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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.