Appartenenza religiosa e regole alimentari: diritto e diritti

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Religious Belonging and Dietary Rules: Rights and the Law

Abstract: That each individual has the possibility to adapt her diet to her own Religious Dietary Rules (RDR) should be understood as an entailment of the exercise of the believer’s right to religious freedom, which the law must protect. But what kind of RDR and of what religious denominations can obtain civil legal recognition? How can we reconcile the protection of different RDR with that of animal welfare? Is the public provision of RDR-sensitive menus in hospitals, prisons, and schools economically sustainable? The article engages with these questions from a legal perspective, while it also discusses the possible economic implications of the production and distribution of “religious food”.

Keywords: Food, Religious freedom, Rights, Marks of conformity.