

Religion and State Indexes

The Religion and State project is a university-based project located at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel and is directed by Jonathan Fox. [The methods used for conducting the RAS3](#) collection and [the complete codebook](#) can be reviewed online. Or, the codebook and data file can be downloaded free of charge [here](#).

The following pages list the items used in each of the indexes and explains how the items were coded and placed into summary categories.

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State Funding of Religions - Summary Categories

The State Funding of Religion Index groups countries into categories based on the level of funding. This measure was constructed from ten items and each of the items were coded as 1 if such a law or policy was present and a 0 if not.

Countries were then grouped into four categories of religious funding, where 0=None; 1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High.

Funding Religion

- **Ix27:** Government funding of religious primary/secondary schools or religious education programs in non-public schools.
- **Ix28:** Government funding of seminary schools.
- **Ix29:** Government funding of religious education in colleges or universities
- **Ix30:** Government funding of religious charitable organizations, including hospitals. Specify:
- **Ix31:** Government collects taxes on behalf of religious organizations (religious taxes).
- **Ix32:** Official government positions/salaries/other funding for clergy, excluding salaries of teachers.
- **Ix33:** Direct general grants to religious organizations (this does not include above categories).
- **Ix34:** Funding for building, maintaining, or repairing religious sites.
- **Ix35:** Free air time on television or radio is provided to religious organizations on government channels or by government decree.
- **Ix36:** Funding or other government support for religious pilgrimages, such as the Hajj.
- **Ix37:** Funding for religious organizations or activities other than those listed above. Specify:

Societal Discrimination Index - Summary Categories

The Societal Discrimination Index groups countries into categories based on the level of actions taken against members of minority religions by non-government actors. This measure was constructed from the 27 items listed below and each of the items is coded on the following scale:

3 = This action occurs on a substantial level to members of most or all minority religions.

2 = This action occurs on a substantial level to members one or a few minorities, but not most or on a minor level to all or most minorities.

1 = This action occurs on a minor level to one or a few minorities, but not most. 0 = There are no reported incidents of this type of action against any minorities.

Countries were then grouped into four categories of religious funding, where 0=None; 1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High.

The following variables are coded on this scale:

- **wsocdis01x**: Instances of societal economic discrimination against minority religions in the workplace.
- **wsocdis02x**: Organized boycotts of businesses owned by the minority group or denial of minority access to businesses, stores, restaurants or places of entertainment.
- **wsocdis03x**: Other forms of economic discrimination. Specify
- **wsocdis04x**: Anti-religious minority propaganda, statements, articles or shows in mainstream private media.
- **wsocdis05x**: Overt anti-religious minority rhetoric from members of the majority religion's clergy.
- **wsocdis06x**: Presence of anti-religious rhetoric in political campaigns or political party propaganda.
- **wsocdis07x**: Vandalism against religious property including places of worship, community centers, schools and cemeteries.
- **wsocdis08x**: Vandalism against other property (e.g., businesses or homes) owned by a religious minority, which is clearly due to their religious affiliation.
- **wsocdis09x**: Anti-religious graffiti.
- **wsocdis10x**: Efforts to deny access to / close religious sites including places of worship.
- **wsocdis11x**: Efforts to prevent places of worship or other religious sites from being built, opened or rented.
- **wsocdis12x**: Dissemination of publications against religious minorities.
- **wsocdis13x**: Harassment of clergy, which does not reach the level of violence. This includes "verbal attacks."
- **wsocdis14x**: Harassment of proselytizers, which does not reach the level of violence. This includes "verbal attacks."
- **wsocdis15x**: Harassment of converts away from the majority religion, which does not reach the level of violence. This includes "verbal attacks."
- **wsocdis16x**: Harassment of other members of religious minorities, which does not reach the level of violence. This includes "verbal attacks."
- **wsocdis17x**: Expulsion or harassment so severe that it leads to a significant number of

minority members leaving a town or region.

