

## **The German Constitution ("Basic Law")**

(...)

### **Article 4 (Freedom of faith, of conscience and of creed)**

- (1) Freedom of faith and of conscience, and freedom of creed religious or ideological, are inviolable.
- (2) The undisturbed practice of religion is guaranteed.
- (3) No one may be compelled against his conscience to render war service as an armed combatant. Details will be regulated by a Federal law.

(...)

### **Article 136 (Weimar Constitution)<sup>1</sup>**

- (1) Civil and political rights and duties shall be neither dependent upon nor restricted by the exercise of religious freedom.
- (2) Enjoyment of civil and political rights and eligibility for public office shall be independent of religious affiliation.
- (3) No person shall be required to disclose his religious convictions. The authorities shall have the right to inquire into a person's membership in a religious society only to the extent that rights or duties depend upon it or that a statistical survey mandated by a law so requires.
- (4) No person may be compelled to perform any religious act or ceremony, to participate in religious exercises, or to take a religious form of oath.

### **Article 137 (Weimar Constitution)**

- (1) There shall be no state church.
- (2) The freedom to form religious societies shall be guaranteed. The union of religious societies within the territory of the Reich shall be subject to no restrictions.
- (3) Religious societies shall regulate and administer their affairs independently within the limits of the law that applies to all. They shall confer their offices without the participation of the state or the civil community.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 140 [Law of religious denominations] The provisions of Articles 136, 137, 138, 139 and 141 of the German Constitution of 11 August 1919 shall be an integral part of this Basic Law.

(4) Religious societies shall acquire legal capacity according to the general provisions of civil law.

(5) Religious societies shall remain corporations under public law insofar as they have enjoyed that status in the past.

Other religious societies shall be granted the same rights upon application, if their constitution and the number of their members give assurance of their permanency. If two or more religious societies established under public law unite into a single organisation, it too shall be a corporation under public law.