

## **Turun vapaa-ajattelijat ry Turku Freethinkers**

Advocating the rights and culture of non-religious people

### **Short Introduction**

Turku Freethinkers is a local member association of the Union of Freethinkers in Finland, the national advocacy organization for non-religious individuals. Through our union, we are affiliated with Humanists International. Our association was established in 1936.

We advocate freedom of thought and champion the rights of non-religious people in collaboration with the Finnish Humanist Association and other suitable parties. We oppose the use of religions as a means of power, privileges for religious practitioners, and the state church system, as they violate constitutional freedom of religion.

Our primary focus is on promoting the rights of non-religious individuals, particularly in schools, kindergartens, and care facilities. We seek inclusive alternatives for everyone, alongside or instead of religious activities, and we advocate freedom of choice for non-religious people. We strive for school education to remain science-based, and we disapprove of religious conversion activities in schools. Religious events do not belong in schools; they should be moved outside of school hours.

Through active discussion and commenting, we support the inclusion of Life Stance Education (or Secular Ethics) in schools. Annually, we award approximately four scholarships to elementary and secondary school students in the Turku region based on successful study of Secular Ethics.

Our website features information about non-religious ceremonies such as weddings, naming ceremonies, coming-of-age celebrations, and funerals. We also provide details about places for scattering the ashes of the deceased without religious affiliation. Learn about our initiative to establish a secular scattering garden in Turku.

We organize lectures and discussion sessions on current topics affecting non-religious individuals, as well as activities and meetings for our members.

For more information, you can find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/turunvapaaajattelijat/>), visit our website (<https://www.facebook.com/turunvapaaajattelijat/>), or read our blog (<https://vapaaajattelijat.fi/blog/freethinkers-in-finland/>). Explore the broader international community at [Humanists International](https://humanists.international/) (<https://humanists.international/>).

If you require support in exercising your non-religious rights or organizing non-religious celebrations, or if you wish to discuss worldview topics, please contact the association's chairperson at [puheenjohtaja.turku@vapaa-ajattelijat.fi](mailto:puheenjohtaja.turku@vapaa-ajattelijat.fi).

We warmly welcome your participation in our activities!