

XIII. IRELAND

Population: 5,525,700

Religious make-up:

Roman Catholic Church: about 95% (weekly church attendance: about 80%)

Church of Ireland (Anglican): about 83,000

Presbyterian Church: about 13,000

Jehovah's Witnesses: about 8,000

Methodist Church: about 5,000

Judaism: about 1,500

Other religions: about 45,000

**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: 1 July 1937

Article 40 Personal Rights

(6.2) Laws regulating the manner in which the right of forming associations and unions and the right of free assembly may be exercised shall contain no political, religious or class discrimination.

Article 42 Education

(1) The State acknowledges that the primary and natural educator of the child is the Family and guarantees to respect the inalienable right and duty of parents to provide, according to their means, for the religious and moral, intellectual, physical and social education of their children.

(4) The State shall provide for free primary education and shall endeavor to supplement and give reasonable aid to private and corporate educational initiative, and, when the public good requires it, provide other educational facilities or institutions with due regard, however, for the rights of parents, especially in the matter of religious and moral formation .

Article 44.

1.The State acknowledges that the homage of public worship is due to Almighty God. It shall hold His Name in reverence, and shall respect and honour religion.

2.

1.Freedom of conscience and the free profession and practice of religion are, subject to public order and morality, guaranteed to every citizen.

2.The State guarantees not to endow any religion.

3.The State shall not impose any disabilities or make any discrimination on the ground of religious profession, belief or status.

4.Legislation providing State aid for schools shall not discriminate between schools under the management of different religious denominations, nor be such as to affect prejudicially the right of any child to attend a school receiving public money without attending religious instruction at that school.

5.Every religious denomination shall have the right to manage its own affairs, own, acquire and administer property, movable and immovable, and maintain institutions for religious or charitable purposes .

6.The property of any religious denomination or any educational institution shall not be diverted save for necessary works of public utility and on payment of compensation.

B. LEGISLATION

The amended Employment Equality Act - June 1998

C. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION