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# In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade

*Authoritarian governments are more likely to restrict religion*

BY Samirah Majumdar and Virginia Villa

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## Acknowledgments

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## How we did this

This is the 11th in a series of annual reports by Pew Research Center analyzing the extent to which governments and societies around the world impinge on religious beliefs and practices. The studies are part of the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project, which analyzes religious change and its impact on societies around the world.

To measure global restrictions on religion in 2018 – the most recent year for which data is available – the study rates 198 countries and territories by their levels of government restrictions on religion and social hostilities involving religion. The new study is based on the same 10-point indexes used in the previous studies.

- The **Government Restrictions Index** measures government laws, policies and actions that restrict religious beliefs and practices. The GRI comprises 20 measures of restrictions, including efforts by government to ban particular faiths, prohibit conversion, limit preaching or give preferential treatment to one or more religious groups.
- The **Social Hostilities Index** measures acts of religious hostility by private individuals, organizations or groups in society. This includes religion-related armed conflict or terrorism, mob or sectarian violence, harassment over attire for religious reasons, or other religion-related intimidation or abuse. The SHI includes 13 measures of social hostilities.

To track these indicators of government restrictions and social hostilities, researchers combed through more than a dozen publicly available, widely cited sources of information, including the U.S. State Department’s annual reports on international religious freedom and annual reports from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, as well as reports from a variety of European and UN bodies and several independent, nongovernmental organizations. (See Methodology for more details on sources used in the study.)

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# In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade

*Authoritarian governments are more likely to restrict religion*

In 2018, the global median level of government restrictions on religion – that is, laws, policies and actions by officials that impinge on religious beliefs and practices – continued to climb, reaching an all-time high since Pew Research Center began tracking these trends in 2007.

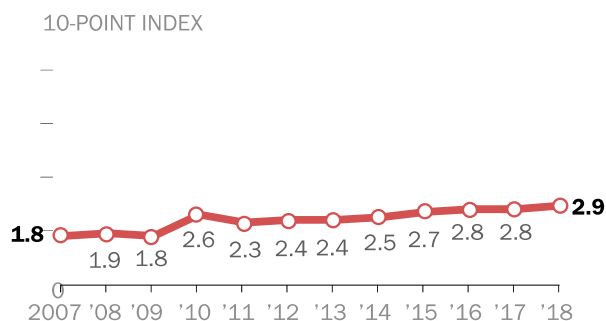
The year-over-year increase from 2017 to 2018 was relatively modest, but it contributed to a substantial rise in government restrictions on religion over more than a decade. In 2007, the first year of the study, the global median score on the Government Restrictions Index (a 10-point scale based on 20 indicators) was 1.8. After some fluctuation in the early years, the median score has risen steadily since 2011 and now stands at 2.9 for 2018, the most recent full year for which data is available.

The increase in government restrictions reflects a wide variety of events around the world, including a rise from 2017 to 2018 in the number of governments using force – such as detentions and physical abuse – to coerce religious groups.

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## Government restrictions on religion at highest level since 2007

*Government Restrictions Index global median score*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See [Methodology](#) for details.

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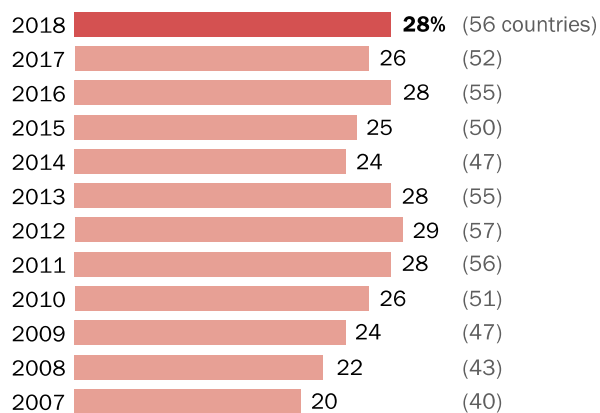
The total number of countries with “high” or “very high” levels of government restrictions has been mounting as well. Most recently, that number climbed from 52 countries (26% of the 198 countries and territories included in the study) in 2017 to 56 countries (28%) in 2018. The latest figures are close to the 2012 peak in the top two tiers of the Government Restrictions Index.

As of 2018, most of the 56 countries with high or very high levels of government restrictions on religion are in the Asia-Pacific region (25 countries, or half of all countries in that region) or the Middle East-North Africa region (18 countries, or 90% of all countries in the region).

## Number of countries with high or very high levels of government restrictions reaches five-year high

*% of countries with high or very high government restrictions on religion*

(Scores of 4.5 and higher)



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See [Methodology](#) for details.

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## Rising government restrictions in the Asia-Pacific region

Out of the five regions examined in the study, the Middle East and North Africa continued to have the highest median level of government restrictions in 2018 (6.2 out of 10). However, Asia and the Pacific had the *largest increase* in its median government restrictions score, rising from 3.8 in 2017 to 4.4 in 2018, partly because a greater number of governments in the region used force against religious groups, including property damage, detention, displacement, abuse and killings.

In total, 31 out of 50 countries (62%) in Asia and the Pacific experienced government use of force related to religion, up from 26 countries (52%) in 2017. The increase was concentrated in the category of “low levels” of government use of force (between one and nine incidents during the year). In 2018, 10 Asia-Pacific countries fell into this category, up from five the previous year. (For a full list of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, see Appendix C.)

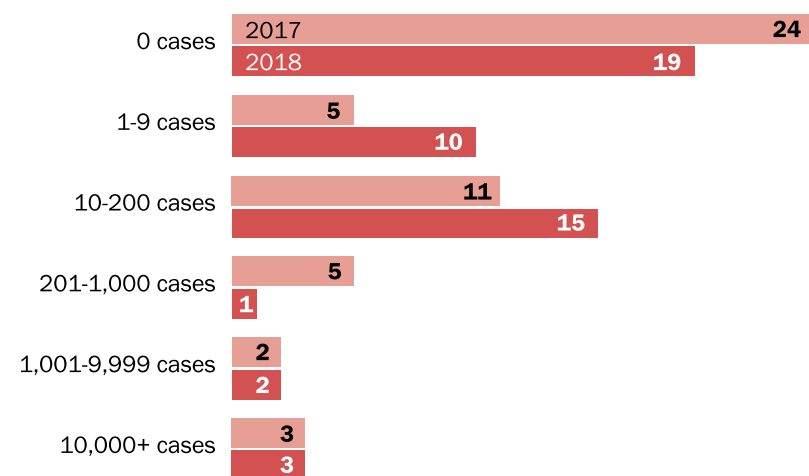
In Armenia, for example, a prominent member of the Baha’i faith was detained on religious grounds, according to members of the community.<sup>1</sup>

And in the Philippines, three United Methodist Church missionaries were forced to leave the country or faced issues with visa renewals after they were involved in investigating human rights violations on a fact-finding mission.<sup>2</sup>

But the region also saw several instances of widespread use of government force against religious groups. In Burma (Myanmar), large-scale displacement of religious minorities continued. During the course of the year, more than 14,500 Rohingya Muslims were reported by Human Rights

### Rising number of governments in Asia and the Pacific used force against religious groups in 2018

Number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region with \_\_\_\_\_ of government use of force related to religion



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details. “In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Armenia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Philippines](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.



Watch to have fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape abuses, and at least 4,500 Rohingya were stuck in a border area known as “no-man’s land,” where they were harassed by Burmese officials trying to get them to cross to Bangladesh.<sup>3</sup> In addition, fighting between the Burmese military and armed ethnic organizations in the states of Kachin and Shan led to the displacement of other religious minorities, mostly Christians.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, in Uzbekistan, it is estimated that at least 1,500 Muslim religious prisoners remained in prison on charges of religious extremism or membership in banned groups.<sup>5</sup>

Some countries in the Asia-Pacific region saw all-time highs in their overall government restrictions scores. This includes China, which continued to have the highest score on the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) out of all 198 countries and territories in the study. China has been near the top of the list of most restrictive governments in each year since the inception of the study, and in 2018 it reached a new peak in its score (9.3 out of 10).

The Chinese government restricts religion in a variety of ways, including banning entire religious groups (such as the [Falun Gong movement](#) and several Christian groups), prohibiting certain religious practices, raiding places of worship and detaining and torturing individuals.<sup>6</sup> In 2018, the government continued a detention campaign against Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and other Muslims in Xinjiang province, holding at least 800,000 (and possibly up to 2 million) in detention facilities “designed to erase religious and ethnic identities,” according to the U.S. State Department.<sup>7</sup>

Tajikistan also stands out with a GRI score of 7.9, an all-time high for that country. In 2018, the Tajik government amended its religion law, increasing control over religious education domestically and over those who travel abroad for religious education. The amendment also requires religious groups to report their activities to authorities and requires state approval for appointing imams. Throughout the year, the Tajik government continued to deny minority religious groups, such as Jehovah’s Witnesses, official recognition. In January, Jehovah’s Witnesses reported that more than a dozen members were interrogated by police and pressured to renounce their faith.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch. 2019. “[Myanmar](#).” World Report 2019.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 29, 2019. “[Burma](#).” 2019 Annual Report.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 29, 2019. “[Uzbekistan](#).” 2019 Annual Report.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[China](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of State. March 13, 2019. “[China](#).” 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Tajikistan](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

While these are examples of countries with “very high” government restrictions on religion in Asia and the Pacific, there also are several notable countries in the “high” category that experienced an increase in their scores. India, for example, reached a new peak in its GRI score in 2018, scoring 5.9 out of 10 on the index, while Thailand also experienced an all-time high (5.4).

In India, anti-conversion laws affected minority religious groups. For example, in the state of Uttar Pradesh in September, police charged 271 Christians with attempting to convert people by drugging them and “spreading lies about Hinduism.” Furthermore, throughout the year, politicians made comments targeting religious minorities. In December, the Shiv Sena Party, which holds seats in parliament, published an editorial calling for measures such as mandatory family planning for Muslims to limit their population growth. And law enforcement officials were involved in cases against religious minorities: In Jammu and Kashmir, four police personnel, among others, were arrested in connection with the kidnapping, rape and killing of an 8-year-old girl from a nomadic Muslim family, reportedly to push her community out of the area.<sup>9</sup>

In Thailand, as part of broader immigration raids in 2018, the government arrested hundreds of immigrants who allegedly did not have legal status, including religious minorities from other countries who were seeking asylum or refugee status. Among the detainees were Christians and Ahmadi Muslims from Pakistan as well as Christian Montagnards from Vietnam. During the year, Thai authorities also detained six leading Buddhist monks, a move that the government said was an effort to curb corruption but that some observers called a politically motivated attempt to assert control over temples.<sup>10</sup>

## Many Asian governments were highly restrictive toward religion in 2018

*Asia-Pacific countries with “high” or “very high” 2018 scores on the Government Restrictions Index*

	2017	2018
China	8.9	9.3
Iran	8.4	8.5
Malaysia	8.3	8.2
Maldives	8.2	8.2
Tajikistan	7.5	7.9
Turkmenistan	7.9	7.9
Indonesia	7.9	7.7
Vietnam	7.6	7.5
Uzbekistan	8.0	7.5
Burma (Myanmar)	6.9	7.3
Singapore	7.1	7.1
Kazakhstan	7.1	7.0
Turkey	7.1	6.9
Azerbaijan	6.8	6.9
Brunei	6.6	6.6
Afghanistan	6.5	6.5
Kyrgyzstan	5.7	6.5
Pakistan	6.6	6.5
Laos	6.9	6.2
India	5.4	5.9
Thailand	4.6	5.4
Nepal	4.6	5.2
Armenia	3.7	4.8
Bangladesh	4.8	4.7
Bhutan	4.6	4.7

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details. “In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[India](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Thailand](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

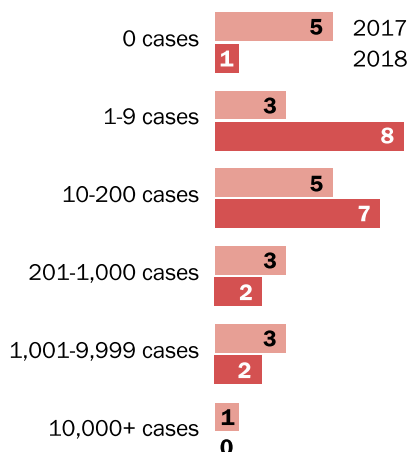
## Government restrictions on religion in other regions

While Asia and the Pacific had the largest increases in their Government Restrictions Index scores, the Middle East and North Africa still had the highest median level of government restrictions, with a score of 6.2 on the GRI – up from 6.0 in 2017, more than double the global median (2.9), and at its highest point since the aftermath of the Arab Spring in 2012.

As in Asia, the rise in GRI scores in the Middle East and North Africa was partly due to more governments using force against religious groups. All but one country in the region had reports of government use of force related to religion in 2018, although many were at the lowest level (between one and nine incidents). In Jordan, for example, a media personality and an editor employed at his website were detained and charged with “sectarian incitement and causing religious strife” for posting on Facebook a cartoon of a Turkish chef sprinkling salt at Jesus’ Last Supper.<sup>11</sup>

### 19 of 20 countries in Middle East-North Africa region had at least one incident of government use of force against religious groups in 2018

Number of countries in the Middle East-North Africa region with \_\_\_\_\_ of government use of force related to religion



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details. “In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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But government force against religious groups was much more widespread in some countries in the region. In Saudi Arabia, for instance, more than 300 Shiite Muslims remained in prison in the country’s Eastern Province, where the government has arrested more than 1,000 Shiites since 2011 in connection with protests for greater rights.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Jordan](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Saudi Arabia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

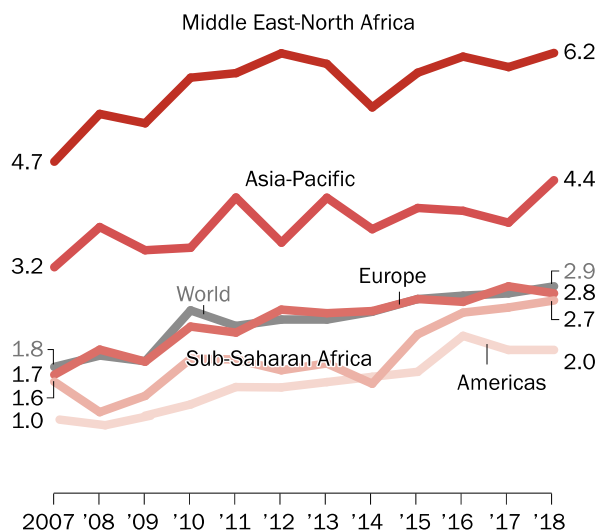
Aside from Asia-Pacific and the Middle East-North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa was the only other region to experience an increase in its median level of government restrictions in 2018 (from 2.6 to 2.7), reaching a new high following a steady rise in recent years. While government use of force against religious groups decreased in the region, both harassment of religious groups and physical violence against minority groups went up.

More than eight-in-ten countries in the sub-Saharan region (40 out of 48) experienced some form of government harassment of religious groups, and 14 countries (29%) had reports of governments using physical coercion against religious minorities. In Mozambique, for example, the government arbitrarily detained men, women and children who appeared to be Muslim in response to violent attacks on civilians and security forces by an insurgent group. According to media and local organizations, the government response to the attacks was “heavy-handed.”<sup>13</sup>

Europe experienced a small decline in its median level of government restrictions, falling from 2.9 in 2017 to 2.8 in 2018, although government use of force increased slightly (see Chapter 3 for details). The median level of government restrictions in the Americas, meanwhile, remained stable between 2017 and 2018, as the region continued to experience the lowest levels of government restrictions compared with all other regions.

## Government restrictions on religion, by region

Median scores on the Government Restrictions Index



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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<sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Mozambique](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018. See also Quartz Africa. June 16, 2018. “[Mozambique’s own version of Boko Haram is tightening its deadly grip](#).”

## Social hostilities involving religion declined slightly in 2018

This is the 11th annual report in this continuing study, which looks not only at government restrictions on religion but also at **social hostilities involving religion** – that is, acts of religion-related hostility by private individuals, organizations or groups in society.

The new analysis finds that globally, social hostilities declined slightly in 2018 after hitting an all-time high the prior year. The median score on the Social Hostilities Index (a 10-point scale based on 13 measures of social hostilities involving religion) fell from 2.1 in 2017 to 2.0 in 2018. This small decline was partly due to fewer reports of incidents in which some religious groups (usually of a majority faith in a particular country) attempted to prevent other religious groups (usually of minority faiths) from operating. There also were fewer reports of individuals being assaulted or displaced from their homes for religious expression that goes against the majority faith in a country (see Appendix D for full details).

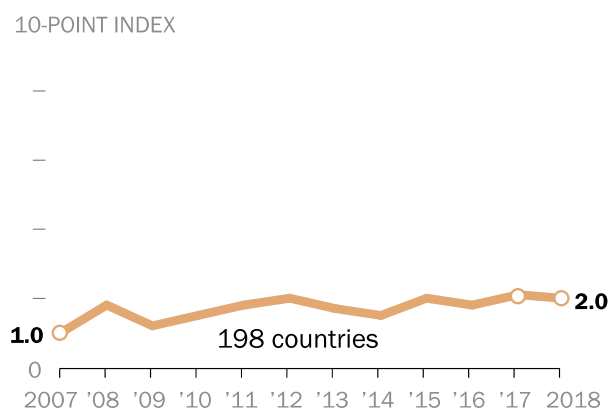
### Number of countries with high or very high social hostilities involving religion dropped slightly in 2018

*Number of countries with high/very high levels of ...*

#### ... social hostilities involving religion (Scores of 3.6 and higher)

<b>2018</b>	<b>27%</b>	(53 countries)
2017	28	(56)
2016	27	(54)
2015	27	(53)
2014	23	(45)
2013	27	(53)
2012	33	(65)
2011	29	(57)
2010	24	(47)
2009	18	(35)
2008	18	(36)
2007	20	(39)

#### Social Hostilities Index median score (Based on 13 indicators)



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
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The number of countries with “high” or “very high” levels of social hostilities involving religion also declined slightly from 56 (28% of all 198 countries and territories in the study) to 53 (27%). This includes 16 European countries (36% of all countries in Europe), 14 in the Asia-Pacific region (28% of all Asia-Pacific countries) and 11 in the Middle East and North Africa (55% of MENA countries).

Taken together, in 2018, 40% of the world’s countries (80 countries overall) had “high” or “very high” levels of **overall restrictions** on religion — reflecting either government actions or hostile acts by private individuals, organizations or social groups – down slightly from 42% (83 countries) in 2017. This remains close to the 11-year peak that was reached in 2012, when 43% (85 countries) had high or very high levels of overall restrictions. By this combined measure, as of 2018, all 20 countries in the Middle East-North Africa region have high overall restrictions on religion, as do more than half of Asia-Pacific countries (27 countries, or 54% of the region) and more than a third of countries in Europe (17 countries, 38%).

For full results, see Appendix F.

## How do restrictions on religion vary by regime type?

In this report, for the first time, Pew Research Center combined its data on government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion with a classification of regime types, based on the [Democracy Index](#) compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit.<sup>14</sup> Researchers did this to discern whether there is a link between different models of government and levels of restrictions on religion – in other words, whether restrictions on religion tend to be more or less common in countries with full or partial democracies than in those with authoritarian regimes.<sup>15</sup>

The analysis finds a strong association between authoritarianism and government restrictions on religion. While there are many exceptions to this pattern, authoritarian regimes are much more common among the countries with very high government restrictions on religion – roughly two-thirds of these countries (65%) are classified as authoritarian. Among countries with low government restrictions on religion, meanwhile, just 7% are authoritarian.

There is less of a clear pattern when it comes to social hostilities involving religion. There are no countries classified by the Economist Intelligence Unit as full democracies that have very high levels of social hostilities involving religion (just as there are no full democracies with very high levels of government restrictions involving religion). At the same time, there are many authoritarian countries with *low* levels of social hostilities involving religion, suggesting that in some cases, a government may restrict religion through laws and actions by state authorities while limiting religious hostilities among its citizens.

### How the Democracy Index works

The Democracy Index, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit, measures the state of democracy in 165 independent countries and two territories around the world. The Index assesses states based on 60 questions that broadly cover five themes: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation, and political culture. Each state is given a numeric score between 0 and 10 on the index and is classified into four regime types.

- Full Democracies: scores greater than 8
- Flawed Democracies: scores greater than 6, and less than or equal to 8
- Hybrid Regimes: scores greater than 4, and less than or equal to 6
- Authoritarian Regimes: scores less than or equal to 4

<sup>14</sup> Data reused with permission of the Economist Intelligence Unit.

<sup>15</sup> For more on the different types of regimes, see the Economist Intelligence Unit's "[Democracy Index: 2018](#)."

When looking at countries with **very high government restrictions on religion**, Pew Research Center found that of the 26 countries in this category whose regimes were scored by the EIU on its Democracy Index in 2018, 17 (65%) were classified as authoritarian, three were hybrid regimes (12%) and three were flawed democracies (12%). There were no countries with very high government restrictions that were full democracies.<sup>16</sup> The three countries with very high government restrictions that were classified as flawed democracies – Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore – all are regionally clustered in Southeast Asia.

Of the 30 countries with **high government restrictions on religion**, there were 12 authoritarian states (40%), 11 hybrid regimes (37%) and six flawed democracies (20%), according to the EIU Democracy Index. One full democracy, Denmark, also was in this category. In 2018, Denmark fell into the high government restrictions category for the first time, with its score driven partly by a ban on face coverings, which included Islamic burqas and niqabs, that went into effect that year.<sup>17</sup>

At the other end of the spectrum, among the 74 countries with **low government restrictions**, just five were classified as authoritarian (7%), 13 were hybrid regimes (18%), 27 were flawed democracies (36%) and seven were full democracies (9%). The countries with low government restrictions on religion that were also classified as authoritarian by the Democracy Index are all in sub-Saharan Africa: Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of the Congo, Swaziland and Togo. There was no Democracy Index classification of regime type for 22 countries with low government restrictions (for a full list, see Appendix E).

