



Disagreeing With Päivi Räsänen

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In 2019, Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen cited the Bible in her Twitter account in order to express [her views](#) about sex and Christianity.

“How does the doctrinal foundation of the Church fit in with shame and sin being raised as a matter of pride?” Räsänen [asked](#) (in Finnish). Her tweet included a link to an Instagram post displaying [Romans 1:24-27](#), which refers to how males “did shameful things with males and thus received in their own persons the due penalty for their perversity.”

Whether you or I agree with Räsänen’s view that homosexuality is *per se* immoral is irrelevant. What is not irrelevant is our support for freedom of speech

and religious expression: she should surely not be prosecuted for expressing her opinion!

But Finnish police [investigated her](#) for the tweet. For good measure, they also included as a possible charge her [2004 publication of a pamphlet](#) questioning same-sex marriage and discussing related issues. She had published the pamphlet before it became illegal in Finland to express such opinions.

Now Räsänen and a Lutheran bishop being prosecuted for similar reasons have been [acquitted](#).

This is a second acquittal. In 2022, the Helsinki District court ruled that it’s not the job of the court “to interpret biblical concepts.” A state prosecutor [replied](#), “You can cite the Bible, but it is Räsänen’s interpretation and opinion about the Bible verses that are criminal.”

Politicians of Finland, don’t continue on this dark path. Revoke all laws that aim to jail people who disagree with you.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.