



Education about religions as a means to strengthen tolerance and respect.

As contained in the last report on Freedom of Religion or Belief, on many occasions, when meditating upon the reconciliation between freedom of religion and freedom of expression, no lines are identified harmonizing these two fundamental rights.

This historic debate is at the point of greatest conflict, due to globalization and increased migration. It is necessary, therefore, to discuss possible solutions that harmonize the two rights in the short, medium and long term.

As detailed in the same report² : ‘the positive relationship between freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression is not just a theoretical postulate" because ‘holders of rights are human beings who can exercise these two freedoms individually or in community’ Thus, it is considered that both, believers and non-believers, can freely express their thoughts and ideas.

Analyzed in this way, the gap that apparently separates the two rights is shortened, leaving only pending to determine the limit on their exercise: understanding that the use of these two types of freedom to attack human dignity is the borderline.

Often, intolerance and negative stereotypes comes from lack of knowledge of the other. The absence of accurate information about others and frequent distorted references that media and social networks



might offer, are elements that lead to the promotion of discriminatory and hostile attitudes against those considered different.

For this reason education plays a vital role in building respectful and inclusive societies. Education, as a means to internalize the human dignity of others, starting from the knowledge of their history, culture and religion becomes a mechanism for the defense and promotion of human rights.

Finally, education about the religious fact could bring benefits for the community, including: the reduction of social conflicts, hate speech mitigation, better understanding between communities with different beliefs, humanization of each individual and respect for human rights.