

EN
E-002726/2025
Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2025)

The respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities is one of the values on which the EU is founded, enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, which are binding for Member States¹.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') and constitutes one of the essential foundations of our democratic societies. Furthermore, Article 21 of the Charter prohibits any discrimination including on grounds of ethnic or social origin, language or membership of a national minority. However, according to its Article 51(1), the Charter applies to Member States only when they are implementing EU law. From the information provided by the Honourable Member, the national measures in question do not appear to involve EU law.

It is for Member States, in full respect of the values on which the EU is founded, to ensure compliance with their constitutional order and their obligations under international law and to use the legal instruments available to them to guarantee that the fundamental rights of minorities living on their territories are respected.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF