

Defaming the freedom of religion or belief: a historical and conceptual analysis of the United Nations

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift Defaming the Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Historical and Conceptual Analysis of the United Nations van Belkis Mirjam van Schaik

- 1. The freedom of religion or belief protects believers rather than beliefs.
- 2. Since the drafting process of Article 18 Universal Declaration, states have continually strived to undermine the universalistic aspirations of this provision.
- 3. The United Nations started out with great ambitions, but over a period of 70 years, it has lost much of its momentum as a defender of universal human rights, as the development of the freedom of religion or belief makes clear.
- 4. The explicit right to apostasy has been disregarded for the past seventy years within the United Nations.
- 5. The notion of 'defamation of religion' is not only a threat to the freedom of expression but also to the freedom of religion or belief.
- 6. Western states have been accommodating the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in its efforts against defamation of Islam and its continual struggle against 'Islamophobia'.
- 7. It is vital that the criminalisation of blasphemy, or similar provisions, remain out of the Dutch Criminal Code.
- 8. The endeavour to have blasphemy protected under a human rights regime should continue.
- 9. The European Union should take a more prominent stance against the criminalisation of blasphemy.
- 10. The United Nations should reflect more deeply on its own mission, especially regarding matters related to the freedom of religion or belief.