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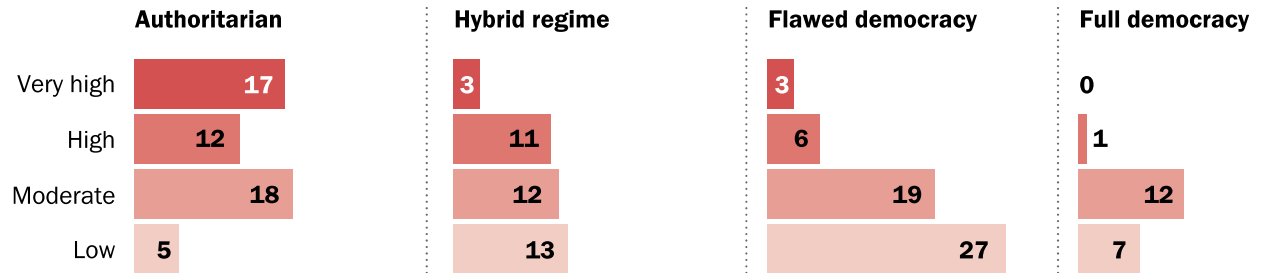
<sup>16</sup> Three countries in the very high government restrictions category did not have data on regime types: Brunei, Maldives and Western Sahara.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Denmark](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.



## Governments that restrict religion are less likely to be democracies

Among countries with \_\_\_\_ levels of government restrictions on religion, number with each type of government



Note: Countries without data on regime types are not shown.

Source: Government types from the Democracy Index compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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In terms of **social hostilities involving religion**, the picture is more mixed – which makes sense given that social hostilities look at actions by private individuals or social groups and do not directly originate from government actions.

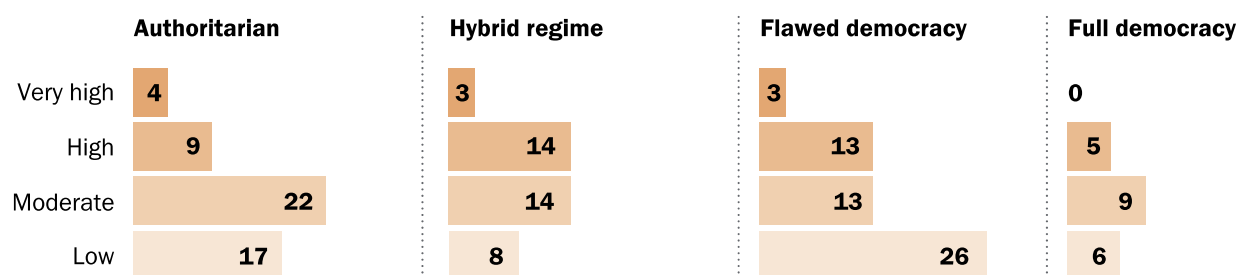
Among the 10 countries with **very high levels of social hostilities**, there were four authoritarian states, three hybrid regimes and three flawed democracies – India, Israel and Sri Lanka. Again, like countries with very high government restrictions, there were no full democracies with very high levels of social hostilities.

Among the 43 countries with **high levels of social hostilities**, nine were classified as authoritarian (21%), 14 were hybrid regimes (33%), 13 were flawed democracies (30%) and five were full democracies (12%).<sup>18</sup>

The five countries categorized as full democracies with high levels of social hostilities are all in Europe – Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – and all had reports of anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic incidents. In Switzerland, for instance, Muslim groups reported growing anti-Muslim sentiments due to negative coverage by the media and hostile discourse on Islam by right-leaning political parties. During the year, for instance, a journalist who had initiated a local ban on face coverings handed out a “Swiss Stop Islam Award” of about \$2,000 USD to three recipients.<sup>19</sup>

## Many authoritarian governments have low or moderate levels of social hostilities involving religion within their borders

Among countries with \_\_\_\_ levels of social hostilities involving religion, number with each type of government



Note: Countries without data on regime types are not shown.

Source: Government types from the Democracy Index compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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<sup>18</sup> There were two countries in this category that did not have data on regime types: Kosovo and Somalia.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Switzerland](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

Among the 81 countries with **low levels of social hostilities** in 2018, there were 24 with no data on regime types (mostly small island nations the Democracy Index does not cover). Those with data are most commonly classified as flawed democracies (26 countries, or 32% of the 81 countries with low social hostilities).

But, strikingly, 17 countries (21%) with low social hostilities involving religion were classified as authoritarian – including countries like Eritrea and Kazakhstan, which have very high *government restrictions* on religion. In addition, several other authoritarian states with very high government restrictions on religion – such as China, Iran and Uzbekistan – have only moderate levels of social hostilities involving religion. In these cases, high levels of government control over religion may lead to fewer hostilities by nongovernment actors.

The rest of this report looks more closely at other changes in religious restrictions in 2018, including the countries with the most extensive government restrictions or social hostilities and the extent of changes in restrictions on religion since 2017 (Chapter 1); details about the harassment of specific religious groups (Chapter 2); and additional analysis on restrictions on religion by region (Chapter 3) and among the most populous countries in the world (Chapter 4).

Full results for all countries are available in Appendix F.

## 1. Number of countries with ‘very high’ government restrictions on religion ticked down in 2018

### Countries with the most extensive government restrictions on religion

Government restrictions involving religion can vary greatly depending on the country. Some countries have much higher levels of government restrictions than others, either because their governments carry out a wider variety of actions that inhibit religious freedom, or because they enforce such restrictions more severely, or both.

In 2018, 26 of the 198 countries in this study had “very high” levels of government restrictions, a slight decrease from 27 in 2017 – which was the largest number of countries to reach the “very high” category since the study began in 2007.

On the other hand, the number of countries with “high” government restrictions rose by five in 2018, from 25 to 30. (For details about the thresholds for the “very high” and “high” categories, see Methodology.)

Three countries or territories – Iraq, Western Sahara and Yemen – had increased levels of government restrictions in 2018 that pushed them into the “very high” category (though all three had been in the top category in some previous years). Yemen, for example, returned to the “very high” category for the first time since 2011 after its score on the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) increased from 4.7 in 2017 to 6.6 in 2018, due in part to Houthi

### Countries with very high government restrictions on religion

Scores of 6.6 or higher on the 10-point Government Restrictions Index

2017	2018
Algeria	Algeria
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Brunei	Brunei
China	China
Comoros	Egypt
Egypt	Eritrea
Eritrea	Indonesia
Indonesia	Iran
Iran	<b>Iraq</b>
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Laos	Malaysia
Malaysia	Maldives
Maldives	Mauritania
Mauritania	Morocco
Morocco	Burma (Myanmar)
Burma (Myanmar)	Russia
Pakistan	Saudi Arabia
Russia	Singapore
Saudi Arabia	Syria
Singapore	Tajikistan
Sudan	Turkey
Syria	Turkmenistan
Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Turkey	Vietnam
Turkmenistan	<b>Western Sahara</b>
Uzbekistan	<b>Yemen</b>
Vietnam	

Note: Gray indicates a country that had very high social hostilities in 2017 but not in 2018. Bold indicates a country that had very high social hostilities in 2018 but not in 2017.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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authorities instituting fees for people making the hajj (Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca) and shutting down travel agencies that would not comply.<sup>20</sup>

Houthi forces also intensified pressure on members of the Baha'i faith. During the year, Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi called on his followers to defend Yemen against Baha'is, who he said were "satanic" and at war with Islam. Houthi forces also continued to detain Baha'is and charged more than 20 of them with apostasy and espionage.<sup>21</sup>

Iraq and Western Sahara returned to the "very high" category in 2018 after dropping into the "high" category due to small decreases (less than 1 point on the GRI) in 2017. In 2018, both countries experienced very small increases that moved them back into the highest category.<sup>22</sup>

Four countries – Comoros, Laos, Pakistan and Sudan – fell out of the "very high" category, although all maintained "high" levels of government restrictions. Laos, Pakistan and Sudan had small decreases of less than 1 point in 2018. Comoros, however, experienced a more substantial decrease, from 7.4 to 5.8 on the GRI, due to fewer reported incidents of government officials harassing minority Muslim groups. In 2017, the government had closed mosques of certain Muslim communities.<sup>23</sup>

For a complete list of all countries in each category, see the Government Restrictions Index table in Appendix A.

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<sup>20</sup> Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war since 2014, and Houthi forces control territory that is home to more than half of the country's population – they operate there as de facto authorities, despite not being recognized as the legitimate national government by the international community. Therefore, since 2016, researchers have coded restrictions that take place in areas under Houthi control as government restrictions; before that, actions by Houthi rebels had been coded as social hostilities. See Methodology for details.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Yemen](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>22</sup> In some cases, countries may change categories even though their scores appear as "no change" in the dataset. That is because changes of less than 0.1 (in unrounded scores) on either index are categorized as no change, but if a country is on the edge of one category, it can still move into another with even a minuscule change of this sort.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Comoros](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Countries with the most extensive social hostilities involving religion

As with government restrictions, some countries stand out each year for having very high levels of social hostilities involving religion. Social hostilities include violence carried out by individuals as well as efforts by groups outside of government to target people based on their religion, such as harassment of a religious minority by members of the majority faith.

In 2018, 10 of the 198 countries in this study had “very high” levels of social hostilities involving religion – the same number as in 2017, though two countries in this category changed.

Libya and Sri Lanka had increases in their Social Hostilities Index (SHI) scores that put them into the “very high” category in 2018. Libya experienced a small increase of less than 1 point, while Sri Lanka’s SHI score rose from 5.6 to 7.2. Sri Lanka’s increase was due in part to a series of violent riots that took place after a Sinhalese Buddhist man was killed by Muslims. The killing sparked retaliation against the Muslim community that left 30 Muslims injured or dead and led the government to declare a 10-day state of emergency.<sup>24</sup> (This report focuses on data from 2018, before the [Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka](#) that killed hundreds in 2019.)

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and Yemen fell out of the top category for social hostilities in 2018, with small decreases that moved them into the “high” category. In Bangladesh, for example, there were fewer reported incidents of communal violence between religious groups in 2018 than in 2017.

For a complete list of all countries in each category, see the Social Hostilities Index table in Appendix B.

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### Countries with very high social hostilities involving religion

Scores of 7.2 or higher on the 10-point Social Hostilities Index

2017	2018
Bangladesh	Central African Republic
Central African Republic	Egypt
Egypt	India
India	Iraq
Iraq	Israel
Israel	<b>Libya</b>
Nigeria	Nigeria
Pakistan	Pakistan
Syria	<b>Sri Lanka</b>
Yemen	Syria

Note: Gray indicates a country that had very high social hostilities in 2017 but not in 2018. Bold indicates a country that had very high social hostilities in 2018 but not in 2017.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data.

See Methodology for details.

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<sup>24</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Sri Lanka](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

## Changes in government restrictions on religion

Many countries do not reach the “very high” or “high” categories of government restrictions but still experience notable changes in how their governments restrict religion. To capture these situations, Pew Research Center analyzes the magnitude of changes across all countries and categories to provide insight into government actions and policies that have an especially large impact on religious restrictions in each country in a given year.

In 2018, 67 countries had increases in their GRI scores, while 51 countries had decreases and 80 countries had no change in their scores on the Government Restrictions Index. By contrast, in 2017, an equal number of countries had increases and decreases in their GRI scores (67 each), while slightly fewer (64) had no change in their scores that year.

Yemen experienced the greatest change in its GRI score, rising by 1.9 points (see details above). No countries saw large changes of 2.0 or more points in their GRI scores in 2018. Eleven countries saw modest changes (1.0 to 1.9 points) in their GRI scores, with nine of them experiencing increases. In Armenia, for example, police detained a self-described atheist youth in an attempt to pressure him to rejoin the Armenian Apostolic Church, according to an independent media report.<sup>25</sup>

Most countries (107 out of 198) experienced only small changes (less than 1 point) in their GRI scores, including 58 with increases and 49 with decreases.

### More increases than decreases in country-level government restrictions on religion in 2018; most were small

POINT CHANGE	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	
2.0 or more increase	0	0%	34%
1.0 to 1.9 increase	9	5	
0.1 to 0.9 increase	58	29	
No change	80	40	40%
0.1 to 0.9 decrease	49	25	26%
1.0 to 1.9 decrease	2	1	
2.0 or more decrease	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	

Note: Point changes are calculated by comparing GRI scores from year to year. Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data.

See Methodology for details.

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<sup>25</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Armenia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

## Changes in social hostilities involving religion

In 2018, 61 countries experienced increases in their SHI scores, while 71 countries had decreases.

Five countries saw large changes (2 points or more) in social hostilities in 2018, with two – El Salvador and South Korea – rising from the “low” category to the “moderate” category. In South Korea, more than 120,000 people protested coercive religious conversion after reports that a couple had killed their daughter during an effort to forcibly convert her to Christianity.<sup>26</sup>

The other three countries – Italy, Uganda and the United Kingdom – experienced large decreases in their SHI scores. The decline in social hostilities in Italy may be due in part to the government not publishing statistics on religiously motivated incidents in 2018, unlike in previous years.<sup>27</sup>

Thirty-four countries registered modest changes in SHI scores (1.0 to 1.9 points), including 13 increases and 21 decreases. One of the increases occurred in Malaysia, where there were additional reports of violence against religious groups, including an incident of mob violence in which 200 masked individuals tried to remove worshippers from a Hindu temple.<sup>28</sup>

Out of the 198 countries in the study, 93 experienced small changes in their SHI scores (0.1 to 0.9 points) – 46 with increases and 47 with decreases. There were no changes in SHI scores in 66 countries.

### More countries with decreases than increases in social hostilities involving religion in 2018

POINT CHANGE	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	
2.0 or more increase	2	1%	31%
1.0 to 1.9 increase	13	7	
0.1 to 0.9 increase	46	23	
No change	66	33	33%
0.1 to 0.9 decrease	47	24	37%
1.0 to 1.9 decrease	21	11	
2.0 or more decrease	3	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>101</b>	

Note: Point changes are calculated by comparing SHI scores from year to year. Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data.

See Methodology for details.

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<sup>26</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Republic of Korea](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Italy](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Malaysia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.



## Changes in overall restrictions on religion

In addition to looking at measures of government restrictions separately from social hostilities, Pew Research Center analyzes these changes together to help provide a more complete picture of religious restrictions in each country.

In 2018, roughly equal numbers of countries had increases (77 countries) and decreases (80) in their overall scores – in most cases, just small changes in either direction.

Among the countries with net increases, 57 had small increases (less than 1 point) and 18 had modest increases (between 1.0 and 1.9 points). Only two countries (El Salvador and South Korea) had large increases of 2 points or more in their overall scores.

Among the countries that had decreases, most (59) had small decreases and fewer (19) had modest decreases. Two countries – Italy and the United Kingdom – had large decreases in their overall scores.

Forty-one countries had no change in their overall scores between 2017 and 2018.

### Overall changes in global restrictions on religion: 77 countries had increased scores in 2018, while 80 had decreases

*Changes on the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) or Social Hostilities Index (SHI) from 2017 to 2018*

POINT CHANGE	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	
2.0 or more increase	2	1%	39%
1.0 to 1.9 increase	18	9	
0.1 to 0.9 increase	57	29	
No change	41	21	21%
0.1 to 0.9 decrease	59	30	41%
1.0 to 1.9 decrease	19	10	
2.0 or more decrease	2	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>101</b>	

Note: Categories of overall change in restrictions are calculated by comparing a country's unrounded scores on the GRI and SHI from year to year. When a country's scores on both indexes changed in the same direction (both increased or both decreased), the greater amount of change determined the category. For instance, if the country's GRI score increased by 0.8 and its SHI score increased by 1.5, the country was put into the "1.0 to 1.9 increase" category. When a country's score increased on one index but decreased on the other, the difference between the amounts of change determined the grouping. For example, if the country's GRI score increased by 2.0 and its SHI score decreased by 1.5, the country went into the "0.1 to 0.9 increase" category. When a country's score on one index stayed the same, the amount of change on the other index was used to assign the category. Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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## 2. Harassment of religious groups continues to be reported in more than 90% of countries

In 2018, this study's sources continued to report harassment against religious groups – either by governments or social groups and individuals – in the vast majority of countries around the world (185 out of 198).<sup>29</sup> This figure ticked down slightly from 187 the previous year, marking the first decrease since 2014 in the number of countries where harassment was observed.

Harassment can include a wide range of actions – from verbal abuse to physical violence and killings – motivated at least in part by the target's religious identity. In addition to harassment of religious groups and persons, this study measures harassment against those who are religiously unaffiliated, including atheists, agnostics and humanists.

As in previous years, Christians and Muslims experienced harassment in more countries than any other religious groups in 2018. This pattern has remained consistent since the study began in 2007. Christians and Muslims are the [two largest religious groups in the world](#) and are more geographically dispersed than smaller groups.

### Number of countries where religious groups were harassed in 2018 similar to previous two years

*Number of countries where religious groups were harassed, by year*

	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	
Christians	107	95	96	111	105	110	102	108	128	144	143	145	
Muslims	96	91	82	90	101	109	99	100	125	142	140	139	
Jews	51	53	63	68	69	71	77	81	74	87	87	88	
Others*	33	34	39	52	42	39	38	43	50	57	50	56	
Folk religions**	24	19	24	26	23	26	34	21	32	41	38	37	
Hindus	21	18	11	16	12	16	9	14	18	23	23	19	
Buddhists	10	11	7	15	9	13	12	10	7	17	19	24	
Unaffiliated	CODING WAS NOT DONE						3	5	4	14	14	23	18
<b>Any of above</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>185</b>	

\* Includes Sikhs, members of ancient faiths such as Zoroastrianism, members of newer faiths such as Baha'i, and other religious groups.

\*\* Includes, for example, followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

Note: This measure looks at the number of countries in which groups were harassed, either by government or individuals/social groups (or both). It does not assess the severity of the harassment. Numbers do not add to totals because multiple religious groups can be harassed in a country. The figure for other religious groups for the year ending in December 2012 and the any-of-the-above figure for the year ending in December 2011 have been updated to correct minor errors in previous reports.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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<sup>29</sup> These figures indicate whether *at least one incident* of harassment was reported against a religious group in each country. While a large majority of countries experience some incident(s) of religious harassment each year, this does not necessarily mean there is a pervasive atmosphere of antagonism toward religious groups in those countries. The analysis in this chapter is based on whether at least one act of harassment was reported against a particular religious group (e.g., Muslims) in each country in 2018; it does not take into account the severity of the incident or the number of similar incidents throughout the country.

In 2018, Christians reportedly were harassed in 145 countries, up from 143 countries in 2017. In Israel, for instance, an Ethiopian Christian monk was reportedly injured by police officers who were attempting to evict him from his church.<sup>30</sup> And in Burundi, a Christian man died after he was imprisoned and allegedly beaten by police for refusing – on the basis of his religious conscience – to register to vote.<sup>31</sup>

Muslims were harassed in 139 countries in 2018, down slightly from 140 countries in 2017. In Argentina, a Muslim woman was not permitted to use a swimming pool because she was wearing a burkini.<sup>32</sup> And in Lebanon, three brothers reportedly killed a Sunni man after accusing him of making blasphemous remarks in a market.<sup>33</sup>

Jews were harassed in 88 countries – a slight increase from 87 countries in 2017 – and continue to be harassed in the third highest number of countries, despite the group’s relatively small population size ([0.2% of the global population](#)). In France, an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor was stabbed to death in March 2018, and President Emmanuel Macron said publicly that the victim was “murdered because she was Jewish.”<sup>34</sup>

Hindus were harassed in 19 countries – declining from 23 countries the previous two years. A Hindu priest was killed in Bangladesh in an attack authorities believed may have been motivated by anti-Hindu sentiment.<sup>35</sup>

Buddhists experienced the largest increase of any single religious group in the number of countries where they faced harassment, from 19 in 2017 to 24 in 2018 – the highest number since the study began in 2007. In Sri Lanka, a Buddhist group was denied permission to construct a shrine on a mountain that they claimed to have a connection to.<sup>36</sup> And in Indonesia, a Buddhist woman was convicted of blasphemy for complaining about the volume of the Islamic call to prayer.<sup>37</sup>

Religiously unaffiliated people (including atheists, agnostics and people who don’t identify with any religion) were harassed for religious reasons in 18 countries in 2018, down from 23 the previous year – the biggest decrease of any group. Still, in Egypt, an atheist blogger was arrested

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<sup>30</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Israel](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>31</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Burundi](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>32</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Argentina](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>33</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Lebanon](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>34</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[France](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>35</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Bangladesh](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>36</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Sri Lanka](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>37</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Indonesia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

and detained for four days after being charged with insulting Islam and Shariah and disrupting communal peace with a series of YouTube videos.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Egypt](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

## Government versus social harassment of groups

Religious groups face harassment from a variety of actors, but some tend to experience more abuse from governments than from individuals or groups in society, and vice versa. In 2018, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims and religiously unaffiliated people were harassed by government actors in more countries than they were by individuals or groups not affiliated with the government, such as other religious groups, hate groups or secular groups. Conversely, Jews have faced more social harassment than government harassment in each year since the study began in 2007. This pattern continued in 2018, when social hostilities against Jews were reported in 77 countries, compared with 59 countries where Jews experienced government harassment.

Adherents of folk religions faced both social hostilities and government harassment in 23 countries in 2018. For example, a Vodou practitioner in Haiti was killed after he provided treatment to an ill woman who later died.<sup>39</sup>

Other religious groups beyond those separately analyzed above – including Baha'is, Scientologists, Sikhs, Rastafarians and Zoroastrians – experienced government harassment in twice as many countries as they faced social hostilities (50 countries vs. 25). For instance, in Canada, the Quebec Appeal Court upheld the right of the legislature to deny entrance to individuals with a kirpan, a sacred dagger carried by Sikhs.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Haiti](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>40</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Canada](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

## Number of countries where religious groups were harassed, by type of harassment

	<i>Government harassment in the year ...</i>												<i>Social harassment in the year ...</i>											
	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18
Christians	79	80	71	95	78	81	85	79	97	114	123	124	74	72	70	77	81	83	71	85	94	107	101	104
Muslims	77	74	58	74	78	83	73	80	106	127	124	126	64	53	58	64	82	88	84	81	94	97	105	103
Jews	11	16	14	21	28	28	39	31	43	56	63	59	46	48	60	64	63	66	72	80	67	66	75	77
Others*	25	28	29	40	39	34	33	39	44	49	43	50	15	13	19	28	18	20	17	17	18	22	21	25
Folk religions**	13	10	9	10	5	11	12	13	16	23	16	23	16	13	19	20	21	18	26	12	23	25	27	23
Hindus	12	11	9	13	9	13	8	9	14	18	17	14	12	9	8	10	6	9	4	7	11	11	11	10
Buddhists	7	7	6	11	5	9	7	8	5	15	15	22	4	4	4	7	5	7	7	3	3	6	9	10
Unaffiliated	CODING WAS NOT DONE					2	1	1	9	11	14	12	CODING WAS NOT DONE					2	4	3	6	5	13	8
<b>Any of above</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>160</b>

\* Includes Sikhs, members of ancient faiths such as Zoroastrianism, members of newer faiths such as Baha'i, and other religious groups.

\*\* Includes, for example, followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

Note: This measure looks at the number of countries in which groups were harassed, either by government or individuals/social groups. It does not assess the severity of the harassment. Numbers do not add to totals because multiple religious groups can be harassed in a country.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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## Harassment of Christians and Muslims by region

Beyond the different types of harassment religious groups face, there also are regional variations in where the two largest religious groups are more likely to face harassment. The Middle East-North Africa region had the largest share of countries where Christians were harassed in 2018. Of the 20 countries in the region, 19 had some form of harassment targeting Christians (either by governments or social groups). Social harassment occurred in 15 countries, the highest share (75%) since the beginning of the study, while government harassment of Christians was reported in 19 countries in the region, down from all 20 in 2017. For example, in Algeria, a court denied an interfaith couple's marriage application because one of them was a Christian.<sup>41</sup>

Christians reportedly were harassed by governments or social groups in 80% of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In Europe, Christians (including minority Christian sects) were harassed in about three-quarters of countries (76%), while in sub-Saharan Africa, Christians faced harassment in two-thirds of countries (67%). In the Americas, harassment of Christians dropped in 2018, from 21 countries to 20.

A higher number of countries experienced government harassment (rather than social harassment) of Christians in every region but the Americas, where Christians were harassed by governments in 16 countries and social groups in 17 countries.

When it comes to the share of countries, Muslims faced more harassment overall in the Middle East-North Africa region (20 of 20 countries) and Europe (39 of 45 countries) than other regions. In the Middle East, all 20 governments harassed Muslims (including minority sects within Islam), and 82% of European governments did the same. Meanwhile, social harassment of Muslims was reported in 65% of countries in the Middle East and 71% of countries in Europe (32 out of 45 countries).

In Asia and the Pacific, harassment of Muslims was reported in 70% of countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, this figure was 71%, and it was 31% in the Americas. In every region except the Americas, harassment of Muslims by governments was more common than by social groups, but in the Americas, 20% of governments harassed Muslims, while social hostilities against Muslims occurred in 26% of countries.

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<sup>41</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Algeria](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

### 3. In 2018, government restrictions rose in most regions, but social hostilities declined

#### Government restrictions by region

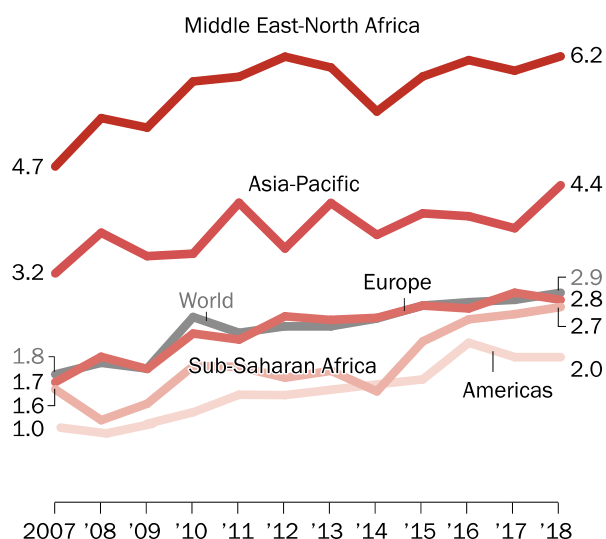
In 2018, the global median level of government restrictions on religion reached a peak at 2.9 after remaining stable at 2.8 in 2016 and 2017. Three out of five regions in the study experienced increases (Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa), while Europe had a slight decrease and the median score for the Americas remained about the same.

As in all prior years of the study, the Middle East and North Africa continued to have the highest median level of government restrictions (6.2 out of 10 on the Government Restrictions Index, or GRI). All 20 states in the region had some level of harassment of religious groups and interference in worship. Qatar, for example, continued to prohibit non-Muslim groups from public worship, displaying religious symbols and proselytizing.<sup>42</sup> And in Sunni-majority Egypt, authorities continued to restrict access to the tomb of Imam Al-Hussein, the grandson of Islam’s Prophet Muhammad and an important figure for Shiite Muslims. The closure occurred, as it has in recent years, during the Shiite commemoration of Ashura, and although the Egyptian government claimed it was due to construction, some media reported that it was an attempt to limit Shiite religious rituals.<sup>43</sup>

The largest overall increase in levels of government restrictions on religion occurred in the Asia-Pacific region, where the median GRI score among the region’s 50 countries moved from 3.8 to 4.4 – an all-time high (see Overview for details). While this increase was driven partly by instances of government use of force against religious groups in more countries (especially at “low levels”),

#### Government restrictions on religion, by region

Median scores on the Government Restrictions Index



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

“In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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<sup>42</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Qatar](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>43</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Egypt](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.



there also were increased reports of restrictions on wearing religious symbols or headscarves in the region.

In total, 19 out of 50 countries in the Asia-Pacific region (38%) had some reported restrictions on wearing religious symbols and headscarves, an increase from 14 countries (28%) the previous year. In Australia, for example, a judge did not allow a woman to wear a niqab in the court's public spectator gallery during her husband's trial on charges of terrorism.<sup>44</sup> And in Thailand, a public school located on a Buddhist temple property in the predominantly Muslim southern part of the country refused to let a group of Muslim students wear headscarves to school.<sup>45</sup> In Turkey, by contrast, students and parents claimed a school principal in the city of Urfa threatened that female students would receive failing grades if they did *not* wear head coverings.<sup>46</sup>

In sub-Saharan Africa, the median GRI score ticked up from 2.6 to 2.7 between 2017 and 2018. As discussed in the Overview, government harassment and hostility toward minority religious groups was reported in slightly more countries across the region. Although government force against religious groups fell overall, 20 countries (42%) in sub-Saharan Africa still experienced some level of government force toward religious groups in 2018.

In Kenya, for example, counterterrorism efforts led to the disproportionate targeting of Muslims, particularly ethnic Somalis in areas along the border with Somalia. The government actions included "extrajudicial killing, torture and forced interrogation, arbitrary arrest, detention without trial, and denial of freedom of assembly and worship," according to the U.S. State Department.<sup>47</sup>

And in Eritrea, where the government has officially recognized only four religious groups (the Eritrean Orthodox Church, Sunni Islam, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea) since 2002, hundreds of prisoners continued to be detained on the basis of their religion. An estimated 345 church leaders and 800 to 1,000 lay members were imprisoned, according to a UK-based Christian organization, and 53 Jehovah's Witnesses reportedly remained in detention for refusing military service as a matter of conscientious objection.<sup>48</sup> The government also detained up to 800 protesters, according to human rights groups, after the death in prison of a prominent Muslim who had been arrested for speaking out against a government plan to expropriate an Islamic school.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Australia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>45</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Thailand](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>46</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Turkey](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>47</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Kenya](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>48</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Eritrea](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>49</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 29, 2019. "[Eritrea](#)." 2019 Annual Report.

Europe's median GRI score dipped slightly, from 2.9 in 2017 to 2.8 in 2018, partly because of fewer reports that governments failed to protect religious groups from abuse. For example, in 2017, Jewish groups had criticized a French prosecutor's delay in indicting a man for beating a 65-year-old Jewish woman and pushing her out a window, as well as the prosecutor's initial exclusion of anti-Semitism as a motive for the murder.<sup>50</sup> But no such complaints were reported in 2018, even though there were continued reports of harassment of Jews because of their religion. In fact, the French government announced a three-year national action plan (spanning 2018 to 2020) to combat anti-Semitism and racism, including countering online hate content and improving victim protection services. At the same time, however, the government continued to restrict religion through its counterterrorism measures, closing down mosques and expelling preachers it deemed radical.<sup>51</sup>

Throughout Europe, government use of force – which includes confiscation or damage of property, detentions, displacement, physical abuse or killings – against religious groups increased slightly, especially at low levels: The number of countries where fewer than 10 such incidents were recorded during the year increased from 10 in 2017 to 15 in 2018, while the number of countries where *no* such incidents were reported dropped from 31 to 28.

For instance, in North Macedonia (formerly the Republic of Macedonia), authorities seized the passport of the archbishop of the Orthodox Archbishopric of Ohrid – a religious group the government has denied official recognition – and prevented him from crossing the border into Greece. The archbishop filed complaints with various European entities, and by the end of the year, the passport had been returned without explanation.<sup>52</sup>

There was more widespread use of force in some parts of the region. In Russia, for example, the government continued targeting “nontraditional” religious groups, including Jehovah's Witnesses, who were formally banned in 2017. Throughout 2018, Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia faced raids on their homes, detentions, travel restrictions and investigations, and an estimated \$90 million of church property was confiscated.<sup>53</sup>

The Americas continued to have lower levels of government restrictions on religion than any other major region; its median score was stable (2.0 in both 2017 and 2018). Still, 86% of countries in

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<sup>50</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[France](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>51</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[France](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>52</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[North Macedonia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>53</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 29, 2019. “[Russia](#).” 2019 Annual Report.

the Americas (30 out of 35) experienced some level of government harassment against religious groups, and 80% (28 countries) had reports of authorities interfering in worship in some way.

In Nicaragua, according to Amnesty International, the government “committed or permitted” serious human rights violations, including attacks on the Catholic Church and its clergy, especially those who helped protect protesters. For example, in July, police conducted a 15-hour attack on a church in the capital city of Managua that was providing shelter to student protesters; two people died and at least 10 were injured in the police action. And in September, a deputy chief of police assaulted a priest for asking government supporters to turn down ruling-party propaganda music playing outside the church during a funeral.<sup>54</sup>

In the Bahamas and Jamaica, meanwhile, the Afro-Caribbean religious practice of Obeah remains illegal.<sup>55</sup> At the same time, Antigua and Barbuda decriminalized marijuana use – which Rastafarians argue is integral to their religious rituals – and publicly apologized for discriminating against the group in the past (although Rastafarians continued to face obstacles to using marijuana ceremonially in other parts of the region).<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Nicaragua](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>55</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Bahamas](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

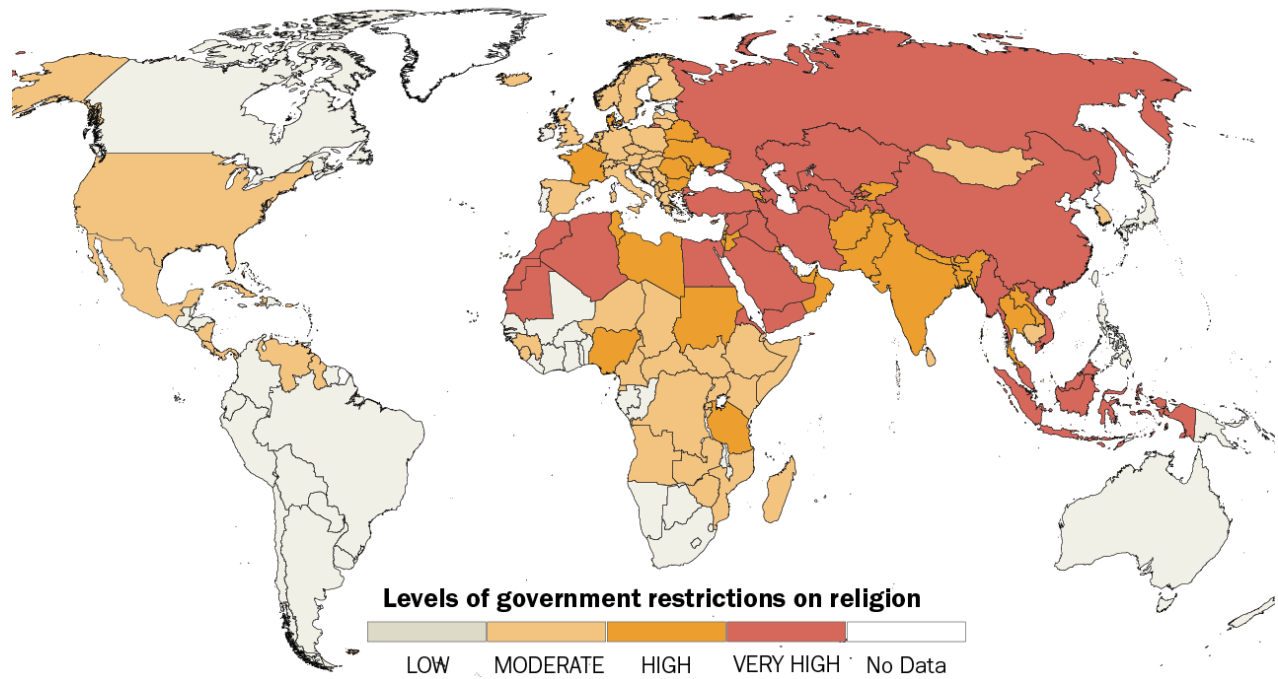
See also U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Jamaica](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>56</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[Antigua and Barbuda](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

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## Government restrictions on religion around the world

*Level of government restrictions on religion in each country as of 2018*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
“In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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## Social hostilities by region

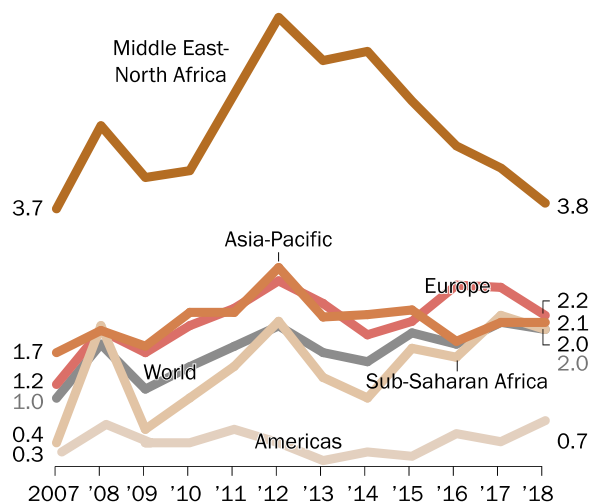
In 2018, the global median level of social hostilities declined slightly from 2.1 to 2.0, though it remained close to the all-time high reached in the previous year. The Americas was the only region in 2018 to experience an increase in its median score on the 10-point Social Hostilities Index (SHI). The Asia-Pacific region's median score remained about the same, while sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and the Middle East-North Africa regions all experienced declines – with the Middle East and North Africa's score near its all-time low of 3.7, established in the baseline year of 2007.<sup>57</sup>

The median SHI score in the Americas was 0.7, an increase from 0.4 in 2017. Still, the Americas continued to have the lowest overall level of social hostilities of the five geographic regions analyzed in the study.

The largest increase within the Americas occurred in El Salvador, where in March, during Catholic Holy Week, armed men robbed a priest and his companions on their way to Mass and killed the priest.<sup>58</sup> Then, in July, Salvadoran gang members killed a Protestant pastor for reportedly persuading six members to leave the gang and join his congregation. Gang members also extorted money from congregations in exchange for letting them operate, or in some cases made them divert charitable donations to gang members' families.<sup>59</sup>

## Social hostilities involving religion, by region

Median scores on the Social Hostilities Index



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 “In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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<sup>57</sup> In the regions that saw declines in their SHI scores, it is unclear whether this represents a real decline in social hostilities or fewer incidents reported. Indeed, compared with government restrictions scores, social hostilities scores may experience more fluctuations from year to year because the Social Hostilities Index measures only incidents. The Government Restrictions Index covers both incidents as well as laws and policies, which don't change as much year to year. See Appendix D and Methodology for details.

<sup>58</sup> Catholic News Agency. April 3, 2018. “[Priest murdered during Holy Week in El Salvador.](#)”

<sup>59</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. “[El Salvador.](#)” International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

The United States experienced a decrease in its overall social hostilities score, but it was one of the only countries in the Americas with religion-related terrorist activity in 2018.<sup>60</sup> In October, a man attacked a synagogue in Pittsburgh and shot worshippers during services, killing 11 people and injuring six others in one of the deadliest assaults on Jews in American history. Prior to the attack, the shooter was reported to have posted anti-Semitic statements on social media protesting a nonprofit Jewish organization's resettlement of refugees in the U.S.<sup>61</sup>

In sub-Saharan Africa, the median level of social hostilities involving religion fell from 2.2 to 2.0 between 2017 and 2018, while Europe's median score on the SHI dropped from 2.6 to 2.2, and the Middle East-North Africa saw a decline from 4.3 to 3.8. There were fewer countries in all these regions with reported attacks on individuals who practice a religion that goes against the majority faith in the country (see SHI.Q.10 in Appendix D). Sub-Saharan Africa also had fewer countries with reports of hostilities over enforcing religious norms (SHI.Q.9).

The median social hostilities score for Asia and the Pacific remained at 2.1 in 2018, the same as in 2017.

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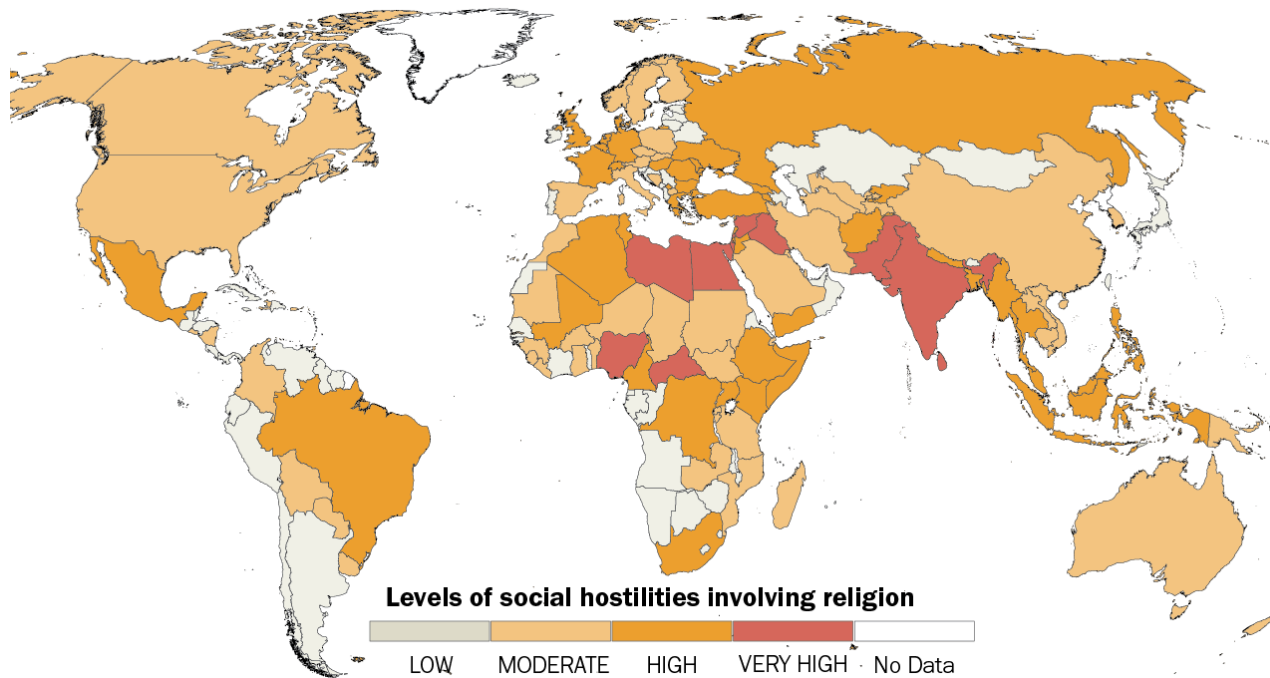
<sup>60</sup> Pew Research Center codes religion-related terrorism incidents as collected by the Global Terrorism Database at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland. In this study, violence by a single attacker may be classified as "religion-related" terrorism if it is a premeditated, politically motivated attack on noncombatants with a religious target or a religious motive.

<sup>61</sup> The New York Times. Oct. 27, 2018. "[11 Killed in Synagogue Massacre: Suspect Charged With 29 Counts.](#)"

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## Social hostilities involving religion around the world

*Level of social hostilities involving religion in each country as of 2018*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

"In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade"

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## 4. Restrictions on religion among the 25 most populous countries in 2018

More than three-quarters of the world's population lives in the 25 most populous countries. Focusing on these countries can shed light on how most people are affected by government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion – although not everyone in any particular country is equally affected by religious restrictions. Religious minorities vary from country to country and are often impacted disproportionately.

Among the 25 most populous countries in 2018, India, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and Russia had the highest **overall** levels of both government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion. The most populous countries with the lowest overall scores were Japan, South Africa, Italy, Brazil and the United States.<sup>62</sup>

The highest levels of **government restrictions** among the most populous countries occurred in China, Iran, Russia, Indonesia and Egypt, all of which rank in the “very high” category of restrictions. The countries ranking lowest in terms of government restrictions were Japan, Brazil, South Africa, the Philippines, and South Korea. All of these countries had “low” levels of government restrictions in 2018, except for South Korea, which had “moderate” levels of government restrictions.

The most populous countries with the highest levels of **social hostilities** involving religion were India, Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the same five countries as in 2017. Bangladesh is the only one of these countries that moved out of the “very high” category into the “high” category in 2018. Japan, China, Vietnam, Iran and the United States had the lowest levels of social hostilities among the world's 25 most populous countries. Japan was the only one of the top 25 to fall into the “low” category of social hostilities in 2018; the rest experienced “moderate” or higher levels of social hostilities involving religion.

There are cases when levels of government restrictions tend to mirror levels of social hostilities in a country. For example, Egypt was in the “very high” categories of both government restrictions and social hostilities in 2018, while Italy scored “moderate” on both measures. But there also are cases when government restrictions and social hostilities do not align. For example, Iran had the second-highest score on the Government Restrictions Index out of the 198 countries and territories in the study in 2018, yet it had “moderate” levels of social hostilities involving religion.

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<sup>62</sup> Population figures are United Nations 2010 estimates.



In 2018, all 25 of the world's most populous countries experienced either small changes (less than 1.0 point or no change in their Government Restrictions Index (GRI) scores. As a result, most of these countries did not shift from one category to another. Pakistan, however, experienced a very small decrease in government restrictions in 2018, moving it from "very high" to "high" on the GRI scale. (Among other things, in 2018 Pakistan's Supreme Court acquitted Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who had been sentenced to death in 2010 on blasphemy charges.<sup>63</sup>)

In terms of changes to Social Hostilities Index (SHI) scores, three of the most populous countries had large changes (2.0 points or more) in 2018. Italy and the United Kingdom experienced large decreases in social hostilities involving religion, with Italy falling from the "high" category to "moderate," perhaps in part because the Italian government did not report on incidents related to religious hatred as it had in previous years.<sup>64</sup> In 2017, the United Kingdom had experienced multiple incidents of terrorism related to religion, including a bombing at Manchester Arena that killed 23 people and injured more than 100, as well as an incident in which an individual drove a van into a crowd of pedestrians gathered outside a mosque in London, injuring eight and killing one.<sup>65</sup> No such incidents were reported in the UK in 2018.

Among the 25 most populous countries, South Korea was the only one that experienced a large increase in social hostilities in 2018, causing it to move from "low" to "moderate," due in part to rising reports of hostilities over religious conversions.

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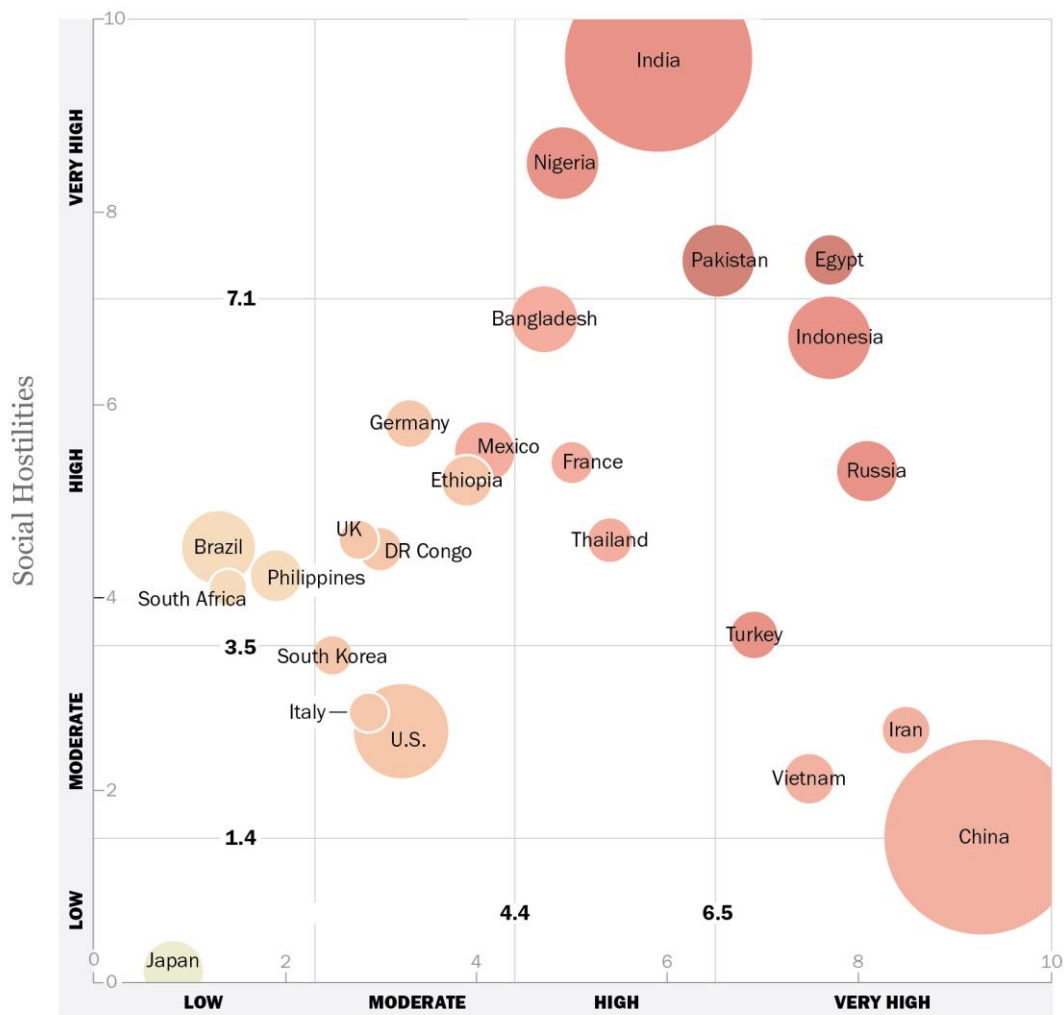
<sup>63</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Pakistan](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

<sup>64</sup> U.S. Department of State. June 21, 2019. "[Italy](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2018.

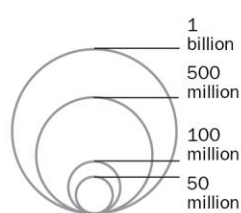
<sup>65</sup> U.S. Department of State. September 19, 2018. "[United Kingdom](#)." Country Reports on Terrorism 2017.

### Restrictions on religion among the world's 25 most populous countries

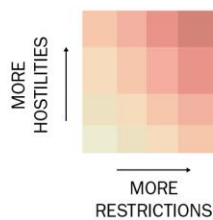
Among the world's most populous 25 countries, India, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and Russia stand out as having the most restrictions on religion (as of 2018) when both government restrictions and social hostilities are taken into account. (Countries in the upper right of the chart have the most restrictions and hostilities.) Japan, South Africa, Italy, Brazil and the United States have the least restrictions and hostilities. (Countries in the lower left of the chart have the least restrictions and hostilities.) Scores are for calendar year 2018.



Government Restrictions



Circles are sized proportionally to each country's population (2010).



Colors are based on each country's position on the chart.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 "In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade"

## Methodology

This is the 11th time Pew Research Center has measured restrictions on religion around the globe.<sup>66</sup> This report, which includes data for the year ending Dec. 31, 2018, generally follows the same methodology as previous reports.

Pew Research Center uses two 10-point indexes – the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) and the Social Hostilities Index (SHI) – to rate 198 countries and self-governing territories on their levels of restrictions.<sup>67</sup> This report analyzes changes in restrictions on an annual basis, focusing on the 2018 calendar year.

The study categorizes the direction and degree of change in each country’s scores in two ways: numerically and by percentile. First, countries are grouped into categories depending on the size of the numeric change in their scores from year to year on the two indexes: changes of 2 points or more in either direction, changes of at least 1 point but less than 2 points, changes of less than 1 point, or no change at all. (See chart at right.)

Changes in overall levels of restrictions are calculated for each country by comparing its scores on both indexes (the GRI and the SHI) from year to year. When a country’s scores on the GRI and the SHI changed in the same direction (both increased or both decreased), the greater amount of change determines the category. For instance, if the country’s GRI score increased by 0.8 and its SHI score increased by 1.5, the country was put into the overall “1.0-1.9 increase” category. When a country’s score increased on one index but decreased on the other, the difference between the amounts of change determines the grouping. For example, if the country’s GRI score increased by 2.0 and its SHI score decreased by 1.5, the country went into the overall “0.1-0.9 increase” category. When a country’s score on one index stayed the same, the amount of change on the other index was used to assign the category.

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### Index point change

*Categories for assessing index score changes between years*

2.0 or more increase
1.0 to 1.9 increase
0.1 to 0.9 increase
No change
0.1 to 0.9 decrease
1.0 to 1.9 decrease
2.0 or more decrease

“In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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<sup>66</sup> See Methodology of Pew Research Center’s 2009 report “[Global Restrictions on Religion](#)” for a discussion of the conceptual basis for measuring restrictions on religion.

<sup>67</sup> Some earlier reports provided scores for 197 countries and territories. This report includes South Sudan (which separated from Sudan in July 2011), bringing the total to 198 countries and territories.

Second, this report categorizes the levels of government restrictions and social hostilities in each country by percentiles. As the benchmark, it uses the results from the baseline year of the study (the year ending in mid-2007). Scores in the top 5% on each index in mid-2007 were categorized as “very high.” The next highest 15% of scores were categorized as “high,” and the following 20% were categorized as “moderate.” The bottom 60% of scores were categorized as “low.” See the table to the right for the index score thresholds as determined from the mid-2007 data. These thresholds are applied to all subsequent years of data.

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### Level of restrictions on religion

	GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS INDEX	SOCIAL HOSTILITIES INDEX
Very high	6.6 to 10.0	7.2 to 10.0
High	4.5 to 6.5	3.6 to 7.1
Moderate	2.4 to 4.4	1.5 to 3.5
Low	0.0 to 2.3	0.0 to 1.4

Note: Based on distribution of index scores in the baseline year, ending mid-2007.

“In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in More Than a Decade”

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## Overview of procedures

The methodology used by Pew Research Center to assess and compare restrictions on religion was developed by former Pew Research Center senior researcher and director of cross-national data Brian J. Grim in consultation with other Pew Research Center staff members, building on a methodology that Grim and Professor Roger Finke developed while at Penn State University’s Association of Religion Data Archives.<sup>68</sup> The goal was to devise quantifiable, objective and transparent measures of the extent to which governments and societal groups impinge on the practice of religion. The findings were used to rate countries and self-governing territories on two indexes that are reproducible and can be periodically updated.

This research goes beyond previous efforts to assess restrictions on religion in several ways. First, Pew Research Center coded (categorized and counted) data from more than a dozen published cross-national sources, providing a high degree of confidence in the findings. Pew Research Center coders looked to the sources for only specific, well-documented facts, not opinions or commentary.

Second, Pew Research Center staff used extensive data-verification checks that reflect generally accepted best practices for such studies, such as double-blind coding (coders do not see each other’s ratings), inter-rater reliability assessments (checking for consistency among coders) and carefully monitored protocols to reconcile discrepancies among coders.

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<sup>68</sup> See Grim, Brian J., and Roger Finke. 2006. “[International Religion Indexes: Government Regulation, Government Favoritism, and Social Regulation of Religion](#).” *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*.

Third, the coding took into account whether the perpetrators of religion-related violence were government or private actors. The coding also identified how widespread and intensive the restrictions were in each country.

Fourth, one of the most valuable contributions of the indexes and the questions used to construct them (see the section on the coding instrument on page 47) is their ability to chart change over time.

