

THE BAROMETER GAME

Length		Approx 30 min
Difficulty		Easy
Group size		Not more than 30 participants
Aims	<p>To help participants reflect upon how they perceive Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) and the extent to which it is in line with their values.</p> <p>To assess participants prior knowledge of FORB.</p> <p>To gradually ease participants into deeper discussion of FORB in their local context, including obstacles to FORB and strategies/ methods that could be used to overcome them.</p>	
Description	An interactive exercise in which participants place themselves in different corners of the room, depending on whether they agree or disagree with statements, and discuss their thoughts.	
Materials	<p>A room big enough to move around in and an imagined or actual line on the floor between two corners of the room or an open space outdoors.</p> <p>A calm and safe atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable to share their thoughts.</p> <p>Good, contextualized statements.</p>	
Source	www.educationforpeace.com	

Tips for facilitators

This is an ideal exercise to begin a training with, before any theoretical training on FORB is given. It is important that participants' reflections are based on their own ideas and value systems, rather than any perceived "correct opinion" or theoretical model received. Monitoring participants' intuitive, spontaneous reactions to the different statements helps both participants and the facilitator to identify their current knowledge, ideas and values relating to FORB. This provides a baseline that can help the facilitator tailor the training to the group's needs.

Outline and instructions

Explanation of the game	5 minutes
Playing the game	approx. 15 minutes
Summarizing discussion	5-10 minutes

In this game, opposite corners of the room are assigned as "agree" and "disagree" corners. The instructor makes a statement and asks participants to stand in one of the corners, according to whether they agree or disagree with the statement.

The game starts with simple questions and progresses to more complex and philosophical ones. As questions become more complex, introduce the possibility for participants to position themselves along an imagined line between the two corners, somewhere between 'totally agree' and 'totally disagree'. After each statement has been read out, ask one or two participants to motivate why they positioned themselves as they did.

The purpose of this exercise is to enable participants to freely share their own thoughts and reflections without fear or guilt about making a mistake. It is therefore important to refrain from making judgements on the opinions and ideas participants express and to limit discussions of what is right or wrong between different participants during this exercise.

After the exercise explain that we now have explored our own views and ideas about FORB and that the training will go more into the contents of FORB as it is described in international human rights law. If very serious misconceptions about FORB have been expressed during the exercise, you might like to make some brief comments to correct these as part of this.

Example statements

The following statements are adapted to an Egyptian context, please adapt or develop statements that are relevant for your context. Include statements that you think will challenge people's ideas or be a bit controversial, but not so controversial as to create an atmosphere of conflict – for example statements about minority religious groups that people are often sceptical towards or prejudiced against.

Test examples:

- Pizza is tastier than pasta.
- I love football.

Simple statements with agree or not agree:

- FORB is a human right all people should have.
- In our country there is full freedom of religion or belief.

Fel! Ingen text med angivet format i dokumentet.

- FORB is only aimed at protecting followers of the major world religions, not small sects and atheism.
- FORB can be limited in some situations.

Introduce the scale (totally agree, partially agree, indifferent, partially disagree, totally disagree)

- FORB allows believers from different religions to proselyte and share their faith.
- FORB is a western idea that doesn't work in our context.
- All people should be allowed to leave their religion without seeking permission or facing consequences.
- FORB is only for grown-ups, not for children.
- FORB means that religion should only be in the private sphere.
- FORB means that you should show religion respect and that it is not allowed to criticize religions.
- Religious leaders have the right to control the beliefs of their followers/members.
- All religious groups should be allowed to build places of worship – the same rules regarding buildings should apply to all.
- Religion should be removed from ID cards.
- I think interreligious marriages should be allowed.
- I think that religious education in school should give all religions the same attention.
- Governments have the right to restrict the religious freedom of religious groups that they don't like.
- I think it is natural that xxx (the majority religious group) in the country have privileges that others don't have.
- Atheists should not be allowed to spread information freely