

**Question for written answer E-012412/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Voluntary relocation and resettlement schemes and discrimination on grounds of religion

Recent statements by representatives of some Member State have suggested that under the voluntary relocation and resettlement schemes they will only accept Christian refugees. In response to this, the Commission emphasised that EU states were prohibited from discriminating against refugees. The UNCHR is encouraging governments to take an inclusive approach while considering refugees for resettlement and not to make their selection by discrimination¹.

Could the Commission confirm that using criteria such as religious beliefs to decide which people can participate in voluntary relocation and resettlement schemes is contrary to the principle of international protection as set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Geneva Convention?

If so, how does the Commission intend to ensure that refugees will not be discriminated against when selecting who will take part in the schemes?

¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33986738>