

XIX. NETHERLANDS

Population: 15,987,075

Religious make-up:

Roman Catholicism: about 20%

Protestantism: about 15%

Islam: about 2%

Hinduism: about 1%

Buddhism: about 0.9%

Judaism: about 0.2%

No formal church affiliation: about 61%

Atheists: 16%

Agnostics: 14%

Believers in a supernatural power: 22%

Believers in God but with some degree of doubt: 25%

No faith: 24%

Non-religious: 26%

Neither religious nor non-religious: 20%

A little religious: 38%

Very religious: 17%

Note: In 1978, the State Planning Bureau estimated the number of people having no formal church affiliation at 23,1%. According to a survey about 'God in the Netherlands' carried out by 'Opnieuw' in 1978, the percentage was 30% but the same year, other public survey institutes claimed as much as 44% of the Dutch had no formal church affiliation.

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

Membership Council of Europe: 05/05/49 - Membership U.N.:10/12/45 - Member of the European Union

A. CONSTITUTION

•17 Feb 1983: Thorough revision of the Constitution. •1815: Adoption of the Constitution.

Article 1 [Equality]

All persons in the Netherlands shall be treated equally in equal circumstances. Discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race, or sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted.

Article 6 [Religion, Belief]

(1) Everyone shall have the right to manifest freely his religion or belief, either individually or in community with others, without prejudice to his responsibility under the law.

(2) Rules concerning the exercise of this right other than in buildings and enclosed places may be laid down by Act of Parliament for the protection of health, in the interest of traffic and to combat or prevent disorders.

Article 23 [Education]

Education provided by public authorities shall be regulated by Act of Parliament, paying due respect to everyone's religion or belief.

Article 99

The conditions on which exemption is granted from military service because of serious conscientious objections shall be specified by Act of Parliament.

B. LEGISLATION

Civil Code

Article 47 of the Income Tax Law

The Law on Municipality

The Law on Public Manifestations 26 of 1988

C. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

Law on Conscientious Objection to Military Service (*Wet gewetensbezwaren militaire dienst 1962/ WG*).

Royal Decree on Conscientious Objection to Military Service (*Besluit gewetensbezwaren militaire dienst 1964/ BG*)

Law on Military Service (*Kaderwet dienstplicht 1997/ KD*)