- **wsocdis18x**: Organized demonstrations and public protests against religious minorities.
- **wsocdis19x**: Threats of violence.
- **wsocdis20x**: Physical violence targeted specifically at clergy.
- **wsocdis21x**: Physical violence targeted specifically against proselytizers or people who converted away from the majority religion.
- **wsocdis22x**: Physical violence against other individual members of religious minority, which is clearly due to their religious affiliation.
- **wsocdis23x**: Large scale violence against members of religious minority which is clearly due to their religious affiliation. This includes rioting and targeting of entire communities, rioting and clashes.
- **wsocdis24x**: Lethal violence against any member of minority religions due to their religious affiliation.
- **wsocdis25x**: Arson, bombing or concerted attacks against religious property.
- **wsocdis26x**: Arson, bombing or concerted attacks against property (e.g., businesses or homes) owned by a religious minority which is clearly due to their religious affiliation.
- **wsocdis27x**: Other relevant acts against minority religions. Specify:

Religion Regulation Index - Summary Categories

The Religion Regulation Index groups countries into categories based on the level of restrictions that a government places on the majority religion or all religions. This measure was constructed from the 29 measures listed below.

Each of the items in this index is coded on the following scale:

3 = The activity is illegal or the government engages in this activity often and on a large scale.

2 = Significant restrictions including practical restrictions, or the government engages in this activity occasionally and on a moderate scale.

1 = Slight restrictions including practical restrictions, or the government engages in this activity rarely and on a small scale

0 = No restrictions

Countries are then grouped into four categories of religious regulation, where 0=None; 1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High.

Restrictions on Religion's Political Role

- **nx01:** Restrictions on religious political parties.
- **nx02:** Restrictions on trade associations or other civil associations being affiliated with religion.
- **nx03:** Restrictions on clergy holding political office.
- **nx04:** Restrictions or monitoring of sermons by clergy. (this generally applies to political speech)
- **nx05:** Restrictions on clergy/religious organizations engaging in public political speech (other than sermons) or propaganda or on political activity in or by religious institutions.

Restrictions on Religious Institutions

- **nx06:** Restrictions/harassment of members and organizations of the majority religion who operate outside of the state sponsored or recognized ecclesiastical framework (do not code arrests for activities that are commonly considered criminal unless these charges seem to be pretexts).
- **nx07:** Restrictions on formal religious organizations other than political parties
- **nx08:** Restrictions on access to places of worship.
- **nx09:** Foreign religious organizations are required to have a local sponsor or affiliation.
- **nx10:** Heads of religious organizations (e.g., bishops) must be citizens of the state.
- **nx11:** All practicing clergy must be citizens of the state.
- **nx12:** The government appoints (code as 3) or must approve (code as 2) clerical appointments or somehow takes part in the appointment process (code as 1).
- **nx13:** Other than appointments, the government legislates or otherwise officially influences the internal workings or organization of religious institutions and organizations.
- **nx14:** Laws governing the state religions are passed by the government or require the government's approval.

Restrictions on Religious Practices

- **nx15:** Restrictions on the public observance of religious practices, including religious

holidays and the Sabbath.

- **nx16:** Restrictions on religious activities outside of recognized religious facilities.
- **nx17:** Restrictions on the publication or dissemination of written religious material.
- **nx18:** People are arrested for religious activities.
- **nx19:** Restrictions on religious public gatherings that are not placed on other types of public gathering.
- **nx20:** Restrictions on the public display by private persons or organizations of religious symbols, including (but not limited to) religious dress, the presence or absence of facial hair, nativity scenes/icons.
- **nx21:** Conscientious objectors to military service are not allowed alternative service and are prosecuted.

Other Regulation of Religion

- **nx22:** Arrest/detention/ harassment of religious figures, officials and/or members of religious parties.
- **nx23:** Restrictions on public religious speech.
- **nx24:** Restrictions on religious-based hate speech.
- **nx25:** Government controls/influences the instructors or content of religious education in public schools.
- **nx26:** Government controls/influences the instructors or content of religious education outside public schools.
- **nx27:** Government controls/influences the instructors or content of religious education at the university level.
- **nx28:** State ownership of some religious property or buildings.
- **nx29:** Other religious restrictions. Specify:

Religious Minority Discrimination Index - Summary Categories

The Religious Minority Discrimination Index groups countries into categories based on the level of restrictions the government places on minority religions. This index was constructed from the 36 items listed below.

Because the intensity of restrictions can vary, each of the items is coded on the following scale:

3 = The activity is prohibited or sharply restricted or the government engages in a severe form of this activity or most or all minorities.

2 = The activity is slightly restricted for most or all minorities, the government engages in a mild form of this practice **or** the activity is sharply restricted for some of them or the government engages in a severe form of this activity for some of them.

1 = The activity is slightly restricted or the government engages in a mild form of this practice for some minorities.

0 = Not significantly restricted for any or the government does not engage in this practice.

Countries are then grouped into four categories of religious regulation, where 0=None; 1=Low; 2=Medium; 3=High.

Restrictions on Religious Practices

- **mx01:** Restrictions on public observance of religious services, festivals and/or holidays, including the Sabbath.
- **mx02:** Restrictions on private observance of religious services, festivals and/or holidays including the Sabbath.
- **mx03:** Forced observance of religious laws of another group.
- **mx04:** Restrictions on ability to make/obtain materials necessary for religious rites/customs/ceremonies.
- **mx05:** Restrictions on circumcisions or other rite of passage ceremonies.
- **mx06:** Restrictions on observing dietary laws or access to food appropriate for religious dietary requirements.
- **mx07:** Restrictions on the ability to write, publish, or disseminate religious publications.
- **mx08:** Restrictions on the ability to import religious publications.
- **mx09:** Restrictions on access to religious publications for personal use.
- **mx10:** Restrictions on the observance religious laws concerning marriage and divorce.
- **mx11:** Restrictions on the observance religious laws concerning burial.
- **mx12:** Restrictions on the wearing of religious symbols or clothing. This includes

presence or absence of facial hair but does not include weapons or clothing, which covers one's face.

Restrictions on Religious Institutions and the Clergy

- **mx13:** Restrictions on building, leasing, repairing and/or maintaining places of worship.
- **mx14:** Restrictions on access to existing places of worship.
- **mx15:** Restrictions on formal religious organizations.
- **mx16:** Restrictions on the ordination of and/or access to clergy.
- **mx17:** Requirement for minority religions (as opposed to all religions) to register in order to be legal or receive special tax status.
- **mx18:** Restricted access of minority clergy to jails compared to the majority religion.
- **mx19:** Restricted access of minority clergy to military bases compared to the majority religion.
- **mx20:** Restricted access of minority clergy to hospitals and other public facilities compared to the majority religion

Restrictions on Conversion and Proselytizing

- **mx21:** Restrictions on conversion to minority religions.
- **mx22:** Forced renunciation of faith by recent converts to minority religions.
- **mx23:** Forced conversions of people who were never members of the majority religion.
- **mx24:** Efforts or campaigns to convert members of minority religions to the majority religions which do not use force.
- **mx25:** Restrictions on proselytizing by permanent residents of state to members of the majority religion.
- **mx26:** Restrictions on proselytizing by permanent residents of state to members of minority religions.
- **mx27:** Restrictions on proselytizing by foreign clergy or missionaries. (This includes denial of visas if it is specifically aimed at missionaries, but not if it is the same type applicable to any foreigner.)

Other Restrictions

- **mx28:** Restrictions on the running of religious schools and/or religious education in general.
- **mx29:** Mandatory education in the majority religion (Code as 1 if some but not all students can opt out or take courses in their own religion or this applies only to some students, code as 2 if in public schools only, code as 3 if in all schools, including private schools).
- **mx30:** Arrest/detention/harassment of religious figures/officials/members of religious parties for activities other than proselytizing.
- **mx31:** Severe and willful failure to protect rel. minorities against violence or punish the perpetrators.
- **mx32:** State surveillance of minority religious activities not placed on the activities of the majority.
- **mx33:** Custody of children granted to members of majority religions solely or in part on the basis of religion.

- **mx34:** Declaration of some minority religions dangerous or extremist sects. (Code 1 if the law exists but is not invoked or if a government body exists, which monitors cults or sects. Code as 2 if the law is invoked for no more than one or two religions and has significant legal or practical consequences or of it is often invoked but has no real legal or practical consequences. Code as 3 if the law is invoked often and has significant legal or practical consequences).
- **mx35:** Anti-religious propaganda in official or semi-official government publications.
- **mx36:** Restrictions on other types of observance of religious law. Specify: