden 2005, så jeg vil sige, jeg er tilknyttet, jeg er ikke ansat, fordi der findes ikke nogen hospitalsimamstillinger i Danmark i dag, ligesom der gør med hospitalspræster osv. Så derfor kan man ikke ansætte mig eller nogen andre som hospitalsimam eller en hospital chaplain, som de ville sige i England. Så jeg har, som en del af mit, ikke officielle arbejde, men også en del af mit virke på Rigshospitalet også det ansvar at tage hånd om de personer, som dør, som har brug for begravelse, som har brug for omsorg, støtte, sjælesorgsamtaler, som har brug for mægling, og har religiøse spørgsmål om bioetik, blodtransfusioner, abort, obduktion, eller ligefrem være en slags mediator på et hospital mellem fx respiratorbehandlingsstopproblematikken – er det lig med mord, er det ikke... prøve at se, hvordan kan man gøre, når en patient eller hans pårørende spørger mig: Ville det være islamisk korrekt at slukke for respiratoren? Hvad med beroligende medicin, hvor meget af det kan han få, altså til han sover ind? Osv... Det er alt sammen nogle spørgsmål, som jeg også skal forholde mig til i fht at jeg også er tilknyttet som imam på hospitalerne. Så det er ligesom for at give dig et overblik over, hvad jeg laver."

Q: "Hvem finansierer den organisation? Hvad er selve organisationens formål, som du er koordinator for?"

NB: "Det er en besøgstjeneste, det er en kulturel medieringsfunktion, vi også har, og vi underviser og rådgiver også personale på hospitaler.

Q: "Men i den kulturelle medieringstjeneste ligger, hvis jeg forstår det rigtigt, både kulturel mediering i fht. patienter og i fht. personale?"

NB: "Ja. Mediering foregår mellem patienter og pårørende og personalet. Nogle gange kan det også være mellem patient og pårørende, hvis der opstår nogle konflikter. Andre gange er det bare praktisk ting, men det er så

ikke mediering på den måde; fx hvis man skal have et familiemedlem fra udlandet til at besøge en kræftsyg, en terminalpatient, ej jeg kan ikke lide ordet, - en palliativ patient, så ville man jo lave noget praktisk arbejde i fht hvor vi kan komme ind og... eller et klagebrev... Vi er 35 frivillige i teamet. Jeg er den eneste, der er ansat som koordinator. Så det er en frivilligtjeneste.”

Q.: ”Jeg forstod, inden vi begyndte interviewet, at det er fire store, københavnske hospitaler, som er gået sammen om at finansiere det her kulturelle medieringsteam (ja). Hvilken begrundelse har de hospitaler for det? Hvad er deres legitimering, hvilke behov har de set, som har gjort, at man har afsat en budgetpost, der hedder ’kulturel mediering’?”

NB: ”Det er noget med religiøs frihed, Grundloven, menneskerettighedserklæringen...”

Q.: ”Altså religionsfrihed simpelthen?”

NB: ”... Religionsfrihed, Joint Commission Standard, en akkrediteringsorganisation, amerikansk, hvor alle hospitaler skal blive akkrediteret, og nogle af de standarder, de har, går også på åndelig støtte til patienter og pårørende. Så har vi den nye, danske kvalitetsmodel lanceret i slutningen af 2009, jf. IKAS, Institut for Kvalitetssikring og Akkreditering i Sundhedsvæsenet ([www.ikas.dk](http://www.ikas.dk)), en semi-statslig organisation, som lancerede den danske kvalitetsmodel for alle private og offentlige sygehuse i Danmark med en række standarder, over 100 stykker, som også nu skal indføres i kommuner, apoteker osv.”

Q.: ”Indgår åndelig omsorg i de standarder?”

NB: ”Der indgår religiøs og kulturel støtte til patienter og pårørende, og i vejledningen står der ting som kost, blufærdighed, gejstlig bistand og en sidste ting, som jeg ikke lige husker, som også indgår i det her. Det er for alle – det er jo ikke rettet mod muslimer, men kulturel og religiøs støtte. Det er første gang, som jeg forstår det, i hospitalsvæsenet, at man har nogle standarder, som rammer det religiøse og det kulturelle. Det er aldrig sket før. Grunden til det, mener jeg, er, at det er en amerikansk akkrediteringsorganisation, som har puttet det i. Men så har hospitalerne lige pludselig haft travlt: Hvad hvis de spørger ind til det? Vi skal da have nogle standarder for kost, blufærdighed... Så har man sendt det i høring, og der er sket alle mulige ting.”

#### *Quote 6.21:*

NB: ”Ja. Helt klart! Det skulle også være tværfagligt. Det skulle være over hele linien, altså ting, som hvad er muslim counselling, fx, men også ting som tavshedspligt, samfundsforhold, hvordan er Danmark opbygget... praktikperiode, så man kunne sætte sig ind i... på lige fod med den hospitalspræstuddannelse, som der fx bliver tilbudt på Løgumkloster. Noget der ligner den.

