Citizenship Education and Islam in Spain

Juan Ferreiro

In Spain, the Muslim Spanish children attend basically to public schools. Some problems regarding integration of these children are focused in the use of hiyab in those schools. According to the current laws, this practice is a legal manifestation of religious freedom which lays within the limits of religious freedom law. Nevertheless, still some judges don't think the same. The case is waiting for the Supreme Court to be settled. Even if the issue of hijab in public schools is merely a sign of how Muslim children can find themselves excluded or segregated, Spanish society and our education legal system have undertaken some measures in order to enforce knowledge and tolerance among students and teachers, often unfamiliar with the children's specific cultural and religious backgrounds Regarding to society, we will highlight the role of some associations of Muslim women. As regards to our education system, we will offer a view of two interesting subjects which are included in our curricula of primary and secondary schools: "education for citizenship and human rights" and "history of religions". We will explain how these subjects are displayed and how they are an expression of the State-Religion Spanish legal framework characterized a non confessional State which at the same time not only recognizes denominations but has the constitutional duty of cooperating with them.