

Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Education (Slovak perspective)

Dana Hanesová

Main points

- Thankfulness for freedoms according to the current legislation (since 1991)
- Reality of freedom of religion and of education as societal values in post-Marxist era
- Challenges how to use the freedoms and taking full advantages of them

1.Slovak legislation guarantees fundamental rights

Slovakia is a democratic, ideologically neutral state where:

- Basic rights and freedoms are guaranteed to all disregarding gender, race, religion and belief (freedom of thought, conscience, religion, faith, public expression of own view).
- Everyone has the right to education (free in elementary and secondary schools, and in case of a full-time study, also in universities).
- schools, citizens' abilities and the possibilities of society at universities.
- Churches have freedom to provide religious education in state schools and to establish their own religious institutions (including schools).
- Parents and other educating persons have the right to bring up their children in accordance with the worldview and moral principles of their own/their Registered Church and religious society.

2. Freedom of religion and of education in real life

a) Marxist residual lies

b) The challenges of global cultural trends

2.a) Marxist residual lies

- influence of secular education system and ubiquitous propaganda
- refrain from publically communicating one's view
- state fetishism - passivity, lack of motivation

2.b) The challenges of global cultural trends

- Anthropocentrism
- Secularized individualism
- Scientism
- Secularized „eschatology“

Vision: How do we cultivate our freedoms?

- Detection of lies – Truthful knowledge
- Redemption of the concept of freedom
- Building a Christian counter-culture of love