Q.: Altså en efteruddannelse oven på en teologisk kandidatuddannelse. Hvilken form for akademisk uddannelse mener du, at universiteterne burde udbyde?

NB: Hvis du snakker om det, man normalt vil kalde en imamuddannelse, det er jo ikke rigtigt, det er jo en teologuddannelse i første omgang, fordi man er jo ikke sikret at være imam, bare fordi man har taget en teologisk uddannelse, men der synes jeg sagtens, man kunne lave både en efteruddannelse men også en kandidatuddannelse i samspil med de muslimske foreninger i Danmark, som kunne tilbyde en muslimsk teologisk uddannelse. Til at starte med måske bare en bachelor, og så efterfølgende opbygge det videre til en kandidatgrad.

Q.: I samspil med de muslimske foreninger i Danmark. Hvilken legitimitetslinie er nødvendig, for at de, der er uddannede, kunne få arbejde bagefter?

NB: Der er brug for en form for anerkendelse af selve studiet, og det er klart, det bliver det jo i og med hvis det bliver tilbudt af universiteterne.

Q.: Hvem skulle anerkende det; er det universiteterne, der skulle anerkende det, altså videnskabsministeriet, eller er det også...

NB: Ja, eller undervisningsministeriet. Det er jo ligegyldigt, bare der er en anerkendelse af, at nu har vi en teologi bachelor, som alle kan tage åbent, som er en ikke-konfessionel uddannelse, som er videnskabelig osv. Det er jo nogle af kritikpunkterne, at vi kan aldrig lave en imamuddannelse, fordi den jo er konfessionel, og den er ikke videnskabelig osv, men vi har eksempler fra mange europæiske og muslimske lande, at man godt kan lave teologiske uddannelser, som ikke er konfessionelle, og som er akademiske. Det konfessionelle, som jeg ser det, er vigtigt på et eller andet niveau, hvis man skal fungere som imam, men det kan man så tage andre steder, også i samspil med universiteterne, ligesom det er med pastoralseminariet, som også har en kontakt til teologisk fakultet. Så helt klart...!

Q.: Så man kunne i det hele taget opbygge det helt parallelt til de teologiske universitetsuddannelser med efterfølgende konfessionel træning.

NB: Ja. Og hvis man så, at der ikke var nok tilmeldinger – hvis efterspørgslen simpelthen ikke var der – så kunne man lave en model, hvor man inddrager Norge og Sverige, en skandinavisk model i samråd med nogle af de andre fakulteter, og så måske også tage Århus med, det ved jeg ikke... På den måde lave en model, som var fasttømret, struktureret. Det kunne være en ide; man kunne måske finde på andre modeller.

Spørgsmålet er, om de her mennesker, som har taget en muslimsk teologisk uddannelse, hvordan de kunne bruges efterfølgende. De skulle have jobs; kommuner, universiteter, socialinstitutioner, moskeer, fængsler, hospitaler, og man har også institutionspræster, og virksomhedspræster har man også talt meget om. Der er mange muligheder, men det kræver jo selvfølgelig, at man taler mere åbent om det, at det kommer på dagsordenen. I stedet for

bare at sige: imamer de kan ikke noget, de duer ikke til noget, og prøv lige at se den dumme udtalelse; de kender jo slet ikke til, hvordan tingene fungerer. Man må så sige: Okay, vi vil gerne fortælle jer, hvordan det fungerer, men vi gør det i samarbejde, vi gør det i fællesskab, hvor I også får lov til at bestemme, hvad der skal være i pensum, i samråd med de muslimske paraplyorganisationer. I stedet for at isolere, så inddrage. Det er dét, vi har set indtil videre; det har været en isolation af imamer, teologer, og ikke inddragelse, og det er det, der er problemet inderst inde, som jeg ser det. Der er nogle mennesker højere oppe i hierarkiet, som siger: Vi har slet ikke brug for dem; de er et problem, og de gør problemet værre.”

*Quote 6.22:*

Q: “Jeg kunne forstå på dig lidt tidligere, at rollen som imam er meget bred. Kunne du forstille dig, at det faldt til imamen at være delvist lønnet og så rejse ud til folkeskoler og fortælle eller være en del af et underviserkorps, eller om der skulle være nogle andre...?”

AWP: ”Nej, jeg mener ikke, det skal være imamer, og jeg vil i virkeligheden også sige, at sådan som min position er i dag, hvor jeg ikke bliver lønnet for at være imam, det er den ideelle position. Det er det, fordi så skal jeg ikke svare for nogen andet end for mig selv og Gud og den menighed, som jeg står overfor, men jeg er ikke på nogens lønningsliste. Der ser jeg et stort problem for dem, der er på en lønningsliste, at der bliver man nødt til at være lidt loyal over for den hånd, der fodrer en.”

Q: ”Men så i kommunalt eller regionalt regi så have et par konsulenter ansat, som er folkeskoleuddannede...?”

