

FORB context analysis exercise

Length		45 – 80 minutes
Difficulty		Intermediate
Group size		Small to medium
Aim	To help participants to be aware of and recognize different types of restrictions and religious freedom violations in their own context.	
Description	Participants use the three phase model introduced in the booklet ‘Freedom of religion or belief for everyone’ to analyse FORB violations in their own context.	
Materials	Group rooms or different spaces/tables for the groups at Flip chart paper, markers and post it notes in different colours for the different groups Hand-outs with the questions for group discussion. Include a short description of the different phases and a list of the different dimensions/core values. Or if you have booklets available, remind them of where they can find these in the booklet (pages 21 and 10-12). The booklet is available to download in several languages on the written resources page of the FORB learning platform website. <u>http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/verve/resources/FQ2_Simplified_Version_Dec.pdf</u>	
Source	Stefanus Alliance	

Notes for facilitators

This exercise is usefully coupled with the ‘Case study discussions’ exercise from the FORB exercises section. Freedom of religion or belief issues are often controversial and sensitive. It may be helpful for participants to first use the three phase model to analyse external contexts, before applying it to their own contexts.

Outline

Introduction	5-15 min (depending on whether the three phase model has been introduced previously)
Group work	20-30 min

Presentations	10-15 min (depending on number of groups)
Plenary discussion	10-20 min

Instructions

If the group has not already done the 'case study discussion' exercise from the FORB exercises section of the website, then begin by presenting the three phase model from page 21 of the booklet 'Freedom of religion or belief for everyone'. Give examples from your own context or other countries that relate to each phase and that illustrate both the state being both passive and active in violations.

Explain that they now are going to use the three phase model to analyze their own context in order to find violations of freedom of religion or belief occurring. Divide participants into smaller groups. Ask the participants to discuss and write down their answers to the following questions on flip chart using post it notes and markers in different colors. Encourage them to think beyond their own religious community.

Questions

What violations of FORB do you see in your country today? List examples for each of the different phases: disinformation, discrimination and violence.

For each example you list, answer:

- Who is committing the wrongdoing? Is the state active or passive?
- Who is the victim in these examples?
- Do other religious groups suffer from the same restriction/violation?
- Are there other reasons than religion behind the restriction/violation?
- What dimensions of FORB are violated in these examples?
- What other Human Rights are violated?

Gather the groups and ask them to present their findings. Discuss:

- What did you think of this exercise?
- Was there anything new to you?
- Do you agree with the findings of the other groups?
- What would you say is the greatest challenge to FORB in your context/society?
- To what extent are the problems related to religion? Are there other factors behind the disinformation, discrimination and violence, for example ethnicity, social status, economic status, political affiliation, gender, language? How can you find out?