

IBERIAN MUN Special Conference

Officer Report 2022

Research Report on the rights to wear religious symbols and infractions on individuals' freedom of religion

Religion has been a right deprived to many individuals, which has caught the attention of the United Nations and other organizations. According to a recent study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, about one-third of all countries, 64 nations, lack religious freedom, having severe limitations on their beliefs. Furthermore, around 70% of the world's population live in nations with extreme religious restrictions, where religious minorities frequently endure the impacts of these laws since some of the most repressive nations are also among the most populated (James). Thus, emphasizing the violation of the basic human rights provided, clearly stated in article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "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." ("Universal Declaration").

Government policies, laws and actions are to blame for some limitations. Others come about as an outcome of hostile actions taken by individuals, organizations, and communities ("Special Rapporteur"). The nations with the greatest total levels of limitations, for instance, are Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iran, where extensive restrictions on religious activities and beliefs are placed by both the state and the public. Additionally, there has been an increase since 2007, in which a study found that policies and laws limiting freedom of religion, such as requiring that religious groups register to practice, and government partiality of religious groups, through financing for religious education, property, and church members for example, have regularly been the most prevalent types of restrictions worldwide. The

global average data in each of these areas rose by more than 20% between 2007 and 2017, which is caused by an increase in both sorts of limitations ("A Closer").

Finally, after learning the information from this report, it is important for the delegates to take into consideration the significance of this issue and its impacts on their delegation. Delegates are urged to visit the OHCHR website to acquire statistics on this topic and to include references to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals while drafting preambulatory provisions for this resolution. Delegates should first search their delegation's position and previous actions on this issue before constructing operative clauses. In the event that this is not possible, it is advised to search the positions and potential solutions put forth by other nations if coherent to your delegation.

Works Cited

- "A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen around the World." *Pew Research Center*, 15 July 2019, www.pewresearch.org/religion/2019/07/15/a-closer-look-at-how-religious-restrictions-have-risen-around-the-world/. Accessed 3 Aug. 2022.
- James, Frank. "Nearly 70% of World Population Lacks Religious Freedom." *Npr*, 16 Dec. 2009, www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2009/12/nearly_70_of_world_population.html?t=1659463068526. Accessed 2022.
- "Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief." *Ohchr*, www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-religion-or-belief/international-standards#2. Accessed 3 Aug. 2022.
- "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *United Nations*, www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights. Accessed 2 Aug. 2022.