AWP: ”Ja, det kunne måske være en løsning. Jeg tror bare, vi mangler en debat om det. Ligesom vi mangler flere andre debatter i Danmark, så tror jeg, vi mangler en debat om hele religionsundervisningen som sådan, for hvis den bare ligger i nogle gamle, vedtagne former og sådan set ikke er god nok til det samfund, vi har i dag.”

Q: ”Men du ville gerne have en imamuddannelse?”

AWP: ”Ja”

Q: ”Hvilket arbejdsmarked skulle den bruges til, hvis du samtidig synes, det er ideelt ikke at være lønnet?”

AWP: ”Det kan godt være, at der er nogle, der skal være lønnede, men så skal de være lønnede på en eller anden måde fra en slags neutral platform. Hvis man fx forestiller sig en moske, der har en bestyrelse, hvor bestyrelsen tager sig af den daglige drift og måske også er dem, der ansætter og afskediger en imam, fordi det er der jo nogle, der skal gøre, men hvor imamens løn kommer fra en fond og ikke fra bestyrelsen som sådan, altså hvor bestyrelsen kun har en formel funktion i fht. ansættelser og afskedigelser men ikke er den lønudbetalende, så man kunne binde det op.”

Q: "Hvad er det, du gerne vil beskytte; er det en forkyndelsesfrihed, du gerne vil beskytte?"

AWP: "Ja, det er det. Men det er vel at mærke en beskyttelse af forkyndelsesfriheden internt. Det er således, at du kan stå og se din menighed i øjnene."

Q: "Kunne du forestille dig, at man simpelthen sagde: Af hensyn til beskyttelse af den muslimske forkyndelsesfrihed ansætter vi imamer som statstjenestemænd?"

AWP: "Nej, fordi så skal man ind under et ministerium, Uhauhauha, det var da det sidste, jeg kunne tænke mig, den der... Det ville da være forfærdeligt at have et politisk overhoved. Nej Føj! (hahaha) Så det er dobbelt. Forkyndelsesfriheden indadtil. Men også mod at skulle dikteres udefra, altså jeg ville absolut ikke... Det var da det sidste, jeg kunne tænke mig, det var, at muslimer skulle ind under et eller andet ministerium, og der så skulle sidde en eller anden folkevalgt politiker og skalte og valte med, hvad man må og ikke må. Nej, tak skal du ha'!"

## **Appendix D: Basic Tensions of Governance of Religious Diversity**

By professor Veit Bader, November 5, 2010

### **General Tensions/conflicts between Basic Rights - Item-list for the socio-legal research.**

The focus on basic tensions or conflicts between basic rights may be easily misunderstood. Tensions or conflicts between rights are, indeed, normative tensions but not of the kind of ‘normativity’ characteristic for moral philosophy. Quite to the contrary, these are tensions inherent in empirical norms (i.e. norms claiming legal validity) both in International Covenants of Civic and Political Rights or the ECHR as well as in (Constitutional) Law of Member States, whether we call these constitutions ‘liberal democratic’ or ‘constitutional democracy’ or not. In this ‘socio-legal’ part of RELIGARE, we are interested in the empirical way in which Courts and Equal Treatment Commissions practically deal with them, how they argue for – often widely diverging – balancing and weighing in judging cases in specific contexts and circumstances – and whether and, if so how these processes are influenced by deeper, implicit cultural biases. In addition, we are interested in how our respondents (preferably also judges and chairpersons of Commissions amongst them) perceive these tensions and deal with them. Last but not least, we are also interested in conflicts that do not end up before courts (‘non-cases’) and in divergent non-jurisprudential practices and resolutions of (potential) conflicts. We present the items (in all thematic work packages WP3 – 6) in the following order: (i) (empirical) practices (of case law and conflicts or good practices that do not appear in case law); (ii) (normative) what, if anything, should be changed?

**1. Tension between individual and collective autonomy.** In terms of religious freedoms: tensions between individual or internal religious freedom (freedom of conscience) and collective or external religious freedoms (religious practices and associational freedoms of (organized) religions).

**2. Tensions between collective religious freedoms and other basic human rights** (ICCP Art. 9,2: “protection of the rights and freedoms of others”), such as: freedoms of speech/expression and anti-discrimination (both with regard to ‘religious speech’ and ‘secularist speech’); protection of essential basic rights of individuals and religious minorities (particularly minors, dissenters, women, ethnic and gender minorities (vulnerable minorities)) within religious minorities and within religious majorities and their organizations.

