

# Should schools come with a warning sign?

Indoctrination at school and the right to quality education

INDOCTRINATION  
CENTER  
AHEAD

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## Abstract

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This thesis intends to question the common presumption that education is “good” for children. It draws the attention to the possibility of indoctrination at school and examines how this relates to the right to education and, in particular, to quality education.

A conceptual and legal analysis of all relevant concepts is made; education, quality education and indoctrination. The scope of the research is limited to the sphere of the Council of Europe and it thus examines how the matter of indoctrination is dealt with under the European Convention on Human Rights. An overview of case law by the European Court on cases of alleged indoctrination is made, to clarify what the Court’s position is and what the states’ obligations are in this regard.

Subsequently, an assessment of indoctrination is made in the light of the requirement of quality education. The Committee of Ministers has drafted a recommendation on how quality education is to be understood and respected by states. As a case study for this assessment, the historical example of Nazi indoctrination through the education system is used as a touchstone.

The work concludes that indoctrination can never constitute quality education and that it therefore always violates the right to education. For that reason, more attention should be devoted to the topic in the future.

## Table of contents

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1. Introduction .....	1
1.1 Research question and discourse .....	1
1.2 Area of focus.....	2
1.3 Approach.....	3
1.4 Relevance of the research .....	4
2. Conceptual framework .....	6
2.1 Education .....	6
2.1.1 Early principles on right to education .....	6
2.1.2 Right to education in treaties and conventions .....	9
2.2 Quality education .....	10
2.3 Indoctrination.....	12
2.3.1 Conceptual analysis.....	12
2.3.1.1 What’s in a name .....	12
2.3.1.2 Content .....	14
2.3.1.3 Teaching method .....	15
2.3.1.4 Outcome .....	17
2.3.1.5 Finality and intention.....	18
2.3.1.6 Conclusion.....	18
2.3.2 How indoctrination takes place in practice .....	19
2.3.3 Why indoctrination is problematic .....	20
2.3.4 Why indoctrinate? .....	22
2.3.5 Related concepts.....	23
3. Legal framework .....	25

3.1 Education .....	25
3.1.1 European Convention on the right to education.....	25
3.1.2 Clarification of terms used in provision on right to education.....	27
3.1.3 Legal classification.....	28
3.1.4 Components of the right to education .....	29
3.1.4.1 Parents’ rights .....	29
3.1.4.2 Children’s rights .....	31
3.1.4.3 Teachers’ rights .....	34
3.1.4.4 Public interest .....	34
3.1.4.5 Balancing of rights and interests .....	35
3.1.5 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion .....	37
3.2 Quality education .....	38
3.2.1 Quality education in Council of Europe framework.....	38
3.2.2 Quality standard: Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)13.....	39
3.3 Indoctrination.....	41
3.3.1 Indoctrination under the European Convention and Court .....	41
3.3.2 Indicators.....	43
3.3.3 Arguments pro prohibition of indoctrination .....	45
3.3.4 Critique on the benchmark of prohibition of indoctrination .....	46
3.3.5 Application in case law .....	48
3.3.5.1 Sexual education.....	48
3.3.5.2 Religious education .....	50
3.3.5.3 Religious symbols .....	51
3.3.5.4 Uniforms.....	52
3.3.5.5 Corporal punishment .....	52

3.3.5.6 Ceremonies and processions.....	52
3.3.5.7 Home schooling.....	53
3.3.5.8 Conclusion.....	53
4. Indoctrination vs. quality education .....	55
4.1 Quality education gives access to learning to all pupils and students, particularly those in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, adapted to their needs as appropriate .	56
4.2 Quality education provides a secure and non-violent learning environment in which the rights of all are respected .....	57
4.3 Quality education develops each pupil’s and student’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential and encourages them to complete the educational programmes in which they enroll .....	59
4.4 Quality education promotes democracy, respect for human rights and social justice in a learning environment which recognises everyone’s learning and social needs...	60
4.5 Quality education enables pupils and students to develop appropriate competences, self-confidence and critical thinking to help them become responsible citizens and improve their employability.....	62
4.6 Quality education passes on universal and local cultural values to pupils and students while equipping them also to make their own decisions .....	63
4.7 Quality education certifies outcomes of formal and non-formal learning in a transparent way based on fair assessment enabling acquired knowledge and competences to be recognised for further study, employment and other purposes ....	64
4.8 Quality education relies on qualified teachers who are committed to continuous professional development .....	65
4.9 Quality education is free of corruption. ....	66
4.10 Conclusion .....	66
5. Reflections: indoctrination on the agenda.....	69
6. Conclusion.....	74

Bibliography .....	79
Case law .....	79
Literature.....	80
Legal instruments.....	85