

ABSTRACT

An Analysis of Religious Constitutional Provisions From Around the World

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The protection of inherent rights has been one of the main concerns of the modern government. One of the key civil rights issues addressed under constitutions around the world is the protection of religious rights. These areas include how religion is exercised, whether it is taught in schools, and its usage as a discriminatory factor. By examining how religious freedoms are treated in various constitutions around the world, we can compare and contrast different international governments. These observations can be used to see how the protection of religious freedoms is correlated to the social, religious, and economic development of these countries. The research that I have compiled shows that the protection of religious rights is very closely tied to the flourishing of human rights and the societies of countries today.

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AN ANALYSIS OF RELIGIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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CHAPTER ONE

An Introduction to Religious Freedoms

Religious freedom is a perpetual political issue, both in today's world and throughout history. An openness to many religions has spurred commerce in places as diverse as the Netherlands in the 1500s, Pennsylvanian colonies in the early 1700s, and Argentina in the 1800s. Today, religious minorities in the Middle East and in Africa experience persecution at the hands of majorities, and so-called new religions struggle against government opposition in Western Europe. Many conflicts have arisen throughout history in part because of religious differences and the desire of one religious group to assert its beliefs against another.

Over the past several centuries, various forms of religious freedom have emerged as a way of managing increasingly diverse populations. While cultural attitudes are an important part of tolerance across religious groups, usually protection of religious minorities is embedded in the laws of a nation. For foundational protections, societies write constitutions to set the fundamental laws of a country.

Despite the fact that most national constitutions have some set of provisions that govern religious belief and practice, there is much variation across those countries in what religious rights exist. A growing literature has examined the extent to which government intervention in the realm of religion affects the degree

to which people practice religion.¹ Yet this literature has not yet distinguished among the great variety of formal constitutional provisions around the world. A big part of this shortcoming in the literature is that there is no reliable systematic catalogue of religious provisions in the world's constitutions. This thesis is a first step toward producing that catalogue.

The goal of this thesis is to produce a thorough categorization of the world's constitutional provisions regarding religion. To do so, I examined a set of constitutions from around the world, chosen because of the availability of other data on religion in those countries. As I reviewed every provision on religion in each constitution, I created a classification system for the provisions and recorded which countries had which provisions. The detailed results are contained in Appendix B. In the body of the thesis, I provide a qualitative, systematic description of my major findings from this larger project.

The set of countries chosen for this study are the 133 countries for which other types of data are available from either the World Values Survey or the Gallup World Poll.² I was able to analyze 132 of the countries' constitutions; Israel does not have an official constitution. During the research phase of this study, I analyzed the constitutions from each of these countries and copied any provisions dealing with religion into a single document, attached as Appendix C. Next, I developed a classification system for types of provisions and assessed which category each provision fit into. Finally, I combined my assessments of the provisions and their

¹ See North (2014) for a summary of the literature in the fields of sociology and economics.

² This sample of countries comes from an earlier Baylor Honors Program Thesis by Matthew Swift, in Swift (2012).

categories into an organized table with references that can be found in Appendix B. The table in Appendix B provides a useful resource for future researchers interested in analyzing the impact of the various categories of constitutional provisions.

Table 1 below presents a summary of my findings, showing the number of countries (out of the 132 analyzed) whose constitutions contained various types of religious provisions. As can be seen from Table 1, the Broad Free Exercise and Non-Discrimination clauses are by far the most common religious constitutional provisions. Chapter One provides a deeper analysis of free exercise provisions, and Chapter Four concentrates on non-discrimination clauses. The other topics that will be covered within this analysis are restrictions on religious speech in Chapter Two, governmental organization in Chapter Three, and marital and family law in Chapter Five.

While the inclusion of certain provisions and how the manipulation of the language of varying clauses affects the practice of religion, possibly the more interesting finding will be the omission of key religious provisions. As the constitution is the foundational document of a country, the provisions that are left out may tell as much about a country's religious freedoms as the provisions that are included.

Table 1

Provision	Number of Countries
Broad Free Exercise	89
Non-discrimination Clause	81
Officially Secular State	37
Freedom of choice/non-discrimination in education	33
Free exercise does not excuse illegal activity/humiliating propaganda	23
Official State Religion	22
Political parties: no religious affiliation	15
Religious freedom in political oaths, no forced religious oaths	10
Exemption from compulsory military service due to religious conviction	10
Free exercise in a state of emergency	9
Limited Free Exercise	7
No religious education	7
Religion is a “respected” part of cultural heritage	7
Non-discrimination/religious freedom in marriage	6
No religious propaganda	6
No forced advocacy of religion	6
State subsidized religious education	5
No religious favoritism by government	5
Churches are tax exempt	5
Religious organizations can purchase property	5
Special status for religion	4
Mandatory religious education	4
Optional religious instruction in schools	4
No religious test/requirement for public office	4
No religious discrimination in holding public office	4
No forced religious taxes	4
Political parties: allowed religious affiliation	3
No restrictions/discrimination in voting	3
Religious leaders cannot be elected to public office	3
No exemption from compulsory military service due to religious conviction	3
No harassment against religious organizations	3
Education can promote religious tolerance/value/consciousness	3
Traditional religion of country	3
No forced religious instruction	3

State recognizes religious/customary courts	3
No religious persecution	3
Freedom of association	3
Required religious oath by political leaders	2
Freedom to change religion	2
No removal from civic duty due to religion	2
Religious institutions for the public good can be protected and supported by the government	2
Right to citizenship despite religion	2
Right to religious confidentiality	2
Regulated religious assemblies	2
Non-interference clause	2
Authorization of religious organizations to run their own affairs	2
Limited number of recognized religions	2
Religious test for public officials	2
Religious organizations have representation in the Senate	2

CHAPTER TWO

Free Exercise

Origins of Free Exercise

When examining religious provisions in constitutions from countries around the world, one of the most common provisions is a free exercise clause. In most cases, this clause protects the right to thought, conscience, and action. Citizens under constitutions with a free exercise clause have the right to believe in any religion that they choose, as well as the right to exercise this right through religious organization, assembly, and expression, provided that all of this is done without violating the laws of the country or jeopardizing the rights of other citizens of the country.

The concept of religious acceptance and allowing the practice of various religions within a country dates back into antiquity. The first instance of state-wide (or in this case, empire-wide) religious freedom was in the kingdom of Persia under Cyrus the Great, who granted a degree of religious freedom and allowed enslaved religious groups to reestablish their places of worship.³ Cyrus's treatment of the enslaved Jewish people in his kingdom as described in the Old Testament demonstrates his tolerance of foreign religions. 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 says,

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at

³ See Dandamaev (1989) for a detailed account of Cyrus' Persian Empire

Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the Lord his God be with him. Let him go up.”⁴

This passage shows Cyrus’s toleration of other religions and his willingness to live peacefully with those with other religious beliefs. Cyrus’s empire-wide implementation of religious freedom and toleration was unparalleled and for the most part unmatched until the Roman emperor Constantine enacted the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D. This edict alleviated the heavy persecution endured by Christians in the Roman Empire and attempted to institute religious freedom and equality in the largest empire in history. In this same vein, the Pact of Umar established an apocryphal treaty between the Muslims and Christians of Syria that later gained a canonical status in Islamic jurisprudence.⁵

The first time free exercise was implemented as a function of government was The Act of Toleration by the English Parliament in 1689.⁶ The Act allowed freedom of worship to citizens who were not members of the Church of England, but who had pledged oaths of allegiance and supremacy and had rejected certain heretical beliefs associated with the Roman Catholic Church (e.g. the belief in transubstantiation). The Oath of Allegiance is a promise of loyalty to the British monarch and his successors, and the Oath of Supremacy recognizes the monarch as the highest power in the land. Under The Act of Toleration, nonconformists making these oaths could establish their own places of worship and had the right to educate their members.

⁴ 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 of the New International Version of the Holy Bible

⁵ See Abu-Munshar (2007) for a discussion of this treaty

⁶ See Mews (1898) Vol. 12, pg. 101

The vast majority of constitutions contain a provision that I have labeled a “broad free exercise clause.” A broad free exercise clause includes the freedoms of both conscience and expression with no explicit limitations. Freedom of conscience refers to the right of citizens to believe whatever they choose to believe, a freedom that is purely cerebral. The freedom of expression covers all actions that are a result of the beliefs of the free conscience, including worship, writing, speaking, assembling, and many other forms of religious action. Free exercise is the combination of both a free conscience and free expression: the right to both think and act upon one’s religious convictions.

Free exercise provisions protect religious practices in their fullest form, so that the only constraint on the exercise of one’s religion is that the forms of expression cannot infringe on the rights of another citizen. As discussed below, some countries make this constraint explicit through a specific provision stating that free exercise does not excuse illegal activity in the name of religious practice.

Nicaragua’s constitution contains a provision that provides full free exercise but follows it with a restriction against illegal activity under the guise of religious expression. Article 69 of Nicaragua’s constitution begins with a standard free exercise clause that states, “All persons, either individually or in a group, have the right to manifest their religious beliefs in public or private, through worship, practices and teachings” (Nicaragua, Article 69). The article goes on to state that, “No one may evade obedience to the law or impede others from exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties by invoking religious beliefs or dispositions.”

Another example of this kind of provision can be found in the constitution of Iceland. Article 63 states, "All persons have the right to form religious associations and to practice their religion in conformity with their individual convictions. Nothing may however be preached or practiced which is prejudicial to good morals or public order" (Iceland, Article 63).

This form of a free exercise clause provides the most comprehensive form of free exercise in the aggregate. Unbridled free exercise for each individual does not protect the rights of every citizen, because one person's free exercise could encroach on the free exercise of another. If such individual acts of free exercise were allowed, the freedoms of the victimized citizens could be hindered more in an unrestrained system than if certain checks had been placed on the freedom of expression clause in the first place.

The typical free exercise clause does not contain this stated restriction on free exercise, but rather implies the sentiment either through the actual language in the clause or in other areas of the constitution speaking on the retention of citizens' rights by preventing illegal activity. An example of a typical free exercise clause can be seen in Ghana's constitution. Article 27 states, "Every person is entitled to enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture, language, tradition or religion subject to the provisions of this Constitution." Even though this particular constitution does not contain a specific condition that speaks on the issue of illegal activity in reference to religious freedoms, the sentiment can be implied through the language of the article. The article states that the right to free exercise is "subject to the provisions of this Constitution" (Ghana, Article 27). Contained within Ghana's

constitution are clauses that prevent illegal activity and protect the rights of every citizen. Therefore, without expressly stating it, this free exercise clause restricts illegal activity and the violation of fellow citizen's rights in the name of religious expression.

In a very similar vein, the Latvian constitution establishes free exercise in Article 99, which states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion" (Latvia, Article 99). Later on in Article 116, which is dedicated to restrictions on certain articles of the constitution, it states,

"The Constitution may be subject to restrictions in circumstances provided for by law in order to protect the rights of other people, the democratic structure of the State, and public safety, welfare and morals. On the basis of the conditions set forth in this Article, restrictions may also be imposed on the expression of religious beliefs." (Latvia, Article 116)

Thus, the Latvian constitution protects the free exercise of religion, while also restricting unbounded free exercise that could jeopardize the state or the safety of its citizens.

Limited Free Exercise

The right of free exercise is included in most countries' constitutions; however, the degree to which religious expression is protected and the consequences of open expression within these countries vary widely. In its most encompassing application, a free exercise clause protects both belief and action. Each citizen has the right to believe his own religious convictions, as well as the right to act upon those convictions within the bounds of the law.

In a constitutional framework that values the right to free exercise, the laws of the country are set up to make most expression legal, thus avoiding undue constriction of free exercise. However, I identified seven countries in the sample with a free exercise clause combined with a legal system that constricts religious freedom by making many forms of expression illegal. I refer to this form of free exercise as “limited free exercise” to reflect constitutions that include a free exercise clause yet constrict free exercise through the wording of the clause or through manipulation of the legal system within which the free exercise clause exists.

Afghanistan’s constitution has an example of one of the more extreme versions of limited free exercise. Afghanistan is a self-declared Islamic state (Afghanistan, Article 2, Section 1) that only provides religious freedom and protection to followers of Islam (Afghanistan, Article 2, Section 2). Further, the constitution of Afghanistan states that no law can be created that is contrary to the religion of Islam, at least potentially excluding the legal exercise of any religion other than Islam within the country.

While Afghanistan has an extreme form of limited free exercise, most other countries with limited free exercise do so in either a less regulated or a more subtle form. Mexico’s constitution states that everyone has the right to exercise whatever religion that they choose; however, the exercise of those religions is limited to only taking place within official places of worship or within the home (Mexico, Article 24). Further, Article 24 of Mexico’s constitution states that worship “shall at times be under government supervision.” While citizens of Mexico may have the right to

exercise whatever religion they choose, the exercise of that religion is still very limited in regard to its location.

Another example of limited free exercise occurs in China's constitution. Article 36 of China's constitution states that its citizens have the right to free exercise. The article includes an addition that is uncommon in most constitutions: China's free exercise clause is limited to only protect "normal religious activities." This limitation is highly subjective, and leaves the Chinese government with the ability to determine what "normal" activities entails. This free exercise clause, while seeming to protect religious expression, in actuality allows for extreme limitations upon certain religions if they are determined to be abnormal.

Exclusion of Illegal Activity.

Many countries have specific sections within their constitutions that specifically exclude illegal activity under the guise of religion from the protection of free exercise. These provisions explicitly address using the right to free exercise as a justification of illegal activity.

An example of this can be found in the constitution of Armenia, which states, "The exercise of rights and freedoms shall not serve toward the violent overthrow of the Constitutional order, for the instigation of national, racial, or religious hatred or for the incitement to violence and war" (Armenia, Article 48). Similarly, the South African constitution states that, "The right [to free expression] does not extend to propaganda for war; incitement of imminent violence; or advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause

harm” (South Africa, Article 16). These checks on free exercise exclude acts that would compromise national security, providing a circumstance in which the free speech or acts of a citizen could be restricted.

Another example of this type of clause can be seen in the Cambodian constitution. Article 43 states: “Freedom of religious belief and worship is guaranteed by the State on the condition that such freedom does not affect other religious beliefs or violate public order and security” (Cambodia, Article 43, Section 2). This provision not only restricts acts that threaten national security, but also restricts any exercise of religious freedom that would jeopardize the rights of other citizens.

Interestingly, all three of these countries just mentioned have relatively recent histories of religious and/or ethnic conflicts, as do several of the remaining countries with an explicit exclusion of legal activity. Perhaps countries with such a background are more likely to create a provision that refuses to let the claim of religion put a holy shine on otherwise illegal activity.

Treatment of Compulsory Military Duty

One of the many issues that is encountered when attempting to balance the security of the nation while also protecting the rights of individual citizens is the treatment of compulsory military duty. Many countries’ governments, including the United States, have the power to declare a draft of the citizen population in the event of extreme warfare. The conflict of interest that occurs in this scenario is the desire of the government to protect national security by drafting additional troops,

in opposition to the beliefs of citizens whose religions do not allow them to participate in acts of warfare. Many countries have specific clauses within their constitutions that permit their citizens with religious convictions that do not allow them to serve in the military to be exempt from compulsory military duty, or to perform some other act of service to compensate for their exemption.

Most of these provisions are similar to Article 85 of Poland's constitution, which states, "Any citizen whose religious convictions or moral principles do not allow him to perform military service may be obliged to perform substitute service in accordance with principles specified by statute" (Poland, Article 85). Another example can be found in the Slovakian constitution: "The defense of the Slovak Republic is a matter of honor for each citizen. No one must be forced to perform military service if this runs counter to his conscience or religious belief. The details will be specified in a law" (Slovakia, Article 25, Sections 1-2).

Article 143 of Brazil's constitution gives an excellent example of an all-encompassing provision concerning military duty exemption. The first section states, "Military service is compulsory according to the law." The article goes on to give its exemption in the next section:

"It is incumbent upon the Armed forces, according to the law, to assign an alternative service to those who, in times of peace, after being enlisted, allege reasons of conscience, which shall be understood as reasons based on religious creed and philosophical or political belief for exemption from essentially military activities."

Finally, the article finishes with this last exemption: "Women and clergymen are exempted from compulsory military service in times of peace but are subject to other duties that may be attributed to them by law" (Brazil, Article 143). This article

clearly lays out the scenarios in which a citizen may be exempt from his or her military duty upon the basis of religious freedom.

In contrast, three countries (Chad, Greece, and Saudi Arabia) specifically declare that there are no exemptions to compulsory military duty. Article 54 of the constitution of Chad states, “No one may avail oneself of one's religious beliefs, nor one's philosophical opinions, to excuse one from a duty dictated by the national interest” (Chad, Article 54). One of the duties “dictated by national interest” is the requirement to serve in the military if drafted by the government. In the country of Chad, religious convictions do not suffice as cause to exempt one from his or her national duties.

Conclusion

An argument can be made that the free exercise clause is the most important religious provision within a constitution. At the very least, it seems that the inclusion or exclusion of a free exercise clause, as well as the different ways that a free exercise clause can be stated, have a very pervasive effect on the treatment of religion. The protection of citizens’ rights, military service, and the practice of religion in a country are all shaped by the free exercise clause, or lack thereof. Therefore, it is critical to gain an understanding of a country’s free exercise clause (or to note its absence) and the stipulations that accompany the provision in order to analyze the treatment of religion within a country.

CHAPTER THREE

Restrictions on Religious Speech

Introduction

In the last chapter, I analyzed free exercise provisions and their variations. In this chapter, I will discuss the religious speech of citizens, particularly as it relates to religious propaganda and forced advocacy of religion.

Free religious speech is not usually explicitly protected within the constitutions of most countries for two reasons. First, religious speech is generally protected as a specific form of the more general protection of free speech. Countries that protect the freedom of speech in general will thereby protect religious speech. Second, freedom of religious speech is implied or included within the free exercise clause, allowing the exercise of a religion to include both the printed and spoken advocacy of a religion. Even so, some countries have included additional clauses within their constitutions that further clarify the nuances of the freedom of religious speech; these are the provisions I address in this chapter.

Prohibition of Religious Propaganda

Propaganda is defined as “ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause, a political leader, a

government, etc.”⁷ Essentially, propaganda can be any communication that is not impartial and used primarily to influence an audience and further an agenda. Many countries do not specifically detail their treatment of religious speech but will specifically prohibit the use of hateful or even simply religiously biased propaganda.

Chad’s constitution says, “All propaganda of an ethnic, tribalist, regionalist or religious nature, tending to affect the national unity or the secularity of the state, is forbidden” (Chad, Article 5). Similarly, the constitution of Senegal states, “Any act of racial, ethnic or religious discrimination as well as any regionalist propaganda capable of interfering with the internal security of the state or the territorial integrity of the Republic, shall be punished by law” (Senegal, Article 5).

As can be seen in these provisions, propaganda with any sort of religious affiliation is prohibited, allowing for major restrictions of religious speech. Depending on its definition of propaganda, the government has the potential power to completely constrict any form of religious persuasive communication. This could effectively end all (or selected types of) evangelization within a country.

Another example of the prohibition of religious propaganda can be found in Costa Rica’s constitution. Article 28 says, “Clergymen or secular individuals cannot make political propaganda in any way invoking religious motives or making use of religious beliefs” (Costa Rica, Article 28, Section 3). Further, the Honduran constitution states, “The ministers of the various religions, may not hold public office or in any form political propaganda, on grounds of religion or using, as a

⁷ Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition

means to that end, of religious beliefs of the people” (Honduras, Article 77).⁸ This type of provision could essentially eliminate the voice of religious leaders from the political sphere, or at least substantially limit the religious influence upon public political discussion within the country. As there is often an overlap between the religious and political views of many citizens, a prohibition of religious propaganda can be a major obstacle for citizens with strong religious backgrounds whose political beliefs are informed by their religious convictions.

Prohibition of Forced Advocacy

Conceptually, the right of free religious speech ought to include the ability to maintain religious anonymity. Freedom of religious speech means not only that citizens have the right to freely speak about their religious convictions, but it also should mean that they have the right to maintain a position of silence on the religious matters. This could include scenarios in which citizens desire to keep their individual religious leanings private for social reasons, economic position, or purely to maintain privacy.

To reflect this understanding of the nature of free religious speech, six of the countries examined have a constitutional provision that expressly prohibits forced

⁸ The awkward phrasing occurs in the original English translation cited in Appendix C. The original Spanish is: “Los ministros de las diversas religiones, no podrán ejercer cargos publicos ni hacer en ninguna forma propaganda politica, invocando motivos de religion o valiendose, como medio para tal fin, de las creencias religiosas del pueblo.” A more accurate translation may be “The ministers of the various religions may not hold public office nor produce political propaganda in any form that invokes religious motives or uses, as a means to that end, the religious beliefs of the people.”

advocacy of religious beliefs. Such a provision can protect those who wish to keep their religious beliefs private as well as those with no religious convictions who desire to not reveal publicly their atheistic or agnostic beliefs. This type of provision also prevents the state or organizations from forcing individuals to express support for beliefs that they do not hold. In short, the prohibition of forced advocacy prevents discriminatory situations in which individuals are forced to reveal the personal information of their religious beliefs, non-religious convictions, or are forced to advocate for a religion in which they do not personally believe.

An example of one of these clauses can be seen in Azerbaijan's constitution. Article 71 states, "Nobody, in no circumstances may be forced to promulgate his/her religious and other beliefs, thoughts and to be persecuted for such" (Azerbaijan, Article 71, Section 4). Azerbaijani citizens are not required to promote or make widely known the religion (or lack thereof) with which they associate themselves. This is especially interesting, as Azerbaijan is a heavily Islamic nation that has a small minority of Orthodox Christians (estimated between 3.1%-4.8% of the population⁹). The prohibition of forced advocacy in Azerbaijan is likely a reaction by the nation to religious discrimination within the country – in essence, an attempt to protect those who do not adhere to Islam. In theory, the provision allows for religious minorities to maintain anonymity and effectively maintains the peace within the country.

Luxembourg's constitution contains a ban on forced advocacy similar to the one in Azerbaijan. Article 20 states, "No one may be forced to take part in any way

⁹ Data from the Global Christianity Research Center

whatsoever in the acts and ceremonies of a religion or to observe its days of rest” (Luxembourg, Article 20). Similarly, Article 53 of Poland’s constitution states, “No one shall be compelled to participate or not participate in religious practices. No one may be compelled by organs of public authority to disclose his philosophy of life, religious convictions or belief” (Poland, Article 53, Section 6-7). These provisions focus specifically on the forced participation in religious ceremonies and practices, granting citizens the right to avoid such events without consequences.

A different variation of this same kind of provision can be seen in Portugal’s constitution: “No one may be questioned by any authority about his or her convictions or religious practices, except for gathering of statistical data that cannot be identified individually, nor shall anyone be prejudiced by his or her refusal to reply” (Portugal, Article 41, Section 3). This section provides individuals with protection from being singled-out by any government official, presumably including police, but still allows for the collection of religious data through a census or similar agency where anonymity is protected.

As important as a ban on forced advocacy seems to be for religious freedom, only six of the 132 countries in the study have such a provision in their constitutions. It is likely that many countries imply a ban on forced advocacy through a free exercise clause,¹⁰ but there are several countries (including Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine, and several African countries) that have dealt with religious strife and oppression that do not have this potentially critical constitutional provision.

¹⁰ The United States constitution may also prohibit forced advocacy via the Establishment Clause.

CHAPTER FOUR

Governmental Organization

Introduction

The way that a government addresses the issue of religion in its official stance as a state can substantially affect how religion is treated within that country. While many countries do not categorize themselves specifically as either a secular state or a state that adheres to the principles of a certain religion, there are many countries that do define themselves in such a way. The declaration of affiliation with a religion (or the declared opposition to such an association) can display an attitude of tolerance, opposition, or open (and in many cases, required) acceptance of religion.

Among the countries that have a constitutionally-declared state religion, by far the most predominant religion directly affiliated with the state is Islam. Of the 132 countries examined in this study, 22 countries have an official state religion. Of those 22 countries, 15 have Islam as their official state religion. An affiliation with Islam usually implies a lengthy adoption of many Islamic laws directly within the state laws of these countries. For example, Afghanistan declares in Article 2 of its constitution: “The religion of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the sacred religion of Islam” (Afghanistan, Article 2, Section 1). Afghanistan is officially called the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and the government adheres to and bases

policies off of Sharia law. The government of Afghanistan is both Islamic in name and in practice.

Another example of Islam as the official religion of the state can be seen in Egypt's constitution, which states, "Islam is the state's religion, and Arabic is its official language. The principles of Islamic law form the main source of legislation" (Egypt, Article 2). In the actual article itself, the Egyptian government declares not only its affiliation with the religion of Islam, but also announces that all legislation will be informed by and derivative of Islamic law. The effects of this affiliation show themselves within Egypt's governmental and legislative structure. The country has established Sharia courts, and these courts have jurisdiction over a majority of family law – including marriage, divorce, and child custody. In these courts, a woman's testimony is worth half of a man's testimony.¹¹

Further, the Sharia courts, being heavily influenced by the violent and militaristic pressures of the Muslim Brotherhood, have gone so far as to institute laws such as the "Blasphemy Law," which was used to penalize citizens who did not adhere to Sunni religious views. The "Blasphemy Law" states:

"Confinement for a period of not less than six months and not exceeding five years, or a fine of not less than five hundred pounds and not exceeding one thousand pounds shall be the penalty inflicted on whoever makes use of religion in propagating, either by words, in writing, or in any other means, extreme ideas for the purpose of inciting strife, ridiculing or insulting a heavenly religion or a sect following it, or damaging national unity."¹²

¹¹ See "Voting Rights" section in "Egypt: The Judiciary, Civil Rights, and the Rule of Law"

¹² Article 98(f) as amended by Law 147/2006

Citizens detained under the Blasphemy Law underwent violent persecution involving surveillance, harassment, prolonged detention, mistreatment, torture, and even the death penalty. In more recent years, the Egyptian government has attempted to install more secularly-based legislation. However, the lasting effects of an Islamic state controlled by Sharia courts and terrorist organizations continue to linger.¹³

An example of an official state religion that is not Islam can be found in the constitution of Costa Rica: “The Roman Catholic and Apostolic Religion is the religion of the State, which contributes to its maintenance, without preventing the free exercise in the Republic of other forms of worship that are not opposed to universal morality or good customs” (Costa Rica, Article 75). Similarly, Article 2 of Malta’s constitution states, “The religion of Malta is the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion. The authorities of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church have the duty and the right to teach which principles are right and which are wrong. Religious teaching of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Faith shall be provided in all State schools as part of compulsory education” (Malta, Article 2, Section 1-3). These countries contain such pervasive state religious clauses simply because of the dominant religious affiliation of the population. About 3.2 million citizens comprising 76% of Costa Rica’s population and identify themselves as Roman Catholic.¹⁴ Malta is credited as being the “most Catholic” nation in the world, as 99% of the population is Catholic.¹⁵

¹³ See Kirkpatrick’s (2011) description of the effects of the Sharia court system

¹⁴ See CIA Factbook’s data on Costa Rica

¹⁵ See Vatican Data Poll on Malta

While there are many countries that declare an official state religion, the number of countries that either do not affiliate themselves directly with a religion or are explicitly secular is far greater. Of those that do not have an official state religion, most of the countries do not specifically deny an affiliation within their constitutions. However, there are many countries that either explicitly deny any sort of state religion or declare themselves as a secular state.

An example of a country that has an anti-establishment clause can be found in the United States Constitution. The First Amendment declares that, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion” (United States, Amendment I). This anti-establishment clause prohibits the national government from ever establishing any religion as the religion of the nation, which avoids government favoritism and promotes equality among religious groups – foundational principles that contributed to the creation of the United States.

A constitution can not only provide a non-establishment clause, but also can declare the state as “secular.” Article 14 of Russia’s constitution states, “The Russian Federation is a secular state. No religion may be instituted as state-sponsored or mandatory religion. Religious associations are separated from the state, and are equal before the law” (Russia, Article 14, Section 1-2). Similarly, the constitution may emphasize the separation of church and state. South Korea’s constitution states, “No state religion may be recognized, and church and state are to be separated” (South Korea, Article 20, Section 2).

Another example of a way that a state can declare its secularity is by including a statement in its constitution that disallows the government from

requiring adherence to a particular religion by its citizens. The Belgian constitution says, “No one can be obliged to contribute in any way whatsoever to the acts and ceremonies of a religion, nor to observe the days of rest” (Belgium, Article 20). This article presents another way that a state can declare that it does not advocate a certain religion, as it cannot in any way oblige its citizens to follow or adhere to the principles of any particular religion.

Finally, it is worth noting the distinction between a secular state and a state that embraces secularism. In the former case, the state is not affiliated with any religion but does not actively oppose the religious beliefs and practices of its citizens. In a state that has embraced secularism, the government actively opposes religious organizations and seeks to squelch religious expression in favor of a purely secular outlook.

Political Parties and Offices

Another way that religion can be related to the governmental structure of a country is through its political parties and offices. Many countries either have restrictions or allow open affiliation with religious entities among political parties or those who choose to run for public office.

A way that certain countries will restrict eligibility for public office is to prohibit religious leaders from running for these office. An example of this is Azerbaijan’s constitution, which states, “religious men...may not be elected the deputies of the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Republic” (Azerbaijan, Article 85). Similarly, Article 238 of Bolivia’s constitution delineates restrictions on running for

public office, stating that “the ministers of any religious cult who have not resigned at least three months prior to the date of the election” (Bolivia, Article 238) are not allowed to run for public office. These provisions effectively create a barrier between the leadership within the religious organizations of the country and the leadership of the country itself. While there are positive effects of not allowing a centralization of power in one area of the citizenship, this kind of law can cause exclusion of leaders of religious groups that also want their voice to be heard and represented in the public sector.

The other side of this issue falls under the principle of non-discrimination. China’s constitution says that, “All citizens of the People's Republic of China who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote and stand for election, regardless of nationality, race, sex, occupation, family background, religious belief, education, property status, or length of residence, except persons deprived of political rights according to law” (China, Article 34). Further, Germany’s constitution states, “Enjoyment of civil and political rights, eligibility for public office, and rights acquired in the public service are independent of religious denomination. No one may suffer any disadvantage by reason of his adherence or nonadherence to a denomination or to a philosophical persuasion” (Germany, Article 33).

Each of these articles from the constitutions of two separate world powers displays a strong opposition to discrimination in the pursuit of public office. Both of these constitutions make it very clear that any citizen is welcome to run for public office, regardless of personal beliefs. This allows for full representation and a more democratic process from which to select the leaders of the country.

In addition to provisions that allow or prohibit religious leaders' holding a public office, fifteen countries prohibit religious political parties. Djibouti's constitution states that, "Political parties shall be instrumental in the expression of the suffrage. They shall be formed and carry on their activities freely in respect for the Constitution and the principles of national sovereignty and democracy. They shall be prohibited from identifying themselves by race, ethnic group, sex, religion, sect, language or region" (Djibouti, Article 6). Another example of this can be seen in Liberia's constitution:

"No association, by whatever name called, shall function as a political party, nor shall any citizen be an independent candidate for election to public office, unless: the name, objective, emblem or motto of the association or of the independent candidate and his organization is free from any religious connotations or divisive ethnic implications and that the activities of the association or independent candidate are not limited to a special group or, in the case of an association, limited to a particular geographic area of Liberia" (Liberia, Article 79, Section d).

This type of article creates a secular representation in the public sector and in a sense discriminate against religious organizations that are not officially represented in political discussions.

In contrast, three countries' constitutions expressly allow the formation of religiously-based political parties. For example, Article 8 of the Palestinian constitution states, "The Palestinian political system shall be a parliamentary representative democracy. It shall be based on political pluralism and the guarantee of the rights and freedoms of all citizens. These include the right to form political parties and engage in political activity without discrimination on the basis of political opinions, sex, or religion" (Palestine, Article 8). Similarly, Iran's constitution

states, “The formation of parties, societies, political or professional associations, as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities, is permitted provided they do not violate the principles of independence, freedom, national unity, the criteria of Islam, or the basis of the Islamic Republic. No one may be prevented from participating in the aforementioned groups, or be compelled to participate in them” (Iran, Article 26). The other country allowing religious political parties is Afghanistan. While these provisions allowing religious political parties may create the appearance of religious tolerance, it is likely instead that they effectively allow dominance of politics by the dominant Islamic groups in each of these three countries.