**3. Tensions between religious freedoms and ‘public order’ and ‘security’ (ICCP Art. 9,2: “public safety, public order, health or morals”), particularly in an age in which security-issues get ever more prominent.**

**4. Tensions between (formal) equal treatment (of religions and non-religions) before and in the law and more substantive equal treatment (if any) (commonly phrased in terms of ‘negative freedoms of religion’ versus ‘positive freedoms’)**

### **Family Law (WP 3)**

**1. Basic Tensions** in cases in which rules and practices of (minority or majority) religious family and divorce laws and customs are at odds with basic principles of international family and divorce law and general civic or state marriage and divorce law: equality between the sexes and favor divortii (marriage, divorce, custody (and inheritance, excluded in WP 3) [It has already been decided in the RELIGARE project proposal that we do not research cases of conflicts with rules and practices of modern criminal law such as wife beating, child beating, genital mutilation, honour killing]. Because of the increasing importance which the ‘legal regulation of intimate relations’ has recently gained with issues of same-sex marriage and adoption, we include issues of polygamy and same-sex marriage and the respective challenges and defenses of the ‘norm’ of monogamy and nuclear family.

**Domains: (i) International Private Law (IPL); (ii) domestic religious law(s) versus state law; (iii) Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) (e.g. Islamic Arbitration Tribunals)**

#### **Items:**

##### **(i) International Private Law (IPL):**

(1) In case of difference between citizenship and residence of the persons involved should the legal order of the former or the latter should prevail (or should there be the option of choice)?

(2) If traditional practice and customary marriage- and divorce- and adoption law of religious communities (e.g. in India) is not legally recognized by ‘modern’ (e.g. English) IPL law, how do judges deal with such cases?

##### **(ii) domestic religious law(s) versus state law:**

(1) is there/should there be ‘one civic marriage and divorce law and courts only’ for all citizens/residents and, if so, why?

(2) Is there/should there be the option of religious marriage and divorce law and courts parallel to or as a replacement for civic marriage and divorce law? If parallel, under which conditions and limitations? If religious

marriage and divorce laws and courts only, under which conditions and limitations? (Include: voluntariness vs. marriage under duress; freedom of exit (favor divortii); rough equality amongst the spouses (in all types of possible ‘marriages’: monogamous, polygamous, same-sex, PACS (pacte civil de solidarité); minimal responsibilities for childrearing)

**(iii) Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):**

(1) is there/should there be separate religious dispute resolution and, if so, why?

(2) Is there, should there be state recognition of religious court? Of religious arbitration tribunals? Of religious arbitrators? Of arbitral awards? Under which conditions and limitations?

**Labour Law (WP4)**

**Basic Tensions:** religious interests of employees versus interests of other interested parties (employer, co-workers, customers, general public) and other liberal values such as secularism, non-discrimination (sex and gender equality) (the individual religious freedom cluster). Collective autonomy (practices of majority or minority religious organizations and associations that are protected by collective religious freedoms) versus labour law principles of non-discrimination on the basis of religion, gender, sexual orientation (and possibly race) (the collective religious freedom cluster).

**Domains:** (i) ‘non-religious’ or not ‘faith-based’ workplaces (including private, semi-private and public employers) (ii) (organized) religions (including the whole variety of religious core-organizations as employers, not only ‘churches’) (iii) ‘Faith-based’ organizations as employers (including not only ‘religion’-based ‘ethos’ employers but all non-religious ‘ethos’ employers)

**Items with regard to legal/legitimate exemptions from general labour law rules and standards:**

(1) Is there/should there be a special (non-) employment status of church staff (ranging from ministers of cult to lay cleaning and gardening staff) and what is/should be the role of existing/ developing (member-state and European) law and jurisprudence?

(2) What is/should be the role of labour union advocacy in this regard?

(3) How are claims for the accommodation of religious exemptions in the workplace (dress codes, food-prescriptions, prayer-facilities, time schedules etc.) and for equal access and inclusion in the labour market perceived and dealt with and what is/should be the role of existing/developing law and jurisprudence in this regard?

**Public Space (WP5)**

**Basic Tension:** Basic principles of liberal democratic constitutionalism (such as ‘**state neutrality**’ (as ‘strict’ or ‘formal’ versus ‘benevolent’ or ‘relational neutrality’; as ‘neutrality by subtraction’ or ‘by addition’) **and fairness** (as ‘hands-off’ or as ‘even-handedness’) **versus traditional historical ethno-religious ‘national (majority) culture’** (and quite often highly questionable assumptions regarding ‘necessary social cohesion’ and ‘political unity’). The reluctance to or rejection of reasonable accommodation is based on (i) intrinsic problems of all forms of pragmatic, administrative accommodation (working out practices by way of talking and negotiating) and (ii) on more or less deeply entrenched cultural majority-bias opposed to public symbolic recognition. Both reasons work out very differently in countries and ‘national jurisdictions’. The core conflict is how ‘neutrality and fairness’ are interpreted and how much weight is given to legitimate claims to protect/develop ‘national culture’. The core normative issue is – given all this (legitimate) variety – to defend and implement accommodation that is minimally required in countries characterized by wide and deep religious diversity.

