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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.9.2025)

It is within the competence of the Member States to address discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in municipal school canteens in accordance with their national legislation and international human rights obligations, subject to the supervision of national judicial authorities.

If the persons concerned consider that their rights have been violated, national courts are competent to assess their claim, in accordance with the applicable law. In addition, in Italy, the National Office Against Racial Discrimination¹ has been designated to provide assistance to victims of discrimination.

The Commission remains committed to promote and protect the EU values and fundamental rights, including non-discrimination and the rights of persons belonging to minorities, which are enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU² prohibits any discrimination based on any ground, including religion or belief. This Charter provision applies to Member States when they are implementing EU law³.

¹ <https://www.unar.it/portale/>.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

³ Article 51(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.