CHAPTER FIVE

Non-Discrimination

Introduction

After the free exercise clause, the non-discrimination clause is the second-most prevalent religious freedom clause in the constitutions I examined. In general, these provisions prohibit governmental discrimination on the basis of race, age, gender, ethnicity, or religion. The concept of non-discrimination is critical for the formation of a society in which religion is freely practiced.

Societies have battled for centuries with the concept of religious equality. In the Roman Empire, Christians and other religious groups were subjected to persecution and societal disadvantages because of their faith. Emperor Constantine the Great officially eradicated religious persecution and legalized Christian worship through the Edict of Milan in 313 AD¹⁶, giving us the first example of an organized governmental body attempting to abolish discrimination against a particular religious group.

The United States owes its origin in part to religious discrimination. In order to flee a society in which they were economically and socially disadvantaged, as well as physically threatened, a group of English Separatists boarded the Mayflower and sailed across the ocean to colonize the New World. Though the Pilgrims of Plymouth were relatively tolerant of other religious views, their later Puritan neighbors in

¹⁶ See Frend (1965) pg. 137

Massachusetts Bay Colony discriminated against non-Puritans in their midst. In contrast, William Penn founded his Pennsylvania Colony on a foundation of religious tolerance of all, leading to a relatively harmonious coexistence in Philadelphia of Quakers, Anglicans, Catholics, Jews, and other religious groups.

After the North American colonies rebelled against England in the Revolutionary War, one of the first issues addressed in the formation of the United States Constitution within the Bill of Rights was the protection of religious freedoms. Embodied in the First Amendment, the national government was prohibited from establishing a religion and from interfering with the free exercise of religion.

Since the creation of this free republic, many countries have followed suit, while some have gone far in the opposite direction. Nazi Germany notoriously discriminated heavily against its Jewish population, blaming these people for the country's downturn following WWI. German Jews were not only forced to wear gold Stars of David on their clothes so that they could be publically humiliated and discriminated against, but the Nazis sent the Jewish people to concentration camps, where they were worked, beaten, and executed.

Religious discrimination has continued in the modern day, from genocide in African countries, to the slaughter of Christians by Muslims in the Middle East, to the continuing hostility between Muslims and Jews in Israel, to restrictions on Muslims in France, and more. For countries with a history or continuing presence of religious discrimination, adding a nondiscrimination clause can be an important step in

eliminating religious discrimination. To many observers, continuing religious discrimination will lead to violence, hate, and instability in countries that allow it.

Non-Discrimination Clauses

Of the 132 countries that my study analyzed, 81 constitutions contained some sort of non-discrimination clause. The typical religious non-discrimination clause is usually contained within a general non-discrimination clause. These clauses contain prohibitions against discriminating, favoring, or disadvantaging an individual “on the basis of race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origins, financial situation, birth or on any other grounds whatsoever” (Hungary, Article 70A). To give another example, Article 3 of Italy’s constitution states:

“All citizens have equal social status and are equal before the law, without regard to their sex, race, language, religion, political opinions, and personal or social conditions. It is the duty of the republic to remove all economic and social obstacles that, by limiting the freedom and equality of citizens, prevent full individual development and the participation of all workers in the political, economic, and social organization of the country.” (Italy, Article 3, Sections 1-2)

The non-discrimination clause typically guarantees equal protection under the law, suggesting protection against discrimination by government actors. However, many of the non-discrimination clauses, including the two quoted above, are broad enough that they could also entail a prohibition of private discrimination. Either way, it might seem that such clauses are critical for the protection of religious freedom. No country could be considered religiously free that allows mistreatment of individuals due to their religious affiliation or beliefs. In order to promote a fair,

peaceful, and efficient society, the abolishing discrimination is essential, especially religious discrimination because of the essential nature that religious affiliation plays within the lives of many citizens.

Despite the apparent importance of non-discrimination clauses, some of the most free nations in the world do not have one, including Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. In contrast, a number of countries without non-discrimination clauses are far from free. I turn now to the countries that do not have non-discrimination clauses in their constitutions.

Absences of Non-Discrimination Clause

While the majority of countries within this study contain a similar non-discrimination clause to the clause found within Hungary's constitution, it is interesting to examine the countries that do not have a non-discrimination clause and to see how this omission may have an effect on their respective societies. Of the countries that do not have a non-discrimination clause within their constitutions, several have had a history of strife and violence when it comes to religious conflict.

For example, several countries within the violent and war-ridden Middle East do not have a non-discrimination clause within their constitutions. Afghanistan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria do not contain a free exercise clause within their constitutions. While I do not intend to imply a causal relationship through this observation, I suspect that religious discrimination contributes to the conflicts. In a part of the world where several religions (including Judaism, Islam, and Christianity) collide on a regular basis, the glaring lack of a specific abolition of

religious discrimination not only fuels the fire of violence and war, but also may have contributed to the origination of several of the conflicts.

Another area of the world where many countries have no constitutional protection against religious discrimination is Africa. A few of the African countries with no religious non-discrimination clause in their constitutions are Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. A number of African countries have struggled with continual violence; from civil war to outbreaks of genocide, Africa has a long history of bloodshed. Much of this conflict can be traced back to either tribal or religious affiliations and their resultant differing loyalties and viewpoints.¹⁷ If these countries seek to end the cycle of violence, it would be surprising to see so many of the major African countries neglect the inclusion of a non-discrimination clause within their constitutions.

Whether there is a causal relationship between the lack of a religious non-discrimination clause and the internal conflicts in many countries is an issue beyond the scope of this project, but the research here can facilitate future research on such topics. For example, many countries with no non-discrimination clause have a long history of violence that long predates the development of constitutions. One possibility is that countries with a history of violence based upon religious conflict have chosen to omit a religious non-discrimination clause, a decision that may be contrary to the pursuit of peace and equality within these countries.

The reasons why this minority of countries does not contain a non-discrimination clause within their constitutions are likely to vary greatly. For

¹⁷ See Barnard's (2013) discussion of the role of religion in African conflict

example, Japan (whose constitution contains neither a non-discrimination clause nor a free exercise clause) may not have such a clause because of the lack of religious conflict within the country. Only around than 35% of the population identifies with any kind of religious organization, and of that 35%, over 90% identifies as Buddhist.¹⁸ With such a small percentage of the population affiliated with religion, it may be that Japan does not have sufficient trouble with religious discrimination to warrant the adoption of either a non-discrimination or a free exercise clause.

In Afghanistan, 99% of the population identify themselves with Islam, but Sunni Islam makes up 80-85% of the total population while the remaining 15-20% are Shi'as and about 0.2% or less practice other religions. Thus, while it may seem that a non-discrimination clause was an afterthought since the dominant population is Islam, such a clause might help for reducing conflict between the differing sects of Islam present within the country.

¹⁸ See Reischauer (1988) pg. 215

CHAPTER SIX

Marriage and Family Law

One of the most important aspects of how the government relates to its citizens is through the law governing family matters, including the legal treatment of marriage, children, and education. The extent to which governance of the home is independent of or constrained by government is both a critical and a revealing aspect of a country's constitution.

Ethiopia provides an excellent example of how some countries treat marriage and family law. The first section of Article 34 of the Ethiopian constitution states:

“Men and women, without any distinction as to race, nation, nationality or religion, who have attained marriageable age as defined by law, have the right to marry and found a family. They have equal rights while entering into, during marriage and at the time of divorce. Laws shall be enacted to ensure the protection of rights and interests of children at the time of divorce.” (Ethiopia, Article 34, Section 1)

This section provides full rights throughout all of the phases of marriage and does not discriminate by limiting freedom relating to marriage for any citizens of Ethiopia. Rather, the constitution gives full freedom in marriage, in starting a family, and in rights upon divorce. The constitution of Cameroon gives very similar protection to its citizens: “Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution” (Cameroon, Article 16, Section 1).

Section four of Ethiopia's constitution also addresses the efficacy of marriage: "In accordance with provisions to be specified by law, a law giving recognition to marriage concluded under systems of religious or customary laws may be enacted" (Ethiopia, Article 34, Section 4). This section provides civic and legal rights associated with a marriage under the state (such as tax benefits, sharing of property, etc.), even if the actual marriage ceremony was only enacted under a religious or customary system. This principle is reflected in the same way in the constitution of Colombia, which says, "Religious marriages will have civil effects within the limits established by law. Also, decrees of annulment of religious marriages issued by the authorities of the respective faiths shall have civil effects within the limits established by law" (Colombia, Article 42).

Returning to the constitution of Ethiopia, Article 34 finishes in section five by stating, "This Constitution shall not preclude the adjudication of disputes relating to personal and family laws in accordance with religious or customary laws, with the consent of the parties to the dispute. Particulars shall be determined by law" (Ethiopia, Article 34, Section 5). This completes the process of handing the entirety of private life over to the head of the family. The Ethiopian government gives citizens substantial leeway over the inner workings of the family, with only minimal amounts of government oversight.

While the constitution of Ethiopia is very open and provides domain and freedom to the family when it comes to the marital practices and private lives of its citizens, the constitution of Burkina Faso goes far in the opposite direction. Article 23 of the constitution of Burkina Faso states, "The family is the basic unit of society.

The state owes it protection. Marriage is founded on the free consent of the man and of the woman. All discrimination founded on race, color, religion, ethnicity, caste, social origin, or fortune is forbidden in the matter of marriage” (Burkina Faso, Article 23).

Under Burkina Faso’s constitution, family law is foundational to society. This particular clause extends the reach of constitutional non-discrimination to the realm of marriage. This clause could be taken in at least two ways. On one hand, it could mean that a marriage license issued by the state cannot be withheld because of a discriminatory reason. On the other hand, it could mean that the head of the house cannot deny consent to a marriage purely based on religion, race, or some other discriminatory feature. The rest of Article 23 suggests that the second option is more probable: “Children are equal in rights and in duties within their familial relations. The parents have the natural right and the duty to bring up and to educate their children. They must give them respect and assistance” (Burkina Faso, Article 23). Thus, the second half of Article 23 specifically dictates and controls the actions of citizens within their own homes, even going so far as to dictate that children are to be “equal in right” within their private familial communities.

This exemplifies a new level of control that has so far been unseen in this analysis. While many countries have implemented the maximum control when it comes to how the government and its citizens relate within the public sector, very few have stepped within the private sector – especially not to dictate private familial relations.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Conclusion

The constitutional treatment of religion varies greatly around the world. In this project, I have found that free exercise clauses are widespread, but still some countries place unusually wide limits on the degree of freedom guaranteed by such a clause. Similarly, non-discrimination clauses are common in many constitutions, but the exclusion of a non-discrimination clause could have varying meaning from one country to the next. I have also discussed constitutional provisions affecting religious speech, religion and governmental organization, and religion and family matters. While I have not attempted to do a thorough statistical analysis of any particular issues, I have provided a thorough catalogue of constitutional provisions on religion from around the world, and future researchers can use it as a starting point for more empirically oriented work.

A very simple example of the kind of work that this project can enable is an assessment of the differences in the constitutions of countries with an official state religion and of countries that are officially secular. The non-discrimination clause is a common religious provision, so I have done a basic analysis of which kinds of countries contained such a clause. The following tables show which countries that have an official state religion also have a religious non-discrimination clause, as well as the countries that are an officially secular state that also have a religious non-discrimination clause.

Country with an official state religion	Contains a non-discrimination clause
Afghanistan	
Algeria	
Bangladesh	✓
Cambodia	✓
Costa Rica	
Dominican Republic	✓
Egypt	
Greece	✓
Iran	
Iraq	✓
Jordan	✓
Malta	
Mauritania	
Morocco	
Pakistan	✓
Palestine	✓
Qatar	✓
Saudi Arabia	
Syria	
Thailand	✓
Tunisia	
United Kingdom	

Country with an officially secular state	Contains a non-discrimination clause
Albania	
Angola	✓
Australia	
Azerbaijan	✓
Belgium	
Bolivia	✓
Brazil	✓
Bulgaria	✓
Cameroon	✓
Chad	✓
Cyprus	✓
Ethiopia	✓
Hungary	✓
Japan	
Latvia	
Liberia	✓

Lithuania	✓
Mongolia	✓
Nicaragua	✓
Niger	✓
Norway	
Paraguay	
Portugal	✓
Romania	✓
Russia	✓
Serbia	✓
Slovakia	✓
Slovenia	✓
South Korea	✓
Spain	✓
Tajikistan	✓
Turkey	✓
Uganda	✓
Ukraine	✓
United States	
Uruguay	
Uzbekistan	✓

The result of this study showed that 10 out of the 22 countries (or 45%) that have an official state religion also have a religious non-discrimination clause. On the other hand, 28 out of the 37 countries (or 76%) that are an officially secular state also contain a religious non-discrimination clause. Further, even some of the officially secular countries that do not have a religious non-discrimination clause protect against religious discrimination in other ways (including the United States).

The 30 percentage point difference between these two sets of countries raises interesting questions about the relationship between religious protection and the separation of church and state. Though these results are far from probative, there is at least a suggestion that the separation of church and state may be more likely to foster an environment of religious acceptance and anti-discrimination.

Through the span of this project, I have come to think that closer ties between religion and government lead to more problems and conflicts within a country. When the passion and dedication embodied within religious practice combines with the power of politics and governmental control, the results can be devastating for the protection of religious freedom. From the involvement of the Pope and the leaders of the Catholic Church with the political powers of medieval Europe to the conflicts in the Middle East and Northern Africa, the entanglement of religion and governmental power have often produced negative results. In my opinion, to fully protect and preserve religion and to keep the peace among the citizens of a nation, countries with entangled religions and politics should promote the separation of church and state and the protection of religious freedom, through constitutional amendments if necessary. The full protection of religion cannot exist if the government is biased toward certain religions. If peace and equality are the goals of a nation's government, then this must be exemplified in the governmental structure and protection of civil liberties.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Countries in Sample

Afghanistan	Georgia	Niger
Albania	Germany	Nigeria
Algeria	Ghana	Norway
Andorra	Greece	Pakistan
Angola	Guatemala	Palestine
Argentina	Haiti	Panama
Armenia	Honduras	Paraguay
Australia	Hong Kong	Peru
Austria	Hungary	Philippines
Azerbaijan	Iceland	Poland
Bangladesh	India	Portugal
Belarus	Indonesia	Qatar
Belgium	Iran	Romania
Benin	Iraq	Russia
Bolivia	Ireland	Rwanda
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Botswana	Italy	Senegal
Brazil	Japan	Serbia and Montenegro
Bulgaria	Jordan	Sierra Leone
Burkina Faso	Kazakhstan	Singapore
Burundi	Kenya	Slovakia
Cambodia	Kyrgyzstan	Slovenia
Cameroon	Laos	South Africa
Canada	Latvia	South Korea
Chad	Lebanon	Spain
Chile	Liberia	Sri Lanka
China	Lithuania	Sweden
Colombia	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Congo (Brazzaville)	Macedonia	Syria
Costa Rica	Madagascar	Taiwan
Croatia	Malaysia	Tajikistan
Cyprus	Mali	Tanzania
Czech Republic	Malta	Thailand
Denmark	Mauritania	Togo
Djibouti	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominican Republic	Moldova	Tunisia
Ecuador	Mongolia	Turkey
Egypt	Morocco	Uganda
El Salvador	Mozambique	Ukraine
Estonia	Nepal	United Kingdom
Ethiopia	Netherlands	United States of America
Finland	New Zealand	Uruguay
France	Nicaragua	Uzbekistan

Venezuela
Vietnam

Zambia
Zimbabwe

APPENDIX B

Constitutional Provisions Table

Constitutional Provision	Countries
Official State Religion	Afghanistan [2(1)] – Islam Algeria [2] – Islam Bangladesh [2A] – Islam Cambodia [43(1,2)] – Buddhism Costa Rica [75] – Roman Catholic Dominican Republic [2] – Catholic Egypt [2] – Islam Greece [3] – Eastern Orthodox Iran [12] – Islam Iraq [7] – Islam Jordan [2] – Islam Malta [2] – Roman Catholic Mauritania [5] – Islam Morocco [6] – Islam Pakistan [2] – Islam Palestine [5] – Islam Qatar [1] – Islam Saudi Arabia [1] – Islam Syria [3] – Islam Thailand [9,79] – Buddhist Tunisia [1] – Islam United Kingdom [18(4)] – Church of England/Scotland

Officially Secular State, anti-establishment, no forced religion, separation of Church and State	Albania [7(1)] Angola [8(1)] Australia [116] Azerbaijan [18(1)] Belgium [20] Bolivia [4] Brazil [19] Bulgaria [13(2)] Cameroon [preamble] Chad [preamble,1] Cyprus [18(5)] Ethiopia [11(2)] Hungary [60(3)] Japan [20(4)] Latvia [99] Liberia [14] Lithuania [43.7] Mongolia [9] Nicaragua [14] Niger [3] Norway [16] Paraguay [24(1),24(3)] Portugal [41(4)] Romania [29(1,5)] Russia [14] Serbia [11] Slovakia [1] Slovenia [7(1)] South Korea [20(2)] Spain [16(3)] Tajikistan [8] Turkey [Preamble] Uganda [2(7)] Ukraine [35] United States [1 st Amendment] Uruguay [5] Uzbekistan [61]
Broad Free Exercise	Albania [7(2)] Andorra [11(1,2)] Argentina [20] Armenia [23] Australia [116] Bangladesh [41] Benin [23] Bolivia [4,21,30]

	Botswana [11(5)] Brazil [5] Bulgaria [13(1)] Burkina Faso [7] Cambodia [31(2),43] Cameroon [preamble,18] Canada [2(b)] Chad [27] Chile [19(6)] Colombia [19] Congo-Brazzaville [26(2)] Costa Rica [75] Croatia [40] Cyprus [18(4)] Djibouti [11] Dominican Republic [2] Ecuador [66(8)] Egypt [43] El Salvador [25] Estonia [40(1)] Ethiopia [27(1)] Finland [11(2)] Georgia [9(1),19(1)] Germany [4(1)] Ghana [21,27,30,35] Greece [13(2)] Guatemala [36] Haiti [30] Honduras [77] Hong Kong [32] Hungary [60(2)] Iceland [63] India [25(1)] Indonesia [28E,28I,29(2)] Iraq [7,13] Ireland [44(2.1)] Italy [19] Jordan [14] Latvia [99] Lebanon [9] Liberia [14] Lithuania [26.1] Luxembourg [19] Macedonia [19] Madagascar [10]
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	Mali [4] Moldova [31] Mongolia [16] Mozambique [78] Nepal [19] Netherlands [6] Nicaragua [29] Niger [30] Norway [16] Pakistan [20] Panama [35] Paraguay [14(1)] Philippines [3(5)] Poland [53(1-3)] Portugal [41(1,5)] Qatar [50] Romania [29(1)] Russia [28] Rwanda [18] Senegal [24] Serbia [43(1,3),44] Singapore [15(1)] Slovakia [24] Slovenia [41] South Africa [15,31] South Korea [20(1)] Spain [16(1,2)] Sweden [Ch.2(1,13)] Switzerland [15] Syria [35(2)] Taiwan [13] Tajikistan [26,28] Tanzania [19] Thailand [37] Turkey [24(1,2,3)] Uganda [4(29c)] Ukraine [35] United Kingdom [18] United States [1 st Amendment] Uruguay [5] Uzbekistan [31] Venezuela [59] Vietnam [70(1)] Zambia [19(1)] Zimbabwe [19(1)]
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Limited Free Exercise (free exercise or not)	Afghanistan [3] Azerbaijan [48] Belarus [31] Bulgaria [37(1,2)] China [36(1)] Laos [30] Mexico [24]
Special Status for religion, support	Andorra [11(3)] – Catholic Argentina [2] – Catholic Georgia [9(1)] – Orthodox Macedonia [19] - Orthodox
Non-discrimination clause	Andorra [6(1)] Angola [18] Austria [7] Azerbaijan [25] Bangladesh [28,29] Belarus [16] Benin [26] Bolivia [14] Bosnia & Herzegovina [1,2] Brazil [5] Bulgaria [6] Burkina Faso [1] Cambodia [31(2)] Cameroon [preamble,2,18] Canada [15(1)] Chad [14] China [36(2)] Colombia [13] Congo-Brazzaville [11(1),31(2)] Croatia [14(1),41(1)] Cyprus [18(3)] Denmark [70] Djibouti [1] Dominican Republic [3] Ecuador [11] Estonia [12(2)] Ethiopia [preamble,25] Finland [6(2)] France [1.1] Georgia [14,38] Germany [3(3)] Ghana [12,17] Greece [13(1)] Hungary [70]

	Iceland [65(1)] India [15,16(2),23(2)] Iraq [12] Ireland [44(2.3)] Italy [3] Jordan [6] Liberia [18,79] Lithuania [29] Macedonia [9,54,110] Madagascar [8] Mali [2] Moldova [16,32] Mongolia [14] Mozambique [66,69] Nepal [11] Netherlands [1] Nicaragua [27,82] Niger [8] Pakistan [26,27] Palestine [5,19,20] Panama [19,67,94,300] Portugal [13(2),41(2),59] Qatar [35] Romania [4(2)] Russia [19(2)] Rwanda [16] Senegal [1,5] Serbia [21] Sierra Leone [6] Singapore [12,16] Slovakia [12] Slovenia [14,63,7(2)] South Africa [9] South Korea [11] Spain [14] Sweden [12] Switzerland [8] Taiwan [7] Tajikistan [17] Tanzania [9,13] Thailand [5,30] Turkey [10] Uganda [4(21),37] Ukraine [24] United Kingdom [4]
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	Uzbekistan [18]
Political parties/officials: no religious affiliation	Algeria [42] Bulgaria [11] Cyprus [59,70] Djibouti [6] Ecuador [174] Egypt [6] El Salvador [82] Honduras [77] Liberia [79] Nepal [112] Niger [9] Panama [139] Senegal [4] Sierra Leone [35] Tanzania [20]
Political parties: can have religious affiliation	Afghanistan [35] Iran [26] Palestine [8]
Freedom of religion/non-discrimination in educational choice, no compulsory religious education	Andorra [20] Austria [14,62] Bangladesh [41] Belgium [24] Botswana [11(2,3)] Brazil [210] Colombia [68] Cyprus [20(1)] Ecuador [345] El Salvador [58] Germany [7(2)] Guatemala [73] Hong Kong [137] India [29,30] Ireland [42(1)] Lebanon [10] Lithuania [26.5] Moldova [35] Netherlands [23] Pakistan [22(3)] Panama [107] Paraguay [14] Philippines [14(2)] Poland [35, 53(4)] Romania [32(7)]

	Senegal [22,24] Serbia [43(5),81] Sierra Leone [24(2)] Singapore [16(2)] Spain [27] Venezuela [59] Zambia [19(2)] Zimbabwe [19(2),20]
Mandatory religious education	Afghanistan [45] Malta [2] Turkey [24(4)] United Kingdom [18(5,28)]
Optional religious instruction in schools	Germany [7(2,3)] Guatemala [73] Lithuania [40] Panama [107]
State can subsidize religious education	Benin [14] Brazil [213] Ecuador [348] Ireland [42(2)] Panama [107]
Secular Education, no religious education	Azerbaijan [18(3)] Ethiopia [90(2)] India [28] Japan [20(4)] Mexico [3] Nicaragua [124] Portugal [43]
Required religious oath by political leaders	Afghanistan [63,74,119] – Islam Algeria [76] – Islam
Religious freedom in political oath, no forced religious oaths	Austria [6292,101] Botswana [11(4)] Germany [56] Greece [59] Indonesia [9] Iran [67,121] Panama [181] Sierra Leone [24(4)] Zambia [19(4)] Zimbabwe [19(4)]
Outlaw on religious favoritism by government	Afghanistan [80] Japan [20(2)] Italy [20] Liberia [14] Poland [25]

Religious Advisory Council for President	Algeria [171]
Declaration of Faith	Afghanistan [Preamble] – Islam
Prohibition of amendment to religious provisions	Algeria [178]
Religious Supremacy Clause	Afghanistan [3] – Islam
Protection of places of worship	Angola [8(2)]
Religion is “respected,” part of cultural heritage	Angola [8(2)] Bolivia [99] Indonesia [31] Iran [14] Ireland [44(1)] Laos [9] Lebanon
Free Exercise in state of emergency	Angola [52] Croatia [17(2,3)] El Salvador [29] Mongolia [19] Poland [233] Portugal [19(6)] Serbia [202] Slovenia [16] Turkey [15]
Free exercise restricted in state of emergency, martial law	Armenia [45]
Free exercise does not excuse illegal activity, humiliating propaganda (limit on free speech)	Armenia [48] Azerbaijan [18(2)] Botswana [11(5)] Bulgaria [44,58] Cambodia [43(2)] China [36(3)] Cyprus [18(6)] Georgia [26] Greece [14(3a)] Indonesia [28] Liberia [14] Lithuania [25.4,26.4,27] Latvia [116] Serbia [43.4] Nicaragua [69] Sierra Leone [24(1,5)] South Africa [16] Ukraine [37] Venezuela [57,59] Vietnam [70(3)]

	Zambia [19(5)] Zimbabwe [19(5)]
No religious test/requirement for public office	Australia [116] Liberia [14] United Kingdom [18(3)] United States [6]
Religious Limits on household organizations	Afghanistan [54]
Restrictions on right to vote for religious officials	Azerbaijan [56(3)]
No restrictions/discrimination in voting	China [34] Iraq [20] Vietnam [54]
No religious leaders elected to public office	Azerbaijan [85,89] Bolivia [238] Guatemala [186,207] – specifically, President, VP, and judges
No special classification on electoral vote based on religion	Bangladesh [121]
Non-intervention clause (with affairs of the church)	Belgium [21]
Exemption from compulsory military service due to religious conviction	Brazil [143] Croatia [47(2)] Estonia [124(2)] Germany [4(3)] Paraguay [37] Poland [85] Serbia [45] Slovakia [25] Slovenia [123] Ukraine [35]
No exemption to compulsory military duty due to religion	Chad [54] Greece [13(4)] Saudi Arabia [34]
Non-discrimination/religious freedom in marriage	Burkina Faso [23] Cameroon [16(1)] Dominican Republic [2] Ethiopia [34(1)] Guatemala [49] United Kingdom [8]
Religious Motto	Cambodia [4]
Queen looks after religious affairs	Cambodia [16(2)]
Non-harassment against religious organizations	Cameroon [preamble] Costa Rica [28(1)]

	Croatia [39]
Freedom to change religion	Cameroon [18] Cyprus [18(4)]
Education promotes religious tolerance/value/consciousness	Cameroon [26(2)] Egypt [11] Greece [16]
No religious propaganda	Chad [5] Costa Rica [28(3)] Honduras [77] Russia [29(2)] Senegal [5] Serbia [5,49,50,55]
Traditional Religion	Bulgaria [13(3)] – Orthodox Dominican Republic [1] – Catholic Panama [35]
Churches are tax exempt	Chile [19(6)] El Salvador [231] Guatemala [37] Philippines [6(27)] Uruguay [5,297]
No forced advocacy of a religion	Azerbaijan [71(4)] Japan [20(3)] Lithuania [26.4] Luxembourg [20] Poland [53(6)] Portugal [41(3)]
Religious marriages have civil effects	Colombia [42]
No one relieved from civic duty due to religion	Congo-Brazzaville [26(3)] Denmark [70,71]
Religious institutions for public good protected and supported by government	Croatia [41(2)] Romania [29(5)]
Religious decisions made by guardians for minors	Cyprus [18(7)]
Religious organizations can purchase property	Cyprus [23(4)] Hong Kong [141(2)] Ireland [44(2.5)] Mozambique [78] United Kingdom [18(3)]
Family law governed by Church	Cyprus [87,90,101,119,152,160,161]
Right to citizenship despite religion	Djibouti [3] Iraq [11]
Requirement of religious registration with government	Dominican Republic [2]
Governmental observation of religious	Dominican Republic [2]

holidays	
No religious discrimination in holding public office	China [34] Ethiopia [38(1)] Germany [33] Tanzania [39,67]
No foreign control of religious groups	China [36(4)]
No forced religious instruction	Colombia [68] Haiti [30(1)] Pakistan [22(1)]
No forced religious taxes	Cyprus [18(8)] India [27] Pakistan [21] Singapore [15(2)]
No religious intolerance in advertising	Ecuador [19]
Right to religious confidentiality	Ecuador [66(11)] Estonia [42]
Guarantee of ownership/regulation of religious endowments	Egypt [21,25,212]

Family has governance over household religion	Ethiopia [27]
State recognizes religious/customary courts	Ethiopia [78(5)] Indonesia [24] Jordan [99]
Official adoption of religious law	Egypt [2]
Double check	Pakistan [7]
No religious persecution	Georgia [19(2)] Mali [12] Romania [29(4),30]
No religious legislation	Ghana [56]
Regulated religious assemblies	Guatemala [33] Luxembourg [25]
Non-interference clause	Guatemala [37] Hong Kong [141(1),148]
Anti-establishment	Ghana [56]
No proselytizing	Greece [13(2)]
Non-discrimination in electoral eligibility	India [325]
Freedom of association	Iran [26] Ireland [40(6.2)] Nicaragua [49]
Legislation consistent with religion	Iran [72]
No legislation against religion	Iraq [3(1)]
No unlawful arrest based on religion	Iraq [15]
No diversion of religious property	Ireland [44(2.6)]
Equal religious denominations	Italy [8]
No state subsidizing of religion	Japan [89]
Authorization for religious organizations to manage their affairs	India [26] Uganda [1(18)]
Religious foundation to government	Indonesia [29(1)]
Limited number of recognized religions	Iran [13] Lithuania [43.1]
Religious test for elected officials	Iran [115] Tunisia [38,40]
Religious Groups have representation in Senate	Lebanon [22] Madagascar [77]
State pays ministers	Luxembourg [106]
Employment non-discrimination	Madagascar [28]
Religious organizations cannot own property	Mexico [27, 130]
No religious charities	Mexico [27]
No monastic orders	Mexico [5]
No conversion	Nepal [19]
Monarch part of state religion	Nepal [27]
Religious purpose for armed forces	Saudi Arabia [33,34]
Religious figures can hold public office	Panama [45]
No religious use of public property	Philippines [6(29)]

Required religious broadcast	United Kingdom [18(6)]
No religious advertising	United Kingdom [18(6)]
Provide political asylum for religiously persecuted	United Kingdom [21]

APPENDIX C

Constitutional Articles

Afghanistan

Preamble

We the people of Afghanistan:

1. With firm faith in God Almighty and relying on His lawful mercy, and Believing in the Sacred religion of Islam,

Article 2 [Religions]

(1) The religion of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the sacred religion of Islam.

(2) Followers of other religions are free to exercise their faith and perform their religious rites within the limits of the provisions of law.

Article 3 [Law and Religion]

In Afghanistan, no law can be contrary to the beliefs and provisions of the sacred religion of Islam.

Article 35 [Organizations, Parties]

(2) The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form political parties in accordance with the provisions of the law, provided that:

- The program and charter of the party are not contrary to the principles of sacred religion of Islam, and the provisions and values of this Constitution.
- The organizational structure, and financial sources of the party are made public.
- The party does not have military or paramilitary aims and structures.
- The party should have no affiliation to a foreign political party or sources.

Article 45 [Unified Educational Curriculum]

The state shall devise and implement a unified educational curriculum based on the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, national culture, and in accordance with academic principles, and develops the curriculum of religious subjects on the basis of the Islamic sects existing in Afghanistan.

Article 54 [Family]

(1) Family is a fundamental unit of society and is supported by the state.

(2) The state adopts necessary measures to ensure physical and psychological well being of family, especially of child and mother, upbringing of children and the elimination of traditions contrary to the principles of sacred religion of Islam.

