

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7PL8SK

Organisation: Odinic Rite of Australia

Submission Text:

The Odinic Rite of Australia represents Australians who follow the indigenous religion and spiritual traditions of Europe. Sometimes our community is referred to as "heathen" or "pagan", and we don't specifically object to those terms, although we prefer the term "Odinist".

What we do object to is religious discrimination against our community. This mostly happens in the workplace and the media. I will be more than happy to provide examples of both if the NHRC wishes to receive them.

I believe that our community's rights are already "guaranteed" by the various State and Territory and Commonwealth laws against racial and religious vilification. Unfortunately, the discrimination against our community hasn't gone away, and blatant examples of the denial of our human rights occur on almost a daily basis.

It seems clear to me that we don't need any new laws - what we need is for the existing laws to be applied equally, and without discrimination or favouritism, to all sections of the Australian community - including those of us who follow indigenous European spiritual traditions.