

# The multicultural graveyard in Denmark - regulatory framework and practice

- ▶ The cemetery as a mirror of the society
- ▶ Liberal democracies
- ▶ Reformation and Enlightenment
- ▶ *”Menighedsrådet sørger for, at kirkegården vedligeholdes, og at der er tilstrækkelig begravelsesplads for sognets beboere”* (Lov om folkekirkenes kirkebygninger og kirkegård §9 stk.1)

trans: *”The parish council makes sure that the cemeteries are maintained and that there is sufficient burial space for the residents of the parish”* (Law on the church buildings and cemeteries of the National church §9 stk. 1)

# The Danish National Church

## (Den Danske Folkekirke)

### ▶ **Memberships of the Danish National Church**

- ▶ There were 4.339.511 members of the Danish National Church January 1st 2019. That is 74,4% of the 5.806.081 Danish inhabitants. The number of members in the Danish National Church and the number of Danish inhabitants has been calculated January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 (Danish citizens living outside of Denmark while being members of the Danish National Church are not included)

### ▶ **Ecclesiastical funerals**

In 2018 there were 45.324 ecclesiastical funerals in the Danish National Church. That corresponds to 82,6 of deaths in Denmark were buried with the involvement of a vicar from the Danish National Church. At an ecclesiastical funeral, a vicar from the Danish National Church participates at a service including the officiating of the ritual of three placements of soil on the coffin (jordpåkastelse), before the coffin is buried or cremated.

# The shared and the permanent according to funeral law

§1 Lig skal enten begraves eller brændes

Bodies must be either buried or burned

§2 Begravelse skal ske på folkekirkens kirkegårde eller andre af kirkeministeren godkendte begravelsespladser...

A burial must happen at the cemeteries of the Danish National Church or other burial sites approved by the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs

§3 Ligbrænding skal ske i krematorier, der er godkendt af kirkeministeren.

Cremation must occur at a crematoria

stk 2 Asken skal nedsættes på en af de begravelsespladser, der er nævnt i §2 eller anbringes på et andet sted, der er godkendt af kirkeministeren

The ashes are placed in a burial site, mentioned in §2, or at another place approved by the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs

stk 3 Asken kan spredes over åbent hav, hvis afdøde skriftligt har ønsket dette...

The ashes may be dispersed at sea, if the deceased has expressed such a wish in writing

stk 4 Biskoppen kan tillade, at der forholdes med asken på anden sømmelig måde end nævnt i stk 2 og 3, når der foreligger et bestemt udtalt ønske herom fra afdøde.

The bishop may allow for the ashes to be treated in another decent manner than mentioned in stk 2 and 3 when an expressed wish of the deceased is present.



(dispensing of the ashes is possible with the approval of the bishop)