Article 63 [Oath of Allegiance]

The President-elect, prior to resumption of his/her duties, performs the following oath of allegiance in the presence of members of the National Assembly and the chief justice:

"In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

In the name of God Almighty, in the presence of you representatives of the nation of Afghanistan,

*I swear to obey and safeguard the provisions of the sacred **religion** of Islam, to observe the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan and supervise their implementation; to safeguard the independence, national sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the fundamental rights and interests of the people of Afghanistan, and with the assistance of God and the support of the nation, to make great and sincere efforts for the happiness and progress of the people of Afghanistan."*

Article 74 [Oath of Office]

Prior to taking office, the minister perform the following oath in the presence of the President:

"In the name of Allah, the merciful and compassionate:

*I swear in the name of God Almighty to support the provisions of the sacred **religion** of Islam, follow the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan, protect the rights of citizens, and safeguard the independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and consider God Almighty present in performing all my responsibilities, and honestly perform the duties assigned to me."*

Article 80 [Restrictions]

The Minister during the course of their work cannot use their posts for linguistic, regional, ethnic, religion and partisan purposes.

Article 119 [Oath of Office for the Supreme Court]

Members of the Supreme Court take the following oath in the presence of the President before occupying the post:

"In the name of Allah, the Merciful and the Compassionate

*I swear in the name of God Almighty to support justice and righteousness in accord with the provisions of the sacred **religion** of Islam and the provisions of this Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan, and to execute the duty of being a judge with utmost honesty, righteousness and nonpartisanship."*

Article 149 [Islam, Fundamental Rights]

(1) The provisions of adherence to the fundamentals of the sacred religion of Islam and the regime of the Islamic Republic cannot be amended.

Albania

Article 7 [Secular State, Religion]

(1) The Republic of Albania is a secular state.

(2) The state observes the freedom of religious belief and creates conditions to exercise it.

Algeria

Article 2 [State Religion]

Islam is the religion of the State.

Article 42 [Political Parties, Restrictions]

(3) In respect to the provisions of the present Constitution, the political parties cannot be founded on religious, linguistic, racial, sex, corporatist or regional basis. The political parties cannot resort to partisan propaganda on the elements mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Article 76

The President of the Republic takes the Oath in the following terms:

"In the Name of God the Merciful and the Compassionate Faithful to the great sacrifices and to the memory of our martyrs as well as to the ideals of the eternal November Revolution. I do solemnly swear by God the almighty that I will respect and glorify the Islamic religion, defend the Constitution, see to the continuity of the State and provide the necessary conditions for the normal functioning of the reinforcement of the democratic process, respect the free choice of the people as well as the institutions and laws of the Republic, preserve the integrity of the national territory, the unity of the people and the nation, protect the fundamental human and citizen's rights and liberties, work for the development and progress of the people and put all my strength to the achievement of the great ideals of justice, freedom and peace in the world. God is my witness."

Article 171

A High Islamic Council is instituted to the President of the Republic and is trusted, in particular, with:

- encouraging and promoting "Ijtihad";
- expressing its views in comparison with religious precepts on matters submitted to it;
- presenting a periodic report of activity to the President of the Republic.

Article 178

Any constitutional revision cannot infringe on:

1. the republican nature of the State;
2. the democratic order based on multi-party system;
3. Islam as the religion of the State;

4. arabic as the national and official language;
 5. fundamental liberties, and citizen's rights;
 6. integrity of the national territory.
- [Part Five] - Transitional Provisions

Andorra

Article 6

1. All persons are equal before the law. No one may be discriminated against on grounds of birth, race, sex, origin, religion, opinions or any other personal or social condition.
2. Public authorities shall create the conditions such that the equality and the liberty of the individuals may be real and effective.

Article 11

1. The Constitution guarantees the freedom of ideas, religion and cult, and no one is bound to state or disclose his or her ideology, religion or beliefs.
2. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in the interests of public safety, order, health or morals, or for the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.
3. The Constitution guarantees the Roman Catholic Church free and public exercise of its activities and the preservation of the relations of special co-operation with the State in accordance with the Andorran tradition. The Constitution recognizes the full legal capacity of the bodies of the Roman Catholic Church which have legal status in accordance with their own rules.

Article 20

3. Parents have the right to decide the type of education for their children. They also have the right to moral or religious instruction for their children in accordance with their own convictions.

Reference: http://www.andorramania.com/constit_gb.htm

Angola

Article 8

- (1) The Republic of Angola shall be a secular State, and there shall be separation between the State and churches.
- (2) Religions shall be respected and the State shall protect churches and places and objects of worship, provided they abide by the laws of the State.

Article 18

(1) All citizens shall be equal under the law and shall enjoy the same rights and be subject to the same duties, without distinction as to color, race, ethnic group, sex, place of birth, religion, ideology, level of education or economic or social status.

(2) All acts aimed at jeopardizing social harmony or creating discrimination or privileges based on those factors shall be severely punishable by law.

Article 52

(2) On no account shall the declaration of a state of siege or state of emergency affect the right to life, personal integrity, personal identity, civil capacity, citizenship, the non-retroactive nature of penal law, the right of the accused to defense or freedom of conscience and religion.

Argentina**Section 2**

The Federal Government supports the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion.

Section 14

All the inhabitants of the Nation are entitled to the following rights, in accordance with the laws that regulate their exercise, namely: to work and perform any lawful industry; to navigate and trade; to petition the authorities; to enter, remain in, travel through, and leave the Argentine territory; to publish their ideas through the press without previous censorship; to make use and dispose of their property; to associate for useful purposes; to profess freely their religion; to teach and to learn.

Section 20

Foreigners enjoy within the territory of the Nation all the civil rights of citizens; they may exercise their industry, trade and profession; own real property, buy and sell it; navigate the rivers and coasts; practice freely their religion; make wills and marry under the laws. They are not obliged to accept citizenship nor to pay extraordinary compulsory taxes. They may obtain naturalization papers residing two uninterrupted years in the Nation; but the authorities may shorten this term in favor of those so requesting it, alleging and proving services rendered to the Republic.

Armenia**Article 23**

Everyone is entitled to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. The freedom to exercise one's religion and beliefs may only be restricted by law on the grounds prescribed in Article 45 of the Constitution.

Article 45

Some human and civil rights and freedoms, except for those provided under Articles 17, 20, 39, and 41-43 of the Constitution, may be temporarily in a manner prescribed by law, in the event of martial law, or in cases prescribed under Paragraph 4 of Article 55 of the Constitution.

Article 48

Everyone shall uphold the Constitution and the laws, and respect the rights, freedoms and dignity of others.

The exercise of rights and freedoms shall not serve toward the violent overthrow of the Constitutional order, for the instigation of national, racial, or religious hatred or for the incitement to violence and war.

Australia**Section 116 [Freedom of Religion, Secular State]**

The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.

Austria**Article 7 [Equality, Political Rights]**

(1) All federal nationals are equal before the law. Privileges based upon birth, sex, estate, class, or religion are excluded.

(2) Public employees, including members of the Federal Army, are guaranteed the unrestricted exercise of their political rights.

Article 14 [Education]

(6) Public schools are those schools which are established and maintained by authorities so required by law. The Federation is the authority so required by law in so far as legislation and execution in matters of the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of public schools are the business of the Federation. The State or, according to the statutory provisions, the County, or a County Association is the authority so required by law in so far as legislation or implementing legislation and execution in matters of establishment, maintenance and dissolution of public schools are the business of the State. Admission to public school is open to all without distinction of birth, sex race, status, class, language and **religion**, and in other respects within the limits of the statutory requirements. The same applies analogously to kindergartens, centers, and student hostels.

Article 14a

(3) Save as it concerns matters mentioned in Paragraph (2), legislation is the business of the Federation, execution the business of the States in matters of a) religious instruction.

Article 62 [Oath]

(1) On his assumption of office the Federal President renders the following affirmation before the Federal Assembly:

"I solemnly promise that I shall faithfully observe the Constitution and all the laws of the Republic and shall fulfill my duty to the best of my knowledge and belief."

(2) The addition of a religious assertion is admissible.

Article 72 [Affirmation]

(1) Before assuming office, the members of the Federal Government render an affirmation to the Federal President. The addition of a religious assertion is admissible.

Article 101 [State Government]

(4) Before assumption of office, the State-Governor renders to the Federal President, the other members of the State Government render to the State-Governor, an affirmation with respect to the Federal Constitution. The addition of a religious assertion is admissible.

Azerbaijan**Article 18 Religion and state**

(1) Religion in the Azerbaijan Republic is separated from state. All religions are equal before the law.

(2) Spreading and propaganda of religions humiliating people's dignity and contradicting the principles of humanism are prohibited.

(3) State educational system is secular.

Article 25 Right for equality

(1) All people are equal with respect to the law and law court.

(2) Men and women possess equal rights and liberties.

(3) The state guarantees equality of rights and liberties of everyone, irrespective of race, nationality, religion, language, sex, origin, financial position, occupation, political convictions, membership in political parties, trade unions and other public organizations. Rights and liberties of a person, citizen cannot be restricted due to race, nationality, religion, language, sex, origin, conviction, political and social belonging.

Article 47 Freedom of thought and speech

- (1) Everyone may enjoy freedom of thought and speech.
- (2) Nobody should be forced to promulgate his/her thoughts and convictions or to renounce his/her thoughts and convictions.
- (3) Propaganda provoking racial, national, religious and social discord and animosity is prohibited.

Article 48 Freedom of conscience

- (1) Everyone enjoys the freedom of conscience.
- (2) Everyone has the right to define his/her attitude to religion, to profess, individually or together with others, any religion or to profess no religion, to express and spread one's beliefs concerning religion.
- (3) Everyone is free to carry out religious rituals, however this should not violate public order and contradict public morals.
- (4) Religious beliefs and convictions do not excuse infringements of the law.

Article 56 Electoral right

- (1) Citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic have the right to elect and be elected to state bodies and also to take part in referendum.
- (2) Those recognized incapable by law court have no right to take part in elections and in referendum.
- (3) Participation in elections of military personnel, judges, state employees, religious officials, persons imprisoned by decision of law court, other persons specified in the present Constitution and laws might be restricted by law.

Article 71 Protection of rights and liberties of a human being and citizen

- (4) Nobody, in no circumstances may be forced to promulgate his/her religious and other beliefs, thoughts and to be persecuted for such.

Article 85 Requirements to candidates to the posts of deputies of the Parliament [Milli Majlis] of the Azerbaijan Republic

- (1) Every citizen of the Azerbaijan Republic not younger than 25 may be elected the deputy of the Parliament [Milli Majlis] of the Azerbaijan Republic in an established order.
- (2) Persons having double citizenship, those having obligations to other states, those working in the bodies of executive or judicial power, persons involved in other payable activity except scientific, pedagogical and creative activity, **religious men**, persons whose incapacity has been confirmed by law court, those condemned for grave crime, serving a sentence due to verdict of law court may not be elected the deputies of the Parliament [Milli Majlis] of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 89 Deprivation of deputies of the Parliament [Milli Majlis] of the Azerbaijan Republic of their mandates and loss of powers by the deputy of the Parliament [Milli Majlis] of the Azerbaijan Republic

- (1) The deputy of the Parliament [Milli Majlis] of the Azerbaijan Republic loses his/her mandate in the following cases:

3. on taking position in state bodies, post in religious organizations, involvement in business, commercial or other paid activity (except scientific, pedagogical and creative activity)

Bangladesh

Article 2A The state religion.

The state religion of the Republic is Islam, but other religions may be practiced in peace and harmony in the Republic.

Article 28 Discrimination on grounds of religion, etc.

(1) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race caste, sex or place of birth.

(2) Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State and of public life.

(3) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to any place of public entertainment or resort, or admission to any educational institution.

(4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens.

Article 29 Equality of opportunity in public employment.

(1) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in respect of employment or office in the service of the Republic.

(2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office in the service of the Republic.

(3) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from –

(a) making special provision in favour of any backward section of citizens for the purpose of securing their adequate representation in the service of the Republic;

(b) giving effect to any law which makes provision for reserving appointments relating to any religious or denominational institution to persons of that religion or denomination; reserving for members of one sex any class of employment or office on the ground that it is considered by its nature to be unsuited to members of the opposite sex.

Article 41 Freedom of religion.

(1) Subject to law, public order and morality- (a) every citizen has the right to profess, practice or propagate any religion; (b) every religious community or denomination has the right to establish, maintain and

manage its religious institutions.

(2) No person attending any educational institution shall be required to receive religious instruction, or to take part in or to attend any religious ceremony or worship, if that instruction, ceremony or worship relates to a religion other than his own.

Article 121 Single electoral roll for each constituency

There shall be one electoral roll for each constituency for the purposes of elections to Parliament, and no special electoral roll shall be prepared so as to classify electors according to religion, race caste or sex.

Reference: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/bangladesh-constitution.pdf>

Belarus

Article 16 [Religions]

(1) All religions and faiths shall be equal before the law. The establishment of any privileges or restrictions with regard to a particular religion or faith in relation to others shall not be permitted.

(2) The activities of denominational organizations, their bodies and representatives, that are directed against the sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, its constitutional system and civic harmony, or involve a violation of civil rights and liberties, shall be prohibited.

(3) Relations between the State and religious denominations shall be governed by the law.

Article 31 [Religion]

Everyone shall have the right independently to determine his attitude towards religion, to profess any religion individually or jointly with others, or to profess none at all, to express and spread beliefs connected with his attitude towards religion, and to participate in the performance of acts of worship and religious rituals and rites.

Belgium

Article 20 [No Forced Religion]

No one can be obliged to contribute in any way whatsoever to the acts and ceremonies of a religion, nor to observe the days of rest.

Article 21 [Church Competencies, Civil Wedding]

(1) The State does not have the right to intervene either in the nomination or in the installation of ministers of any religion whatsoever, nor to forbid these ministers

from corresponding with their superiors, from publishing their acts, except, in the latter case, taking into consideration normal responsibilities in matters of press and publication.

(2) A civil wedding should always precede nuptial benediction except in cases established by law, should this be necessary.

Article 24 [Education]

(1.4) The schools organized by the public authorities offer, until the end of mandatory schooling, the choice between the teaching of one of the recognized religions and non-denominational moral teaching.

Benin

Article 14

Religious institutions and communities shall be able to co-operate equally in the education of the youth. Private schools, secular or parochial, may be opened with the authorization and control of the state. The private schools may benefit from state subsidies under conditions determined by law.

Article 23

Every person has the right to freedom of thought, of conscience, of religion, of creed, of opinion and of expression with respect for the public order established by law and regulations. The exercise of a creed and the expression of beliefs shall take place with respect for the secularity of the state. The institutions and the religious or philosophical communities shall have the right to develop without hindrances. They shall not be subject to the guardianship of the state. They shall regulate and administer their affairs in an autonomous manner.

Article 26

The state shall assure to everyone equality before the law without distinction of origin, race, sex, religion, political opinion or social position. Men and women are equal under the law. The state shall protect the family and particularly the mother and child. It shall take care of handicapped and aged persons.

Reference: <http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Benin1990English.pdf>

Bolivia

Article 4

The State respects and guarantees freedom of religion and spiritual beliefs, according to their view of the world. The State is independent of religion.

Article 14

(II) The State prohibits and punishes all forms of discrimination based on sex, color, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, origin, culture, nationality, citizenship, language, religious belief, ideology, political affiliation or philosophy, civil status, economic or social condition, type of occupation, level of education, disability, pregnancy, and any other discrimination that attempts to or results in the annulment of or harm to the equal recognition, enjoyment or exercise of the rights of all people.

Article 21 (Civil Rights)

3. To freedom of belief, spirituality, religion and cult, expressed individually or collectively, in public and in private, for legal purposes.

Article 30

2. To their cultural identity, religious belief, spiritualities, practices and customs, and their own world view.

Article 99

III. The natural, architectural, paleontological, historic, and documentary riches, and those derived from religious cults and folklore, are cultural patrimony of the Bolivian people, in accordance with the law.

Article 104

Everyone has the right to sports, physical culture and recreation. The State guarantees access to sports without distinction as to gender, language, religion, political orientation, territorial location, social, cultural membership or any other characteristic.

Article 238 (Eligibility for public office)

5. The ministers of any religious cult who have not resigned at least three months prior to the date of the election.

Reference: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/73770823/Bolivia-2009-Official-Translation>

Bosnia and Herzegovina**Preamble:**

Based on respect for human dignity, liberty, and equality,
Dedicated to peace, justice, tolerance, and reconciliation,
Convinced that democratic governmental institutions and fair procedures best produce peaceful relations within a pluralist society,
Desiring to promote the general welfare and economic growth through the protection of private property and the promotion of a market economy,
Guided by the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with international law,
Determined to ensure full respect for international humanitarian law,
Inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, **Religious** and Linguistic Minorities, as well as other human rights instruments,
Recalling the Basic Principles agreed in Geneva on 8 Sep 1995, and in New York on 26 Sep 1995, Bosniacs, Croats, and Serbs, as constituent peoples (along with Others), and citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina hereby determine that the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is as follows:

Article 1, Paragraph 7 Citizenship

There shall be a citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be regulated by the Parliamentary Assembly, and a citizenship of each Entity, to be regulated by each Entity, provided that:

(b) No person shall be deprived of Bosnia and Herzegovina or Entity citizenship arbitrarily or so as to leave him or her stateless. No person shall be deprived of Bosnia and Herzegovina or Entity citizenship on any ground such as sex, race, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

Article 2, Paragraph 3 Enumeration of Rights

All persons within the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall enjoy the human rights and fundamental freedoms referred to in paragraph 2 above; these include:
(g) Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

Article 2, Paragraph 4 Non-Discrimination

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms provided for in this Article or in the international agreements listed in Annex I to this Constitution shall be secured to all persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

Botswana

Chapter 11

(2) Every religious community shall be entitled, at its own expense, to establish and maintain places of education and to manage any place of education which it wholly maintains; and no such community shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for persons of that community in the course of any education provided at any place of education which it wholly maintains or in the course of any education which it otherwise provides.

(3) Except with his own consent (or, if he is a minor, the consent of his guardian) no person attending any place of education shall be required to receive religious instruction or to take part in or attend any religious ceremony or observance if that instruction, ceremony or observance relates to a religion other than his own.

(4) No person shall be compelled to take any oath which is contrary to his religion or belief or to take any oath in a manner which is contrary to his religion or belief.

(5) Nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this section to the extent that the law in question makes provision which is reasonably required—

(a) in the interests of defense, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or

(b) for the purpose of protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons, including the right to observe and practice any religion without the unsolicited intervention of members of any other religion, and except so far as that provision or, as the case may be, the thing done under the authority thereof is shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society.

Reference: http://www.botswanaembassy.org/files/constitution_of_botswana.pdf

Brazil

Article 5 [Equality]

(0) All persons are equal before the law, without any distinction whatsoever, and Brazilians and foreigners resident in Brazil are assured of inviolability of the right of life, liberty, equality, security, and property, on the following terms:

VI. freedom of conscience and of belief is inviolable, ensuring the free exercise of religious cults and guaranteeing, as set forth in the law, the protection of places of worship and their rites;

VII. under the terms of the law, the rendering of religious creed or of philosophical or political belief, unless such are claimed for exemption from a legal obligation imposed upon everyone and the person refuses to perform an alternative obligation established by law;

Article 19 [Forbidden to the State]

The Republic, the States, the Federal District, and the Municipalities are forbidden to:

I. establish religious cults or churches, subsidize them, hamper their operation or maintain with them or their representatives relations of dependency or alliance, with the exception of cooperation for the public interest, as set forth in the law;

Article 143 [Military Service]

(0) Military service is compulsory according to the law.

(1) It is incumbent upon the Armed forces, according to the law, to assign an alternative service to those who, in times of peace, after being enlisted, allege

reasons of conscience, which shall be understood as reasons based on religious creed and philosophical or political belief for exemption from essentially military activities.

(2) Women and clergymen are exempted from compulsory military service in times of peace but are subject to other duties that may be attributed to them by law.

Article 210 [Elementary and Basic Curricula]

(0) Minimum curricula shall be established for elementary school in order to ensure a common basic education and respect for national and regional cultural and artistic values.

(1) Religious education is optional and shall be given during the regular school hours of public elementary schools.

Article 213 [Public Funds]

(0) Public funds are allocated to public schools, and may be channeled to community, religious, or philanthropic schools, as defined in the law, which:

I. prove that they do not seek a profit and invest their surplus funds in education;

II. ensure that their equity is assigned to another community, philanthropic, or religious school or to the Government in the event they cease their activities.

(1) The funds referred to in this article may be allocated to elementary and secondary school scholarships, pursuant to the law, for those who prove that they do not have sufficient funds, whenever there are not vacancies or regular courses in the public school system of the place where the student lives, the Government being required to invest, on a priority basis, in the expansion of its network in that place.

(2) Research and extension activities at university level may receive financial support from the Government.

Bulgaria

Article 6 [Human Dignity, Freedom, Equality]

(1) All persons are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

(2) All citizens shall be equal before the law. There shall be no privileges or restriction of rights on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic self-identity, sex, origin, religion, education, opinion, political affiliation, personal or social status, or property status.

Article 11 [Political Parties]

(1) Politics in the Republic of Bulgaria shall be founded on the principle of political plurality.

(2) No political party or ideology shall be proclaimed or affirmed as a party or ideology of the state.

(3) All parties shall facilitate the formation and expression of the citizens' political will. The procedure applying to the formation and dissolution of political parties and the conditions pertaining to their activity is established by law.

(4) There shall be no political parties on ethnic, racial, or religious lines, nor parties which seek the violent usurpation of state power.

Article 13 [Religion]

(1) The practicing of any religion is free.

(2) The religious institutions shall be separate from the state.

(3) Eastern Orthodox Christianity is considered the traditional religion in the Republic of Bulgaria.

(4) Religious institutions and communities and religious beliefs shall not be used to political ends.

Article 37 [Freedom of Religion and Belief]

(1) The freedom of conscience, the freedom of thought, and the choice of religion and of religious or atheistic views are inviolable. The state shall assist the maintenance of tolerance and respect among the believers from different denominations, and among believers and non-believers.

(2) The freedom of conscience and religion shall not be practiced to the detriment of national security, public order, public health and morals, or of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 44 [Association]

(1) Citizens shall be free to associate.

(2) No organization shall act to the detriment of the country's sovereignty and national integrity, or the unity of the nation, nor shall it incite racial, national, ethnic, or religious enmity or an encroachment on the rights and freedoms of citizens; no organization shall establish clandestine or paramilitary structures or shall seek to attain its aims through violence.

(3) The law shall establish which organizations shall be subject to registration, the procedure for their termination, and their relationships with the state.

Article 58 [Observing Constitution]

(1) Citizens shall observe and implement the Constitution and the laws. They shall respect the rights and the legitimate interests of others.

(2) Obligations established by the Constitution and the law shall not be defaulted upon on grounds of religious or other convictions.

Burkina Faso

Article 1

All Burkinabians shall be born free and equal in rights. All have an equal vocation to enjoy all the rights and all the freedoms guaranteed by the present Constitution.

Discrimination of all sorts, notably those founded on race, ethnic background, region, color, sex, language, religion, caste, political opinions, wealth and birth, shall be prohibited.

Article 7

The freedom of belief, of non-belief, of conscience, of religious opinion, philosophy, of religious exercise, the freedom of assembly, the free practice of custom as well as the freedom of procession and its demonstration is guaranteed by the present Constitution subject to respect of the law, of the public order, of good morals and of the human person.

Article 23

The family is the basic unit of society. The state owes it protection. Marriage is founded on the free consent of the man and of the woman. All discrimination founded on race, color, religion, ethnicity, caste, social origin, or fortune is forbidden in the matter of marriage. Children are equal in rights and in duties within their familial relations. The parents have the natural right and the duty to bring up and to educate their children. They must give them respect and assistance.

Reference:

http://www.constitutionnet.org/files/Burkina%20Faso%20Constitutino%20_englishsummary_rev.pdf

Burundi**Article 1**

Burundi is an independent, sovereign, secular, democratic, and unitary Republic[,] respecting its ethnic and religious diversity.

Article 13

All Burundians are equal in [their] merits and dignity. All citizens enjoy the same rights and have right to the same protection of the law. No Burundian may be excluded from the social, economical or political life of the nation because of their race, of their language, of their religion, of their sex or of their ethnic origin.

Article 22

All citizens are equal before the law, which assures them an equal protection. No one may be subject to discrimination notably because of their origin, of their race, of their ethnicity, of their sex, of their color, of their language, of their social situation of their religious, philosophical or political convictions or because of a physical or mental handicap or because they are carriers of the HIV/AIDS or of any other incurable disease.

Article 31

The freedom of expression is guaranteed. The State respects the freedom of religion, of thought, of conscience and of opinion.

Article 78

In their organization and their functioning the political parties must respond to democratic principles. They must be opened to all Burundians, and their national character must also be reflected at the level of their leadership [direction]. They may not advocate violence, exclusion, and hatred in any of their forms, notably those based on ethnic, regional, religious or gender affiliation.

Article 80

The law guarantees the non-interference of the public powers in the internal functioning of the political parties, except for that of the restrictions necessary to prevent ethnic, political, regional, religious or gender hatred and to maintain the public order.

Source: https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Burundi_2005.pdf

Cambodia**Article 4 [Motto]**

The motto of the Kingdom of Cambodia is: "Nation, Religion, King".

Article 16 [Functions of the Queen]

(1) The Queen of the Kingdom of Cambodia does not have the right to engage in politics, to assume the role of Head of State or head of Government, or to assume other administrative or political roles.

(2) The Queen of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall exercise activities that serves the social, humanitarian, religious interests, and shall assist the King with protocol and diplomatic functions.

Article 31 [Human Rights, Equality, Restrictions]

(1) The Kingdom of Cambodia recognizes and respects human rights as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the covenants and conventions related to human rights, women's and children's rights.

(2) Every Khmer citizen is equal before the law, enjoying the same rights and freedom and fulfilling the same obligations regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religious belief, political tendency, birth origin, social status, wealth or other status.

(3) The exercise of personal rights and freedom by any individual may not adversely affect the rights and freedom of others. The exercise of such rights and freedom must be in accordance with law.

Article 43 [Religion]

(1) Khmer citizens of either sex enjoy the freedom of belief.

(2) Freedom of religious belief and worship is guaranteed by the State on the condition that such freedom does not affect other religious beliefs or violate public order and security.

(3) Buddhism is the State religion.

Cameroon

Preamble

Declare that the human person, without distinction as to race, religion, sex or belief, possesses inalienable and sacred rights;

- no person shall be harassed on grounds of his origin, religious, philosophical or political opinions or beliefs, subject to respect for public policy;
- the State shall be secular. The neutrality and independence of the State in respect of all religions shall be guaranteed;
- freedom of religion and worship shall be guaranteed;

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 16

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 26

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Reference: <http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Cameroon.pdf>

Canada

Section 2 [Freedom of Religion, Speech, Association]

Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other means of communication;
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly and
- (d) freedom of association.

Section 15 [General Equality, No Discrimination]

- (1) Every individual is equal before the and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged individuals or groups including those that are disadvantaged because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

Chad

Preamble

Affirm our total opposition to any regime whose policy would be founded on arbitrariness, dictatorship, injustice, corruption, extortion, nepotism, emphasis of clan, tribe or religion, tribalism, confessionalism, or confiscation of power;

Article 1

Chad is a sovereign, independent, secular, social, and indivisible, Republic founded on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice. The separation between state and religion is affirmed.

Article 5

All propaganda of an ethnic, tribalist, regionalist or religious nature, tending to affect the national unity or the secularity of the state, is forbidden.

Article 14

The state assures to all equality before the law, without distinction of origin, race, sex, religion, political opinion, or social position. It has the duty to see to the elimination of all forms of discrimination with regard to women and to assure the protection of their rights in all areas of private and public life.

Article 27

The freedoms of opinion and of expression, communication, conscience, religion, the press, association, assembly, circulation, demonstration, and parade are guaranteed to all. These can only be restricted by respect for the freedoms and rights of others and the obligation to safeguard the public order and good morals. The law determines the conditions of their exercise.

Article 54

No one may avail oneself of one's religious beliefs, nor one's philosophical opinions, to excuse one from a duty dictated by the national interest.

Reference: <http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Chad1995English.pdf>

Chile**Article 19**

6.- Freedom of conscience, manifestation of all creeds and the free exercise of all cults which are not opposed to morals, good customs or public order; Religious communities may erect and maintain churches and their facilities in accordance with the conditions of safety and hygiene as established by the laws and ordinances.

With respect to assets, the churches and religious communities and institutions representing any cult shall enjoy the rights granted and acknowledged by the laws currently in force. Churches and their facilities assigned exclusively for religious activities shall be exempt from all taxes;

Reference: <http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Chile.pdf>

China**Article 34 [Electoral Rights and Equality]**

All citizens of the People's Republic of China who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote and stand for election, regardless of nationality, race, sex, occupation, family background, religious belief, education, property status, or length of residence, except persons deprived of political rights according to law.

Article 36 [Religion]

(1) Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief.
(2) No state organ, public organization, or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion.

- (3) The state protects normal religious activities. No one may make use of religion to engage in activities that disrupt public order, impair the health of citizens or interfere with the educational system of the state.
- (4) Religious bodies and religious affairs are not subject to any foreign domination.

Colombia

Article 13

All individuals are born free and equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection and treatment by the authorities, and to enjoy the same rights, freedoms, and opportunities without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, national or family origin, language, religion, political opinion, or philosophy.

Article 19

Freedom of religion is guaranteed. Every individual has the right to freely profess his/her religion and to disseminate it individually or collectively. All religious faiths and churches are equally free before the law.

Article 42

Religious marriages will have civil effects within the limits established by law. Also, decrees of annulment of religious marriages issued by the authorities of the respective faiths shall have civil effects within the limits established by law.

Article 68

Parents will have the right to select the type of education for their minor children. In state institutions, no person may be obliged to receive religious instruction.

Reference: http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/colombia_const2.pdf

Congo-Brazzaville

Article 11 [Equality, Gender Equality, Liability]

(1) The State shall assure the equality of all citizens before the law, without discrimination of origin, social or material situation, racial, ethnic and regional origin, sex, instruction, language, attitude vis-à-vis religion and philosophy, or place of residence. It shall respect all the rights and liberties within limits compatible with public order and good *mores*.

(2) The State shall have the duty to strive for the elimination of any form of discrimination with regard to women and to assure the protection of their rights in all domains of private and public life such as stipulated in the international Declarations and Conventions ratified by the Congo.

(3) Any act which accords privileges to nationals or limits their rights by reason of the considerations targeted in Paragraph (1) shall be punished by the penalties provided for by law.

Article 26 [Religion, Civic Duties]

(1) Freedom of belief and conscience and the freedom of either a religious or philosophical profession are inviolable.

(2) The free exercise of religious sects shall be guaranteed within the limits compatible with public order and good *mores*.

(3) No one shall be relieved from fulfilling a civic duty because of religious opinion.

Article 31 [Work, Labor Equality, No Forced Labor, No Slavery]

(2) Any discrimination based on race, sex, physical state, regional and ethnic origin, ideology, religion, or philosophy shall be prohibited.

Article 42 [Child Protection, Child Nationality]

(1) Every child, without a single discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, religion, national, social or ethnic origin, fortune or birth, shall have the right, on the part of his family, society, and the State to measures of protection which stem from his condition as a minor.

Costa Rica

Article 28

(1) No one may be disturbed or persecuted for the expression of his opinions or for any act which does not infringe the law.

(2) Private actions which do not harm the morals or public order, or which do not cause any damages to third parties are outside the scope of the law.

(3) However, clergymen or secular individuals cannot make political propaganda in any way invoking religious motives or making use of religious beliefs.

Article 75

The Roman Catholic and Apostolic Religion is the religion of the State, which contributes to its maintenance, without preventing the free exercise in the Republic of other forms of worship that are not opposed to universal morality or good customs.

Croatia

Article 14 [Equality]

(1) Everyone in the Republic of Croatia shall enjoy rights and freedoms, regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other belief, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or other characteristics.

(2) All shall be equal before the law.

Article 17 [Special Restrictions in State of Emergency]

(2) The extend of such restrictions shall be adequate to the nature of the danger, and may not result in the inequality of persons in respect of race, color, gender, language, religion, national or social origin.

(3) Not even in the case of an immediate threat to the existence of the State may restrictions be imposed on the application of the provisions of this Constitution concerning the right to life, prohibition of torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, on the legal definitions of penal offenses and punishments, or on freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 39 [Intolerance]

Any call for or incitement to war, or resort to violence, national, racial or religious hatred, or any form of intolerance shall be prohibited and punishable by law.

Article 40 [Religion]

Freedom of conscience and religion and freedom to manifest religion and other convictions shall be guaranteed.

