

THE TANDEM PROJECT

<http://www.tandemproject.com/>

**UNITED NATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS,
FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MINNEAPOLIS – SOMALI WOMEN**

SOMALI WOMEN MAKE MINNEAPOLIS THEIR BUSINESS

The Tandem Project Country & Community Database

<http://www.tandemproject.com/databases/forms/card.htm>

Country & Community Database replies are in **bold** under Eight Articles of the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. Replies are for United Nations Universal Periodic Reviews, Treaty-Bodies and Special Procedures reports. They may be used by others as a supplement to a UN report if documented and credible.

**THE 1981 U.N. DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL
FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION
BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF**

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations
25 November, 1981 (Resolution: 36/55)

ARTICLE 4

All States shall take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life.

PARAGRAPH 4.1.2: *Are there effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on grounds of religion or belief in the field of economic life?*

PARAGRAPH 4.1.5: *Are there effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on grounds of religion or belief in the field of cultural life?*

This is a Reply to: "Somali Women Make Minneapolis Their Business." The Issue Statement and Reply can be opened at: <http://www.tandemproject.com>.

**Country: United States of America: Community: Minneapolis-Somali Women:
Reply: The WomenWeNews story quotes Yusuf as "pleased if the Aishah Center
can raise even 10 percent of the seed money from owner-investors. She says at
least 33 women have expressed interest, as have institutional backers such as
the Women's Foundation of Minnesota in Minneapolis and the Christian Sharing**

Fund in St. Paul, a local counterpart of the Washington-based Catholic Campaign for Human Development."

"It's too early yet to predict a timetable or what will happen," says Lee Roper-Batker, president and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota. "Women have to have big audacious goals. That is the way change happens."

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota was founded in 1983. It is the oldest and second largest statewide women's foundation in the nation, and remains the only grant-making organization in Minnesota dedicated exclusively to growing equality for women and girls, according to their website at <http://www.wfmn.org>. The foundation has a program to "create economic justice for women" and a human rights program vision statement that reads; "We look forward to a day when women's human rights and dignity are unquestioned, when women are free from discrimination and able to act upon their dreams."

In assisting financing for "Somali Women Make Minneapolis Their Business" they are uniquely positioned in Minnesota to participate in a local education and dialogue program to discuss how to incorporate the values of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Article 18 - Everyone has a right to freedom of religion or belief - of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

This Reply is to the Issue Statement, "Somali Women Make Minneapolis Their Business." To read the article open Issues Statements in the menu at: <http://www.tandemproject.com>.

CONCLUSIONS

The Tandem Project proposes all Inter-faith dialogue groups consider human rights education on the value of International Standards on Freedom of Religion or Belief, as a way to promote respect for the dignity and equal rights of all persons, religious and non-religious.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights First Preamble affirms: "*Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.* This principle suggests all States recalling their history, culture and constitution, provide equal protection by law for *theistic, non-theistic and atheistic beliefs, as well as the right not to profess any religion or belief.* This is international law under the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. International Human Rights Standards on Freedom of Religion or Belief may be essential for *long term solutions* to conflicts based on religion or belief.

The Tandem Project: a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1986 to build understanding and respect for diversity of religion or belief, and prevent discrimination in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief. The Tandem Project has sponsored multiple conferences, curricula, reference materials and programs on Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion - and the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

The Tandem Project initiative was launched in 1986 as the result of a co-founder representing the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) at a 1984 United Nations Geneva Seminar, *Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters Relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief*, called by the UN Secretariat on ways to implement the 1981 UN Declaration. In 1986, The

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The Tandem Project is a UN NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

