



# Sleepyville for equality

The moslem community wants to build a Mosque - the local community does not want them to. Now it's up to the city council to decide.

controversial discussion  
about the construction  
of a mosque in  
Sleepyville

The essential voting for the muslim community is coming up. In the last few weeks there have been controversial discussions about whether a Mosque should be built on a unoccupied area in Sleepyville or not. Thinking of Human Rights, the debate tells a lot about our society regardless of the final decision.

"We have learned living  
with all the minorities  
around us."  
The Muslim Community

## The discussion

On Wednesday afternoon representatives of 7 parties and associations came together in the city hall- I had the chance to sit in this meeting and talk to some of them and got a few opinions on the topic:

"Its a fundamental right  
for everyone to practice  
their religion."  
The Diversity Party

The **Diversity Party** is in favour of building the Mosque. They do not see the Mosque as a special privilege for the Muslim community but just as a natural step as the community has been growing over the last few decades. They also asked the eligible questions if everyone in the room was willing to enter the 21st century and accept diversity.

„The building was supposed to start this week - we gave hope to the Moslem and now we are taking that away. Not building the Mosque is a bad sign for our democracy.“

The Human Rights Sleepy Organisation



The mayor during the discussion

The **Human Rights Sleepy Organisation** emphasise that the people not in favour of building the Mosque have missed the deadline for complaint. Now the promised Mosque has to be built. They think it is flimsy to talk of freedom of religion when not including the right for practicing your religion. They also stress that 15.000 Moslems are living in Sleepyville and that it is a logical step to give a place to practice their religion to them.

The **Traditionalist Party** explained that they do not want a mosque in Sleepyville but rather invest money in building a new kindergarten and renovation works in the local high school. They talked of “certain standards and values“ that have to be protected and are endangered by Muslim values. In their opinion the Mosque is a meeting point for potential terrorist and building it would be a sign of accepting Muslim values such as the oppression of women.

What is striking is the fact, that the reason for not wanting the Mosque in our town are not reasonable usually hidden behind a statement about the Human Rights. There is always the question who you grant these Human Rights and some parties seem to think that they can decide who is granted the Human Rights and who is not. It is sad to see how many Muslims have been living in our city for a long time, have adapted our culture and take part in everyday social life but still are not really included in society. It was shocking to listen to a discussion that even the mayor thought did not respect the Human Rights at all.

On top of all this the area where the Mosque is supposed to be build is derelict land at the moment and is known for social problems that the city council does not have the money to solve. On top of that the council is only paying 20% of the total cost which is not much compared to the funding of the construction of churches in the last few years.

It is a shame that a majority in our society is afraid of the unknown and intolerant towards other cultures. There are no reasonable points against the Mosque, just opinions that strongly contradict to the Human Rights. Luckily a small majority voted in favour of the Mosque.