Article 41 [Religious Communities, Religious Neutrality]

(1) All religious communities shall be equal before the law and shall be separated from the State.

(2) Religious communities shall be free, in conformity with law, publicly to perform religious services, to open schools, educational and other institutions, social and charitable institutions and to manage them, and shall them, and shall in their activity enjoy the protection and assistance of the State.

Article 47 [Military Service]

(1) Military service and the defense of the Republic of Croatia shall be the duty of every capable citizen of the Republic of Croatia.

(2) Conscientious objection shall be allowed to all those who for religious or moral reasons are not willing to participate in the performance of military service in the armed forces. Such persons shall be obliged to perform other duties specified by law.

Cyprus

Article 2

(3) citizens of the Republic who do not come within the provisions of paragraph (1) or (2) of this Article shall, within three months of the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution, opt to belong to either the Greek or the Turkish Community as individuals, but, if they belong to a religious group, shall so opt as a religious group and upon such option they shall be deemed to be members of such Community:

Provided that any citizen of the Republic who belongs to such a religious group may choose not to abide by the option of such group and by a written and signed declaration submitted within one month of the date of such option to the appropriate officer of the Republic and to the Presidents of the Greek and the Turkish Communal Chambers opt to belong to the Community other than that to which such group shall be deemed to belong:

Provided further that if an option of such religious group is not accepted on the ground that its members are below the requisite number any member of such group may within one month of the date of the refusal of acceptance of such option opt in the aforesaid manner as an individual to which Community he would like to belong. For the purposes of this paragraph a "religious group" means a group of persons ordinarily resident in Cyprus professing the same religion and either belonging to the same rite or being subject to the same jurisdiction thereof the number of whom, on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution, exceeds one thousand out of which at least five hundred become on such date citizens of the Republic;

(6) any individual or any religious group deemed to belong to either the Greek or the Turkish Community under the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Article may cease to belong to such Community and be deemed to belong to the other Community upon -

(a) a written and signed declaration by such individual or religious group to the effect that such change is desired, submitted to the appropriate officer of the Republic and to the Presidents of the Greek and the Turkish Communal Chambers;

Article 18 [Thought, Conscience, Religion]

1. Every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
2. All religions whose doctrines or rites are not secret are free.
3. All religions are equal before the law. Without prejudice to the competence of the Communal Chambers under this Constitution, no legislative, executive or administrative act of the Republic shall discriminate against any religious institution or religion.
4. Every person is free and has the right to profess his faith and to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice or observance, either individually or collectively, in private or in public, and to change his religion or belief.
5. The use of physical or moral compulsion for the purpose of making a person change or preventing him from changing his religion is prohibited.

6. Freedom to manifest one's religion or belief shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in the interests of the security of the Republic or the constitutional order or the public safety or the public order or the public health or the public morals or for the protection of the rights and liberties guaranteed by this Constitution to any person.

7. Until a person attains the age of sixteen the decision as to the religion to be professed by him shall be taken by the person having the lawful guardianship of such person.

8. No person shall be compelled to pay any tax or duty the proceeds of which are specially allocated in whole or in part for the purposes of a religion other than his own.

Article 20 [Education]

1. Every person has the right to receive, and every person or institution has the right to give, instruction or education subject to such formalities, conditions or restrictions as are in accordance with the relevant communal law and are necessary only in the interests of the security of the Republic or the constitutional order or the public safety or the public order or the public health or the public morals or the standard and quality of education or for the protection of the rights and liberties of others including the right of the parents to secure for their children such education as is in conformity with their religious convictions.

Article 22 [Marriage, Family]

3. Nothing in this Article contained shall, in any way, affect the rights, other than those on marriage, of the Greek-Orthodox Church or of any religious group to which the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 2 shall apply with regard to their respective members as provided in this Constitution.

Article 23 [Property]

4. Any movable or immovable property or any right over or interest in any such property may be compulsorily acquired by the Republic or by a municipal corporation or by a Communal Chamber for the educational, religious, charitable or sporting institutions, bodies or establishments within its competence and only from the persons belonging to its respective Community or by a public corporation or a public utility body on which such right has been conferred by law.

8. Any movable or immovable property may be requisitioned by the Republic or by a Communal Chamber for the purposes of the educational, religious, charitable or sporting institutions, bodies or establishments within its competence and only where the owner and the person entitled to possession of such property belong to the respective Community.

10. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Article, no deprivation, restriction or limitation of any right provided in paragraph 1 of this Article in respect of any vakf movable or immovable property, including the objects and subjects of the vakfs and the properties belonging to the Mosques or to any other Moslem religious institutions, or any right thereon or interest therein shall be made except with the approval of the Turkish Communal Chamber and subject to the Laws and Principles of Vakfs and the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 7 and 8 of this Article shall be subject to the provisions of this paragraph:

Provided that restrictions or limitations for the purposes of town and country planning under the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article are exempted from the provisions of this paragraph.

Article 28 [Equality, No Discrimination]

1. All persons are equal before the law, the administration and justice and are entitled to equal protection thereof and treatment thereby.

2. Every person shall enjoy all the rights and liberties provided for in this Constitution without any direct or indirect discrimination against any person on the ground of his community, race, religion, language, sex, political or other convictions, national or social descent, birth, colour, wealth, social class, or on any ground whatsoever, unless there is express provision to the contrary in this Constitution.

Article 59

2. The office of a Minister shall be incompatible with that of a Representative or of a member of a Communal Chamber or of a member of any municipal council including a Mayor or of a member of the armed or security forces of the Republic or with a public or municipal office or in the case of a Turkish Minister with that of a religious functionary (din adami). For the purposes of this paragraph "public office" has the same meaning as in Article 41.

Article 70

The office of a Representative shall be incompatible with that of a Minister or of a member of a Communal Chamber or of a member of any municipal council including a Mayor or of a member of the armed or security forces of the Republic or with a public or municipal office or, in the case of a Representative elected by the Turkish Community, of a religious functionary (din adami).

For the purposes of this Article "public office" means any office of profit in the service of the Republic or of a Communal Chamber the emoluments of which are under the control either of the Republic or of a Communal Chamber, and includes any office in any public corporation or public utility body.

Article 87

1. The Communal Chambers shall, in relation to their respective Community, have competence to exercise within the limits of this Constitution and subject to paragraph 3 of this Article, legislative power solely with regard to the following matters: -

- (a) all religious matters;
- (b) all educational, cultural and teaching matters;
- (c) personal status;
- (d) the composition and instances of courts dealing with civil disputes relating to personal status and to religious matters;

Article 90

3. The Communal Chambers shall have no competence to use measures of constraint to secure compliance with their respective communal laws or decisions and of the judgements of the Courts dealing with civil disputes relating to personal status and to religious matters within their respective competence.

Article 101

1. The office of a member of a Communal Chamber shall be incompatible with that of a Minister or of a Representative or of a member of any municipal council including a Mayor or of a member of the armed or security forces of the Republic or with a public or municipal office and, in the case of that of a member of the Turkish Communal Chamber, with that of a religious functionary (din adami).

Article 109 []

Each religious group which under the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 2 has opted to belong to one of the Communities shall have the right to be represented, by elected member or members of such group, in the Communal Chamber of the Community to which such group has opted to belong as shall be provided by a relevant communal law.

Article 110

1. The Autocephalous Greek-Orthodox Church of Cyprus shall continue to have the exclusive right of regulating and administering its own internal affairs and property in accordance with the Holy Canons and its Charter in force for the time being and the Greek Communal Chamber shall not act inconsistently with such right.

2. The institution of Vakf and the Principles and Laws of, and relating to, Vakfs are recognised by this Constitution.

All matters relating to or in any way affecting the institution or foundation of Vakf or the vakfs or any vakf properties, including properties belonging to Mosques and any other Moslem religious institution, shall be governed solely by and under the Laws and Principles of Vakfs (ahkamul evkaf) and the laws and regulations enacted or made by the Turkish Communal Chamber, and no legislative, executive or other act whatsoever shall contravene or override or interfere with such Laws or Principles of Vakfs and with such laws and regulations of the Turkish Communal Chamber.

3. Any right with regard to religious matters possessed in accordance with the law of the Colony of Cyprus in force immediately before the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution by the Church of a religious group to which the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 2 shall apply shall continue to be so possessed by such Church on and after the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution.

Article 111

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution any matter relating to betrothal, marriage, divorce, nullity of marriage, judicial separation or restitution of conjugal rights or to family relations other than legitimation by order of the court or adoption of members of the Greek-Orthodox Church or of a religious group to which the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 2 shall apply shall, on and after the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution, be governed by the law of the Greek-Orthodox Church or of the Church of such religious group, as the case may be, and shall be cognizable by a tribunal of such Church and no Communal Chamber shall act inconsistently with the provisions of such law.

Nothing in paragraph 1 of this Article contained shall preclude the application of the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article 90 to the execution of any judgement or order of any such tribunal.

Article 152

2. The judicial power with respect to civil disputes relating to personal status and to religious matters which are reserved under Article 87 for the Communal Chambers shall be exercised by such courts as a communal law made under the provisions of this Constitution shall provide.

Article 160

1. A communal law made by the Communal Chamber concerned shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, provide for the establishment, composition and jurisdiction of courts to deal with civil disputes relating to personal status and to religious matters which are reserved for the competence of the Communal Chambers by the provisions of this Constitution.

3. Any such court as aforesaid in the exercise of its jurisdiction, shall apply the laws made by the Communal Chamber concerned:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph contained shall preclude a court of the Republic from applying in a case, where an issue relating to personal status or to religious matters is raised incidentally, the relevant communal law.

Article 161 []

Subject to paragraph 3 of Article 160 the courts of the Republic shall have power to apply also the relevant communal laws other than those relating to personal status and to religious matters.

Czech Republic

No religious provisions.

Denmark

Section 69 [Regulation of Other Religious Bodies]

Rules for religious bodies dissenting from the Established Church shall be laid down by Statute.

Section 70 [Freedom of Religion]

No person shall for reasons of his creed or descent be deprived of access to complete enjoyment of his civic and political rights, nor shall he for such reasons evade compliance with any common civic duty.

Section 71 [Personal Liberty]

(1) Personal liberty shall be inviolable. No Danish subject shall in any manner whatever be deprived of his liberty because of his political or religious convictions or because of his descent.

Djibouti

Article 1

The state of Djibouti shall be a democratic sovereign Republic, one and indivisible. It shall ensure the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction as to origin, race, sex or religion. It shall respect all beliefs. ... Its principle shall be: "Government of the people, by the people and for the people". Its official languages shall be Arabic and French.

Article 3

The Republic of Djibouti shall comprise all persons whom it recognises as members and who accept its duties, without distinction of language, race, sex or religion. National sovereignty shall belong to the Djiboutian people, who shall exercise this sovereignty through its representatives and by way of referendum. No fraction of the people nor any individual may assume the exercise thereof. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of the status of member of the national community.

Article 6

Political parties shall be instrumental in the expression of the suffrage. They shall be formed and carry on their activities freely in respect for the Constitution and the principles of national sovereignty and democracy. They shall be prohibited from identifying themselves by race, ethnic group, sex, religion, sect, language or region.

The formalities with respect to registration of political parties and the exercise and cessation of their activities shall be determined by law.

Article 11

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, worship and opinion in conformity with the order established by law and the regulations.

Reference: http://www.geneva-academy.ch/RULAC/pdf_state/Constitution-of-4-September-1992.pdf

Dominican Republic

The constitution and other laws and policies protect religious freedom and, in practice, the government generally enforced these protections.

The government generally respected religious freedom in law and in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom by the government during the reporting period.

There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice.

The U.S. government discusses religious freedom with the government as part of its overall policy to promote human rights.

Section I. Religious Demography

The country, which occupies two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, has an area of 18,815 square miles and a population of 9.8 million. The largest religious group is the Roman Catholic Church. Traditional Protestants, evangelical Christian groups (particularly Assemblies of God, Church of God, Baptists, and Pentecostals), Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) have a much smaller but generally growing presence. According to a 2006 population survey by the Gallup Organization, the population was 39.8 percent Catholic (practicing), 29.1 percent Catholic (nonpracticing), and 18.2 percent evangelical Protestant. In the same study, 10.6 percent stated they had no religion. The Dominican Confederation of Evangelical Unity claimed evangelicals represented 16 to 20 percent of the population.

Section II. Status of Government Respect for Religious Freedom

The constitution and other laws and policies protect religious freedom and, in practice, the government generally enforced these protections. The 2010 constitution extends to other religious groups the right to celebrate religious marriages and provides them all civil rights in accordance with the law. This status previously had been an exclusive privilege of the Catholic Church.

While the constitution specifies that there is no state church and provides for freedom of religion and belief, the government signed a concordat in 1954 with the Vatican, which designated Catholicism as the official religion and extended special privileges to the Catholic Church not granted to other religious groups. These included the legal recognition of church law; use of public funds to underwrite some church expenses, such as rehabilitation of church facilities; and a complete exoneration from customs duties. In 2008 the government informed the Catholic Church that it would assume most of the cost of building a new cathedral and religious sanctuary complex in Bayaguana, but after obtaining the site, it suspended construction due to lack of funds.

Religious groups are required to register with the government. Religious groups other than the Catholic Church may request exoneration from customs duties from the Office of the Presidency. The process can be lengthy; however, no requests for customs exoneration were denied during the reporting period.

The law requires that the Bible be read in public schools, but it was not enforced. Private schools are exempt from this requirement.

The government observes the following religious holidays as national holidays: Epiphany, Our Lady of Altagracia Day, Good Friday, Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Mercedes Day, and Christmas.

The government generally respected religious freedom in law and in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom by the government during the reporting period.

There were no reports of abuses, including religious prisoners or detainees, in the country.

Section III. Status of Societal Actions Affecting Enjoyment of Religious Freedom

There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice.

Section IV. U.S. Government Policy

The U.S. government discusses religious freedom with the government as part of its overall policy to promote human rights. Representatives of the U.S. embassy met with leaders of various religious communities, including those of minority groups.

Reference: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/171777.pdf>

Ecuador

PREAMBLE

We women and men, the sovereign people of Ecuador RECOGNIZING our age-old roots, wrought by women and men from various peoples, CELEBRATING nature, the Pacha Mama (Mother Earth), of which we are a part and which is vital to our existence, INVOKING the name of God and recognizing our diverse forms of religion and spirituality, CALLING UPON the wisdom of all the cultures that enrich us as a society, AS HEIRS to social liberation struggles against all forms of domination and colonialism AND with a profound commitment to the present and to the future...

Article 11

The exercise of rights shall be governed by the following principles:

1. Rights can be exercised, promoted and enforced individually or collectively before competent authorities; these authorities shall guarantee their enforcement.

2. All persons are equal and shall enjoy the same rights, duties and opportunities. No one shall be discriminated against for reasons of ethnic belonging, place of birth, age, sex, gender identity, cultural identity, civil status, language, religion, ideology, political affiliation, legal record, socio-economic condition, migratory status, sexual orientation, health status, HIV carrier, disability, physical difference or any other distinguishing feature, whether personal or collective, temporary or permanent, which might be aimed at or result in the diminishment or annulment of recognition, enjoyment or exercise of rights. All forms of discrimination are punishable by law. The State shall adopt affirmative action measures that promote real equality for the benefit of the rights-bearers who are in a situation of inequality.

Article 19

It is forbidden to broadcast advertisements that foment violence, discrimination, racism, drug addiction, sexism, religious or political intolerance and all that undermines rights is forbidden.

Article 66

8. The right to practice, keep, change, profess in public or private one's religion or beliefs and to disseminate them individually or collectively, with the constraints imposed by respect for the rights of others. The State shall protect voluntary religious practice, as well the expression of those who profess no religion whatsoever, and shall favor an environment of plurality and tolerance.

11. The right to confidentiality about one's convictions. No one can be obliged to make statements about these convictions. In no case shall it be possible to require or use, without the authorization of the holder or his/her legitimate representatives, personal or third-party information about one's religious beliefs, political affiliation or thinking, or data about one's health or sexual life, unless required for medical care.

14. The right to travel freely throughout the nation's territory and to choose one's place of residence or to freely enter and leave the country, whose exercise shall be regulated by law. Prohibition from leaving the country can only be ordered by a judge authorized to do so. Foreigners cannot be returned or expelled to a country where their lives, liberty, safety or well-being or those of their families are in danger because of their ethnic belonging, religion, nationality, ideology, belonging to a given social group or political opinions. The expulsion of groups of foreigners is forbidden. Migratory processes must be singled out.

28. The right to personal and collective identity, which includes having a first name and last name, which is duly registered and freely chosen, and to preserve, develop and build up the tangible and intangible characteristics of said identity, such as nationality, family origins, and spiritual, cultural, religious, linguistic, political and social manifestations.

Article 174

Judges cannot hold any executive office in political parties and movements or participate as candidates in elections by universal suffrage or carry out activities of political or religious solicitation.

Article 345

Education as a public service shall be provided by means of public, mixed public and religious, and private school institutions. In the schools, social services and psychological support shall be provided free of charge, in the framework of the system of inclusion and social equity.

Article 348

The State shall fund special education and shall be able to financially support mixed public and religious education, arts and crafts, and community education, as long as they abide by the principles of an education that is free of charge, mandatory and ensuring equality of opportunities, are held accountable for the results of education and the management of public resources, and are duly qualified in accordance with the law. Educational institutions that receive public funding shall be non-profit entities.

Reference: <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Ecuador/english08.html>

Egypt

Article 2

Islam is the state's religion, and Arabic is its official language. The principles of Islamic law form the main source of legislation.

Article 3

For Egyptian Christians and Jews, the principles of their religious law will be the main source in regulating their personal status, matters pertaining to their religion, and the selection of their spiritual leadership.

Article 4

The noble Azhar is an independent Islamic institution of higher learning. It handles all its affairs without outside interference. It leads the call into Islam and assumes responsibility for religious studies and the Arabic language in Egypt and the world. The Azhar's Body of Senior Scholars is to be consulted in matters pertaining to Islamic law.

Article 6

No political party may be based on discrimination of gender or origin or religion.

Article 10

The family is the foundation of society. The family's foundations are religion, morality, and patriotism.

Article 11

The state promotes morality, decency, and public order, as well as a high level of education and religious and patriotic values, scientific truths, the Arab culture, and the historical and civilizational patrimony of the People.

Article 21

The state guarantees legal ownership, be it public, cooperative, private, or in the form of religious endowments, and protects it, as specified by law.

Article 25

The state commits itself to reviving and encouraging the system of religious endowments. The law regulates religious endowments.

It defines the process for founding them, administering their assets, investing these assets, and distributing their returns among the beneficiaries according to the rules specific to each endowment.

Article 43

The freedom of belief is inviolable.

The state guarantees the right to practice one's religious rites and establish places of worship for the heavenly religions. Details are specified by law.

Article 60

The Arabic language is an essential subject in the various stages of education. This applies to all educational institutions. Religious education as well as national history form essential subjects at all levels preceding the university.

Article 70

Every child, upon birth, is entitled to a proper name, care by his or her family, nutrition and shelter, health services, religious, emotional, and intellectual development.

Article 212

The High Body for Religious Endowment Affairs organizes its public and private endowments, supervising and monitoring them. It ensures their adherence to standards of managerial and fiscal prudence and popularizes religious endowments among society.

Reference: <http://niviensaleh.info/constitution-egypt-2012-translation/>

El Salvador**Article 25**

The free exercise of all religions, without other restrictions than those required by the moral and the public order, is guaranteed. No religious act shall serve as evidence of the civil status of persons.

Article 29

In cases of war, invasion of territory, rebellion, sedition, catastrophe, epidemic, or other general disaster, or serious disturbances of the public order, the guarantees established in Articles 5; 6, first paragraph; 7, first paragraph; and 24 of this Constitution shall be suspended, except for meetings or associations with religious, cultural, economic or sport purposes. This suspension may affect all or part of the territory of the Republic and may be accomplished by a decree of the Legislative Organ or the Executive Organ, as the case may be.

Article 58

No educational establishment shall refuse to accept students because of the marital status of their parents or guardians, nor for social, religious, racial, or political differences.

Article 82

The ministers of any religious cult, members in active service in the Armed Force and members of the National Civil Police may not belong to political parties nor opt for popularly elected positions.

Article 231

No taxes may be imposed except by virtue of a law and for the public service. Churches and their dependencies immediately and directly designated for religious service are exempt from taxes on real property.

Amendments:

Article 82 was entirely amended by Article 6 of Decree No. 64, October 31, 1991.

Previously, it read:

Ministers of any religious sect and members in active service of the Armed Forces, may not belong to political parties nor be elected to public office.

Political propaganda may in no way be carried out [either].

The exercise of voting will be carried out by citizens in those places prescribed by the respective law and shall not be held in the confines of military installations.

Reference: <http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/ElSalvador1983English.pdf>

Estonia**Article 12 [General Equality, No Discrimination]**

(1) All persons shall be equal before the law. No one may be discriminated against on the basis of nationality, race, color, sex, language, origin, creed, political or other persuasions, financial or social status, or other reasons.

(2) The propagation of national, racial, religious or political hatred, violence or discrimination is prohibited and punishable by law. The propagation of hatred, violence or discrimination between social strata is equally prohibited and punishable by law.

Article 40 [Freedom of Religion]

(1) Everyone shall have freedom of conscience, religion and thought.

(2) Everyone may freely belong to a church or a religious association. There shall be no state church.

(3) Everyone shall have the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private to practice his or her religion, unless it endangers public order, health or morals.

Article 42 [Privacy of Religion and Belief]

No state or local government authority or their officials may collect or store information on the persuasions of any Estonian citizen against his or her free will.

Article 124 [Duty to Service]

- (1) Citizens of the Republic of Estonia shall be obligated to participate in national defense, in accordance with the bases and procedures determined by law.
- (2) Those who refuse service in the Defense Forces for religious or ethical reasons shall be obligated to participate in alternative service, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law.

Ethiopia**Preamble**

Firmly convinced that the fulfillment of this objective requires full respect of individual and people's fundamental freedoms and rights, to live together on the basis of equality and without any sexual, religious or cultural discrimination;

Article 3 The Ethiopian Flag

- (2) The national emblem on the flag shall reflect the hope of the Nations, Nationalities, Peoples as well as religious communities of Ethiopia to live together in equality and unity.

Article 11 Separation of State and Religion

- (1) State and religion are separate.
- (2) There shall be no state religion.
- (3) The state shall not interfere in religious matters and religion shall not interfere in state affairs.

Article 21 The Rights of Persons Held in Custody and Convicted Prisoners

- (1) All persons held in custody and persons imprisoned upon conviction and sentencing have the right to treatments respecting their human dignity.
- (2) All persons shall have the opportunity to communicate with, and to be visited by, their spouses or partners, close relatives, friends, religious councilors, medical doctors and their legal counsel.

Article 25 Right to Equality

All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection without discrimination on grounds of race, nation, nationality, or other social origin, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, property, birth or other status.

Article 27 Freedom of Religion, Belief and Opinion

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include the freedom to hold or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and the freedom, either individually or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-article 2 of Article 90, believers may establish institutions of religious education and administration in order to propagate and organize their religion.

(3) No one shall be subject to coercion or other means which would restrict or prevent his freedom to hold a belief of his choice.

(4) Parents and legal guardians have the right to bring up their children ensuring their religious and moral education in conformity with their own convictions.

(5) Freedom to express or manifest one's religion or belief may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, peace, health, education, public morality or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, and to ensure the independence of the state from religion.

Article 34 Marital, Personal and Family Rights

(1) Men and women, without any distinction as to race, nation, nationality or religion, who have attained marriageable age as defined by law, have the right to marry and found a family. They have equal rights while entering into, during marriage and at the time of divorce. Laws shall be enacted to ensure the protection of rights and interests of children at the time of divorce.

(4) In accordance with provisions to be specified by law, a law giving recognition to marriage concluded under systems of religious or customary laws may be enacted.

(5) This Constitution shall not preclude the adjudication of disputes relating to personal and family laws in accordance with religious or customary laws, with the consent of the parties to the dispute. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article 38 The Right to Vote and to be Elected

(1) Every Ethiopian national, without any discrimination based on colour, race, nation, nationality, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion or other status, has the following rights:

Article 78 Independence of the Judiciary

(5) Pursuant to sub-article 5 of Article 34 the House of Peoples' Representatives and State Councils can establish or give official recognition to religious and customary courts. Religious and customary courts that had state recognition and functioned prior to the adoption of the Constitution shall be organized on the basis of recognition accorded to them by this Constitution.

Article 90 Social Objectives

(2) Education shall be provided in a manner that is free from any religious influence, political partisanship or cultural prejudices.

Finland

Section 6 Equality

(1) Everyone is equal before the law.

(2) No one shall, without an acceptable reason, be treated differently from other persons on the ground of sex, age, origin, language, religion, conviction, opinion, health, disability or other reason that concerns his or her person.

Section 11 Freedom of religion and conscience

(1) Everyone has the freedom of religion and conscience.

(2) Freedom of religion and conscience entails the right to profess and practice a religion, the right to express one's convictions and the right to be a member of or decline to be a member of a religious community. No one is under the obligation, against his or her conscience, to participate in the practice of a religion.

France

Article 1 [State Principles]

(1) France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic. It ensures the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction of origin, race or religion. It respects all beliefs. It is organised on a decentralised basis.

Georgia

Article 9 [State Religion]

(1) The state shall declare complete freedom of belief and religion, as well as shall recognise the special role of the Apostle Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia in the history of Georgia and its independence from the state.

(2) The relations between the state of Georgia and the Apostle Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia shall be determined by the Constitutional Agreement. The Constitutional Agreement shall correspond completely to universally recognised principles and norms of international law, in particular, in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 14 [Freedom and Equality]

Everyone is free by birth and is equal before law regardless of race, colour, language, sex, religion, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and title, place of residence.

Article 19 [Expression]

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of speech, thought, conscience, religion and belief.

(2) The persecution of a person on the account of his/her speech, thought, religion or belief as well as the compulsion to express his/her opinion about them shall be impermissible.

(3) The restriction of the freedoms enumerated in the present Article shall be impermissible unless their manifestation infringes upon the rights of others.

Article 26 [Association, Political Parties]

(3) The formation and activity of such public and political associations aiming at overthrowing or forcibly changing the constitutional structure of Georgia, infringing upon the independence and territorial integrity of the country or propagandising war or violence, provoking national, local, religious or social animosity, shall be impermissible.

Article 38 [Groups, Minorities]

(1) Citizens of Georgia shall be equal in social, economic, cultural and political life irrespective of their national, ethnic, religious or linguistic belonging. In accordance with universally recognised principles and rules of international law, they shall have the right to develop freely, without any discrimination and interference, their culture, to use their mother tongue in private and in public.

Germany**Article 3 [Equality]**

(1) All humans are equal before the law.

(2) Men and women are equal. The state supports the effective realization of equality of women and men and works towards abolishing present disadvantages.

(3) No one may be disadvantaged or favored because of his sex, parentage, race, language, homeland and origin, his faith, or his religious or political opinions. No one may be disadvantaged because of his handicap.

Article 4 [Faith, Religion, Conscience, Creed]

(1) Freedom of creed, of conscience, and freedom to profess a religious or non-religious faith are inviolable.

(2) The undisturbed practice of religion is guaranteed.

(3) No one may be compelled against his conscience to render war service involving the use of arms. Details are regulated by a federal statute.

Article 7 [Education]

- (1) The entire schooling system stands under the supervision of the state.
- (2) Persons entitled to the upbringing of a child have the right to decide whether the child has to attend religion classes.
- (3) Religion classes form part of the ordinary curriculum in state schools, except for secular schools. Without prejudice to the state's right of supervision, religious instruction is given in accordance with the tenets of the religious communities. No teacher may be obliged against his will to give religious instruction.
- (4) The right to establish private schools is guaranteed. Private schools, as a substitute for state schools, require the approval of the state and are subject to the statutes of the States [Länder]. Such approval has to be given where private schools are not inferior to the state schools in their educational aims, their facilities, and the professional training of their teaching staff, and where segregation of pupils according to the means of their parents is not encouraged. Approval has to be withheld where the economic and legal position of the teaching staff is not sufficiently assured.
- (5) A private elementary school has to be permitted only where the education authority finds that it serves a special pedagogic interest, or where, on the application of persons entitled to upbringing of children, it is to be established as an interdenominational school or as a school based on a particular religious or non-religious faith and only if a state elementary school of this type does not exist in the commune.

Article 33 [Equality of Status and Office]

- (3) Enjoyment of civil and political rights, eligibility for public office, and rights acquired in the public service are independent of religious denomination. No one may suffer any disadvantage by reason of his adherence or nonadherence to a denomination or to a philosophical persuasion.

Article 56 [Oath of Office]

On assuming his office, the President takes the following oath before the assembled members of the House of Representatives [Bundestag] and the Senate [Bundesrat]:
"I swear that I will dedicate my efforts to the wellbeing of the German people, enhance their benefits, avert harm from them, uphold and defend the Constitution and the statutes of the Federation, fulfil my duties conscientiously, and do justice to all. So help me God."

The oath may also be taken without religious affirmation.

Article 116 [Definition of "a German"]

- (2) Former German citizens who, between 30 January 1933 and 8 May 1945, were deprived of their citizenship on political, racial or religious grounds, and their descendants, are re-granted German citizenship on application. They are considered as not having been deprived of their German citizenship where they have established their residence in Germany after 8 May 1945 and have not expressed a contrary intention.

Article 140 [Law of Religious Bodies]

The provisions of Articles 136, 137, 138, 139 and 141 of the German Constitution of 11 August 1919 are integral parts of this Constitution.

Ghana**Article 12**

(2) Every person in Ghana, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed or gender shall be entitled to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual contained in this Chapter but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest.

Article 17

(2) A person shall not be discriminated against on grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status.

(3) For the purposes of this article, "discriminate" means to give different treatment to different persons attributable only or mainly to their respective descriptions by race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, gender, occupation, religion or creed, whereby persons of one description are subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another description are not made subject or are granted privileges or advantages which are not granted to persons of another description.

Article 21

(1) (c) freedom to practice any religion and to manifest such practice

Article 27

(1) Every person is entitled to enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture, language, tradition or religion subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

Article 28

(4) No child shall be deprived by any other person of medical treatment, education or any other social or economic benefit by reason only of religious or other beliefs.

Article 30

A person who by reason of sickness or any other cause is unable to give his consent shall not be deprived by any other person of medical treatment, education or any other social or economic benefit by reason only of religious or other beliefs.

Article 35

(5) The State shall actively promote the integration of the peoples of Ghana and prohibit discrimination and prejudice on the grounds of place of origin, circumstances of birth, ethnic origin, gender or religion, creed or other beliefs.

Article 55

(4) Every political party shall have a national character, and membership shall not be based on ethnic, religious, regional or other sectional divisions.

(7) (c) the parties name, emblem, colour, motto or any other symbol has no ethnic, regional, religious or other sectional connotations or gives the appearance that its activities are confined only to a part of Ghana.

Article 56

Parliament shall have no power to enact a law to establish or authorise the establishment of a body or movement with the right or power to impose on the people of Ghana a common programme or a set of objectives of a religious or political.

Article 206

(h) a representative of such religious bodies as the President may, in consultation with the Council of State, appoint;

(i) two members of the Prisons Service appointed by the President in consultation with the Council of State one of whom shall be of a junior rank;

(j) a representative of the National House of Chiefs; and (k) two other members appointed by the President.

Article 209

(1)(i) representatives of such religious bodies as the Regional Minister may deem fit to appoint.

Reference: <http://www.politicsresources.net/docs/ghanaconst.pdf>

Greece

Article 3 [Relations of Church and State]

(1) The prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ. The Orthodox Church of Greece acknowledging as its head Our Lord Jesus Christ is indissolubly united in doctrine with the Great Church of Constantinople and every other Church of Christ of the same doctrine. It observes steadfastly, as they do, the holy apostolic and synodical canons and the holy tradition. It is autocephalous, exercising its sovereign rights independently of any other church, and is administered by the Holy Synod of Bishops and the Parliament Holy Synod which emanates from the former and is constituted in accordance with the Constitutional Chart of the Church and the provisions of the Patriarchal Document of 29 June 1850 and the Synodal Deed of 4 September 1928.

