

**Priority question for written answer P-000919/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Laura Huhtasaari (ID)**

Subject: Freedom of speech and religion in Finland

More than 15 years ago Finnish Member of Parliament Päivi Räsänen (Christian Democrats) wrote a publication entitled 'HE CREATED THEM MALE AND FEMALE Homosexual relations challenge the Christian notion of what it means to be human' (enclosed). In her piece, Räsänen reflects on how homosexual relations challenge the Christian notion of what it means to be human, and as a result she has been subject to a criminal investigation.

The criminal investigation also involves a tweet by Räsänen in which she said that participation in a Pride event was 'a sin and a disgrace'. Räsänen has said that her tweet posted on 17 June 2019 was essentially based on a quotation from the New Testament, in Romans Chapter 1, verses 24-27. The Prosecutor General has also ordered an investigation into an episode of Puhe ('Talk') broadcast on Finnish state radio on 20 December 2019 featuring Ruben Stiller and entitled 'What Jesus would say about gays', in which the teachings of the Bible were discussed and Räsänen was a guest on the programme.

Official action has therefore been taken against Räsänen a number of times because she has quoted the Bible and pondered the challenges posed by the matter of homosexual relations and the Christian idea of what it means to be human.

I would now like to ask the Commission what it thinks of the state of freedom of speech and religion in Finland.