

Polish Airline bans display of religious symbols by cabin crews

Posted: Fri, 17th Feb 2012

Conservative MPs in Poland have complained to the national airline LOT that banning staff wearing the Roman Catholic cross on flights is "discriminatory" and "unconstitutional".

The Polish national airline LOT is under severe pressure from the Catholic Church after it announced that it will ban the display of religious symbols at work by its flight attendants. A statement on the airline's web site says that "staff are not allowed to wear jewellery in a conspicuous place which shows a religious symbol."

Conservative MPs Anna Sobecka and Jolanta Szczypińska, are arguing that the ban is unconstitutional and "discriminates against Catholics".

"Such actions threaten fundamental rights guaranteed by art. 31 of the Polish Constitution, which says that everyone is obliged to respect the freedoms and rights of others," the MPs write in a letter addressed to the management board of LOT Polish airlines.

Former minister of transport and Law and Justice MP Jerzy Polaczek, told the right-wing Gazeta Polska daily: "This scandalous decision [...] is an interference in the freedom of religion".

But spokesman for LOT airlines, Leszek Chorzewski, said that the ban includes all religious symbols, and not just the cross. "The rules apply to all symbols, including, for example, the Star of David," he said. He added that the airline carries many thousands of passengers of different faiths each year, and that LOT wants to avoid offence and "unexpected reactions".

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [FoRB](#)

Related Campaigns

•

[Freedom of religion or belief](#)

Secularism protects freedom of religion or belief for all.

[Read More](#)

Related Articles

School's decision to restrict prayer rituals lawful, court finds

Disadvantage to Muslim pupils outweighed by need to promote interests of whole school community, judge says. [Read More »](#)

The universality of human rights needs defending

Seventy-five years on from the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its promise of freedom and equality remains a distant dream for those living under religious rule, says Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

Freedom of religion or belief must include the freedom to 'blaspheme'

The freedom to question and criticise religious ideas in the same manner as any other kind is foundational to a democratic... [Read More »](#)

Established church hinders religious freedom, NSS tells UN expert

The NSS has told a UN expert that lack of separation between Church and state is undermining freedom of religion or belief in the UK. [Read More »](#)

Study: Jurors could be biased against people who don't swear to God

Bias against people who don't swear a religious oath in court may lead to hundreds of additional convictions, researchers... [Read More »](#)