



**REPRÉSENTATION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS DE
L'ORGANISATION POUR
LA SÉCURITÉ ET
LA COOPÉRATION
EN EUROPE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

**WHDC 2022 – Working Session II
Fundamental Freedoms I,
including Freedom of religion or belief; Freedom of assembly and association; Human
rights defenders; Freedom of movement**

Right of reply of France

Following the statements made by CAP Liberté de Conscience and CAGE Advocacy on the 28th of September 2022 at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference's Plenary Session II: Fundamental Freedoms I, France would like to exercise its right of reply, and to bring to the attention of the organizers, participating states and panelists the following:

France would like to reaffirm its fervent commitment to Freedom of religion and of belief, as enshrined in the French constitution and international commitments. In France, everyone is free to believe in what he wants, or not to believe, and will be treated equally. The religious neutrality of the State, underpinned by the French concept of *laïcité*, guarantees the freedom of conscience and is the basis for the absolute rejection of any discrimination on the basis of religion or belief. In France, all believers and non-believers are equal and free to profess and practice any religion or belief, within the sole limits imposed by the law for the sake of public order.

France condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and illegal invasion of Ukraine, an independent and sovereign state, and we are appalled by its devastating consequences, which continue to occur. We condemn the widespread use of disinformation and manipulation of information by the Russian authorities as well as the Russian media to justify the ongoing military aggression on Ukrainian territory.

The European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Sectarianism (FECRIS) is an association providing assistance to victims of sectarian aberrations. It is as such that it is supported by the French government, which intends to continue supporting its activities in France.