(2) The religious status prevailing in certain parts of the State is not contrary to the provisions of the foregoing paragraph.

Article 13 [Religion]

(1) The freedom of religious conscience is inviolable. The enjoyment of civil and individual rights does not depend on the religious conviction of each individual.

(2) Every known religion is free and the forms of worship thereof shall be practiced without any hindrance by the State and under protection of the law. The exercise of worship shall not contravene public order or offend morals. Proselytizing is prohibited.

(3) The ministers of all religions are subject to the same obligations towards the State and to the same state supervision as the ministers of the established religion.

(4) No person shall, by reason of his religious convictions, be exempt from discharging his obligations to the State, or refuse to comply with the laws.

Article 14 [Freedom of Expression and Press]

(3) The seizure of newspapers and other printed matter, either before or after circulation, is prohibited. By exception, seizure after publication is permitted upon instruction by the Public Prosecutor because of:

a) insult to the Christian and all other known religions.

Article 16 [Education]

(2) Education constitutes a fundamental state objective and aims at the moral, intellectual, professional, and physical instruction of the Greeks, the development of national and religious consciousness, and the formation of free and responsible citizens.

Article 59 [Oath]

(2) Deputies of other religions or dogmas shall give the same oath in the manner of their own religion or dogma.

Guatemala**Article 19. Penal System.**

The penal system will have to try to rehabilitate socially and to re-educate the prisoners and meet the following minimum norms in the treatment of the prisoners:

c. They are entitled to communicate, when they so request, with their kin, defense lawyer, religious counselor, physician, and where applicable, with the diplomatic or consular representative of their own nationality.

Article 33. Right of Assembly and Demonstration.

Religious processions outside churches are permitted and regulated by law.

Article 36. Freedom of Religion.

The exercise of all religions is free. Any person has the right to practice his religion or belief, both in public and in private, through education, worship, and observance,

without other limits than the public order and the respect due to the dignity of the hierarchy and the faithful of other beliefs.

Article 37. Juridical Personality of the Churches.

The juridical personality of the Catholic Church is recognized. The other churches, faiths, entities, and associations of religious character will secure the recognition of their juridical personality in accordance with the rules of their institution, and the Government will be unable to deny it unless for reasons of public order.

The State will extend to the Catholic Church without any cost whatever titles of ownership to the real estate which it now holds peacefully for its own purposes whenever they formed part of the patrimony of the Catholic Church in the past. Property assigned to third parties nor those which the State has traditionally assigned to their services cannot be affected.

The real estate of religious entities assigned to the church, education, and social welfare enjoy exemption from taxes, assessments, and levies.

Article 49. Matrimony.

The state of matrimony can be authorized by mayors, councilors, practicing notaries, and religious ministers empowered by the corresponding administrative authority.

Article 73. Freedom of Education and State Economic Assistance.

Religious education is optional in public schools and can be given during regular hours without any discrimination.

The State will contribute to the maintenance of religious education without any discrimination.

Article 186. Prohibitions Against Running for the Positions of President or Vice President of the Republic.

The following cannot run for the positions of President or Vice President of the Republic:

f. The ministers of any religion or cult

Article 207. Requirements for a Magistrate or Judge.

The function of magistrate or judge is incompatible with any other employment, with executive positions in labor unions and political parties, and with the status of minister of any religion.

Reference: http://www.right2info.org/resources/publications/laws-1/guatemala_constitution_eng

Haiti

ARTICLE 30:

All religions and faiths shall be freely exercised. Everyone is entitled to profess his religion and practice his faith, provided the exercise of that right does not disturb law and order.

(1) No one may be compelled to belong to a religious organization or to follow a religious teaching contrary to his convictions.

(2) The law establishes the conditions for recognition and practice of religions and faiths.

ARTICLE 55:

(2) The right to own real property shall be accorded also to aliens residing in Haiti and to foreign companies for the needs of their agricultural, commercial, industrial, religious, humanitarian or educational enterprises, within the limits and under the conditions prescribed by law.

ARTICLE 289:

Awaiting the establishment of the Permanent Electoral Council provided for in this Constitution, the National Council of Government shall set up a Provisional Electoral Council of nine (9) members, charged with drawing up and enforcing the Electoral Law to govern the next elections, who shall be designated as follows:

8. One for the Protestant religions

Reference: <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/constitutions/haiti/haiti1987.html>

Honduras

Article 77

Guarantees the free exercise of all religions and cults without pre-eminence, provided they do not contravene the laws and public order.

The ministers of the various religions, may not hold public office or in any form political propaganda, on grounds of religion or using, as a means to that end, of religious beliefs of the people.

Reference: <http://www.honduras.com/honduras-constitution/>

Hong Kong

Article 32 [Religion]

- (1) Hong Kong residents shall have freedom of conscience.
- (2) Hong Kong residents shall have freedom of religious belief and freedom to preach and to conduct and participate in religious activities in public.

Article 137

- (1) Educational institutions of all kinds may retain their autonomy and enjoy academic freedom. They may continue to recruit staff and use teaching materials from outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Schools run by religious organizations may continue to provide religious education, including courses in religion.

Article 141

- (1) The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall not restrict the freedom of religious belief, interfere in the internal affairs of religious organizations or restrict religious activities which do not contravene the laws of the Region.
- (2) Religious organizations shall, in accordance with law, enjoy the rights to acquire, use, dispose of and inherit property and the right to receive financial assistance. Their previous property rights and interests shall be maintained and protected.
- (3) Religious organizations may, according to their previous practice, continue to run seminaries and other schools, hospitals and welfare institutions and to provide other social services.
- (4) Religious organizations and believers in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region may maintain and develop their relations with religious organizations and believers elsewhere.

Article 148

The relationship between non-governmental organizations in fields such as education, science, technology, culture, art, sports, the professions, medicine and health, labour, social welfare and social work as well as religious organizations in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and their counterparts on the mainland shall be based on the principles of non-subordination, non-interference and mutual respect.

Article 149

Non-governmental organizations in fields such as education, science, technology, culture, art, sports, the professions, medicine and health, labour, social welfare and social work as well as religious organizations in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region may maintain and develop relations with their counterparts in foreign countries and regions and with relevant international organizations. They may, as required, use the name "Hong Kong, China" in the relevant activities.

Hungary

Article 60

- (1) In the Republic of Hungary everyone has the right to freedom of thought, freedom of conscience and freedom of religion.
- (2) This right shall include the free choice or acceptance of a religion or belief, and the freedom to publicly or privately express or decline to express, exercise and teach such religions and beliefs by way of religious actions, rites or in any other way, either individually or in a group.
- (3) The church and the State shall operate in separation in the Republic of Hungary.
- (4) A majority of two-thirds of the votes of the Members of Parliament present is required to pass the law on the freedom of belief and religion.

Article 65

- (1) In accordance with the conditions established by law, the Republic of Hungary shall, if neither their country of origin nor another country provides protection, extend the right of asylum to foreign citizens who, in their native country or the country of their usual place of residence, are subject to persecution on the basis of race or nationality, their alliance with a specific social group, religious or political conviction, or whose fear of being subject to persecution is well founded.

Article 70A

- (1) The Republic of Hungary shall respect the human rights and civil rights of all persons in the country without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origins, financial situation, birth or on any other grounds whatsoever.

Iceland

Article 63

All persons have the right to form religious associations and to practice their religion in conformity with their individual convictions. Nothing may however be preached or practised which is prejudicial to good morals or public order.

Article 64

- (1) No one may lose any of his civil or national rights on account of his religion, nor may anyone refuse to perform any generally applicable civil duty on religious grounds.
- (2) Everyone is free to remain outside religious associations. No one is obliged to pay any personal dues to any religious association of which he is not a member.
- (3) A person who is not a member of any religious association must pay to the University of Iceland the dues that he would have had to pay to such an association, if he had been a member. This may be amended by law.

Article 65

(1) Everyone is equal before the law and enjoys human rights irrespective of sex, religion, opinion, national origin, race, colour, property, birth or other status.

India

Article 15 Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth

(1) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

(2) No citizen shall, on ground only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition.

Article 16 Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment

(1) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.

(2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State.

(5) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any law which provides that the incumbent of an office in connection with the affairs of any religious or denominational institution or any member of the governing body thereof shall be a person professing a particular religion or belonging to a particular denomination.

Article 23 Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour

(2) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from imposing compulsory service for public purposes, and in imposing such service the State shall not make any discrimination on ground only of religion, race, caste or class or any of them.

Article 25 Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion

(1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion.

(2) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law -

(a) regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;

(b) providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.

Explanation I: The wearing and carrying of kirpans shall be deemed to be included in the profession of the Sikh religion.

Explanation II: In sub-Clause (b) of clause (2), the reference to Hindus shall be construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist

religion, and the reference to Hindu religious institutions shall be construed accordingly.

Article 26 Freedom to manage religious affairs

Subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right -

- (a) to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;
- (b) to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;
- (c) to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and
- (d) to administer such property in accordance with law.

Article 27 Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion

No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes, the proceeds of which are specifically appropriated in payment of expenses for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious denomination.

Article 28 Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions

(1) No religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution wholly maintained out of State funds.

(2) Nothing in clause (1) shall apply to an educational institution which is administered by the State but has been established under any endowment or trust which requires that religious instruction shall be imparted in such institution.

(3) No person attending any educational institution recognised by the State or receiving aid out of State funds shall be required to take part in any religious instruction that may be imparted in such institution or to attend any religious worship that may be conducted in such institution or in any premises attached thereto unless such person or, if such person is minor, his guardian has given his consent thereto.

Article 29 Protection of interests of minorities

(2) No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

Article 30 Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions

(1) All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

(2) The State shall not, in granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.

Article 51A Fundamental duties

It shall be the duty of every citizen of India:

(e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

Article 325 No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex

There shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State and no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in any such roll or claim to be included in any special electoral roll for any such constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.

Indonesia**Article 9**

(1) Prior to taking office, the President and Vice President have to swear an oath in accordance with their respective religions or shall make a solemn promise before the MPR or DPR.

(2) In the event that the MPR or DPR is unable to convene a sitting, the President and Vice-President have to swear an oath in accordance with their respective religions or make a solemn promise before the leadership of the MPR witnessed by the leadership of the Supreme Court.

Article 22D

(2) The DPD must participate in the discussion of Bills related to regional autonomy; the relationship of central and local government; formation, expansion, and merger of regions; management of natural resources and other economic resources, and financial balance between the centre and the regions; and provides consideration to the DPR over Bills on the State Budget and on Bills related to taxation, education, or religion.

(3) The DPD may oversee the implementation of laws concerning regional autonomy, the formation, expansion and merger of regions, the relationship of central and local government, management of natural resources and other economic resources, implementation of the State Budget, taxation, education, or religion and submit in addition the result of such oversight to the DPR in the form of materials for its further consideration.

Article 24

(2) The judicial power is implemented by a Supreme Court and judicial bodies underneath it in the form of public courts, religious affairs courts, military tribunals, and state administrative courts, and by a Constitutional Court.

Article 28E

(1) Every person is free to choose and to practice the religion of his/her choice, to choose one's education, to choose one's employment, to choose one's citizenship, and to choose one's place of residence within the state territory, to leave it and to subsequently return to it.

Article 28I

(1) The rights to life, freedom from torture, freedom of thought and conscience, freedom of religion, freedom from enslavement, recognition as a person before the law, and the right not to be tried under a law with retrospective effect are all human rights that cannot be limited under any circumstances.

Article 28J

(2) In exercising his/her rights and freedoms, every person has the duty to accept the restrictions established by law for the sole purposes of guaranteeing the recognition and respect of the rights and freedoms of others and of satisfying just demands based upon considerations of morality, religious values, security and public order in a democratic society.

Article 29

(1) The State is based upon the belief in the One and Only God.
(2) The State guarantees all persons the freedom of worship, each according to his/her own religion or belief.

Article 31

(5) The government advances science and technology with the highest respect for religious values and national unity for the advancement of civilisation and prosperity of humankind.

Iran**Preamble**

Although the Islamic line of thought and the direction provided by militant religious leaders played an essential role in the recent movements, nonetheless, the struggles waged in the course of those movements quickly fell into stagnation due to departure from genuine Islamic positions.

The Dawn of Movement

Throughout this time, the conscious and responsible segment of society was bringing enlightenment to the people from the strongholds of the mosques, centers of religious teaching, and universities.

The Wrath of the People

The widespread solidarity of men and women of all segments of society and of all political and religious factions, played a clearly determining role in the struggle.

Article 5 [Office of Religious Leader]

During the occultation of the Wali al-'Asr (may God hasten his reappearance), the leadership of the Ummah devolve upon the just and pious person, who is fully aware of the circumstances of his age, courageous, resourceful, and possessed of administrative ability, will assume the responsibilities of this office in accordance with Article 107.

Article 12 [Official Religion]

The official religion of Iran is Islam and the Twelver Ja'fari school, and this principle will remain eternally immutable. Other Islamic schools are to be accorded full respect, and their followers are free to act in accordance with their own jurisprudence in performing their religious rites. These schools enjoy official status in matters pertaining to religious education, affairs of personal status (marriage, divorce, inheritance, and wills) and related litigation in courts of law. In regions of the country where Muslims following any one of these schools constitute the majority, local regulations, within the bounds of the jurisdiction of local councils, are to be in accordance with the respective school, without infringing upon the rights of the followers of other schools.

Article 13 [Recognized Religious Minorities]

Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian Iranians are the only recognized religious minorities, who, within the limits of the law, are free to perform their religious rites and ceremonies, and to act according to their own canon in matters of personal affairs and religious education.

Article 14 [Non-Muslims' Rights]

In accordance with the sacred verse *"God does not forbid you to deal kindly and justly with those who have not fought against you because of your religion and who have not expelled you from your homes"* [60:8], the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all Muslims are duty-bound to treat non-Muslims in conformity with ethical norms and the principles of Islamic justice and equity, and to respect their human rights. This principle applies to all who refrain from engaging in conspiracy or activity against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Article 26 [Freedom of Association]

The formation of parties, societies, political or professional associations, as well as religious societies, whether Islamic or pertaining to one of the recognized religious minorities, is permitted provided they do not violate the principles of independence, freedom, national unity, the criteria of Islam, or the basis of the Islamic Republic. No one may be prevented from participating in the aforementioned groups, or be compelled to participate in them.

Article 57 [Separation of Powers]

The powers of government in the Islamic Republic are vested in the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive powers, functioning under the supervision of the absolute religious Leader and the Leadership of the Ummah, in accordance with the forthcoming articles of this Constitution. These powers are independent of each other.

Article 64 [270 Members, Religious Representatives]

- (1) There are to be two hundred seventy members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly which, keeping in view the human, political, geographic, and other similar factors, may increase by not more than twenty for each ten-year period from the date of the national referendum of the year 1368 of the solar Islamic calendar.
- (2) The Zoroastrians and Jews will each elect one representative; Assyrian and Chaldean Christians will jointly elect one representative; and Armenian Christians in the north and those in the south of the country will each elect one representative.
- (3) The delimitation of the election constituencies and the number of representatives will be determined by law.

Article 67 [Oath]

- (2) Members belonging to the religious minorities will swear by their own sacred books while taking this oath.

Article 72 [Limits]

The Islamic Consultative Assembly cannot enact laws contrary to the official religion of the country or to the Constitution. It is the duty of the Guardian Council to determine whether a violation has occurred, in accordance with Article 96.

Article 85 [Delegated Legislation]

- (2) Likewise, the Assembly may, in accordance with Article 72, delegate to the relevant committees the responsibility for permanent approval of articles of association of organizations, companies, government institutions, or organizations affiliated to the government and or invest the authority in the government. In such a case, the government approvals must not be inconsistent with the principles and commandments of the official religion in the country or with the Constitution, which question shall be determined by the Guardian Council in accordance with what is stated in Article 96. In addition to this, the Government approvals shall not be against the laws and other general rules of the country and, while calling for implementation, the same shall be brought to the knowledge of the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly for his study and indication that the approvals in question are not inconsistent with the aforesaid rules.

Article 91 [Guardian Council]

With a view to safeguard the Islamic ordinances and the Constitution, in order to examine the compatibility of the legislation passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly with Islam, a council to be known as the Guardian Council is to be constituted with the following composition:

1. six religious men, conscious of the present needs and the issues of the day, to be selected by the Leader, and
2. six jurists, specializing in different areas of law, to be elected by the Islamic Consultative Assembly from among the Muslim jurists nominated by the Head of the Judicial Power.

Article 96 [Majority]

The determination of compatibility of the legislation passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly with the laws of Islam rests with the majority vote of the religious men on the Guardian Council; and the determination of its compatibility with the Constitution rests with the majority of all the members of the Guardian Council.

Article 107 [Religious Leader]

(1) After the demise of Imam Khumayni, the task of appointing the Leader shall be vested with the experts elected by the people. The experts will review and consult among themselves concerning all the religious men possessing the qualifications specified in Articles 5 and 109. In the event they find one of them better versed in Islamic regulations or in political and social issues, or possessing general popularity or special prominence for any of the qualifications mentioned in Article 109, they shall elect him as the Leader. Otherwise, in the absence of such a superiority, they shall elect and declare one of them as the Leader. The Leader thus elected by the Assembly of Experts shall assume all the powers of the religious leader and all the responsibilities arising therefrom.

(2) The Leader is equal with the rest of the people of the country in the eyes of law.

Article 108 [Experts]

The law setting out the number and qualifications of the experts, the mode of their election, and the code of procedure regulating the sessions during the first term must be drawn up by the religious men on the first Guardian Council, passed by a majority of votes and then finally approved by the Leader of the Revolution. The power to make any subsequent change or a review of this law, or approval of all the provisions concerning the duties of the experts is vested in themselves.

Article 109 [Leadership Qualifications]

- (1) Following are the essential qualifications and conditions for the Leader:
- a. Scholarship, as required for performing the functions of religious leader in different fields.
 - b. Justice and piety, as required for the leadership of the Islamic Ummah.
 - c. Right political and social perspicacity, prudence, courage, administrative facilities, and adequate capability for leadership.

(2) In case of multiplicity of persons fulfilling the above qualifications and conditions, the person possessing the better jurisprudential and political perspicacity will be given preference.

Article 110 [Leadership Duties and Powers]

(1) Following are the duties and powers of the Leadership:

6. Appointment, dismissal, and resignation of:
- a. the religious men on the Guardian Council,

Article 111 [Leadership Council]

(2) In the event of the death, or resignation or dismissal of the Leader, the experts shall take steps within the shortest possible time for the appointment of the new Leader. Until the appointment of the new Leader, a council consisting of the President, head of the judiciary power, and a religious men from the Guardian Council, upon the decision of the Nation's Exigency Council, shall temporarily take over all the duties of the Leader. In the event that, during this period, any one of them is unable to fulfil his duties for whatsoever reason, another person, upon the decision of majority of religious men in the Nation's Exigency Council shall be elected in his place.

Article 115 [Qualifications]

The President must be elected from among religious and political personalities possessing the following qualifications:

- Iranian origin;
- Iranian nationality;
- administrative capacity and resourcefulness;
- a good past record;
- trustworthiness and piety; and
- convinced belief in the fundamental principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the official madhhab of the country.

Article 121 [Oath]

The President must take the following oath and affix his signature to it at a session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in the presence of the head of the judicial power and the members of the Guardian Council:

"In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, I, as President, swear, in the presence of the noble members of parliament and the people of Iran, by God, the Exalted and Almighty, that I will guard the official religion of the country, the order of the Islamic Republic, and the Constitution of the country; that I will devote all my capacities and abilities to the fulfillment of the responsibilities that I have assumed; that I will dedicate myself to the service of the people, the honor of the country, the propagation of religion and morality, and the support of truth and justice, refraining from every kind of arbitrary behavior; that I will protect the freedom and dignity of all citizens and the rights that the Constitution has accorded the people; that in guarding the frontiers and the political, economic, and cultural independence of the country I will not avoid any necessary measure; that, seeking help from God and following the

Prophet of Islam and the infallible Imams (peace be upon them), I will guard, as a pious and selfless trustee, the authority vested in me by the people as a sacred trust, and transfer it to whomever the people may elect after me."

Article 163 [Qualifications]

The conditions and qualifications to be fulfilled by a judge will be determined by law, in accordance with religious criteria.

Article 177 [Revision by Council and Referendum]

(5) The contents of the articles of the Constitution related to the Islamic character of the political system; the basis of all the rules and regulations according to Islamic criteria; the religious footing; the objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the democratic character of the government; the holy principle; the Imamate of Ummah; and the administration of the affairs of the country based on national referenda, official religion of Iran and the religious school are unalterable.

Iraq

Article 3 [Supreme Law]

(A) This Law is the Supreme Law of the land and shall be binding in all parts of Iraq without exception. No amendment to this Law may be made except by a three-fourths majority of the members of the National Assembly and the unanimous approval of the Presidency Council. Likewise, no amendment may be made that could abridge in any way the rights of the Iraqi people cited in Chapter Two; extend the transitional period beyond the timeframe cited in this Law; delay the holding of elections to a new assembly; reduce the powers of the regions or governorates; or affect Islam, or any other religions or sects and their rites.

(B) Any legal provision that conflicts with this Law is null and void.

(C) This Law shall cease to have effect upon the formation of an elected government pursuant to a permanent constitution.

Article 7 [State Religion, Freedom of Religion, Arab Nation]

(A) Islam is the official religion of the State and is to be considered a source of legislation. No law that contradicts the universally agreed tenets of Islam, the principles of democracy, or the rights cited in Chapter Two of this Law may be enacted during the transitional period. This Law respects the Islamic identity of the majority of the Iraqi people and guarantees the full religious rights of all individuals to freedom of religious belief and practice.

Article 11 [Citizenship]

(D) Any Iraqi whose Iraqi citizenship was withdrawn for political, religious, racial, or sectarian reasons has the right to reclaim his Iraqi citizenship.

Article 12 [Equality, Life, Liberty, Personal Security]

All Iraqis are equal in their rights without regard to gender, sect, opinion, belief, nationality, religion, or origin, and they are equal before the law. Discrimination against an Iraqi citizen on the basis of his gender, nationality, religion, or origin is prohibited. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the security of his person. No one may be deprived of his life or liberty, except in accordance with legal procedures. All are equal before the courts.

Article 13 [Expression, Assembly, Association, Movement, Religion, Privacy]

(F) Each Iraqi has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religious belief and practice. Coercion in such matters shall be prohibited.

Article 15 [Rule of Law, Search, Seizure, Arrest, Fair Trial]

(C) No one may be unlawfully arrested or detained, and no one may be detained by reason of political or religious beliefs.

Article 20 [Electoral Rights]

(B) No Iraqi may be discriminated against for purposes of voting in elections on the basis of gender, religion, sect, race, belief, ethnic origin, language, wealth, or literacy.

Ireland**Article 40 Personal Rights**

(6.2) Laws regulating the manner in which the right of forming associations and unions and the right of free assembly may be exercised shall contain no political, religious or class discrimination.

Article 42 Education

(1) The State acknowledges that the primary and natural educator of the child is the Family and guarantees to respect the inalienable right and duty of parents to provide, according to their means, for the religious and moral, intellectual, physical and social education of their children.

(4) The State shall provide for free primary education and shall endeavor to supplement and give reasonable aid to private and corporate educational initiative, and, when the public good requires it, provide other educational facilities or institutions with due regard, however, for the rights of parents, especially in the matter of religious and moral formation.

Article 44 Religion

(1) The State acknowledges that the homage of public worship is due to Almighty God. It shall hold His Name in reverence, and shall respect and honor religion.

(2.1) Freedom of conscience and the free profession and practice of religion are, subject to public order and morality, guaranteed to every citizen.

(2.2) The State guarantees not to endow any religion.

(2.3) The State shall not impose any disabilities or make any discrimination on the ground of religious profession, belief or status.

(2.4) Legislation providing State aid for schools shall not discriminate between schools under the management of different religious denominations, nor be such as to affect prejudicially the right of any child to attend a school receiving public money without attending religious instruction at that school.

(2.5) Every religious denomination shall have the right to manage its own affairs, own, acquire and administer property, movable and immovable, and maintain institutions for religious or charitable purposes.

(2.6) The property of any religious denomination or any educational institution shall not be diverted save for necessary works of public utility and on payment of compensation.

Italy

Article 3 [Equality]

(1) All citizens have equal social status and are equal before the law, without regard to their sex, race, language, religion, political opinions, and personal or social conditions.

(2) It is the duty of the republic to remove all economic and social obstacles that, by limiting the freedom and equality of citizens, prevent full individual development and the participation of all workers in the political, economic, and social organization of the country.

Article 8 [Religion]

(1) Religious denominations are equally free before the law.

(2) Denominations other than catholicism have the right to organize themselves according to their own by-laws, provided they do not conflict with the italian legal system.

(3) Their relationship with the state is regulated by law, based on agreements with their representatives.

Article 19 [Freedom of Religion]

Everyone is entitled to freely profess religious beliefs in any form, individually or with others, to promote them, and to celebrate rites in public or in private, provided they are not offensive to public morality.

Article 20 [Religious Associations]

For associations or institutions, their religious character or religious or confessional aims do not justify special limitations or fiscal burdens regarding their establishment, legal capacity, or activities.

Article 117 [State and Regional Legislative Power]

- (2) The state has exclusive legislative power in the following matters:
c) relations between the republic and religious denomination

Japan**Article 20 [Freedom of Religion, Secularity of the State]**

- (1) Freedom of religion is guaranteed to all.
(2) No religious organization shall receive any privileges from the State, nor exercise any political authority.
(3) No person shall be compelled to take part in any religious act, celebration, rite or practice.
(4) The State and its organs shall refrain from religious education or any other religious activity.

Article 89 [Secular Budget]

No public money or other property shall be expended or appropriated for the use, benefit, or maintenance of any religious institution or association, or for any charitable, educational, or benevolent enterprises not under the control of public authority.

Jordan**Article 2**

Islam is the religion of the State and Arabic is its official language.

Article 6

(i) Jordanians shall be equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination between them as regards to their rights and duties on grounds of race, language or religion.

Article 14

The State shall safeguard the free exercise of all forms of worship and religious rites in accordance with the customs observed in the Kingdom, unless such is inconsistent with public order or morality.

Article 99

The courts shall be divided into three categories: (i) Civil Courts (ii) Religious Courts (iii) Special Courts

Article 102

* The Civil Courts in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan shall have jurisdiction over

all persons in all matters, civil and criminal, including cases brought by or against the Government, except those matters in respect of which jurisdiction is vested in Religious or Special Courts in accordance with the provisions of the present Constitution ** or any other legislation in force.

Article 104

The Religious Courts shall be divided into: (i) The Sharia Courts (ii) The Tribunals of other Religious Communities.

Article 108

The Tribunals of Religious Communities are those for the non-Moslem religious communities which have been or will be recognised by the Government as established in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Article 109

(i) Tribunals of Religious Communities shall be established in conformity with the provisions of laws pertaining thereto. Such laws shall define the jurisdiction of such Tribunals in matters of personal status and Waqfs constituted for the benefit of the community concerned. Matters of personal status of any such community shall be the same matters as are, in the case of Moslems, within the jurisdiction of the Sharia Courts.

(ii) Such laws shall determine the procedure to be followed by the Tribunals of the Religious Communities.

Reference:

http://www.law.yale.edu/rcw/rcw/jurisdictions/asw/jordan/jordan_const_eng.pdf

Kazakhstan

Article 5

3. Formation and functioning of public associations pursuing the goals or actions directed toward a violent change of the constitutional system, violation of the integrity of the Republic, undermining the security of the state, inciting social, racial, national, religious, class and tribal enmity, as well as formation of unauthorized paramilitary units shall be prohibited.

4. Activities of political parties and trade unions of other states, religious parties as well as financing political parties and trade unions by foreign legal entities and citizens, foreign states and international organizations shall not be permitted in the Republic.

5. Activities of foreign religious associations on the territory of the Republic as well as appointment of heads of religious associations in the Republic by foreign religious centers shall be carried out in coordination with the respective state

institutions of the Republic.

Article 14

1. Everyone shall be equal before the law and court.
2. No one shall be subject to any discrimination for reasons of origin, social, property status, occupation, sex, race, nationality, language, attitude towards religion, convictions, place of residence or any other circumstances.

Article 19

1. Everyone shall have the right to determine and indicate or not to indicate his national, party and religious affiliation.

Article 20

3. Propaganda of or agitation for the forcible change of the constitutional system, violation of the integrity of the Republic, undermining of state security, and advocating war, social, racial, national, religious, class and clannish superiority as well as the cult of cruelty and violence shall not be allowed.

Reference: <http://www.constcouncil.kz/eng/norpb/constrk/>

Kenya

Preamble

We, the people of Kenya, acknowledging the supremacy of the Almighty God of all creation: honouring those who heroically struggled to bring freedom and justice to our land: proud of our ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and determined to live in peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign nation: respectful of the environment, which is our heritage, and determined to sustain it for the benefit of future generations: committed to nurturing and protecting the well-being of the individual, the family, communities and the nation: recognising the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law: exercising our sovereign and inalienable right to determine the form of governance of our country and having participated fully in the making of this Constitution: adopt, enact and give this Constitution to ourselves and to our future generations. God bless Kenya.

Article 8 State and religion

There may be no State religion.

Article 21 Implementation of Rights and fundamental freedoms

- 3) All State organs and all public officers have the duty to address the needs of

vulnerable groups within society, including women, older members of society, persons with disabilities, children, youth, members of minority or marginalised communities, and members of particular ethnic, religious or cultural communities.

Article 24 Limitation of rights and fundamental freedoms

(4) The provisions of this Chapter on equality must be qualified to the extent strictly necessary for the application of Muslim law before the Kadhis' courts, to persons who profess the Muslim religion, in matters relating to personal status, marriage, divorce and inheritance.

Article 27 Equality and freedom from discrimination

(4) The State may not discriminate directly or indirectly against any person on any ground, including race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, health status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, dress, language or birth.

Article 32 Freedom of conscience, religion, belief and opinion

(1) Every person has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.

(2) Every person has the right, either individually or in community with others, in public or in private, to manifest any religion or belief through worship, practice, teaching or observance, including observance of a day of worship.

(3) A person may not be denied access to any institution, employment or facility, or the enjoyment of any right, because of the person's belief or religion.

(4) A person may not be compelled to act, or engage in any act, that is contrary to the person's belief or religion.

Article 45 Family

(4) Parliament enacts legislation that recognises

(a) marriages concluded under any tradition, or system of religious, personal or family law; and

(b) any system of personal and family law under any tradition, or adhered to by persons professing a particular religion, to the extent that any such marriages or systems of law are consistent with this Constitution.

Article 91 Basic requirements for political parties

(2) A political party may not

(a) be founded on a religious, linguistic, racial, ethnic, gender or regional basis or seek to engage in advocacy of hatred on any such basis;

Article 170 Kadhi's Courts

(2) A person may not be qualified to be appointed to hold or act in the office of Kadhi unless the person

(a) professes the Muslim religion

(5) The jurisdiction of a Kadhis' court is limited to the determination of questions of Muslim law relating to personal status, marriage, divorce or inheritance in

proceedings in which all the parties profess the Muslim religion and submit to the jurisdiction of the Kadhi's courts.

Kyrgyzstan

Article 4

4. The following shall be prohibited in the Kyrgyz Republic:

- 3) creation of political parties on religious or ethnic basis as well as pursuit of political goals by religious associations
- 5) activity of political parties, public and religious organizations, their representations and branches in the event that such structures pursue political goals aimed at forced change of the constitutional setup, undermining national security, incitement of social, racial, inter-national, interethnic and religious hatred.

Article 7

- 1. No religion in the Kyrgyz Republic shall be recognized as the state or mandatory one.
- 2. Religion and all cults shall be separated from the state.
- 3. The involvement of religious associations and ministers of religion in the activity of state authorities shall be prohibited.

Article 20

4. The following guarantees of prohibition established by the present Constitution shall not be subject to any limitations:

- 7) On coercion to express opinions, religious or other beliefs or denial thereof

5. The following rights established in the present Constitution, shall not be subject to any limitation whatsoever:

- 5) That of freedom of choice and possessing religious or other beliefs

Article 31

4. The propagation of national, ethnic, racial and religious hatred, gender as well as other social supremacy which calls to discrimination, hostility and violence shall be prohibited.

