

## VIII. FINLAND

**Population: 5,181,115**

**Membership OSCE: Original - Helsinki Final Act: Original - Charter of Paris: Original**

**Membership Council of Europe:05/05/49 - Membership U.N.: 14/12/55 - Member of the European Union**

### A. CONSTITUTION

**Constitution adopted on: 17 July 1919**

#### **Section 5 [Equality]**

- (1) All persons shall be equal before the law.
- (2) No one shall, without acceptable grounds, be afforded a different status on account of sex, age, origin, language, religion, conviction, opinion, state of health, disability or any other reason related to the person.

#### **Section 9 [Religion]**

- (1) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of religion and conscience.
- (3) The right to freedom of religion and conscience shall include the right to profess and practice a religion, the right to express a conviction and the right to belong or not to belong to a religious community. No one shall be required to participate in religious practices to which they are conscientiously opposed.

#### **Section 83 [Church Code for Evangelical Lutheran Church]**

- (1) Provisions on the organisation and administration of the Evangelical Lutheran church shall be prescribed in the Church Code.
- (2) Other existing religious communities shall be governed by the provisions enacted or to be enacted on these communities.
- (3) New religious communities may be established in the manner prescribed by Act of Parliament.

## **B. LEGISLATION**

## **C. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION**

Law 1991/1723 on civilian service (*Civiltjänstlag*; modified in 1992, 1993 and 1998).