**Domains:** (i) religiously oriented private schools; (ii) dress codes; (iii) building/maintaining places of worship

**Items:**

**(i) Non-governmental religious schools:** (1) Does/Can the state forbid or limit the existence of non-governmental schools? Which is/should be the justification of the limitations or conditions that the State impose on the existence or management of this type of schools? Does the State treat differently governmental and non-governmental schools and if so, why? (2) What is/could be their contribution to plurality in education? (3) to learning and practicing minimal civic virtues and liberal-democratic virtues?(4)Do they they threaten minimal social cohesion and national unity and, if so, why? How can/should the state ensure that they do not threaten minimal social cohesion and national unity?

**(ii) Dress codes:** (1) Are there/should there be any legal prescriptions against wearing religiously prescribed dress codes in public spaces and, if so, which dress and in which spaces, and why (again: social cohesion, national identity and, in addition: equality and security?)? What is/should be the role of member-states and EU courts in balancing individual and collective religious freedoms with other basic rights and with ‘national values’?

**(iii) Building and maintenance of places of worship:**

(1) Should every religious community have the right to build a place of worship? On what conditions? (2) Should the government consult the citizens of the area where the place of worship is planned to be build? (3) Should the government cover the costs for maintenance when a place of worship is a monument? (4) Should the place of worship then be open to

the public? (5) Do you consider a place of worship in general as a public place? (6) Is the use of a building that is abandoned as a place of worship open to the choice of the seller, or should the former religious use be respected in some way?

**State Support (WP6).**

**Basic Tensions:** (i) ‘**strict neutrality**’ = **no financing and recognition** (obviously only in an imaginable world, not in any existing regime of religious governance) versus **relational neutrality and equality as fairness:** (ii) if any public money, then ‘**equality before the law**’ instead of privileging the entrenched majority religion(s) and/or ‘**substantive equality**’ minimally requires to take history into account (e.g. in cases of very recent ‘disestablishments’ or the many hidden forms of financing churches via ‘cultural heritage’). (iii) For religious and religion related organizations: (a) autonomy dilemma: trade-off between autonomy and privileges. Less or no scrutiny and control by the state, on the one hand, and money and other privileges (connected to public/political scrutiny and control) and political influence, on the other; (b) organization and mobilization dilemma (see Bader (2007), p. 228f). (iv) Basic tensions for liberal-democratic states (p. 229-31).

**Domains:** (i) religious core organizations; (ii) FBO’s (such as religious schools, media)

**Items**

1. Should there be a public funding of religions and FBO’s? Why?
2. Do you feel that all religions and FBO’s are entitled to public funding?
3. What kind of public funding for religions and FBO’s is available in your country? What type of funding can it be compared to? Which would be the best way for the State to finance religions and FBO’s? (Suggested Typology for (organized) religions): (i) subventions to the sustained religions (ii) subventions granted according to precise projects (iii) tax deduction granted to religious institutions (iv) church tax according to the religious affiliation (v) possibility to grant a part of the income tax to religious denominations
4. Is there a control over the use of the public support? Is there a demand of transparency / accountability? If so, how do religious bodies deal with it?

These are some of the basic tensions of governance of religious diversity that are characterizing all modes of governance in states with liberal-democratic constitutions.

For this reason, they should form the common core of the items to be included in the list.

The changing ways in which they are perceived, articulated and, most importantly, dealt with and ‘resolved’ depends on a huge variety of historical and contextual aspects. Thematic WP’s and country teams

should, in a first, fairly preliminary step, give a rough indication of how this is done in the six countries (a rough 'country profile'). On this basis we can then proceed to specify the items in such a way (e.g. by selecting either landmark-cases or contested cases that received much public attention) that the respondents in the six countries do not have a lot of difficulty to understand what we want to talk about during the interviews.

## Appendix E: Danish interview questions

Notat: De danske spørgsmål til RELIGIAREs socio-juridiske interviewundersøgelse

Ansvarlige: Professor Lisbet Christoffersen, PhD (Law), Niels Valdemar Vinding, ph.d.-stipendiat

### *Introduktion*

Dette papir udgør spørgsmålene til den danske del af RELIGAREs socio-juridiske interviewundersøgelse og bygger på de fælles forarbejder som fremgår af [www.religareproject.eu](http://www.religareproject.eu) og prof. Veit Baderts Basic Tensions, senest fra 5. november 2010.

Interviewundersøgelsen fokuserer på de indbyggede konflikter (både retlige og sociale), der kan genfindes i normer, som ligger til grund for de europæiske liberale, konstitutionelle demokratier. Vi vil undersøge hvordan elite-aktører argumenterer for og begrundet en afvejning af disse normer i praksis. I undersøgelsen vil vi fokusere på, hvordan de interviewede oplever og håndterer spændinger mellem juridiske, religiøse, sociale og kulturelle normer. Fokus er på konflikter som ikke når domstolene (non-cases) og på evt. praksisser og løsninger, der afviger fra almindelig eller konventionel jura.