Article 32

- 2. Everyone shall have the right to confess individually or jointly with other persons any religion or not to confess religion.
- 3. Everyone shall have the right to freely choose and have religions and other convictions.
- 4. No one may be forced to express his/her religious and other convictions or deny them.

Reference: <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=10576>

Laos

Article 9

The State respects and protects all lawful activities of Buddhists and of followers of other religions, mobilises and encourages the Buddhist monks, novices and priests of other faiths to participate in those activities which are beneficial to the country and its people. All acts of fomenting division among religions and among the people are prohibited.

Article 30

Lao citizens have the right and freedom to believe or not to believe in religions.

Reference: <http://www.copac.org.zw/index.php?...laos-constitution...constitutions...%E2%80%8E>

Latvia

Article 99 [Thought, Conscience, Religion]

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The church shall be separate from the State.

Article 116 [Restrictions]

The rights of persons set out in Articles 96, 97, 98, 100, 102, 103, 106, and 108 of the Constitution may be subject to restrictions in circumstances provided for by law in order to protect the rights of other people, the democratic structure of the State, and public safety, welfare and morals. On the basis of the conditions set forth in this Article, restrictions may also be imposed on the expression of religious beliefs.

Lebanon

Article 9 [Conscience, Belief]

There shall be absolute freedom of conscience. The state in rendering homage to the Most High shall respect all religions and creeds and guarantees, under its protection, the free exercise of all religious rites provided that public order is not disturbed. It also guarantees that the personal status and religious interests of the population, to whatever religious sect they belong, is respected.

Article 10 [Education, Confessional Schools]

Education is free insofar as it is not contrary to public order and morals and does not interfere with the dignity of any of the religions or creeds. There shall be no violation of the right of religious communities to have their own schools provided they follow the general rules issued by the state regulating public instruction.

Article 19 [Constitutional Council]

A Constitutional Council is established to supervise the constitutionality of laws and to arbitrate conflicts that arise from parliamentary and presidential elections. The President, the President of the Parliament, the Prime Minister, along with any ten Members of Parliament, have the right to consult this Council on matters that relate to the constitutionality of laws. The officially recognized heads of religious communities have the right to consult this Council only on laws relating to personal status, the freedom of belief and religious practice, and the freedom of religious education. The rules governing the organization, operation, composition, and modes of appeal of the Council are decided by a special law.

Article 22 [Senate]

With the election of the first Parliament on a national, non-confessional basis, a Senate is established in which all the religious communities are represented. Its authority is limited to major national issues.

Article 24 [Electoral Laws]

(1) The Chamber of Deputies is composed of elected members; their number and the method of their election is determined by the electoral laws in effect. Until such time as the Chamber enacts new electoral laws on a non-confessional basis, the distribution of seats is according to the following principles:

b. Proportional representation among the confessional groups within each religious community.

Liberia

Article 14

All persons shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment thereof except as may be required by law to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others. All persons who, in the practice of their religion, conduct themselves peaceably, not obstructing others and conforming to the standards set out herein, shall be entitled to the protection of the law. No religious denomination or sect shall have any exclusive privilege or preference over any other, but all shall be treated alike; and no religious tests shall be required for any civil or military office or for the exercise of any civil right. Consistent with the principle of separation of religion and state, the Republic shall establish no state religion.

Article 18

All Liberian citizens shall have equal opportunity for work and employment regardless of sex, creed, religion, ethnic background, place of origin or political affiliation, and all shall be entitled to equal pay for equal work.

Article 78

As used in this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, an "association" means a body of persons, corporate or other, which acts together for a common purpose, and includes a group of people organized for any ethnic, social, cultural, occupational or religious objectives; a "political party" shall be an association with a membership of not less than five hundred qualified voters in each of at least six counties, whose activities include canvassing for votes on any public issue or in support of a candidate for elective public office; and an "independent candidate" shall be a person seeking electoral post or office with or without his own organization, acting independently of a political party.

Article 79

No association, by whatever name called, shall function as a political party, nor shall any citizen be an independent candidate for election to public office, unless:

b. the membership of the association or the independent candidate's organization is open to every citizen of Liberia, irrespective of sex, religion or ethnic background, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

d. the name, objective, emblem or motto of the association or of the independent candidate and his organization is free from any religious connotations or divisive ethnic implications and that the activities of the association or independent candidate are not limited to a special group or, in the case of an association, limited to a particular geographic area of Liberia

Lithuania**Article 25**

(4) Freedom to express convictions or impart information shall be incompatible with criminal actions - the instigation of national, racial, religious, or social hatred, violence, or discrimination, the dissemination of slander, or misinformation.

Article 26

(1) Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion shall not be restricted.

(2) Every person shall have the right to freely choose any religion or faith and, either individually or with others, in public or in private, to manifest his or her religion or faith in worship, observance, practice or teaching.

(3) No person may coerce another person or be subject to coercion to adopt or profess any religion or faith.

(4) A person's freedom to profess and propagate his or her religion or faith may be subject only to those limitations prescribed by law and only when such restrictions

are necessary to protect the safety of society, public order, a person's health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

(5) Parents and legal guardians shall have the liberty to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

Article 27

A person's convictions, professed religion or faith may justify neither the commission of a crime nor the violation of law.

Article 29

(1) All people shall be equal before the law, the court, and other State institutions and officers.

(2) A person may not have his rights restricted in any way, or be granted any privileges, on the basis of his or her sex, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, religion, convictions, or opinions.

Article 40

(1) State and local government establishments of teaching and education shall be secular. At the request of parents, they shall offer classes in religious instruction.

Article 43

(1) The State shall recognize traditional Lithuanian churches and religious organizations, as well as other churches and religious organizations provided that they have a basis in society and their teaching and rituals do not contradict morality or the law.

(2) Churches and religious organizations recognized by the State shall have the rights of legal persons.

(3) Churches and religious organizations shall freely proclaim the teaching of their faith, perform the rituals of their belief, and have houses of prayer, charity institutions, and educational institutions for the training of priests of their faith.

(4) Churches and religious organizations shall function freely according to their canons and statutes.

(5) The status of churches and other religious organizations in the State shall be established by agreement or by law.

(6) The teachings proclaimed by churches and other religious organizations, other religious activities, and houses of prayer may not be used for purposes which contradict the Constitution and the law.

(7) There shall not be a State religion in Lithuania.

Luxembourg

Article 19 [Freedom of Religion]

Freedom of religion and of public worship as well as freedom to express one's religious opinions are guaranteed, subject to the repression of offenses committed in the exercise of such freedoms.

Article 20 [No Forced Religion]

No one may be forced to take part in any way whatsoever in the acts and ceremonies of a religion or to observe its days of rest.

Article 22 [State and Church]

The State's intervention in the appointment and installation of heads of religions, the mode of appointing and dismissing other ministers of religion, the right of any of them to correspond with their superiors and to publish their acts and decisions, as well as the Church's relations with the State shall be made the subject of conventions to be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies for the provisions governing its intervention.

Article 25 [Assembly]

Luxembourgers have the right to assemble peaceably and unarmed in compliance with the laws governing the exercise of this right which may not require prior authorization. This provision does not apply to open-air political, religious, or other meetings which are fully governed by laws and police regulations.

Article 106 [Salaries of Priests]

The salaries and pensions of ministers of religion shall be borne by the State and regulated by the law.

Article 119 [Provisions Concerning Religions]

Pending the conclusion of the conventions referred to in Article 22, the current provisions concerning religions shall remain in force.

Macedonia

Article 9

- (1) Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia are equal in their freedoms and rights, regardless of sex, race, color of skin, national and social origin, political and religious beliefs, property and social status.
- (2) All citizens are equal before the Constitution and law.

Article 19

- (1) The freedom of religious confession is guaranteed.
- (2) The right to express one's faith freely and publicly, individually or with others is

guaranteed.

(3) The Macedonian Orthodox Church and other religious communities and groups are free to establish schools and other social and charitable institutions, by ways of a procedure regulated by law.

Article 20

(3) The programs and activities of political parties and other associations of citizens may not be directed at the violent destruction of the constitutional order of the Republic, or at encouragement or incitement to military aggression or ethnic, racial or religious hatred or intolerance.

Article 48

(2) The Republic guarantees the protection of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the nationalities.

Article 54

(3) The restriction of freedoms and rights cannot discriminate on grounds of sex, race, color of skin, language, religion, national or social origin, property or social status.

(4) The restriction of freedoms and rights cannot be applied to the right to life, the interdiction of torture, inhuman and humiliating conduct and punishment, the legal determination of punishable offenses and sentences, as well as to the freedom of personal conviction, conscience, thought and religious confession.

Article 110

The Constitutional Court of Macedonia.

- protects the freedoms and rights of the individual and citizen relating to the freedom of communication, conscience, thought and activity as well as to the prohibition of discrimination among citizens on the grounds of sex, race, religion or national, social or political affiliation;

Madagascar

Article 8 [Citizen Equality, No Discrimination]

(1) Citizens shall be equal under the law, enjoying the same fundamental liberties protected by law.

(2) The State shall prohibit all discrimination based on sex, education, wealth, origin, race, religion, or opinion.

Article 10 [Expression, Association, Assembly, Move, Religion]

Freedom of opinion and expression, communication, press, association, assembly, travel, conscience, and religion shall be guaranteed to all and may be limited only in respect of the rights and liberties of others and of the necessity to safeguard public order.

Article 14 [Association, Political Parties]

(1) Citizens may organize freely without prior authorization in associations and political parties; however, associations or political parties which preach totalitarianism or segregation of an ethnic, tribal, or religious nature are forbidden.

Article 28 [Workers' Equality]

No one may suffer injury in his employment because of sex, age, religion, opinion, origin, or political conviction.

Article 77 [Election, Appointment, Nomination, Incompatibility]

(1) Two-thirds of the Senate shall consist of an equal number of members elected in each electoral district by elected representatives of the territorial entities, and one-third shall consist of members representing economic, social, cultural, and religious groups appointed by the President of the Republic upon nomination by legally constituted organizations and groups.

Malaysia**Article 3**

(1) Islam is the religion of the Federation; but other religions may be practised in peace and harmony in any part of the Federation.

(2) In every State other than States not having a Ruler the position of the Ruler as the Head of the religion of Islam in his State in the manner and to the extent acknowledged and declared by the Constitution, all rights, privileges, prerogatives and powers enjoyed by him as Head of that religion, are unaffected and unimpaired; but in any acts, observance or ceremonies with respect to which the Conference of Rulers has agreed that they should extend to the Federation as a whole each of the other Rulers shall in his capacity of Head of the religion of Islam authorize the Yang di-pertuan Agong to represent him.

(3) The Constitution of the States of Malacca, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak shall each make provision for conferring on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be Head of the religion of Islam in that State.

(5) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be the Head of the religion of Islam in the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan; and for this purpose Parliament may by law make provisions for regulating Islamic religious affairs and for constituting a Council to advise the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in matters relating to the religion of Islam.

Article 8

(2) Except as expressly authorized by this Constitution, there shall be no discrimination against citizens on the ground only of religion, race, descent or place of birth in any law relating to the acquisition, holding or disposition of property or the establishing or carrying on of any trade, business, profession, vocation or

employment.

(5) This Article does not invalidate or prohibit -

(b) any provision or practice restricting office or employment connected with the affairs of any religion, or of an institution managed by a group professing any religion, to persons professing that religion;

Article 11

(1) Every person has the right to profess and practice his religion and, subject to Clause (4), to propagate it.

(2) No person shall be compelled to pay any tax the proceeds of which are specially allocated in whole or in part for the purposes of a religion other than his own.

(3) Every religious group has the right -

(a) to manage its own religious affairs;

(b) to establish and maintain institutions for religious or charitable purposes; and

(c) to acquire and own property and hold and administer it in accordance with law.

(4) State law and in respect of the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Lubuan, federal law may control or restrict the propagation of any religious doctrine or belief among persons professing the religion of Islam.

(5) This Article does not authorize any act contrary to any general law relating to public order, public health or morality.

Article 12

(1) Without prejudice to the generality of Article 8, there shall be no discrimination against any

citizen on the grounds only of religion, race, descent or place of birth -

(a) in the administration of any educational institution maintained by a public authority, and, in particular, the admission of pupils or students or the payment of fees; or

(b) in providing out of the funds of a public authority financial aid for the maintenance or education of pupils or students in any educational institution (whether or not maintained by a public authority and whether within or outside the Federation).

(2) Every religious group has the right to establish and maintain institutions for the education of children in its own religion, and there shall be no discrimination on the ground only of religion in any law relating to such institutions or in the administration of any such law; but it shall be lawful for the Federation or a State to establish or maintain or assist in establishing or maintaining Islamic institutions or provide or assist in providing instruction in the religion of Islam and incur such expenditure as may be necessary for the purpose.

(3) No person shall be required to receive instruction in or take part in any ceremony or act of worship of a religion other than his own.

(4) For the purposes of Clause (3) the religion of a person under the age of eighteen years shall be decided by his parent or guardian.

Article 34

(1) The Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall not exercise his functions as Ruler of his State except those Head of the religion of Islam.

(2) The Conference of Rulers shall exercise its functions of -

(b) agreeing or disagreeing to the extension of any religious acts, observances or ceremonies to the Federation as a whole;

(6) The members of the Conference of Rulers may act in their discretion in any proceedings relating to the following functions, that is to say -

(d) the agreeing or disagreeing to the extension of any religious acts, observances or ceremonies to the Federation as a whole.

Article 42

(10) Notwithstanding anything in this Article, the power to grant pardons, reprieves and respites in respect of, to remit, suspend or commute sentences imposed by any court established under any law regulating Islamic religious affairs in the State of Malacca, Penang, Sabah or Sarawak or the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan shall be exercisable by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as Head of the religion of Islam in the State.

Article 97

(3) If in accordance with State law or in respect of the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan, in accordance with federal law any Zakat, Fitrah, Bait-ul-Mal or similar Islamic religious revenue is raised, it shall be paid into a separate fund and shall not be paid out except under the authority of State law or federal law, as the case may be.

Article 150

(6A) Clause (5) shall not extend the powers of Parliament with respect to any matter of Islamic law or the custom of the Malays, or with respect to any matter of native law or custom in the State of Sabah or Sarawak; nor shall Clause (6) validate any provision inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution relating to any such matter or relating to religion, citizenship, or language.

Article 160

(2) In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say -

"Malay" means a person who professes the religion of Islam, habitually speaks the Malay language, conforms to Malay custom

Article 161E

(2) No amendment shall be made to the Constitution without the concurrence of the Yang di- Pertuan Negeri of the State of Sabah or Sarawak or each of the States of Sabah and Sarawak concerned, if the amendment is such as to affect the operation of the Constitution as regards any of the following matters:

(d) religion in the State, the use in the State or in Parliament of any language and the special treatment of natives of the State;

Source: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/malaysia-constitution.pdf>

Mali

Article 2

All Malians are born and live free and equal in their rights and duties. Any discrimination based on social origin, color, language, race, sex, religion, or political opinion is prohibited.

Article 4

Every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, worship, opinion, expression, and creation in respect to the law.

Article 12

No one may be forced into exile.

Anyone persecuted because of their political or religious beliefs, their ethnic membership, may benefit from the right of asylum in the Republic of Mali.

Article 18

Every citizen has a right to education. Public education is mandatory, free, and non-religious. Private education is recognized and it must be carried out according to the conditions defined by law.

Reference: <http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Mali.pdf>

Malta

Section 2 [State Religion]

(1) The religion of Malta is the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion.

(2) The authorities of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church have the duty and the right to teach which principles are right and which are wrong.

(3) Religious teaching of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Faith shall be provided in all State schools as part of compulsory education.

Section 40 [Religion, Belief]

(1) All persons in Malta shall have full freedom of conscience and enjoy the free exercise of their respective mode of religious worship.

(2) No person shall be required to receive instruction in religion or to show knowledge or proficiency in religion if, in the case of a person who has not attained

the age of sixteen years, objection to such requirement is made by the person who according to law has authority over him and, in any other case, if the person so required objects thereto:

Provided that no such requirement shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this section to the extent that the knowledge of, or the proficiency or instruction in, religion is required for the teaching of such religion, or for admission to the priesthood or to a religious order, or for other religious purposes and except so far as that requirement is shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society.

Section 45 [Discrimination]

(9) A requirement, however made, that the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion shall be taught by a person professing that religion shall not be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this section.

Mauritania

Article 5 [State Religion]

Islam shall be the religion of the people and of the State.

Mexico

Article 3

IV. Religious corporations, ministers of religion, stock companies which exclusively or predominantly engage in educational activities, and associations or companies devoted to propagation of any religious creed shall not in any way participate in institutions giving elementary, secondary and normal education and education for laborers or field workers.

Article 5

The State cannot permit the execution of any contract, covenant, or agreement having for its object the restriction, loss or irrevocable sacrifice of the liberty of man, whether for work, education, or religious vows. The law, therefore, does not permit the establishment of monastic orders, whatever be their denomination or purpose.

Article 24

Everyone is free to embrace the religion of his choice and to practice all ceremonies, devotions, or observances of his respective faith, either in places of public worship or at home, provided they do not constitute an offense punishable by law. Every religious act of public worship must be performed strictly inside places of public worship, which shall at all times be under governmental supervision.

Article 27

II. Religious institutions known as churches, regardless of creed, may in no case acquire, hold, or administer real property or hold mortgages thereon; such property held at present either directly or through an intermediary shall revert to the Nation, any person whosoever being authorized to denounce any property so held.

Presumptive evidence shall be sufficient to declare the denunciation well founded.

Places of public worship are the property of the Nation, as represented by the Federal Government, which shall determine which of them may continue to be devoted to their present purposes. Bishoprics, rectories, seminaries, asylums, and schools belonging to religious orders, convents, or any other buildings built or intended for the administration, propagation, or teaching of a religious creed shall at once become the property of the Nation by inherent right, to be used exclusively for the public services of the Federal or State Governments, within their respective jurisdictions. All places of public worship hereafter erected shall be the property of the Nation.

III. Public or private charitable institutions for the rendering of assistance to the needy, for scientific research, the diffusion of knowledge, mutual aid to members, or for any other lawful purpose, may not acquire more real property than actually needed for their purpose and immediately and directly devoted thereto; but they may acquire, hold, or administer mortgages on real property provided the term thereof does not exceed ten years. Under no circumstances may institutions of this kind be under the patronage, direction, administration, charge, or supervision of religious orders or institutions, or of ministers of any religious sect or of their followers, even though the former or the latter may not be in active service.

Article 55

The secretaries of government of the States, federal magistrates and judges or those of the States, cannot be elected in the districts of their respective jurisdictions unless they definitively resign their position ninety days before the election;

VI. Not to be a minister of any religious cult

Article 130. The federal powers shall exercise the supervision required by law in matters relating to religious worship and outward ecclesiastical forms. Other authorities shall act as auxiliaries of the Federation.

Congress cannot enact laws establishing or prohibiting any religion.

The law does not recognize any personality in religious groups called churches.

Ministers of denominations may never, in a public or private meeting constituting an assembly, or in acts of worship or religious propaganda, criticize the fundamental laws of the country or the authorities of the Government, specifically or generally. They shall not have an active or passive vote nor the right to form associations for religious purposes.

Permission to dedicate new places of worship open to the public must be obtained from the Secretariat of Government, with previous consent of the government of the

State. There must be in every church building a representative who is responsible to the authorities for compliance with the laws on religious worship in such building, and for the objects pertaining to the worship.

No privilege shall be granted or confirmed, nor shall any other step be taken which has for its purpose the validation in official courses of study, of courses pursued in establishments devoted to the professional training of ministers of religion. Any authority who violates this provision shall be criminally liable, and the privilege or step referred to shall be void and shall thereby cause the voidance of the professional degree for the attainment of which the violation of this provision was made.

Periodical publications of a religious character, whether they be such because of their program, title, or merely because of their general tendencies, may not comment on national political matters or public information on acts of the authorities of the country or of private persons directly related to the functioning of public institutions.

The formation of any kind of political group, the name of which contains any word or indication whatever that it is related to any religious denomination, is strictly prohibited. Meetings of a political character may not be held in places of worship.

A minister of any denomination may not himself or through an intermediary inherit or receive any real property occupied by any association for religious propaganda or for religious or charitable purposes. Ministers of denominations are legally incapacitated as testamentary heirs of ministers of the same denomination or of any private person who is not related to them within the fourth degree.

The acquisition by private parties of personal or real property owned by the clergy or by religious organizations shall be governed by Article 27 of this Constitution.

Reference: http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/mex/en_mex-int-text-const.pdf

Moldova

Article 10

(2) The State recognizes and guarantees all its citizens the right to preserve, develop and express their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity.

Article 16

(2) All citizens of the Republic of Moldova are equal before the law and the public authorities, without any discrimination as to race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, political choice, personal property or social origin.

Article 31

(2) The freedom of religious worship is guaranteed and religious bodies are free to organize themselves according to their own statutes under the rule of law.

(3) In their mutual relationships religious cults are forbidden to use, express or incite to hatred or enmity.

(4) Religious cults are autonomous vis-a-vis the State and shall enjoy the latter's support, including that aimed at providing religious assistance in the army, in hospitals, prisons, homes for the elderly and orphanages.

Article 32

(3) The law shall forbid and prosecute all actions aimed at denying and slandering the State or the people. Likewise shall be forbidden and prosecuted the instigations to sedition, war, aggression, ethnic, racial or religious hatred, the incitement to discrimination, territorial separatism, public violence, or other actions threatening constitutional order.

Article 35

(8) The State ensures under the law the freedom of religious education. The State ensures a lay education.

Article 72

(3) The purpose of the organic laws is to direct and control:
1) the general status of religious worship

Reference: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---ilo_aids/documents/legaldocument/wcms_127942.pdf

Mongolia**Article 9 [Church]**

(1) The State shall respect the Church and the Church shall honor the State.

(2) State institutions may not engage in religious activities and the Church may not pursue political activities.

(3) The relationship between the State and the Church is regulated by law.

Article 14 [Equality, Right to Personality]

(2) No person may be discriminated on the basis of ethnic origin, language, race, age, sex, social origin or status, property, occupation or post, religion, opinion, or education. Everyone is a person before the law.

Article 16 [Citizen's Rights]

15) Freedom of conscience and religion

Article 19 [Responsibility, Restrictions]

(2) In case of a state of emergency or war, the human rights and freedoms as defined by the Constitution and other laws are subject to limitation only by a law. Such a law may not affect the right to life, the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, as well as the right not to be subjected to torture or inhuman and cruel treatment.

Morocco**Article 6 [State Religion]**

Islam is the religion of the State which guarantees to all freedom of worship.

Article 36 [Responsibility]

The members of the Chamber of Representatives owe their mandate to the Nation. Their voting right is personal and cannot be delegated.

Article 37 [Relative Indemnity, Immunity]

(1) No member of the Chamber of Representatives can be prosecuted or pursued, arrested, detained, or tried for opinions or votes expressed in the discharge of his duties, except when he expresses opinions questioning the monarchical system, the Muslim religion, or lacking the respect due to the King.

Article 100 [Restrictions of Constitutional Amendment]

The monarchic form of the State as well as the provisions relating to the Islamic religion cannot be the object of a constitutional revision.

Mozambique**Article 9**

2. The activity of religious institutions shall be subject to the law.

3. The State recognizes and values the activities of religious denominations which promote a climate of social understanding and tolerance and strengthen national unity.

Article 66

All citizens are equal before the law. They shall enjoy the same rights, and shall be subject to the same duties regardless of color, race, sex, ethnic origin, place of birth, religion, educational level, social position, the legal status of their parents, or their profession.

Article 69

All acts intended to undermine national unity, disturb social harmony, or create divisions or situations of privilege or discrimination based on color, race, sex, ethnic origin, place of birth, religion, educational level, social position, physical or mental ability, the legal status of one's parents, or one's profession shall be punished according to law.

Article 78

1. All citizens shall have the freedom to practice or not to practice a religion.
2. Religious denominations shall have the right to pursue their religious aims freely and to own and acquire assets for the purpose of achieving these aims.

Reference: <http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/moz.pdf>

Nepal

Article 2 The Nation

Having common aspirations and united by a bond of allegiance to national independence and integrity of Nepal, the Nepalese people irrespective of religion, race, caste or tribe, collectively constitute the nation.

Article 11 Right to Equality

(2) No discrimination shall be made against any citizen in the application of general laws on grounds of religion (dharma), race (varya), sex (li_ga), caste (jât), tribe (jâti) or ideological conviction (vaicârik) or any of these.

(3) The State shall not discriminate among citizens on grounds of religion, race, sex, caste, tribe, or ideological conviction or any of these.

Article 19 Right to Religion

(1) Every person shall have the freedom to profess and practice his own religion as handed down to him from ancient times having due regard to traditional practices; provided that no person shall be entitled to convert another person from one religion to another.

(2) Every religious denomination shall have the right to maintain its independent existence and for this purpose to manage and protect its religious places and trusts.

Article 25 Directive Principles of the State

(3) The social objective of the State shall be to establish and develop, on the foundation of justice and morality, a healthy social life, by eliminating all types of economic and social inequalities and by establishing harmony amongst the various castes, tribes, religions, languages, races and communities.

Article 26 State Policies

(2) The State shall, while maintaining the cultural diversity of the country, pursue a policy of strengthening the national unity by promoting healthy and cordial social relations amongst the various religions, castes, tribes, communities and linguistic groups, and by helping in the promotion of their languages, literatures, scripts, arts and cultures.

Article 27 His Majesty

(1) In this Constitution, the words "His Majesty" mean His Majesty the King for the time being reigning, being a descendant of the Great King *Prithvi Narayan Shah* and an adherent of Aryan Culture and the Hindu Religion.

Article 74 Consolidated Fund

Except the revenues of religious endowments, all revenues received by His Majesty's Government, all loans raised on the security of revenues and all moneys received in repayment of any loan made under the authority of any Act shall, unless otherwise provided by an Act, be credited to a Government Fund to be known as the Consolidated Fund.

Article 112 Prohibition on the Imposition of Restrictions on Political Organisations or Parties

(3) The Election Commission shall withhold recognition from any political organisation or any party formed either with the objectives mentioned in clause (2) above or on the basis of religion, community, caste, tribe or region.

Article 113 Registration Required for Securing Recognition for the purpose of Contesting Elections as a Political Organisation or Party

(3) The Election Commission shall not register any political organisation or party if any Nepali citizen of is discriminated against in becoming a member on the basis of religion, caste, tribe, language or sex or if the name, objectives, insignia or flag is of such a nature that it is religious or communal or tends to fragment the country.

Netherlands**Article 1 [Equality]**

All persons in the Netherlands shall be treated equally in equal circumstances. Discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race, or sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted.

Article 6 [Religion, Belief]

(1) Everyone shall have the right to manifest freely his religion or belief, either individually or in community with others, without prejudice to his responsibility under the law.

Article 23 [Education]

(3) Education provided by public authorities shall be regulated by Act of Parliament, paying due respect to everyone's religion or belief.

(5) The standards required of schools financed either in part or in full from public funds shall be regulated by Act of Parliament, with due regard, in the case of private schools, to the freedom to provide education according to religious or other belief.

New Zealand

No religious provisions.

Nicaragua**Article 5**

Nicaragua bases its international relations on friendship and solidarity among the peoples and reciprocity among States. Consequently, all forms of political, military, economic, cultural, or religious aggression and the interference in the internal affairs of other States are forbidden and proscribed. Nicaragua recognizes the principle of the peaceful settlement of international disputes through the means offered by international law and prohibits the use of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction in domestic and international conflicts. Nicaragua guarantees the right of asylum to persons persecuted for political reasons, and rejects any subordination of one State to another.

Article 14

The State has no official religion.

Article 27

All individuals are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection. There shall be no discrimination based on birth, nationality, political belief, race, gender, language, religion, opinion, origin, economic position or social condition.

Article 29

Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience and thought and to profess or not profess a religion. No one shall be the object of coercive measures which diminish these rights or be compelled to declare his/her creed, ideology or beliefs.

Article 49

In Nicaragua workers in the cities and countryside, women, youth, agricultural producers, artisans, professionals, technicians, intellectuals, artists, religious persons, the Communities of the Atlantic Coast and the population in general have

the right to form organizations with the goal of realizing their aspirations according to their own interests, without discrimination, and to participate in the construction of a new society. Such organizations shall be formed according to the elective and participatory will of citizens, they shall have a social function and may or may not have a partisan character, according to their nature and objectives.

Article 69

All persons, either individually or in a group, have the right to manifest their religious beliefs in public or private, through worship, practices and teachings. No one may evade obedience to the law or impede others from exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties by invoking religious beliefs or dispositions.

Article 82

Workers have the right to working conditions that specifically ensure them:

1 Equal pay for equal work under identical conditions, suitable to their social responsibility, without discrimination for political, religious, racial, gender or any other reasons, which ensure a well-being compatible with human dignity.

Article 124

Education in Nicaragua is secular. The State recognizes the right of private education centers with a religious orientation to teach religion as an extracurricular subject.

Article 134

The following persons may not run for the National Assembly, as members or alternates:

Ministers of any religious cult, unless they have resigned at least 12 months in advance from the election date.

Article 147

The following persons may not run for President or Vice President of the Republic: The ministers of any religious faith unless they have renounced its practice at least two months prior to the election.

Article 180

The State guarantees these communities the benefits of their natural resources, the effectiveness of their forms of communal property and the free election of their authorities and representatives.

Furthermore, it guarantees the preservation of their cultures and languages, religions and customs.

Reference: https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Nicaragua_2005.pdf

Niger

Article 3

The Republic of Niger is a unitary State. It is one and indivisible, democratic and social.

Its fundamental principles are: the government of the people by the people and for the people; the separation of the State and of religion; social justice; national solidarity.

Article 8

The Republic of Niger is a State of Law.

It assures to all equality before the law without distinction of sex, or of social, racial, ethnic or religious origin.

It respects and protects all beliefs. No religion, no belief can arrogate the political power or interfere in the affairs of State.

All particularist propaganda of a regionalist, racial or ethnic character, all manifestation of racial, social, sexist, ethnic, political or religious discrimination, are punished by the law.

Article 9

The political parties with an ethnic, regionalist or religious character are prohibited. No party may be knowingly created with the purpose of promoting an ethnic group, a region or a religion, under penalty of the sanctions provided by the law.

Article 17

Each one has the right to the free development of his personality in its material, intellectual, cultural, artistic and religious dimensions, provided that he does not violate the rights of others, or infringe the constitutional order, the law or morality.

Article 30

Any person has the right to freedom of thought, of opinion, of expression, of conscience, of religion and of worship.

The State guarantees the free exercise of worship and the expression of beliefs. These rights are exercised with respect for public order, for social peace and for national unity.

Article 175

No procedure of revision may be engaged or followed when the integrity of the territory is infringed.

The republican form of the State, the multiparty system, the principle of the separation of State and religion and the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 47 and of Article 185 of this Constitution may not be made the object of any revision.

Reference: https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Niger_2010.pdf

Nigeria

Article 10

The Government of the Federation or of a State shall not adopt any religion as State Religion.

Article 15

(2) Accordingly, national integration shall be actively encouraged, whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited.

(3) For the purpose of promoting national integration, it shall be the duty of the State to:

(c) encourage inter-marriage among persons from different places of origin, or of different religious, ethnic or linguistic association or ties; and

(d) promote or encourage the formation of associations that cut across ethnic, linguistic, religious and or other sectional barriers.

Article 17

(3) The State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that-

(b) conditions of work are just and humane, and that there are adequate facilities for leisure and for social, religious and cultural life.

Article 23

The national ethics shall be Discipline, Integrity, Dignity of Labour, Social, Justice, Religious Tolerance, Self-reliance and Patriotism.

Article 38

(1) Every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom (either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private) to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.

(2) No person attending any place of education shall be required to receive religious instruction or to take part in or attend any religious ceremony or observance if such instruction ceremony or observance relates to a religion other than his own, or religion not approved by his parent or guardian.

(3) No religious community or denomination shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for pupils of that community or denomination in any place of education maintained wholly by that community or denomination.

Article 42

(1) A citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not, by reason only that he is such a person:

(a) be subjected either expressly by, or in the practical application of, any law in force in Nigeria or any executive or administrative action of the government, to disabilities or restrictions to which citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions are not made subject

(b) be accorded either expressly by, or in the practical application of, any law in force in Nigeria or any such executive or administrative action, any privilege or advantage that is not accorded to citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions.

