

Beat: Politics

## A YOUNG SCHOOLGIRL BANNED FROM HER SCHOOL FOR WEARING A SKIRT TOO LONG

### FRENCH EDUCATION MINISTER APPROVES

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**USPA NEWS** - Sarah was banned from her school because she wore a long skirt deemed ostentatious. Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, minister of education approves the decision of excluding the schoolgirl for ostentatious clothes, on RTL. A Facebook group launched "Jeportemajupecommejeveux" means "I wear my skirt as I want".

### A FRENCH 15 YEARS OLD GIRL BANNED FROM HER SCHOOL IN CHARLEVILLE MEZIERE FOR WEARING A SKIRT DEEMED TOO LONG TWO WEEKS AGO IN FRANCE -----

It's hard enough to be a 15 years old teenager in France, when humiliated and excluded for daring to wear decent dress is abject, so that schools accept young girls dressed in provocative manner, without any admonition is addressed to them. It is even harder when you are a female muslim teenager going to a public school in France, although Sarah always removes her veil before entering the school. Does she have to remove her skirt as well to avoid ostentatious attitude with any skirt too long ? It may not be where questionable prejudice and islamophobia.

### IN FRANCE SINCE 2004 SECULARITY GOVERNS SCHOOL RULES

According to the 2004 law that governs secularity in schools, veils, the Jewish kippa or large Christian crosses are all banned in educational establishments, but "discreet religious signs" are allowed.

The respect of the wearing clothes or accessories considered ostentatious religious, are and must be respected in French secular public schools. It's a fact. But how is the fact of wearing a long skirt is considered too ostentatious it, when it results in hiding the legs, instead of a skirt too short that would show part of the nude? This seems like common sense, and is not shared by minister for Education Ms Najat Vallaud Belkacem.

Not only the minister was not shocked, nor indignant and made no excuses, or at most could have sought to clarify the circumstances of this exclusion "abusive" in respect of a clothing considered ostentatious, and she validates that decision from the school. She approves the decision of offending team teaching college Léo Lagrange Charleville Meziere and said the team "showed discernment".-----

Patrice Dutot, local education official told AFP that the student always removed her veil before entering school premises in the northeastern town of Charleville-Meziere, as is specifically stipulated by law.

Refusing to remove her veil would have been a fault and justify Sarah's banishment.

A skirt too short or might have caused shock and justify a banishment to this girl, just because she who wears it too long ! Where is the logical reason if not for other purposes ? This decision would have neither shocked nor outraged because if it has been in effect with "indecent assault" considered a misdemeanor and punishable by French Law (Law 227-26 of the French penal code, which punishes the attack modesty as a form of sexual assault). Source: [www.servicepublic.fr](http://www.servicepublic.fr)

Sarah the schoolgirl, told L'Ardennais (Local newspaper of CharlevilleMeziere) that "her skirt was nothing special, it's very simple, there's nothing conspicuous. There is no religious sign whatsoever."-----

### FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND SOCIAL NETWORKS RAVES THE CASE TO SARAH TWO WEEKS AGO-----

The case hit the headlines with the French media, before the misunderstanding of some and indignation from others. Some muslims, feel designated by a character punishment "Islamophobic" to banish the young schoolgirl Sarah whose skirt "too long", was considered "religiously ostentatious." The Minister of Education has supported the decision of the teaching team in place. A civil collective was launched and Sarah' sorry was claimed though the social networks, Facebook and twitter with the hashtag# Jeportemajupecommejeveux" meaning "I wear my skirt as I want."

Meanwhile in Germany, parliament voted for authorizing the veil to female teachers and teachers in schools. (See article The German Constitutional Court has just authorized women to wear the veil at school considering that there was discrimination between those who could carry a cross and those who could not wear the veil. <http://www.newsrama.uspa24.com/bericht-3584/the-german-supreme-court->

decided-to-allow-the-veil-for-muslim-teachers.html)

**Article online:**

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