Spørgsmålenes struktur følger fire temaer – familieforhold, forhold på arbejdsmarkedet, religion i det offentlige rum og statens støtte til kirker og trossamfund. Der lægges op til at afdække både empirisk praksis og cases og normative holdninger til hvad der bør gøres.

Generelt findes der fire grundlæggende spændinger, som vil blive behandlet i forbindelse med hvert tema: individuel kontra kollektiv autonomi (religiøs frihed)

- I. kollektive religiøse friheder kontra menneskerettigheder (ikke-diskrimination, ligestilling, minoritetsbeskyttelse og ytringsfrihed)
- II. religiøs frihed kontra den offentlige orden (sikkerhed og retssikkerhed)
- III. formel ligebehandling kontra differentierede rettigheder (negative og positive friheder)

Resultaterne af de danske interviews vil danne grundlag for en planlagt dansksproget publikation samt for et dansk bidrag til en forventet komparativ, engelsksproget udgivelse på grundlag af interview i alle 6 lande. Endelig vil interviewmaterialet være centralt empirisk materiale som grundlag for projektets samlede afrapportering. Når interviewet er gennemført, vil det blive transskriberet og oversat til engelsk. I får den danske og engelske tekst til gennemsyn og godkendelse.

Der er mange spørgsmål i det følgende. Vi forestiller os ikke at gå igennem skemaet slavisk, men mere, at skemaet danner grundlag for en samtale, hvor vi kommer rundt om de rejste emner.

### *Generelle spørgsmål*

Hvordan er dit generelle billede af religiøse grupperes stilling i Danmark og i dansk ret?

Hvordan vil du beskrive forholdet mellem staten og religioner, trossamfund, kirker og religiøse grupper i Danmark?

Oplever du, at dansk lovgivning i et tilfredsstillende omfang anerkender religiøse grupper?

Hvordan vurderer du anerkendelsen af religiøse grupperes rettigheder? Er det som en juridisk person, eller er som en form for forening?

Bør man regulere det religiøse liv som var det foreningslivet eller en del af civilsamfundet? Eller som en del af det offentlige liv?

Hvordan burde det ideelt set være med anerkendelsen? Hvis alting kunne laves om, hvor langt ville anerkendelsen af religiøse grupper strækkes?

Er autonomi eller begrænset autonomi en nødvendig del af anerkendelse?

Hvordan med (juridiske) rettigheder og (offentlig) identitet i forhold til medlemmer? Indebærer autonomi en klar retlig identitet til at regulere internt?

Hvilke konflikter kan der opstå i denne anerkendelse?

Opstår der konflikt med menneskerettighedernes anerkendelse af individuel frihed til og fra religion?

Opstår der konflikter mellem den almindelige religiøse frihed til at praktisere sin religion og det stigende fokus på sikkerhed?

Visitationszoner? Beklædning? Personens ukrænkelighed? Ytringsfrihed?

Overordnet; hvordan er dit billede af den offentlige diskussion af religiøsitet og sekularisme i Danmark?

Er grunden til overhovedet at beskæftige sig fra juridisk eller politisk hold med religiøse grupper og folkekirken ud af rent symbolpolitiske hensyn?

Eller er der reelle behov, som man kan løse ved at arbejde med de juridiske og sociologiske sider af religiøsitet og sekularisme i en dansk kontekst? Hvilke?

### *Familieforhold*

De grundlæggende spændinger inden for familieret vedrører de sager hvor både religiøse regler, praksisser og sædvaner angående familien, ægteskab og skilsmisse strider imod grundlæggende principper for international familieret, skilsmisse lovgivning, og almindelig statslig og civil lovgivning, samt ligebehandling af kønnene. Sådanne konflikter kan man forestille sig i forhold til både majoritets- og minoritets-religioner. Det tilbagevendende i

spørgsmålet om familieret er hvordan ideen om kernefamilien udfordres af andre religiøse og kulturelle normer.

Her spørger RELIGARE til tre områder: til international privatret, religiøs kontra civil ret og til alternative mæglingsinstitutioner, som man ser dem fx i England.

Bør familieret være en del af de beskyttede religiøse rettigheder?

Bør der være en sammenhæng mellem familieret og religionsfrihed?

Er familieret noget der hører til i den religiøse sfære? Er det helt eller delvist adskilt fra religion?

Er eller bør almindelig familieret og regulering af familien som institution være en del af de beskyttede religiøse rettigheder?

Er ægteskabet helligt i Danmark? For Folkekirken? For andre? Bør lovgivningen forholde sig til spørgsmålet om ægteskabets hellighed?

Bør Dansk lovgivning anerkende et pakistansk ægteskab? Skal international privatret gælde for alle de religiøse familieanliggender? Skilsmisse, forældremyndighed, arveret?

Bør man anerkende alle religiøse grupper og organisationers ret til at forvalte ægteskabet? Lige som vi anerkender f.eks. mosaisk trossamfund?