Article 222

No association by whatever name called shall function as a party, unless –

(b) the membership of the association is open to every citizen of Nigeria irrespective of his place of origin, circumstance of birth, sex, religion or ethnic grouping

(e) the name of the association, its symbol or logo does not contain any ethnic or religious connotation or give the appearance that the activities of the association are confined to a part only of the geographical area of Nigeria

229. In this Part of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires -
"association" means any body of persons corporate or unincorporate who agree to act together for any commission purpose, and includes an association formed for any ethnic, social, cultural, occupational religious purpose.

Reference: <http://www.nigeria-law.org/ConstitutionOfTheFederalRepublicOfNigeria.htm>

Norway

Article 4 [Religion of the King]

The King at all times professes the Evangelical-Lutheran religion.

Article 16 [Religion]

All inhabitants of the realm have the right to free exercise of their religion. The Norwegian Church, an Evangelical-Lutheran Church, remains Norway's Church and supported as such by the state. Specific provisions on the organization thereof are laid down by law. All religions and religious groups are supported equally.

Pakistan

Preamble

Wherein adequate provision shall be made for the minorities freely to profess and practise their religions and develop their cultures;

Article 2: Islam to be State religion.

Islam shall be the State religion of Pakistan.

Article 20: Freedom to profess religion and to manage religious institutions

(a) every citizen shall have the right to profess, practise and propagate his religion; and

(b) every religious denomination and every sect thereof shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions.

Article 21: Safeguard against taxation for purposes of any particular religion

No person shall be compelled to pay any special tax the proceeds of which are to be spent on the propagation or maintenance of any religion other than his own.

Article 22: Safeguards as to educational institutions in respect of religion, etc.

(1) No person attending any educational institution shall be required to receive religious instruction, or take part in any religious ceremony, or attend religious worship, if such instruction, ceremony or worship relates to a religion other than his own.

(2) In respect of any religious institution, there shall be no discrimination against any community in the granting of exemption or concession in relation to taxation.

(3) Subject to law,

(a) no religious community or denomination shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for pupils of that community or denomination in any educational institution maintained wholly by that community or denomination; and

(b) no citizen shall be denied admission to any educational institution receiving aid from public revenues on the ground only of race, religion, caste or place of birth.

Article 26: Non-discrimination in respect of access to public places

(1) In respect of access to places of public entertainment or resort not intended for religious purposes only, there shall be no discrimination against any citizen on the ground only of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth.

Article 27: Safeguard against discrimination in services.– (1) No citizen otherwise qualified for appointment in the service of Pakistan shall be discriminated against in respect of any such appointment on the ground only of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth.

Article 37: Promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils

The State shall:

(h) prevent the consumption of alcoholic liquor otherwise than for medicinal and, in the case of non-Muslims, religious purposes

Article 260: Definitions

(1) In the Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meaning hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say,-

"Muslim" means a person who believes in the unity and oneness of Almighty Allah, in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (peace be upon him), the last of the prophets, and does not believe in, or recognize as a prophet or religious reformer, any person who claimed or claims to be a prophet, in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever, after Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Reference:

<http://punjablaws.punjab.gov.pk/public/dr/CONSTITUTION%20OF%20PAKISTAN.doc.pdf>

Palestine**Article (5)**

Arabic is the official language and Islam is the official religion in Palestine. Christianity and all other monotheistic religions are accorded sanctity and respect. The constitution guarantees equality in rights and duties to all citizens irrespective of their religious creed.

Article (7)

The principles of the Islamic shari`a are a main source for legislation. The followers of the monotheistic religions and shall have their personal status and religious affairs organized according to their shari'as and religious denominations within the framework of [positive] law, while preserving the unity and independence of the Palestinian people.

Article (8)

The Palestinian political system shall be a parliamentary representative democracy. It shall be based on political pluralism and the guarantee of the rights and freedoms of all citizens. These include the right to form political parties and engage in political activity without discrimination on the basis of political opinions, sex, or religion. Parties shall abide by the principles of national sovereignty, democracy and peaceful transfer of authority in accordance with the Constitution.

Article (19) All Palestinians are equal before the law. They enjoy civil and political rights and bear public duties without difference or discrimination, regardless of race, gender, color, religion, political opinion, or disability. The term 'Palestinian' or 'citizen' wherever it appears in the constitution refers to male and female.

Article (20) Human rights and fundamental freedoms are binding and must be respected. The state shall guarantee religious, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights and freedoms to all citizens and their enjoyment on the principle of equality and equal opportunity. A person may not be deprived of his rights, fundamental, or legal competence for political reasons.

Article (36) Freedom of creed is guaranteed and every person has the right to practice the rites of worship in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and the law. The state shall guarantee access to holy places that are subject to its sovereignty within the framework of law. The state shall guarantee to followers of all monotheistic religions the sanctity of their places of religious worship in accordance with the historic commitment of the Palestinian people and the international commitments of the state of Palestine.

Article (49) Public property shall be honored and its protection is a duty of each citizen. It shall serve the public interest in accordance with the law. The law shall regulate the authority for religious endowments and management of its properties and funds.

Reference: <http://www.pcpsr.org/domestic/2003/nbrowne.pdf>

Panama

Article 19

There shall be no public or private privileges, or discrimination, by reason of race, birth, social class, handicap, sex, religion or political ideology.

Article 35

All religions may be professed and all forms of worship practiced freely, without any other limitation than respect for Christian morality and public order. It is recognized that the Catholic religion is practiced by the majority of Panamanians.

Article 36

Religious organizations have juridical capacity and manage and administer their property within the limits prescribed by law, the same as other juridical persons.

Article 45

Ministers of religious faiths and members of religious orders, aside from the performance of duties inherent to their missions, may hold public posts only when such are positions related to social welfare, public education, or scientific research.

Article 67

A like wage or salary shall always be paid for like work under identical conditions, irrespective of the person who performs it, without taking into account sex, nationality, age, race, social standing, political or religious ideologies.

Article 94

Freedom of education is guaranteed, and the right to create private schools, subject to law, is recognized. The State has the power to intervene in the teachings of private educational establishments in order that national and social purposes of the culture, as well as the intellectual, moral, civic, and physical formation of students, be fulfilled.

Public education is that taught in official public schools and private education, that taught in private schools.

Educational institutions, whether public or private, are open to all students without distinction of race, social position, political ideology, religion, or the nature of the relationship of the student's parents or guardians.

Official and private education shall be regulated by law.

Article 107

The Catholic religion shall be taught in public schools, but, upon the requests of parents or guardians, certain students shall not be obliged to attend religion classes, nor to participate in religious services.

Article 139

It is unlawful to form political parties based on sex, race, or religion, or that have as their purpose the destruction of the democratic form of government.

Article 181

The President and the Vice-President of the Republic shall take office before the National Assembly on the first day of July following the elections and shall take the oath of office in these words: "I swear to God and to the Country to comply faithfully with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic."

A citizen who professes no religious belief may dispense with the invocation to God in the oath.

Article 300

Public Employees shall be of Panamanian nationality, without discrimination for reasons of race, sex, religion or political activities. Their appointment and removal may not be the absolute and discretionary prerogative of any Authority, except as provided in this Constitution.

Public Employees shall be governed by the merit system; Stability in their positions shall depend on their competence, loyalty and morality in service.

Reference: https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Panama_2004.pdf

Paraguay

Article 24 About Religious and Ideological Freedom

(1) Freedom of religion, worship, and ideology is recognized without any restrictions other than those established in this Constitution and the law. The State has no official religion.

(2) Relations between the State and the Catholic Church are based on independence, cooperation, and autonomy.

(3) The independence and autonomy of all churches and religious denominations, without restrictions other than those imposed by this Constitution and the law, are hereby guaranteed.

(4) No one may be disturbed, questioned, or forced to give testimony by reason of his beliefs or ideology.

Article 37 About the Right to Conscientious Objection

The right to conscientious objection for ethical or religious reasons is hereby recognized for those cases in which this Constitution and the law permit it.

Article 63 About Ethnic Identity

The right of Indian peoples to preserve and to develop their ethnic identity in their respective habitat is hereby recognized and guaranteed. They also have the right to freely apply their systems of political, socioeconomic, cultural, and religious organization, and to voluntarily observe customary practices in their domestic coexistence as long as they do not violate the fundamental rights established by this Constitution. Indian customary rights will be taken into account when deciding conflicts of jurisdiction.

Article 74 About the Right to Learn and the Freedom to Teach

(2) The freedom to teach, without any requirement other than having ethical integrity and being competent for the job, as well as the right to have a religious education and ideological pluralism are also guaranteed.

Article 88 About Nondiscrimination

(1) No discrimination will be permitted against workers for reasons of race, sex, age, religion, social status, and political or union preference.

Article 197 About Causes of Ineligibility

(1) The following cannot be candidates for deputies or senators:

5. Ministers or clergymen of any religion

Article 235 About Causes for Ineligibility

(1) The following are ineligible to run as candidates for president or vice president of the Republic:

5. Ministers or clergymen of any religion

Peru

Article 2

Every person has the right:

2. to equality before the law. No person shall be discriminated on the basis of origin, race, sex, language, religion, opinion, economic situation or any other reason

3. to freedom of conscience and religion, in an individual or collective manner. No person shall be persecuted on a basis of his ideas or beliefs. There is no crime of opinion. Public exercise of any faith is free, in so far as it does not constitute an offense against morals or a disturbance of the public peace

18. to keep in private his political, philosophical, religious or any other type of convictions, as well as to keep professional secret

Article 14

Ethical and civic training and the teaching of the Constitution and of human rights are mandatory in every civil or military educational process. Religious education is provided in keeping with freedom of conscience.

Article 37

Extradition shall not be granted when it is determined that the request was motivated by persecution or punishment on grounds of religion, nationality, opinion or race.

Reference: http://www.congreso.gob.pe/_ingles/CONSTITUTION_29_08_08.pdf

Philippines

Article 3, Section 5

No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights.

Article 6, Section 5

(2) The party-list representatives shall constitute twenty *per centum* of the total number of representatives including those under the party list. For three consecutive terms after the ratification of this Constitution, one-half of the seats allocated to party-list representatives shall be filled, as provided by law, by selection or election from the labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector.

Article 6, Section 27

(3) Charitable institutions, churches and personages or convents appurtenant thereto, mosques, non-profit cemeteries, and all lands, buildings, and improvements, actually, directly, and exclusively used for religious, charitable, or educational purposes shall be exempt from taxation.

Article 6, Section 29

(2) No public money or property shall be appropriated, applied, paid, or employed, directly or indirectly, for the use, benefit, or support of any sect, church, denomination, sectarian institution, or system of religion, or of any priest, preacher, minister, other religious teacher, or dignitary as such, except when such priest, preacher, minister, or dignitary is assigned to the armed forces, or to any penal institution, or government orphanage or leprosarium.

Article 9, Part C, Section 2

(5) Register, after sufficient publication, political parties, organizations, or coalitions which, in addition to other requirements, must present their platform or program of government; and accredit citizens' arms of the Commission on Elections. Religious denominations and sects shall not be registered. Those which seek to achieve their goals through violence or unlawful means, or refuse to uphold and adhere to this Constitution, or which are supported by any foreign government shall likewise be refused registration.

Article 14, Section 2

(3) At the option expressed in writing by the parents or guardians, religion shall be allowed to be taught to their children or wards in public elementary and high schools within the regular class hours by instructors designated or approved by the religious authorities of the religion to which the children or wards belong, without additional cost to the Government.

Article 14, Section 4

(2) Educational institutions, other than those established by religious groups and mission boards, shall be owned solely by citizens of the Philippines or corporations or associations at least sixty *per centum* of the capital of which is owned by such citizens. The Congress may, however, require increased Filipino equity participation in all educational institutions.

Article 15, Section 3

The State shall defend:

(1) The right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood

Reference:

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/Philippines/PHILIPPINE%20CONSTITUTION.pdf>

Poland

Article 25

(1) Churches and other religious organizations shall have equal rights.

(2) Public authorities in the Republic of Poland shall be impartial in matters of personal conviction, whether religious or philosophical, or in relation to outlooks on life, and shall ensure their freedom of expression within public life.

(3) The relationship between the State and churches and other religious organizations shall be based on the principle of respect for their autonomy and the mutual independence of each in its own sphere, as well as on the principle of cooperation for the individual and the common good.

(4) The relations between the Republic of Poland and the Roman Catholic Church shall be determined by international treaty concluded with the Holy See, and by statute.

(5) The relations between the Republic of Poland and other churches and religious organizations shall be determined by statutes adopted pursuant to agreements concluded between their appropriate representatives and the Council of Ministers.

Article 35

(2) National and ethnic minorities shall have the right to establish educational and cultural institutions, institutions designed to protect religious identity, as well as to participate in the resolution of matters connected with their cultural identity.

Article 53

(1) Freedom of faith and religion shall be ensured to everyone.

(2) Freedom of religion shall include the freedom to profess or to accept a religion by personal choice as well as to manifest such religion, either individually or collectively, publicly or privately, by worshipping, praying, participating in ceremonies, performing of rites or teaching. Freedom of religion shall also include possession of sanctuaries and other places of worship for the satisfaction of the needs of believers as well as the right of individuals, wherever they may be, to benefit from religious services.

(3) Parents shall have the right to ensure their children a moral and religious upbringing and teaching in accordance with their convictions. The provisions of Article 48 (1) shall apply as appropriate.

(4) The religion of a church or other legally recognized religious organization may be taught in schools, but other peoples' freedom of religion and conscience shall not be infringed thereby.

(5) The freedom to publicly express religion may be limited only by means of statute and only where this is necessary for the defence of State security, public order, health, morals or the freedoms and rights of others.

(6) No one shall be compelled to participate or not participate in religious practices.

(7) No one may be compelled by organs of public authority to disclose his philosophy of life, religious convictions or belief.

Article 85

(3) Any citizen whose religious convictions or moral principles do not allow him to perform military service may be obliged to perform substitute service in accordance with principles specified by statute.

Article 191

(1) The following may make application to the Constitutional Tribunal regarding matters specified in Article 188:

5) churches and religious organizations

Article 233

(1) The statute specifying the scope of limitation of the freedoms and rights of persons and citizens in times of martial law and states of emergency shall not limit the freedoms and rights specified in Articles 30 (the dignity of the person), 34, 36 (citizenship), 38 (protection of life), 39, 40, 41 (4) (humane treatment), 42 (ascription of criminal responsibility), 45 (access to a court), 47 (personal rights), 53 (conscience and religion), 63 (petitions), as well as Articles 48 and 72 (family and children).

Portugal

Article 13 Principle of Equality

(1) All citizens have the same social dignity and are equal before the law.

(2) No one is privileged, favored, injured, deprived of any right, or exempt from any duty because of his ancestry, sex, race, language, territory of origin, religion, political or ideological convictions, education, economic situation, or social condition.

Article 19 Suspension of the Exercise of Rights

(6) The declaration of a state of siege or emergency in no case affects the rights to life, personal dignity and identity, civil capacity and citizenship of the person, the non-retroactive nature of criminal law, the right to defense of accused persons, and the freedom of conscience and religion.

Article 35 Use of Data Processing

(3) Data processing may not be used in regard to information concerning a person's philosophical or political convictions, party or trade union affiliations, religious beliefs, or private life, except in the case of non-identifiable data for statistical purposes.

Article 41 Freedom of Conscience, Religion, and Worship

(1) Freedom of conscience, religion, and worship are inviolable.

(2) No one may be persecuted, deprived of rights, or exempted from civil obligations or duties because of his convictions or religious practices.

(3) No one may be questioned by any authority about his or her convictions or religious practices, except for gathering of statistical data that cannot be identified individually, nor shall anyone be prejudiced by his or her refusal to reply.

(4) The churches and religious communities are separate from the State and free to organize and exercise their own ceremonies and worship.

(5) The freedom to teach any religion within its own denomination and the use of its own means of public information for the pursuit of its activities, are safeguarded.

Article 43 Freedom to Learn and Teach

(2) The State may not arrogate to itself the right to plan education and culture in accordance with any philosophical, aesthetic, political, ideological, or religious guidelines.

Article 51 Political Associations and Parties

(3) Without prejudice to the philosophy or ideology inspiring their programs, political parties may not use names that contain terms directly related to any religion or church or use emblems which may be mistaken for national or religious symbols.

Article 55 Trade Union Freedom

(4) Trade union associations are independent of employers, the State, and religious denominations. Adequate safeguards for such independence has to be laid down by law as the foundation of the unity of the working classes.

Article 59 Rights of Workers

(1) All workers, regardless of their age, sex, race, nationality, land of origin, religion, or political or ideological convictions, are entitled to:

Qatar

Article 1

Qatar is an independent sovereign Arab State. Its religion is Islam and Shari'a law shall be a main source of its legislations. Its political system is democratic. The Arabic Language shall be its official language. The people of Qatar are a part of the Arab nation.

Article 21

The family is the basis of the society. A Qatari family is founded on religion, ethics, and patriotism. The law shall regulate adequate means to protect the family, support its structure, strengthen its ties, and protect maternity, childhood, and old age.

Article 35

All persons are equal before the law and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex, race, language, or religion.

Article 50

Freedom to practice religious rites shall be guaranteed to all persons in accordance with the law and the requirements of the maintenance of public order and morality.

Romania

Article 4 [Unity, No Discrimination]

(2) Romania is the common and indivisible homeland of all its citizens, without any discrimination on account of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, opinion, political adherence, property, or social origin.

Article 6 [Minorities]

(1) The State recognizes and guarantees the right of persons belonging to national minorities, to the preservation, development, and expression of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity.

Article 7 [Romanians Abroad]

The State shall support the strengthening of links with the Romanians living abroad and shall act accordingly for the preservation development and expression of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity under observance of the legislation of the State of which they are citizens.

Article 29 [Religion]

(1) Freedom of thought, opinion, and religious beliefs may not be restricted in any form whatsoever. No one may be compelled to embrace an opinion or religion contrary to his own convictions.

(2) Freedom of conscience is guaranteed; it must be manifested in a spirit of tolerance and mutual respect.

(3) All religions shall be free and organized in accordance with their own statutes, under the terms laid down by law.

(4) Any forms, means, acts, or actions of religious enmity shall be prohibited in the relationships among the cults.

(5) Religious cults shall be independent from the State and shall enjoy support from it, including the facilitation of religious assistance in the army, in hospitals, prisons, homes, and orphanages.

(6) Parents or legal tutors have the right to ensure, in accordance with their own convictions, the education of the minor children whose responsibility devolves on them.

Article 30 [Expression]

(7) Any defamation of the country and the nation, any instigation to a war of aggression, to national, racial, class or religious hatred, any incitement to discrimination, territorial separatism, or public violence, as well as any obscene conduct contrary to morality shall be prohibited by law.

Article 32 [Education]

(7) The State shall ensure the freedom of religious education, in accordance with the specific requirements of each religious cult. In public schools, religious education is organized and guaranteed by law.

Article 44 [Family]

(2) The terms for entering into marriage, dissolution, and nullity of marriage, shall be established by law. Religious wedding may be celebrated only after civil marriage

Article 72

(3) Organic laws shall regulate:

n) general statutory rules of religious cults

Russia

Article 13 [Political Plurality]

(5) The establishment and the activities of public associations, whose aims and actions are directed at forcible alteration of the fundamentals of constitutional governance and violation of the integrity of the Russian Federation and undermining of the security of the state, the forming of armed units, the incitement of social, racial, national and religious strife are prohibited.

Article 14 [Secularity of the State]

- (1) The Russian Federation is a secular state. No religion may be instituted as state-sponsored or mandatory religion.
- (2) Religious associations are separated from the state, and are equal before the law.

Article 19 [Equality]

- (1) All people are equal before the law and in the court of law.
- (2) The state guarantees the equality of rights and liberties regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, property or employment status, residence, attitude to religion, convictions, membership of public associations or any other circumstance. Any restrictions of the rights of citizens on social, racial, national, linguistic or religious grounds are forbidden.

Article 28 [Belief, Religion]

Everyone is guaranteed the right to freedom of conscience, to freedom of religious worship, including the right to profess, individually or jointly with others, any religion, or to profess no religion, to freely choose, possess and disseminate religious or other beliefs, and to act in conformity with them.

Article 29 [Expression]

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and speech.
- (2) Propaganda or campaigning inciting social, racial, national or religious hatred and strife is impermissible. The propaganda of social, racial, national, religious or language superiority is forbidden.

Rwanda**Article 16 [Citizen Equality]**

All citizens shall be equal the eyes of the law, without any discrimination, especially in respect to race, color, origin, ethnic background, clan, sex, opinion, religion, or social status.

Article 18 [Religion, Expression]

Freedom of religion and the public exercise thereof, liberty of conscience, as well as liberty of expressing one's opinion about any subject, shall be guaranteed, except for the punishment of infractions committed during the exercise thereof.

Saudi Arabia

Article 1

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab Islamic state with Islam as its religion; God's Book and the Sunnah of His Prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, are its constitution, Arabic is its language and Riyadh is its capital.

Article 33 [Armed Forces]

The state establishes and equips the Armed Forces for the defence of the Islamic religion, the Two Holy Places, society, and the citizen.

Article 34 [Military Service]

The defence of the Islamic religion, society, and country is a duty for each citizen. The regime establishes the provisions of military service.

Senegal

Article 1

The Republic of Senegal shall be secular, democratic and social. It shall ensure equality before the law for all citizens, without distinction as to origin, race, sex or religion. It shall respect all faiths. The official language of the Republic of Senegal shall be French. The national languages shall be Diolo, Malinke, Poular, Serer, Soninke and Wolof and any other national language which has been codified.

Article 4

Political parties and coalitions of political parties shall contribute to the expression of suffrage. They shall be required to respect the Constitution and thus the principles of national sovereignty and democracy. They are prevented from identifying themselves by race, ethnicity, sex, religion, sect, language or region.

Article 5

Any act of racial, ethnic or religious discrimination as well as any regionalist propaganda capable of interfering with the internal security of the state or the territorial integrity of the Republic, shall be punished by law.

Article 8

The Republic of Senegal guarantees to all citizens their individual fundamental freedoms, economic and social rights as well as group rights. These freedoms and rights are: Civil and political liberties, freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, press freedom, freedom of association, freedom to hold meetings, freedom of movement, freedom to protest, cultural freedoms, religious freedoms, philosophical freedoms, union freedoms, freedom of enterprise, the right to education, the right to literacy, the right to property, the right to work, the right to health, the right to a

healthy environment, and the right to a variety of information. These freedoms and rights shall be exercised under the conditions provided by law.

Article 22

The state shall have the duty and the task of educating and training the youth through public schools. All children, boys and girls, throughout the national territory, shall have the right to attend school. Religious and non-religious institutions and communities shall also be recognised as educational facilities. All national, public or private institutions shall have the duty to see to it that their members learn to read and write; they shall have the duty to participate in the national literacy effort which aims to ensure that everyone can read and write one of the national languages.

Article 24

Freedom of conscience and the free practice and profession of religion and culture, and the profession of religious education shall, subject to the respect for public order, be guaranteed to all. Religious institutions and communities shall have the right to develop without hindrance. They shall not be subject to direct supervision by the state. They shall regulate and administer their affairs autonomously.

Reference:

http://askanisenegambia.com/downloads/486_Constitution%20of%20SENEGAL.pdf

Serbia

Article 5 Political parties

(3) Activities of political parties aiming at forced overthrow of constitutional system, violation of guaranteed human or minority rights, inciting racial, national or religious hatred, are prohibited.

Article 11 Secularity of the State

- (1) The Republic of Serbia is a secular state.
- (2) Churches and religious communities are separated from the state.
- (3) No religion may be established as state or mandatory religion.

Article 21 Prohibition of discrimination

(3) All direct or indirect discrimination based on any grounds, particularly on race, sex, national origin, social origin, birth, religion, political or other opinion, property status, culture, language, age, mental or physical disability are prohibited.

Article 39 Freedom of movement

(4) A foreign national may be expelled only under decision of the competent body, in a procedure stipulated by the law and if time to appeal has been provided for him

and only when there is no threat of persecution based on his race, sex, religion, national origin, citizenship, association with a social group, political opinions, or when there is no threat of serious violation of rights guaranteed by this Constitution.

Article 43 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

- (1) Freedom of thought, conscience, beliefs and religion are guaranteed, as well as the right to stand by one's belief or religion or change them by choice.
- (2) No person has the obligation to declare his religious or other beliefs.
- (3) Everyone has the freedom to manifest their religion or religious beliefs in worship, observance, practice and teaching, individually or in community with others, and to manifest religious beliefs in private or public.
- (4) Freedom of manifesting religion or beliefs may be restricted by law only if that is necessary in a democratic society to protect lives and health of people, morals of democratic society, freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Constitution, public safety and order, or to prevent inciting of religious, national, and racial hatred.
- (5) Parents and legal guardians have the right to ensure religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

Article 44 Churches and religious communities

- (1) Churches and religious communities are equal and separated from the state.
- (2) Churches and religious communities are equal and free to organize independently their internal structure, religious matters, to perform religious rites in public, to establish and manage religious schools, social and charity institutions, in accordance with the law.
- (3) The Constitutional Court may ban a religious community only if its activities infringe the right to life, right to mental and physical health, the rights of child, right to personal and family integrity, public safety and order, or if it incites religious, national or racial intolerance.

Article 45 Conscientious objection

- (1) No person may be obliged to perform military or any other service involving the use of weapons if this opposes his religion or beliefs.

Article 48 Promotion of respect for diversity

The Republic of Serbia promotes the understanding, recognition and respect of diversity arising from specific ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity of its citizens through measures applied in education, culture and public information.

Article 49 Prohibition of inciting racial, ethnic and religious hatred

Any inciting of racial, ethnic, religious or other inequality or hatred is prohibited and punishable.

Article 50 Freedom of the media

- (3) Censorship may not be applied in the Republic of Serbia. A competent court may prevent the dissemination of information through means of public information only

when this is necessary in a democratic society to prevent inciting to violent overthrow of the system established by the Constitution or to prevent violation of territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, to prevent propagation of war or instigation to direct violence, or to prevent advocacy of racial, ethnic or religious hatred enticing discrimination, hostility or violence.

Article 55 Freedom of association

(4) The Constitutional Court may ban only such associations the activity of which is aimed at violent overthrow of constitutional order, violation of guaranteed human or minority rights, or inciting of racial, national and religious hatred.

Article 57 Right to asylum

(1) Any foreign national with reasonable fear of prosecution based on his race, gender, language, religion, national origin or association with some other group, political opinions, has the right to asylum in the Republic of Serbia.

Article 79 Right to preservation of specificity

(1) Members of national minorities have a right to: expression, preservation, fostering, developing and public expression of national, ethnic, cultural, religious specificity; use of their symbols in public places; use of their language and script; have proceedings also conducted in their languages before state bodies, organisations with delegated public powers, bodies of autonomous provinces and local self-government units, in areas where they make a significant majority of population; education in their languages in public institutions and institutions of autonomous provinces; founding private educational institutions; use of their name and family name in their language; traditional local names, names of streets, settlements and topographic names also written in their languages, in areas where they make a significant majority of population; complete, timely and objective information in their language, including the right to expression, receiving, sending and exchange of information and ideas; establishing their own mass media, in accordance with the Law.

Article 81 Developing the spirit of tolerance

In the field of education, culture and information, Serbia gives impetus to the spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and undertake efficient measures for enhancement of mutual respect, understanding and cooperation among all people living on its territory, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

Article 202 Derogation form human and minority rights in the state of emergency and war

(2) Measures providing for derogation may not bring about differences based on race, sex, language, religion, national affiliation or social origin.

Sierra Leone

Article 6

(2) Accordingly, the State shall promote national integration and unity and discourage discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, circumstance of birth, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties.

Article 8

(3) b. conditions of service and work are fair, just and humane and that there are adequate facilities for leisure and for social, religious and cultural life

Article 13

Every citizen shall—

e. respect the dignity and religion of other individuals, and the rights and interests of others

Article 24

(1) Except with his own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience and for the purpose of this section the said freedom includes freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in community with others and both in public and in private to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.

(2) Except with his own consent (or if he is a minor the consent of his parent or guardian) no person attending any place of education shall be required to receive religious instruction or to take part in or to attend any religious ceremony or observance if that instruction, ceremony or observance relates to a religion other than his own.

(3) No religious community or denomination shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for persons of that community or denomination in the course of any education provided by that community or denomination.

(4) No person shall be compelled to take any oath which is contrary to his religion or belief or to take any oath in a manner which is contrary to his religion or belief.

(5) Nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this section to the extent that the law in question makes a provision which is reasonably required—

a. in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or

b. for the purpose of protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons including the right to observe and practice any religion without the unsolicited intervention of the members of any other religion;

and except in so far as that provision or, as the case may be, the thing done under the authority thereof, is shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society.

Article 35

(5) No association, by whatever name called, shall be registered or be allowed to operate or to function as a political party if the Political Parties Registration Commission is satisfied that—

- a. membership or leadership of the party is restricted to members of any particular tribal or ethnic group or religious faith
- b. the name, symbol, colour or motto of the party has exclusive or particular significance or connotation to members of any particular tribal or ethnic group or religious faith
- c. the party is formed for the sole purpose of securing or advancing the interests and welfare of a particular tribal or ethnic group, community, geographical area or religious faith

"association" includes any body of persons, corporate or incorporate, who agree to act together for any common purpose, or an association formed for any ethnic, social, cultural, occupational or religious purpose; and "political party" means any association registered as a political party as prescribed by subsection

Reference: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/constitution1991.pdf>

Singapore

Article 12 Equality

(2) Except as expressly authorized by this Constitution, there shall be no discrimination against citizens of Singapore on the ground only of religion, race, descent or place of birth in any law or in the appointment to any office or employment under a public authority or in the administration of any law relating to the acquisition, holding, or disposition of property or the establishing or carrying on of any trade, business, profession, vocation or employment.

(3) This article does not invalidate or prohibit

- (a) any provision regulating personal law; or
- (b) any provision or practice restricting office or employment connected with the affairs of any religion, or of an institution managed by a group professing any religion, to persons professing that religion.

Article 15 Freedom of Religion

(1) Every person has the right to profess and practice his religion and to propagate it.

(2) No person shall be compelled to pay any tax the proceeds of which are specially allocated in whole or in part for the purposes of a religion other than his own.

(3) Every religious group has the right

- (a) to manage its own religious affairs;
- (b) to establish and maintain institutions for religious or charitable purposes

Article 16 Rights in Respect of Education

(1) Without prejudice to the generality of Article 12, there shall be no discrimination against any citizens of Singapore on the grounds only of religion, race, descent or place of birth

(a) in the administration of any educational institution maintained by a public authority, and, in particular, the admission of pupils or students or the payment of fees; or

(b) in providing out of the funds of a public authority financial aid for the maintenance or education of pupils or students in any educational institution (whether or not maintained by a public authority and whether within or outside Singapore).

(2) Every religious group has the right to establish and maintain institutions for the education of children and provide therein instruction in its own religion, and there shall be no discrimination on the ground only of religion in any law relating to such institutions or in the administration of any such law.

(3) No person shall be required to receive instruction in or to take part in any ceremony or act of worship of a religion other than his own.

(4) For the purposes of clause (3), the religion of a person under the age of 18 years shall be decided by his parent or guardian.

Article 21 Discharge and Performance of Functions of President

(2) The President may act in his discretion in the performance of the following functions:

(h) the exercise of his functions under section 12 of the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act

Article 22 Appointment of Public Office

(d) the chairman and members of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony constituted under the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act

Article 22i Restraining Order Under Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act

The President, acting in his discretion, may cancel, vary, confirm or refuse to confirm a restraining order made under the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act where the advice of the Cabinet is contrary to the recommendation of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony.

Article 68 Interpretation

"Differentiating measure" means any measure which is, or is likely in its practical application to be, disadvantageous to persons of any racial or religious community and not equally disadvantageous to persons of other such communities, either directly by prejudicing persons of that community or indirectly by giving advantage to persons of another community.

