

addition, terms such as "sect" and "cult" are frequently employed in a pejorative rather than analytic way. To the extent that legislation includes definitions, the text should be reviewed carefully to ensure that they are not discriminatory and that they do not prejudge some religions or fundamental beliefs at the expense of others.

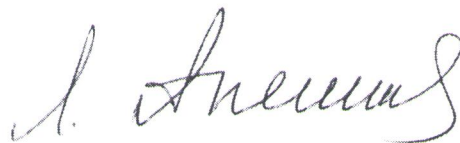
Then point 6.7 of the resolution: *"to adopt or strengthen, if necessary, legislative provisions punishing the abuse of psychological and/or physical weakness"*, cannot stand any critical assessment. This refers to the French law on "psychological subjugation". There is no scientific evidence that could support the idea of "psychological subjugation", which is a synonym to "brainwashing", by religious groups, or it could be applied to any religion, including mainstream ones. As for the word "sect", there is no legal definition of "psychological subjugation" which will allow any mainstream group to attack religious minorities, like Hindus, Muslims, or even Jewish or non-mainstream Christians as well as new religions, pretending that the followers are under "psychological subjugation" even if they say that they practice their religion freely. Actually this is what happens already, but this will be reinforced by this resolution.

The European Court of human Rights has already expressed this in 2010 in the CASE OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES OF MOSCOW AND OTHERS v. RUSSIA² *"that there is no generally accepted and scientific definition of what constitutes "mind control" (point 129).*

In Russia, FECRIS (FECRIS seems to be the main biased informer of Mr Rudy Salles for the report) is mainly made up of mainstream Orthodox Church linked organizations, and are targeting every non-orthodox faiths as "sects": Muslims, Hindus, Evangelical Christians, new religious movements. Their competence and fairness is very questionable. They benefit of a strong position in the law, constitutionally, legislatively and economically, and cannot be considered as impartial as they utter extremist speech regularly.

We strongly believe that this resolution and this recommendation will create more harm that they will protect any child. It should be reviewed or rejected, and we hope that the Assembly will not endorse such a dangerous path for children of religious minorities, a path of violations of human rights against parents and the more vulnerable population: children.

Warm regards,
Chair of MGH



Copy to: **Mr James Clappison**, Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

² [http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-99221#{"itemid":\["001-99221"\]}](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-99221#{)