Kan vielsesbemyndigelsen være et af de steder hvor der i dansk lovgivning kunne være plads til at inkludere elementer af islamisk ret, kanonisk ret og mosaisk ret? Kan man også forestille sig at det faktisk burde være en del af familieretten, at man faktisk fik nogle af sine (religiøse) normer med?

Kan eller bør man opretholde majoritetsreligionens definitioner af ægteskab og familie i lovgivningen? Hvor går eller bør gå grænsen for hvad der bare ikke er tilladt og hvad som er strafbart?

Skal familieretlige konflikter inden for den religiøse gruppe eller trossamfundet afgøres ved de civile domstole? Andre konflikter? Hvor går grænsen for hvad sådan en domstol bør behandle af religiøse og familieretlige spørgsmål?

Kan du i Danmark forestille dig alternative mæglingsinstitutioner som varetages af religiøse grupper? Kan du i så fald give eksempler? Hvor går grænsen for hvad sådan instans kan behandle og mægle i?

Skal afgørelser fra sådanne instanser være endelige? Eller skal de kunne påklages til det almindelige retssystem?

Hvilke sanktioner vil du kunne acceptere fra en religiøs mæglingsinstitution?

Hvilke konflikter vil der opstå hvis brugen af sådanne mæglingsinstitutioner bliver udbredt praksis blandt religiøse grupper og trossamfund i Danmark.

### *Forhold på arbejdsmarkedet*

Der er både i Danmark og i Europa mange sager med konflikter i forhold til religiøse grupper og individers rettigheder på arbejdsmarkedet. europæisk

er der senest to afgørelser ved ECtHR fra Tyskland. I Danmark har vi Ribers-sagen (Folkekirken) og sagen om en vikar for en økonomimedarbejder, som et missionselskab ønsker, skal være bekendende for at kunne bestride jobbet.

Man kan identificere fire steder eller 'rum', hvor der kan opstå forskellige konflikter, nemlig 1. Internt i Folkekirken. 2. I de øvrige godkendte og anerkendte trossamfund. 3. På det øvrige religiøse arbejdsmarked, hvor religiøse institutioner og organisationer varetager en række sociale og samfundsmæssige opgaver (friskoler, diakonale organisationer). 4. Det almindelige arbejdsmarked (Jf. sagerne om Føtex og Toms chokoladefabrik).

Er der nogen anliggender inden for arbejdsret som folkekirken kan eller bør kunne regulere selv? Er der anliggende inden for arbejdsret trossamfund og øvrige religiøse grupper kan eller bør kunne regulere selv? Er der anliggender, hvor arbejdsmarkedet egenhændigt bør have ret til at forvalte religiøse spørgsmål, der relaterer sig til arbejdspladsen?

Bør de religiøse grupper eller organisationer have rettigheder i forbindelse med ansættelse eller fyring? Under hvilke vilkår? Og hvor langt?

Er der en minimumsgrænse for hvor meget religion eller hvilken påklædning, der skal tolereres eller ignoreres?

Har du gjort dig nogen personlige erfaringer med religiøsitet og arbejdsmarkedet? Hvilke konflikter har du stødt på eller været vidne til i den forbindelse? Hvor kan du se potentielle konflikter?

Hvilke rettigheder skal beskyttes?

Hvilken rolle bør religiøse og kulturelle normer spille på arbejdspladsen? Hvilken rolle bør de spille i forbindelse med løsning af konflikter i arbejdsret?

Hvordan sikres ligebehandling på arbejdsmarkedet samtidig med at der tages højde for religiøse forhold? Hvor skal grænsen gå og hvem skal trække grænsen? Arbejdsmarkedets parter? Religiøse organisationer? Politikere? Domstole?

Er domstole i stand til at tage højde for særlige forhold i forbindelse med religion på arbejdsmarkedet? Bør domstolene tage højde for religiøse forhold?

### *Religion i det offentlige rum*

De grundlæggende spændinger i det offentlige rum handler til dels om statens neutralitet og fairness og ligebehandling overfor særlige hensyn.

Hvilke hensyn bør der være i det offentlige rum til majoritetsreligion? Til minoritetsreligion? Til dem, der vil være fri for religion?

Kan man ligestille eksempelvis mosaik trossamfund, muslimske trossamfund og den katolske kirkes behov for selvbestemmelse og frihed i Danmark? Eller gør man overgreb?

Efter hvilke kriterier bør man ligestille trossamfund og religiøse grupper?  
Efter hvilke kriterier bør man gøre forskel på trossamfund og religiøse grupper?

Hvor langt bør man i det offentlige rum give plads?

Bederum på arbejde? I offentlige institutioner? Begravelsespladser? Skal børn have fri på andre helligdage? Hvordan skal moskeer se ud? Kan kald til bøn sidestilles med kirkeklokker, og skal de have en lignende plads i det offentlige rum?

Er der forskel på minoritets og majoritetsreligion i det offentlige rum? Bør der være?