Article 76 General Function of Council

(1) It shall be the general function of the Council to consider and report on such matters affecting persons of any racial or religious community in Singapore as may be referred to the Council by Parliament or the Government.

Article 150 Proclamation of Emergency

5. (b) Paragraph (a) shall not validate any provision inconsistent with
(i) Article 5 (2a);
(ii) the provisions of this Constitution specified in Article 5 (2a) conferring discretionary powers on the President; and
(iii) the provisions of this Constitution relating to religion, citizenship or language.

Article 152 Minorities and Special Position of Malays

(1) It shall be the responsibility of the Government constantly to care for the interests of the racial and religious minorities in Singapore.
(2) The Government shall exercise its functions in such manner as to recognize the special position of the Malays, who are the indigenous people of Singapore, and accordingly it shall be the responsibility of the Government to protect, safeguard, support, foster and promote their political, educational, religious, economic, social and cultural interests and the Malay language.

Article 153 Muslim Religion

The Legislature shall by law make provision for regulating Muslim religious affairs and for constituting a Council to advise the President in matters relating to the Muslim religion.

Slovakia**Article 1**

The Slovak Republic is a sovereign, democratic, and law-governed state. It is not linked to any ideology or religious belief.

Article 12

(2) Basic rights and liberties on the territory of the Slovak Republic are guaranteed to everyone regardless of sex, race, color of skin, language, creed and religion, political or other beliefs, national or social origin, affiliation to a nation or ethnic group, property, descent, or another status. No one must be harmed, preferred, or discriminated against on these grounds.

Article 24 [Freedom of Religion]

(1) The freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, and faith are guaranteed. This right also comprises the possibility to change one's religious belief or faith. Everyone has the right to be without religious belief. Everyone has the right to publicly express his opinion.

(2) Everyone has the right to freely express his religion or faith on his own or together with others, privately or publicly, by means of divine and religious services, by observing religious rites, or by participating in the teaching of religion.

(3) Churches and religious communities administer their own affairs. In particular, they constitute their own bodies, inaugurate their clergymen, organize the teaching of religion, and establish religious orders and other church institutions independently of state bodies.

Article 25

(1) The defense of the Slovak Republic is a matter of honor for each citizen.

(2) No one must be forced to perform military service if this runs counter to his conscience or religious belief. The details will be specified in a law.

Slovenia

Article 7 [Secularity]

(1) The state and religious communities shall be separate.

(2) Religious communities shall enjoy equal rights; they shall pursue their activities freely.

Article 14 (Equality before the Law)

(1) In Slovenia everyone shall be guaranteed equal human rights and fundamental freedoms irrespective of national origin, race, sex, language, religion, political or other conviction, material standing, birth, education, social status, disability or any other personal circumstance.

Article 16 (Temporary Suspension and Restriction of Rights)

(1) Human rights and fundamental freedoms provided by this Constitution may exceptionally be temporarily suspended or restricted during a war and state of emergency. Human rights and fundamental freedoms may be suspended or restricted only for the duration of the war or state of emergency, but only to the extent required by such circumstances and inasmuch as the measures adopted do not create inequality based solely on race, national origin, sex, language, religion, political or other conviction, material standing, birth, education, social status or any other personal circumstance.

Article 41 (Freedom of Conscience)

(1) Religious and other beliefs may be freely professed in private and public life.

(2) No one shall be obliged to declare his religious or other beliefs.

(3) Parents have the right to provide their children with a religious and moral upbringing in accordance with their beliefs. The religious and moral guidance given to children must be appropriate to their age and maturity, and be consistent with their free conscience and religious and other beliefs or convictions.

Article 63 (Prohibition of Incitement to Discrimination and Intolerance and Prohibition of Incitement to Violence and War)

(1) Any incitement to national, racial, religious or other discrimination, and the inflaming of national, racial, religious or other hatred and intolerance are unconstitutional.

Article 123 (Duty to Participate in the National Defence)

(2) Citizens who for their religious, philosophical or humanitarian convictions are not willing to perform military duties, must be given the opportunity to participate in the national defence in some other manner.

South Africa

Section 6 Languages

(5) A Pan South African Language Board established by national legislation must -
(ii) Arabic, Hebrew, Sanskrit and other languages used for religious purposes in South Africa.

Section 9 Equality

(3) The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.

Section 15 Freedom of religion, belief and opinion

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.

(2) Religious observances may be conducted at state or state-aided institutions, provided that -

- (a) those observances follow rules made by the appropriate public authorities;
- (b) they are conducted on an equitable basis; and
- (c) attendance at them is free and voluntary.

(3) (a) This section does not prevent legislation recognising -

(i) marriages concluded under any tradition, or a system of religious, personal or family law; or

(ii) systems of personal and family law under any tradition, or adhered to by persons professing a particular religion.

(b) Recognition in terms of paragraph (a) must be consistent with this section and the other provisions of the Constitution.

Section 16 Freedom of expression

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes -

- (a) freedom of the press and other media;
- (b) freedom to receive or impart information or ideas;

- (c) freedom of artistic creativity; and
- (d) academic freedom and freedom of scientific research.
- (2) The right in subsection (1) does not extend to -
 - (a) propaganda for war;
 - (b) incitement of imminent violence; or
 - (c) advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

Section 31 Cultural, religious and linguistic communities

- (1) Persons belonging to a cultural, religious or linguistic community may not be denied the right, with other members of that community -
 - (a) to enjoy their culture, practise their religion and use their language; and
 - (b) to form, join and maintain cultural, religious and linguistic associations and other organs of civil society.

Section 35 Arrested, detained and accused persons

- (2) Everyone who is detained, including every sentenced prisoner, has the right -
 - (f) to communicate with, and be visited by, that person's -
 - (iii) chosen religious counselor

Section 181 Establishment and governing principles

- (1) The following state institutions strengthen constitutional democracy in the Republic:
 - (c) The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.

Section 185 Functions of Commission

- (1) The primary objects of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities are -
 - (a) to promote respect for the rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities;
 - (b) to promote and develop peace, friendship, humanity, tolerance and national unity among cultural, religious and linguistic communities, on the basis of equality, non-discrimination and free association; and
 - (c) to recommend the establishment or recognition, in accordance with national legislation, of a cultural or other council or councils for a community or communities in South Africa.
- (2) The Commission has the power, as regulated by national legislation, necessary to achieve its primary objects, including the power to monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advise and report on issues concerning the rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities.

Section 186 Composition of Commission

- (1) The number of members of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities and their appointment and terms of office must be prescribed by national legislation.

- (2) The composition of the Commission must-
- (a) be broadly representative of the main cultural, religious and linguistic communities in South Africa; and
 - (b) broadly reflect the gender composition of South Africa.

South Korea

Article 11 [Equality]

(1) All citizens are equal before the law, and there may be no discrimination in political, economic, social, or cultural life on account of sex, religion, or social status.

Article 20 [Religion, Church]

- (1) All citizens enjoy the freedom of religion.
- (2) No state religion may be recognized, and church and state are to be separated.

Spain

Article 14 [Equality]

Spaniards are equal before the law, without any discrimination for reasons of birth, race, sex, religion, opinion, or any other personal or social condition or circumstance.

Article 16 [Religion, Belief, No State Church]

- (1) Freedom of ideology, religion, and cult of individuals and communities is guaranteed without any limitation in their demonstrations other than that which is necessary for the maintenance of public order protected by law.
- (2) No one may be obliged to make a declaration on his ideology, religion, or beliefs.
- (3) No religion shall have a state character. The public powers shall take into account the religious beliefs of Spanish society and maintain the appropriate relations of cooperation, with the Catholic Church and other denominations.

Article 27 [Education]

- (3) The public authorities guarantee the right which will assist parents to have their children receive the religious and moral formation which is in keeping with their own convictions.

Sri Lanka

Article 9

The Republic of Sri Lanka shall give to Buddhism the foremost place and accordingly it shall be the duty of the State to protect and foster the Buddha *Sasana*, while assuring to all religions the rights granted by Articles 10 and 14(1)(e).

Article 10

Every person is entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.

Article 12

(1) All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law.

(2) No citizen shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion, place of birth or any such grounds

(3) No person shall, on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex or any one such grounds, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to shops, public restaurants, hotels, places of public entertainment and places of public worship of his own religion.

Article 14

(1) Every citizen is entitled to -

(e) the freedom, either by himself or in association with others, and either in public or in private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice or teaching

Article 15

(2) The exercise and operation of the fundamental right declared and recognised by Article 14(1) (a) shall be subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed by law in the interests of racial and religious harmony or in relation to parliamentary privilege, contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

(3) The exercise and operation of the fundamental right declared and recognised by Article 14(1) (b) shall be subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed by law in the interests of racial and religious harmony.

(4) The exercise and operation of the fundamental right declared and recognised by Article 14(1) (c) shall be subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed by law in the interests, of racial and religious harmony or national economy.

Article 27

(5) The State shall strengthen national unity by promoting co-operation and mutual confidence among all sections of the People of Sri Lanka, including the racial, religious, linguistic and other groups, and shall, take effective steps in the fields of teaching, education and information in order to eliminate discrimination and prejudice.

(6) The State shall ensure equality of opportunity to citizens, so that no citizen shall suffer any disability on the ground of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion or occupation.

(11) The State shall create the necessary economic and social environment to enable people of all religious faiths to make a reality of their religious principles.

(13) The State shall promote with special care the interests of children and youth, so as to ensure their full development, physical, mental, moral, religious and social, and to protect them from exploitation and discrimination.

Source: <http://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/lk/lk007en.pdf>

Sweden

Chapter 1:

Article 2

(4) Opportunities should be promoted for ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities to preserve and develop a cultural and social life of their own.

Chapter 2:

Article 1

6) freedom of worship: the freedom to practice one's own religion either alone or in company with others.

Article 2

All citizens shall be protected in their relations with the public administration against all coercion to divulge an opinion in any political, religious, cultural or other similar connection. They shall furthermore be protected in their relations with the public administration against all coercion to participate in any meeting for the formation of opinion or in any demonstration or other expression of opinion or to belong to any political association, religious congregation or other association for opinions of the nature referred to in the first sentence.

Article 12

(2) The restrictions referred to in Paragraph (1) may be imposed only to achieve a purpose acceptable in a democratic society. The restriction may never exceed what is necessary having regard to the purpose which occasioned it, nor may it be carried so far as to constitute a threat to the free formation of opinion as one of the foundations of democracy. No restriction may be imposed solely on grounds of political, religious, cultural or other such opinions.

Article 13

(2) In judging what restrictions may be made by virtue of Paragraph (1) particular regard shall be paid to the importance of the widest possible freedom of expression and freedom of information in political, religious, professional, scientific and cultural matters.

Article 20

(1) A foreigner within the Realm shall be equated with a Swedish citizen in respect of

1) protection against all coercion to participate in any meeting for the formation of opinion or in any demonstration or other expression of opinion, or to belong to any religious congregation or other association.

Switzerland**Article 8**

(2) Nobody may be discriminated against, namely for his or her origin, race, sex, age, language, social position, way of life, religious, philosophical, or political convictions, or because of a corporal or mental disability.

Article 15 Freedom of Faith and Conscience

(1) The freedom of faith and conscience is guaranteed.

(2) Every person has the right to freely choose his or her religion or non-denominational belief and to profess them alone or in community with others.

(3) Every person has the right to join or belong to a religious community and to receive religious education.

(4) No person may be forced to join a religious community, to conduct a religious act or participate in religious education.

Article 72 Church and State

(1) The regulation of the relationship between church and state is a cantonal matter.

(2) Within the limits of their competencies, the Federation and the Cantons may take measures to maintain public peace between members of the various religious communities.

Syria**Article 3 [Islam]**

(1) The religion of the President of the Republic has to be Islam.

(2) Islamic jurisprudence is a main source of legislation.

Article 35 [Religion]

(1) The freedom of faith is guaranteed. The state respects all religions.

(2) The state guarantees the freedom to hold any religious rites, provided they do not disturb the public order.

Taiwan

Article 7

All citizens of the Republic of China, irrespective of sex, religion, ethnic origin, class, or party affiliation, shall be equal before the law.

Article 13

The people shall have freedom of religious belief.

Tajikistan

Article 8

In Tajikistan public life is to develop on the basis of political and ideological diversity. No ideology, including religious ideology, is granted the status of state ideology. Social associations are established and will function within the framework of the constitution and laws. The state provides equal opportunities for their activities. Religious organizations are separate from the state and cannot interfere with state affairs. The establishment and functioning of social associations that encourage racism, nationalism, social and religious enmity, and hatred, as well as advocate the forcible overthrow of the constitutional structures and the formation of armed groups are prohibited.

Article 17

All are equal before the law and the courts. The state guarantees the rights and freedoms of every person regardless of nationality, race, sex, language, religious beliefs, political persuasion, social status, knowledge, and property. Men and women have the same rights.

Article 26

Every person has the right freely to determine their position toward religion, to profess any religion individually or together with others or not to profess any, and to take part in religious customs and ceremonies.

Article 28

Citizens have the right to associate. The citizen has the right to participate in the creation of political parties, including parties of democratic, religious and atheistic nature, trade unions, and other public associations, voluntarily affiliate with them and quite.

Tanzania

Article 9

The object of this Constitution is to facilitate the building of the United Republic as a nation of equal and free individuals enjoying freedom, justice, fraternity and concord, through the pursuit of the policy of Socialism and Self Reliance which emphasises the application of socialist principles while taking into account the conditions prevailing in the United Republic. Therefore, the state authority and all its agencies are obliged to direct their policies and programmes towards ensuring- (g) that the Government and all its agencies provide equal opportunities to all citizens, men and women alike without regard to their colour, tribe, religion, or station in life.

Article 13

(5) For the purposes of this Article the expression sfy the needs, rights or other requirements of different persons on the basis of their nationality, tribe, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion or station in life such that certain categories of people are regarded as weak or inferior and are subjected to restrictions or conditions whereas persons of other categories are treated differently or are accorded opportunities or advantage outside the specified conditions or the prescribed necessary qualifications.

Article 19

(1) Every person has the right to freedom of thought or conscience, belief or faith, and choice in matters of religion, including the freedom to change his religion or faith.

(2) Without prejudice to the relevant laws of the United Republic the profession of religion, worship and propagation of religion shall be free and a private affair of an individual; and the affairs and management of religious bodies shall not be part of the activities of the State authority.

(3) In this Article reference to the word cluding reference to religious denominations, and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly.

Article 20

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (1) it shall not be lawful for any political entity to be registered which according to its constitution or policy -

(a) aims at promoting or furthering the interests of:

(i) any religious faith or group.

Article 39

(2) Without prejudice to any person's right and freedom of expression to hold his own views, to profess a religious faith of his choice, to associate with others and to participate with others in community work in accordance with the laws of the land, no person shall be qualified to be elected to hold the office of President of the United Republic unless he is a member of, and a candidate proposed by, a political party.

Article 67

(2) A person shall not be qualified to be elected or appointed Member of Parliament if-

(e) without prejudice to a person's right and freedom to hold his own views, to profess a religious faith of his choice, to associate with others and to participate in community work in accordance with the laws of the land, no person shall be qualified to be elected to the office of President of the United Republic if he is not a member of, and a candidate proposed by, a political party

Thailand**Preamble**

This prepared draft Constitution contains the significant principles in maintaining mutual interest of the Thai people in securing of independence and security of the nation, upholding all religions, revering the King as the Head of State and mental representation of the nation...

Section 5

The Thai people, irrespective of their origins, sexes or religions, enjoy equal protection under this Constitution.

Section 9

The King is a Buddhist and Upholder of religions.

Section 30

(2) Unjust discrimination against a person on grounds of difference in origin, race, language, sex, age, physical conditions or health, economic or social status, religious belief, education or constitutionally political view, which does not contravene the provisions of this Constitution, is not permitted.

Section 37

(1) A person enjoys full liberty to profess religion, religious sect or creed, and observe religious precept or exercise a form of worship in accordance with his or her belief; provided that it is not contrary to his or her civic duties, public order or good morals.

(2) In exercising the liberty referred to in paragraph one, a person is protected from any act of the State, which is derogatory to his or her rights or detrimental to his or benefits on the grounds of professing a religion, a religious sect or creed or observing religious precepts or exercising a form of worship in accordance with his or her different belief from that of other.

Section 70

Every person has a duty to protect and uphold the nation, the religion, the King, and the democratic regime with the King as the Head of the State.

Section 79

The State patronizes and protects Buddhism, which is the religion the majority of Thai people have practiced for long time, and other religions, promote good understanding and harmony among followers of all religions, as well as encourage the application of religious principles to create virtue and develop the quality of life.

Section 80

The State carries out the Policy Directive on Social, Public Health, Education, and Culture as follows:

4) Promote and support decentralization of powers for the local administration organizations, communities, religious organizations, and private sector, to organize and participate in the education management for development and equality of education quality and standard and in consistence to the Directive Principles of Fundamental State Policies.

Togo**Article 2**

The Togolese Republic assures the equality before the law of all citizens without distinction of origin, of race, of sex, of social condition or of religion. It respects all political opinions, philosophical [opinions] as well as all religious beliefs.

Its principle is the government of the people[,] by the people and for the people. The motto of the Republic is: "Travail-Liberté-Patrie" [Work-Freedom-Country]

Article 7

The political parties and groups of political parties must respect the Constitution. They may not identify themselves with one region, on ethnicity or one religion.

Article 11

All human beings are equal in dignity and in right.

The man and the woman are equal before the law.

No one may be favored or disadvantaged for reason of their familial, ethnic or regional origin, of their economic or social situation, of their political, religious, philosophical or other convictions.

Article 25

Every person has the right to the freedom of thought, of conscience, of religion, of belief, of opinion and of expression. The exercise of these rights and freedoms is made within respect for the freedoms of others, of the public order and of the norms established by the law and the regulations.

The organization and the practice of religious beliefs is exercised freely within respect for the law. It is the same for the philosophical orders.

The exercise of belief and of expression of belief is done within respect for the secularity of the State.

The religious denominations have the right to organize themselves and to exercise their activities freely within respect for the law.

Source: https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Togo_2007.pdf

Trinidad and Tobago

CHAPTER 1

4. It is hereby recognised and declared that in Trinidad and Tobago there have existed and shall continue to exist, without discrimination by reason of race, origin, colour, religion or sex, the following fundamental human rights and freedoms:

(h) freedom of conscience and religious belief and observance;

Source: <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/Constitution.pdf>

Tunisia

Article 1 [State]

Tunisia is a free State, independent and sovereign; its religion is the Islam, its language is Arabic, and its form is the Republic.

Article 38 [Head of State]

The President of the Republic is the Head of the State. His religion is Islam.

Article 40 [Eligibility]

(1) Any Tunisian who does not carry another nationality, who is of Moslem religion, and whose father, mother, and paternal and maternal grandfather have been of Tunisian nationality without interruption, may present himself as a candidate for the Presidency of the Republic.

Turkey

Preamble

There shall be no interference whatsoever by sacred religious feelings in state affairs and politics...

Article 10 Equality before the Law

(1) All individuals are equal without any discrimination before the law, irrespective of language, race, colour, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion and sect, or any such considerations.

Article 15 Suspension of the Exercise of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

(2) Even under the circumstances indicated in the first paragraph, the individual's right to life, and the integrity of his or her material and spiritual entity shall be inviolable except where death occurs through lawful act of warfare; no one may be compelled to reveal his or her religion, conscience, thought or opinion, nor be accused on account of them; offences and penalties may not be made retroactive, nor may anyone be held guilty until so proven by a court judgment.

Article 24 Freedom of Religion and Conscience

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religious belief and conviction.

(2) Acts of worship, religious services, and ceremonies shall be conducted freely, provided that they do not violate the provisions of Article 14.

(3) No one shall be compelled to worship, or to participate in religious ceremonies and rites, to reveal religious beliefs and convictions, or be blamed or accused because of his religious beliefs and convictions.

(4) Education and instruction in religion and ethics shall be conducted under state supervision and control. Instruction in religious culture and moral education shall be compulsory in the curricula of primary and secondary schools. Other religious education and instruction shall be subject to the individual's own desire, and in the case of minors, to the request of their legal representatives.

(5) No one shall be allowed to exploit or abuse religion or religious feelings, or things held sacred by religion, in any manner whatsoever, for the purpose of personal or political influence, or for even partially basing the fundamental, social, economic, political, and legal order of the state on religious tenets.

Article 136 Department of Religious Affairs

The Department of Religious Affairs, which is within the general administration, shall exercise its duties prescribed in its particular law, in accordance with the principles of secularism, removed from all political views and ideas, and aiming at national solidarity and integrity.

Uganda**Article 3 National Stability and Unity**

(2) Every effort shall be made to integrate all the peoples of Uganda while at the sametime recognising the existence of their ethnic, religious, ideological. political and cultural diversity.

Article 18 Education Goals

(3) Individuals, religious bodies and other non-governmental organisations shall be free to found and operate educational institutions if they comply with the general educational policy of the country and maintain national standards.

Chapter 2

Non-adoption of State religion.

7. Uganda shall not adopt a State religion.

Chapter 4

Equality and freedom from discrimination.

21. (1) All persons are equal before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life and in every other respect and shall enjoy equal protection of the law.

(2) Without prejudice to clause(1) of this article, a person shall not be discriminated against on the ground of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, or social or economic standing, political opinion or disability.

(3) For the purposes of this article, "discriminate" means to give different treatment to different persons attributable only or mainly to their respective descriptions by sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, or social or economic standing, political opinion or disability.

Protection of freedom of co-science, expression, movement, religion, assembly and association.

29. (1) Every person shall have the right to-

(a) freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media:

(b) freedom of thought, conscience and belief which shall include academic freedom in institutions of learning;

(c) freedom to practise any religion and manifest such practice which shall include the right to belong to and participate in the practices of any religious body or organisation in a manner consistent with this Constitution;

Right to Education

(3) No child shall be deprived by any person of medical treatment, education or any other social or economic benefit by reason of religious or other beliefs

Right to culture and similar rights.

37. Every person has a right as applicable, to belong to, enjoy, practise, profess, maintain and promote any culture, cultural institution, language, tradition, creed or religion in community with others.

Source:

http://www.concourt.am/armenian/legal_resources/world_constitutions/constit/uganda/uganda-e.htm

Ukraine

Article 11

The State promotes the consolidation and development of the Ukrainian nation, of its historical consciousness, traditions and culture, and also the development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of all indigenous peoples and national minorities of Ukraine.

Article 24

Citizens have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and are equal before the law. There shall be no privileges or restrictions based on race, colour of skin, political, religious and other beliefs, sex, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, linguistic or other characteristics.

Article 35

Everyone has the right to freedom of personal philosophy and religion. This right includes the freedom to profess or not to profess any religion, to perform alone or collectively and without constraint religious rites and ceremonial rituals, and to conduct religious activity.

The exercise of this right may be restricted by law only in the interests of protecting public order, the health and morality of the population, or protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons.

The Church and religious organisations in Ukraine are separated from the State, and the school — from the Church. No religion shall be recognised by the State as mandatory.

No one shall be relieved of his or her duties before the State or refuse to perform the laws for reasons of religious beliefs. In the event that the performance of military duty is contrary to the religious beliefs of a citizen, the performance of this duty shall be replaced by alternative (non-military) service.

Article 37

The establishment and activity of political parties and public associations are prohibited if their programme goals or actions are aimed at the liquidation of the independence of Ukraine, the change of the constitutional order by violent means, the violation of the sovereignty and territorial indivisibility of the State, the undermining of its security, the unlawful seizure of state power, the propaganda of war and of violence, the incitement of inter-ethnic, racial, or religious enmity, and the encroachments on human rights and freedoms and the health of the population.

Source: www.ccu.gov.ua/doccatalog/document?id=12084

United Kingdom

Section 4 Equality

Everyone is equally entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

Section 8 Marriage and Family

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

Section 18 Freedom of Religion

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

(1) Worship and religious teaching take place without any interference from the State. There is complete freedom of thought, conscience or form of worship and no restriction on the right of any citizen to change his or her religion. Atheists and agnostics are also free to propagate their views.

(2) A person may, however, be held guilty of blasphemous libel if he or she publishes scurrilous and offensive references to Christianity that go beyond the limits of proper controversy. This does not apply to debate and discussion about the truth of Christian doctrines.

(3) Churches and religious societies of all kinds own property, run schools and propagate their beliefs in speech and writing. Inquiries are not made about religion in population censuses or other official returns.

(4) There is no religious bar to the holding of public office except in the case of the Sovereign who must by law be a Protestant. The Church of England and the Church of Scotland are the established 'official' churches for state ceremonies of a religious nature. Their members, however, do not obtain any advantages from being members of an established church rather than of any other church.

(5) Religious education has to be provided in all schools financed from public funds and is part of the national curriculum. Parents have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from such classes. Some publicly maintained schools are provided by religious denominations and receive varying amounts of public finance, according to type.

(6) Television and radio programs are broadcast on religious topics; these include religious services as well as programs in which adherents of the main religions and non-believers discuss their views. Advertising aiming to promote religious ends is not permitted on television or radio.

Section 20 General Political Rights

Public offices are open to men and women, without distinction on grounds of sex, religion, race or color. Staff are recruited to the Civil Service and its executive agencies through fair and open competition solely on the basis of merit.

Section 21 Political Asylum

(3) Britain is a signatory of the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and continues to meet its obligations to refugees under these instruments. The Convention defines a refugee as a person who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion'.

(5) Under recent legislation people are not extradited to face trial or imprisonment if they face persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality or political opinion. British extradition law prevents extradition for political offenses.

Section 28 Education, Science, and the Arts

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

United States

Article VI [Constitutional Status]

(3) The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Amendment I [1791 - Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, Petition]

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Uruguay

Article 5.

All religious sects are free in Uruguay. The State supports no religion whatever. It recognizes the right of the Catholic Church to ownership of all temples which have been built wholly or partly from funds of the National Treasury, with the sole exception of chapels dedicated for use by asylums, hospitals, prisons, or other public establishments. It likewise declares exempt from all forms of taxes the temples dedicated to worship by the various religious sects.

Article 297

(7) Taxes on advertisements and announcements of all kinds. Excepted therefrom are press and radio advertising as well as political, religious, trade union, cultural and sports advertising and any others that the law may exempt by an absolute majority of the full membership of each Chamber.

Source: <http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=category&category=LEGAL&publisher=&type=&coi=URY&docid=3ae6b5600&skip=0>

Uzbekistan

Article 18

All citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have equal rights and freedoms, and shall be equal before the law, without discrimination by sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, convictions, individual and social status.

Article 31

Freedom of conscience is guaranteed to all. Everyone shall have the right to profess or not to profess any religion. Any compulsory imposition of religion shall be impermissible.

Article 57

The formation and functioning of political parties and public associations aiming to do the following shall be prohibited: changing the existing constitutional system by force; coming out against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of the Republic, as well as the constitutional rights and freedoms of its citizens; advocating war and social, national, racial and religious hostility, and encroaching on the health and morality of the people, as well as of any armed associations and political parties based on the national or religious principles.

Article 61

Religious organizations and associations shall be separated from the state and equal before law. The state shall not interfere with the activity of religious associations.

Source: <http://www.pravo.uz/english/resources/doc/constitution.php3>

Venezuela

Article 57: Everyone has the right to express freely his or her thoughts, ideas or opinions orally, in writing or by any other form of expression, and to use for such purpose any means of communication and diffusion, and no censorship shall be established. Anyone making use of this right assumes full responsibility for everything expressed. Anonymity, war propaganda, discriminatory messages or those promoting religious intolerance are not permitted.

Article 59: The State guarantees the freedom of cult and religion. All persons have the right to profess their religious faith and cults, and express their beliefs in private or in public, by teaching and other practices, provided such beliefs are not contrary to moral, good customs and public order. The autonomy and independence of religious confessions and churches is likewise guaranteed, subject only to such limitations as may derive from this Constitution and the law. Father and Mother are entitled to have their sons and daughters receive religious education in accordance with their convictions.

No one shall invoke religious beliefs or discipline as a means of evading compliance with law or preventing another person from exercising his or her rights.

Article 119: The State recognizes the existence of native peoples and communities, their social, political and economic organization, their cultures, practices and customs, languages and religions, as well as their habitat and original rights to the lands they ancestrally and traditionally occupy, and which are necessary to develop and guarantee their way of life. It shall be the responsibility of the National Executive, with the participation of the native peoples, to demarcate and guarantee the right to collective ownership of their lands, which shall be inalienable, not subject to the law of limitations or distraint, and nontransferable, in accordance with this Constitution and the law.

Source: <http://venezuelanalysis.com/constitution/title/3>

Vietnam

Article 9 [The Vietnam Fatherland Front]

(1) The Vietnam Fatherland Front is a political alliance and a voluntary union of political organizations, sociopolitical organizations, social organizations and individuals representing their social classes and strata, nationalities, religions, and overseas Vietnamese.

Article 54 [Right to Vote]

The citizen, regardless of nationality, sex, social background, religious belief, cultural standard, occupation, time of residence, shall, upon reaching the age of eighteen, have the right to vote, and, upon reaching the age of twenty-one, have the right to stand for election to the National Assembly and the People's Councils in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 70 [Freedom of Religion]

- (1) The citizen shall enjoy freedom of belief and of religion; he can follow any religion or follow none. All religions are equal before the law.
- (2) The places of worship of all faiths and religions are protected by the law.
- (3) No one has the right to infringe on the freedom of faith and religion or to take advantage of the latter to violate State laws and policies.

Article 84 [Duties and Powers]

The National Assembly has the following duties and powers:

5. To decide on the State's policies on nationalities and policies on religions.

Article 112 [Duties and Powers]

The Government has the following duties and powers:

9. To implement social policies, nationalities policies, policies on religion.

Zambia

Article 19 [Freedom of Conscience]

- (1) Except with his own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience, and for the purposes of this Article the said freedom includes freedom of thought and religion, freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others, and both in public and in private, to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
- (2) Except with his own consent, or, if he is a minor, the consent of his guardian, no person attending any place of education shall be required to receive religious instruction or to take part in or attend any religious ceremony or observance if that instruction, ceremony or observance relates to a religion other than his own.
- (3) No religious community or denomination shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for persons of that community or denomination in the course of any education provided by the community or denomination or from establishing and maintaining institutions to provide social services for such persons.
- (4) No person shall be compelled to take any oath which is contrary to his religion or belief or to take any oath in a manner which is contrary to his religion or belief.
- (5) Nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this Article to the extent that it is shown that the law in question makes provision which is reasonably required --

(a) in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or
(b) for the purpose of protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons, including the right to observe and practice any religion without the unsolicited intervention of members of any other religion;
and except so far as that provision or, the thing done under the authority thereof as the case may be, is shown not to be reasonably justified in a democratic society.

Zimbabwe

Section 19 Protection of freedom of conscience

(1) Except with his own consent or by way of parental discipline, no person is hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience, that is to say, freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, whether alone or in community with others, and whether in public or in private, to manifest and propagate his religion or belief through worship, teaching, practice and observance.

(2) Except with his own consent or, if he is a minor, the consent of his parent or guardian, no person attending any place of education is required to receive religious instruction or to take part in or attend any religious ceremony or observance if that instruction, ceremony or observance relates to a religion other than his own.

(3) No religious community is prevented from making provision for the giving by persons lawfully in Zimbabwe of religious instruction to persons of that community in the course of any education provided by that community, whether or not that community is in receipt of any subsidy, grant or other form of financial assistance from the State.

(4) No person is compelled to take any oath that is contrary to his religion or belief or to take any oath in a manner that is contrary to his religion or belief.

(5) Nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law is held to be in contravention of subsection (1) or (3) to the extent that the law in question makes provision

(a) in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health;

(b) for the purpose of protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons, including the right to observe and practise any religion or belief without the unsolicited intervention of persons professing any other religion or belief; or

(c) with respect to standards or qualifications to be required in relation to places of education, including any instruction, not being religious instruction, given at such places;

except so far as that provision or, as the case may be, the thing done under the authority thereof is shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society.

(6) References in this section to a religion are construed as including references to a religious denomination and cognate expressions are construed accordingly.

Section 20 Protection of freedom of expression

(3) No religious denomination and no person or group of persons is prevented from establishing and maintaining schools, whether or not that denomination, person or group is in receipt of any subsidy, grant or other form of financial assistance from the State.

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