

THE TANDEM PROJECT
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**UNITED NATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS,
FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF**

*The Tandem Project is a UN NGO in Special Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*

Separation of Religion or Belief and State

A/HRC/16/L.38 – Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief

[Resolution A/HRC/16/L.38](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/16session/resolutions.htm)
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Pakistan has taken the lead in sponsorship of this resolution on human rights and freedom of religion or belief. The introduction and responses before the vote are clear on the **importance of the resolution** for human rights and freedom of religion or belief. Given the level of tension and violence in the world this resolution is a beacon of hope. Download in Real Player.

Pakistan (on behalf of the OIC) Mr. Zamir Akram [\[English\]](#) 10 minutes **Saudi Arabia** Mr. Ahmed Suleiman Ibrahim Alaquil [\[English\]](#) [\[Arabic\]](#) 1 minute **Norway** Ms. Beate Stirø [\[English\]](#) 2 minutes **United States of America** Mr. Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe [\[English\]](#) 5 minutes **Hungary (on behalf of the European Union)** Mr. András Dékány [\[English\]](#) 3 minutes

ISSUE: Anders Behring Breivik is the ethnic Norwegian perpetrator of the most horrific acts of terrorism in Norway since WW II. In an opinion page article in the New York Times, 31 July 2011, by Thomas Hegghammer, Senior Research Fellow of the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment, Breivik is quoted as saying he is “extremely proud of his Odinistic/Norse heritage and while he is Christian admits ‘I’m not a very religious person.’ “While Breivik’s violent acts are exceptional, his anti-Islamic views are not. His goal is to reverse what he views as the Islamization of Western Europe.”

Intolerance, negative stereotyping, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons is an increasing concern as this UN Human Rights Council panel discussion illustrates calling for open public debate of ideas, interfaith and intercultural dialogue at local, national and international levels, to strengthen democracy and combat existing misperceptions and hatreds based on religion or belief.

[Resolution A/HRC/16/L.38](#)
[Assimilation’s Failure, Terrorism’s Rise](#)

[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/9a30112c27d1167cc12563ed004d8f15?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/9a30112c27d1167cc12563ed004d8f15?Opendocument)

LINK TO:

[UN Human Rights Council Panel Discussion - Culture of Tolerance and Peace - 14 June 2011](#)

If you wish to join the Focus Group hit **REPLY** and **SEND** to the E-mail for this attachment.

You will be notified when it starts.

The Tandem Project a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1986 to build understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity of religion or belief, and to prevent discrimination in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief. The Tandem Project has sponsored multiple conferences, curricula, reference material and programs on Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights- Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion – and the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

In 1968 the United Nations deferred work on a legally-binding treaty on religious intolerance as too complex and sensitive and passed a non-binding declaration in its place. The Tandem Project believes until a core legally-binding human rights Convention on Freedom of Religion or Belief is adopted international human rights law will be incomplete. It may be time to begin to consider reinstating the 1968 Working Group to bring all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief under one banner, a core international human rights legally-binding treaty.