

Citizenship Education in Italy

Alessandro Ferrari

If the judges of the Grand Chamber of the Lautsi case were right, «Italy opens up the school environment in parallel to other religions. The Government indicated in this connection that it was not forbidden for pupils to wear Islamic headscarves or other symbols or apparel having a religious connotation; alternative arrangements were possible to help schooling fit in with non-majority religious practices; the beginning and end of Ramadan were “often celebrated” in schools; and optional religious education could be organised in schools for “all recognised religious creeds”» (§ 74). Is this true? Being a Muslim pupil within Italian school affect or not the status and, even before, the sense of being an Italian citizen in all respects? Is Italian school conceived as an instrument of civic integration? Is this possible in the age of “disintegrated” democracies ?