

**AGAINST THE DECISION OF
THE KULOSAARI SECONDARY SCHOOL
TO OBLIGE THE SECULAR ETHICS STUDENTS
TO PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
EXEMPTION SHOULD BE ALLOWED!**

Demonstration on Monday 12.8.2008 at 7.45–10.15 o'clock by the school

In the spring journals told that the Kulosaari Secondary School will partly unify teaching of (secular) ethics and religious education in the lower secondary school. We do not know this more exactly as **principal Lauri Halla**, against what he promised, has not provided for us the modified curricula of ethics and of religion and the record of the relevant meeting of the board of trustees of the school on 7.5.2013. But we have information enough to prepare a bill of protest.

The unification of hours of ethics and of religion violates the basic education act. The students of ethics have the right to their own study groups, to their own teacher, and to their own curriculum. Therefore religious education should be kept away from the teaching of ethics.

In any case **a student of ethics could refuse the unified hours**, and the school should have no right to punish then the student but instead give the student teaching of ethics separately.

The teaching of ethics respects the atheistic view of science that Nature is the whole reality. Therefore the teaching is not based on religions and is not missing them. However in the teaching it is not suitable to criticize religions because of their nonscientific view of the reality. For these reasons the consideration of religions in the teaching necessarily only has a minor role and takes place only late.

The unified teaching would, however, be based on religious education and thus have a religious character, already simply because of the hegemony of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland.

The religious unified teaching would violate the human rights of atheistic parents. This we should see from the history. According to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights “the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions”. The subject of ethics in Finland was born because of a complaint of atheists from the compulsory partly religious predecessor of this subject to the (UN) Human Rights Committee, looking after the observing of this Covenant.

PÄÄKAUPUNKISEUDUN ATEISTIT RY (www.ateistit.fi)
 (“**CAPITAL AREA ATHEISTS registered society**”)

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