Folkeskolen er ligesom folkekirken en etableret dansk institution, hvor spændingerne mellem religiøsitet og sekularisme spiller en vigtig rolle. Der kan ligeledes siges noget lignende om frikirkerne og andre trossamfund som der kan om religiøse friskoler.

Bør Fadervor, bøn og salmer være en del af pensum i det almindelige skole-pensum i folkeskolen? I friskoler? Bør der være undtagelseshensyn? Bør eksempelvis muslimske friskoler undervise i Fadervor? Hvad med salmerne som en del af dansk litteratur? Af musikundervisning? Er de historiske efter din mening tungtvejende nok til at være en del af pensum? Kan du i Danmark genkende en protestantisk model for sekularisme eller religionslighed? Er der en dybdeliggende diskrimination i dette?

Hvilke konflikter kan der opstå i skolen specifikt og i det brede offentlige rum generelt? Oplever du at forskellige religiøse og kulturelle normer støder sammen i det offentlige rum? Kan disse normer reguleres ved lov eller ved domstolene? Eller er der andre normregulerende mekanismer, institutioner eller personer i det offentlige rum i Danmark?

Hvem er ansvarlig for at konflikter i det offentlige rum løses? Hvem har autoritet til dette? - Er det de tilsynsførende i skoler, de offentlige råd, nævn og udvalg, der skal løse problemerne? Er det de religiøse grupper der skal spille en rolle? Er det domstolene?

Hvor meget betyder den enkelte person-profil i dansk offentligt, religiøst liv? Kan man stille imamer og præster mv. særligt ansvarlige som konfliktlødere i konflikter der har religiøse komponenter? Har det religiøst forkyndende personale en offentlig rolle? Et offentligt ansvar?

Kan man tegne et sæt generelle profiler for offentlige religiøse profiler?

Spiller folkekirken en særlig rolle i det offentlige rum? Er der situationer, hvor folkekirken taler på alle religiøses eller alle trossamfunds vegne? Er der i Danmark alliancer eller uformelle forbund mellem religiøse institutioner og organisationer?

Hvor er magtens kerne i det samlede religiøse liv i Danmark? Hvem bestemmer i det religiøse liv i Danmark?

Er der et mønster for trossamfund i Danmark hvad bestemmelsesret og magtstrukturer angår? Går dette mønster i så fald igen de enkelte organisationer? Hvem bestemmer her?

Er der sammenhænge mellem monarki og religioners rolle i det offentlige rum? Hvilke? Bør de bevares eller ændres?

### *Statens støtte til kirker og trossamfund*

Dette ligger i forlængelse af ovenstående, men den grundlæggende spænding her er mellem streng neutralitet (uden økonomisk støtte og anerkendelse) og lempelighed og ligebehandling eller fortsat forskelsbehandling mellem hhv. folkekirken og de øvrige trossamfund.

I Danmark er der både en kirkeskat, som folkekirkens medlemmer skal betale, og så yder staten støtte til præstelønninger fordi de løser nogle opgaver for staten som embedsmænd og som resultat af historiske forudsætninger. Mener du, at dette er en fair ordning? Skal den fortsættes eller ændres? I givet fald hvordan?

Skal også øvrige trossamfund have økonomisk støtte fra staten? Bør trossamfund og alle religiøse organisationer få mulighed for at få opkrævet skat? Forsat fritagelse for skat for medlemmer? Andet?

Er det rimeligt at staten samler skat ind for folkekirken og ikke de andre trossamfund?

Er det skattefradrag som andre trossamfund kan få proportionelt med det ydelsesforhold som er mellem folkekirken og staten?

Gavner det folkekirken at den er så tæt knyttet til staten? Gavner det de andre trossamfund og religiøse organisationer?

Ville det gavne de andre trossamfund hvis folkekirken blev adskilt fra staten? Eller er der gevinster for de andre trossamfund ved at Danmark har en folkekirke? Hvilke?

Vil du mene, at forholdet mellem stat og kirke i Danmark har en indvirkning på andre trossamfund og religiøse organisationer? Forstår du folkekirken som en indflydelse på statens forhold til andre religioner?

Hvilke krav bør der stilles af staten ved registrering og godkendelse?

Folkekirken er som en del af offentlig forvaltning omfattet af almene regler om aktindsigt mv. bør tilsvarende regler gælde for andre trossamfund?

Hvilke krav kan man stille til trossamfund om offentlig indsigt i deres økonomi?

Spørgsmålet om autonomi er en del af det grundlæggende dilemma. Mange trossamfund og religiøse vil gerne have fuldstændig frihed til at råde i interne anliggender, men hvor skal grænsen gå?

Med autonomi kommer både privilegier og ansvar, men hvilket ansvar kan det danske samfund forvente sig af religiøse organisationer?

Bør der være mulighed for relevant videregående akademisk uddannelse for religiøse ledere fra andre trossamfund end folkekirken?

Er der nogen problemer i forhold til vedligeholdelse og drift af religiøse bygninger som staten bør tage hånd om, evt. som finansiel støtte?

Mange tak, SLUT