

**FORUM:** United Nations General Assembly First Committee

**QUESTION OF:** Threats to National Stability Caused by Religious Intolerance

**SUBMITTED BY:** Iraq

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Luxembourg, Congo, Cope Verde, Finland, Libya, Suriname, Armenia, Jordan, Romania, Guinea Bissau, Timor Leste, Rwanda, Fiji, Chile, Belarus, Argentina, African Union, Lithuania, Zambia, Equatorial Guinea

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE,

*Conscious* of the alarming situations which contrive the establishment of radical political ideologies, based on issues regarding religion, ethnicity, sex, race, gender and other such conceptions; which endanger the livelihood and security of civilians worldwide,

*Guided by* the need to identify the causes of religious intolerance ideologies and their mechanisms that are implemented to incite hatred or alienation in a country's religious population, as a form to acquire belief supremacy,

*Aware of* the constant controversy that arises from the studies of religion and the sacred texts as an influence over individuals; and its corresponding effects on the thinking structures of society throughout modern history and derived conflicts,

*Fully aware* of the delicate interconnected elements which bind National stability to religion as a professed pillar of social structures and the ramifications to the empowerment of one religious group over another to this stability,

*Reaffirming* the importance of secular states as a democratic mechanism that endorses the effectiveness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Resolution of the General Assembly "Freedom of Religion or Belief" (A/RES/73/176),

*Recalls* all conventions and treaties which have been signed and/or ratified and relevant General Assembly, Security Council and/or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) resolutions which have been approved in regards to religious intolerant practices, and the ramifications of those, such as, but not restricted to: Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, 16 January 2019 (A/RES/73/164), Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech, 31 July 2019 (A/RES/73/328),

*Noting further* the susceptibility of children and adolescents, either refugee or born from migrant parents, to be targeted for intolerant religious groups, discrimination from radical groups or exclusion by fellow citizens. Perpetrating breaches to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

*Contemplating* the importance of following international treaties

1. Asks UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to implement an international, ethical and tolerant education programme for secondary schools and adults called "The Volunteered Worldwide Association for A Tolerant Education on Minorities" (VWATEM) which would:
  - a) be entirely volunteer-based
  - b) run as a series of conferences and workshops in secondary schools and community locations
  - c) focus on issues such as, but not limited to:
    - i. global comprehension of the world's complexity and its variety of dynamics, as interconnected concepts

- ii. the difficulties that are faced by migrants and internal marginalized groups
  - iii. the conception of the circumstances affecting these religious groups, including, economic, political, environmental, social, religious and cultural factors
  - iv. the detrimental implications of hate speech to social justice and the stability of a nation
  - v. the implications of social media, propaganda and political influence over citizen's perspective corresponding to religious tolerance
  - d) operate in regions where it is decided necessary by the OHCHR
  - e) be funded by a combination of volunteer funds and the International Monetary Fund;
2. Urges Member States, in partnership with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Universal Rights Group (URG), and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to combat segregation and promote inclusivity in their own territory by means such as, but not limited to:
- a) creating public awareness campaigns about minorities in the region, including, but not limited to:
    - i. advertisements
    - ii. public service announcements
    - iii. public meetings
    - iv. television programs for children
  - b) creating new legislation that protects the integrity of religious minorities, their places of worship, sacred texts and belief
  - c) maintaining international humanitarian law and implementing international treaties related to religious tolerance;
3. Recommends governments to cooperate with non-governmental humanitarian such as that combat forms of religious intolerance perpetrated by radical ideologies, and generate forums of discussions monitored by the OHCHR in order for solutions focused on each country's situation to be contrived;
4. Requests the OHCHR to open the reporting process on the implementation of HRC Resolution 16/18 to other stakeholders including international non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions or civil society, and intergovernmental organizations;
5. Asks the OHCHR, in partnership with other non-governmental and inter governmental organizations such as the Universal Rights Group (URG), the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE), and the European Union (EU), to compile a report similar to the 2014 URG survey on the extent to which Member States have implemented HRC Resolution 16/18 and the Rabat Plan of Action, taking into consideration the reports received through Clauses 1 and 2 of this resolution as well any information gathered through OHCHR fact-finding missions, and focusing specifically on:
- a) the measures taken by Member States to create a dialogue about the issue of religious intolerance through means such as but not limited to educating the population through media
  - b) the mechanisms created by governments to address inter-religious tensions
  - c) the training of government officials in effective outreach strategies
  - d) the measures taken by States to discuss the causes of religious intolerance
  - e) the efforts made by Member States to devise strategies to counter the causes referenced above
  - f) the measures adopted by Member States to criminalize incitement of religious violence
  - g) the measures taken by Member States to facilitate open, constructive, and respectful debate of ideas and interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the local, national, regional, national, and international levels to combat religious intolerance,
  - h) the efforts made by Member States to participate in the reporting process to the OHCHR outlined in Clauses 1 and 2

- i) the efforts made by Member States to implement any other aspects of HRC Resolution 16/18;
6. Further asks the OHCHR to create a ranking system of States in the field of combating religious intolerance based on the OHCHR report outlined in the prior clause, which would:
    - a) consider the extent of the implementation of HRC Resolution 16/18 in Member States in relation to their own instances of religious intolerance and in relation to instances internationally, taking into account:
      - i. past participation of States in the Istanbul Process,
      - ii. the willingness of States to host the next Istanbul Process meeting,
      - iii. the implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action,
      - iv. past instances of religious intolerance by the government and non-governmental actors in States
    - b) assign each State a standardized score,
    - c) annually reward States with higher scores with higher monetary sums proportionate to their GDPs per capita;
  7. Suggests the OHCHR to monitor the use of the rewards outlined in the previous clause, ensuring to:
    - a) confirm that the rewards are not being used to fund government-incited religious discrimination
    - b) confirm that they are used for amelioration of human rights in the State through the development of infrastructures such as but not limited to clean water infrastructures, hospitals, and courts
    - c) prohibit States that fail to use the rewards for the measures outlined above from receiving rewards from this process in the future for a duration decided by the OHCHR of a minimum of 5 years;
  8. Encourages Member States to hold another session of the Istanbul Process, this time including non-governmental organizations, with the meetings focusing on:
    - a) continuing to enforce HRC Resolution 16/18
    - b) providing a platform for exchanges of good practices between Member States
    - c) allowing States the opportunity to discuss the challenges they have experienced in implementing HRC Resolution 16/18
    - d) developing new methods to counter the rise of hate crimes internationally
    - e) improving dialogue between governments and non-governmental actors
    - f) discussing the enforcement and possible amendment of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief of 1981.