

## Religious Minority Discrimination Index - Summary Categories

The Religious Minority Discrimination Index, Summary Categories, groups countries into categories based on the level of restrictions the government places on minority religions. This measure was constructed from the 36 measures from the Religion and State 3 (RAS3) Religious Minority Discrimination Index. 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.

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.

The above scale was used to code each of the measures listed below. The 36 measures are grouped by types of discrimination. [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](#).

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: