

ARTICOLO 8

“All religious confessions are equally free before the law.

Religious confessions other than the Catholic one have the right to organize themselves in accordance with their own statutes, provided that these statutes are not in conflict with Italian law.

Their relations with the State are regulated by law on the basis of accords between the State and the respective representatives.”

ARTICLE 8

The first paragraph of this article applies in the field of religion the principle of equality enshrined in Article. 3. The Constitution equates all the religions that they do not conflict with the law uses. The Republic is based, therefore, to an attitude of neutrality towards the various cults and is committed to protecting all religions without distinction. Although in different forms by the Concordat that governs the relationship between the State and the Catholic Church, also it applies to other religions the **principle treaty**, under which the relationship between state and individual confessions are regulated by agreements between the parties. Since 1984 the Italian government began to implement this rule, stipulating the agreement with the Tavola Valdese. Subsequently further arrangements have been signed with other religious confessions.

This article, with the recognition of **confessional pluralism**, marks the definitive end to art. 1 of the Albertine Statute, which stated "the Catholic, Apostolic Roman only religion of the state." The guarantee of an actual confessional pluralism is, however, guaranteed by the **principle of neutrality and secularism of the state**: the state, that is, protecting the **freedom of religion** as it does not lead to situations of privilege or hinder in any way any other religion other than Catholic.