## Countries and territories

The 198 countries and self-administering territories covered by the study contain more than 99.5% of the world's population. They include 192 of the 193 member states of the United Nations as of 2018, plus six self-administering territories – Kosovo, Hong Kong, Macau, the Palestinian territories, Taiwan and Western Sahara.<sup>69</sup> Reporting on these territories does not imply any position on what their international political status should be, only recognition that the de facto situations in these territories require separate analysis.

Although the 198 countries and territories vary widely in size, population, wealth, ethnic diversity, religious makeup and form of government, the study does not attempt to adjust for such differences. Poor countries are not scored differently on the indexes than wealthy ones. Countries with diverse ethnic and religious populations are not “expected” to have more social hostilities than countries with more homogeneous populations. And democracies are not assessed more leniently or harshly than authoritarian regimes.

## Information sources

In the latest year of the study, Pew Research Center identified 19 widely available, frequently cited sources of information on government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion around the world. This study includes four sources that were not used in the baseline report on religious restrictions. (See page 46 for more details on the new information sources.)

The primary sources, which are listed below, include reports from U.S. government agencies, several independent, nongovernmental organizations and a variety of European and United

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<sup>69</sup> The one member state of the United Nations not included in the study is North Korea. The sources clearly indicate that North Korea's government is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil and political liberties. The U.S. State Department's 2015 Report on International Religious Freedom, for example, says that “Religious freedom does not exist in North Korea despite the constitutional guarantee for the freedom of religion,” and there are no indications that this changed in 2018. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders and independent observers lack regular access to the country, the sources were unable to provide the kind of specific, timely information that Pew Research Center categorized and counted (“coded,” in social science parlance) for this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include scores for North Korea.

Nations bodies. Although most of these organizations are based in Western countries, many of them depend on local staff to collect information across the globe. As previously noted, Pew Research Center did not use the commentaries, opinions or normative judgments of the sources; the sources were combed only for factual information on specific policies and actions.

## **Primary sources for 2018**

1. Country constitutions
2. U.S. State Department annual reports on International Religious Freedom
3. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom annual reports
4. U.N. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief reports
5. Human Rights First reports in first and second years of coding; Freedom House reports in subsequent years of coding
6. Human Rights Watch topical reports
7. International Crisis Group country reports
8. United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office annual report on human rights
9. Council of the European Union annual report on human rights
10. START Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland
11. European Network Against Racism Shadow Reports
12. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports
13. U.S. State Department annual Country Reports on Terrorism
14. Anti-Defamation League reports
15. U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

16. Uppsala University's Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Armed Conflict Database

17. Human Rights Without Frontiers "Freedom of Religion or Belief" newsletters

19. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Population Statistics Database

20. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Global Internal Displacement Database

*U.S. government reports with information on the situation in the United States*

- U.S. Department of Justice "Religious Freedom in Focus" newsletters and reports
- FBI Hate Crime Reports

As noted, this study includes four sources that were not included in Pew Research Center's first report on global restrictions on religion: Freedom House reports, Uppsala University's Armed Conflict Database, the "Freedom of Religion or Belief" newsletters of Human Rights Without Frontiers, and the Global Terrorism Database.

The Freedom House reports have replaced Human Rights First reports, which have not been updated since mid-2008. The Uppsala Armed Conflict Database provides information on the number of people affected by religion-related armed conflicts, supplementing other sources. The Human Rights Without Frontiers "Freedom of Religion or Belief" newsletters have replaced the Hudson Institute publication "Religious Freedom in the World" (by Paul Marshall), which has not been updated since its release in 2008. Human Rights Without Frontiers is a nongovernmental organization based in Brussels that has affiliated offices throughout the world.

Since 2013, Pew Research Center has used data from the Global Terrorism Database, maintained by the University of Maryland's National Consortium for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), along with the International Crisis Group's country reports, Uppsala University's Armed Conflict Database and the State Department's annual Country Reports on Terrorism, for information on religion-related terrorism. (One source used in earlier reports, the U.S. government's Worldwide Incident Tracking System, or WITS, is no longer available online.) Prior to 2013, the report relied only on the International Crisis Group reports, the Uppsala database and the State Department reports for information on religion-related terrorism. The Global Terrorism Database is one of the most comprehensive sources on terrorism around the world and is the source for the U.S. State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism. The addition of this source

thus provides greater context and information on terrorism without biasing the reporting through the addition of information that was not previously available.

While some of the increases in religious restrictions noted in this study could reflect the use of more up-to-date and/or better information sources, Pew Research Center staff monitor the impact of source information variability each year and have found no evidence of overall informational bias. (For additional discussion, see the “Potential Biases” section in the 2014 report, “[Religious Hostilities Reach Six-Year High](#).”)

In previous years, Pew Research Center has included Amnesty International’s country profiles as one of the sources used for this study. These profiles were not updated for the year 2018, so they are absent as a source for the 2018 report.

## The coding instrument

As explained in more detail below, Pew Research Center staff developed a battery of questions similar to a survey questionnaire. Coders consulted the primary sources in order to answer the questions separately for each country. While the U.S. State Department’s annual reports on International Religious Freedom generally contained the most comprehensive information, the other sources provided additional factual detail that was used to settle ambiguities, resolve contradictions and help in the proper scoring of each question.

The questionnaire, or coding instrument, generated a set of numerical measures on restrictions in each country. It also made it possible to see how government restrictions intersect with broader social tensions and incidents of violence or intimidation by private actors. The coding instrument with the list of questions used for this report is shown in the summary of results in Appendix D.

The coding process required the coders to check all the sources for each country. Coders determined whether each source provided information critical to assigning a score; had supporting information but did not result in new facts; or had no available information on that particular country. Multiple sources of information were available for all countries and self-administering territories with populations greater than 1 million. Most of the countries and territories analyzed by Pew Research Center were multi-sourced; only small (predominantly island) countries had a single source, namely the State Department reports.

Coding the United States presented a special problem since it is not included in the State Department’s annual reports on International Religious Freedom. Accordingly, Pew Research Center coders also looked at reports from the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI on violations



of religious freedom in the United States, in addition to consulting all the primary sources, including reports by the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, the International Crisis Group and the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, many of which contain data on the United States.

## The coding process

Pew Research Center employed strict training and rigorous coding protocols to make its coding as objective and reproducible as possible. Coders worked directly under an experienced researcher's supervision, with additional direction and support provided by other Pew Research Center researchers. The coders underwent an intensive training period that included a thorough overview of the research objectives, information sources and methodology.

Countries were double-blind coded by two coders (coders did not see each other's ratings), and the initial ratings were entered into an electronic document (coding instrument) including details on each incident. The coders began by filling out the coding instrument for each country using the information source that had the most comprehensive information. The protocol for each coder was to answer every question on which information was available in the initial source. Once a coder had completed that process, they then turned to the other sources. As new information was found, this was also coded and the source duly noted. Whenever ambiguities or contradictions arose, the source providing the most detailed, clearly documented evidence was used.

After two coders had separately completed the coding instrument for a particular country, their scores were compared by a research analyst. Areas of discrepancy were discussed at length with the coders and were reconciled in order to arrive at a single score on each question for each country. The data for each country were then combined into a master file, and the answers and substantiating evidence were entered into a database.

After data collection for all countries was completed, Pew Research Center coders and researchers compared the scores from calendar year 2018 with those from the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2017. They identified scores that had changed and analyzed the substantiating evidence for each year to make sure the change was substantive and not the result of coder error. Throughout this process, the coding instrument itself was continually monitored for possible defects. The questions were designed to be precise, comprehensive and objective so that, based on the same data and definitions, the coding could be reliably reproduced by others with the same results. At the same time, Pew Research Center has attempted to minimize changes to the coding instrument as much as is possible to ensure all changes between years are the result of actual changes in restrictions and hostilities, not changes in methodology.

Pew Research Center staff generally found few cases in which one source contradicted another. When contradictions did arise – such as when sources provided differing estimates of the number of people displaced due to religion-related violence – the source that cited the most specific documentation was used. The coders were instructed to disregard broad, unsubstantiated generalizations regarding abuses and to focus on reports that contained clear, precise documentation and factual details, such as names, dates and places where incidents occurred.

Pew Research Center staff compared coders' scores for all questions for each of the 198 countries and territories included in the study, computing the degree to which the scores matched. The inter-rater reliability score across all variables was 0.71. Scores at or above 0.7 are generally considered good.

The data-verification procedures went beyond the inter-rater reliability statistics. They also involved comparing the answers on the main measures for each country with other closely related questions in the dataset. This provided a practical way to test the internal reliability of the data.

In previous years, Pew Research Center staff also checked the reliability of the coded data by comparing it with similar, though more limited, religious restrictions datasets. In particular, published government and social regulation of religion index scores are available from the Association of Religion Data Archives (for three years of data) and the Hudson Institute (for one year of data), which makes them ideal measures for cross-validation. The review process found very few significant discrepancies in the coded data; changes were made only if warranted by a further review of the primary sources.

## **Restriction of religion indexes**

The Government Restrictions Index is based on 20 indicators of ways that national and local governments restrict religion, including through coercion and force. The Social Hostilities Index is based on 13 indicators of ways in which private individuals and social groups infringe on religious beliefs and practices, including religiously biased crimes, mob violence and efforts to stop particular religious groups from growing or operating. The study also counted the number and types of documented incidents of religion-related violence, including terrorism and armed conflict.

### **Government Restrictions Index**

Coding multiple indicators makes it possible to construct a Government Restrictions Index of sufficient gradation to allow for meaningful cross-national comparisons. An additional advantage of using multiple indicators is that it helps mitigate the effects of measurement error in any one variable, providing greater confidence in the overall measure.

Pew Research Center coded 20 indicators of government restrictions on religion (see Appendix D for the summary of results). These 20 items were added together to create the GRI. In two cases, these items represent an aggregation of several closely related questions: Measures of five types of physical abuses are combined into a single variable (GRI Q.19), and seven questions measuring aspects of government favoritism are combined into an overall favoritism scale (GRI Q.20 is a summary variable showing whether a country received the maximum score on one or more of the seven questions).

The GRI is a fine-grained measure created by adding the 20 items on a 0-to-10 metric, with 0 indicating very low levels of government restrictions on religion and 10 indicating very high levels of restrictions. The 20 questions that form the GRI are coded in a standard scale from 0 to 1 point, while gradations among the answers allowed for partial points to be given for lesser degrees of the particular government restriction being measured. The overall value of the index was calculated and proportionally adjusted – so that it had a maximum value of 10 and a possible range of 0 to 10 – by dividing the sum of the variables by two.

A test of whether the 20 items were statistically reliable as a single index produced a scale reliability coefficient of 0.91 for calendar year 2018. Since coefficients of 0.7 or higher are generally considered acceptable, it was statistically appropriate to combine these 20 items into a single index.

### **Social Hostilities Index**

In addition to government restrictions, violence and intimidation in societies also can limit religious beliefs and practices. Accordingly, Pew Research Center staff tracked more than a dozen indicators of social impediments on religion. Once again, coding multiple indicators made it possible to construct an index that shows gradations of severity or intensity and allows for comparisons among countries. The summary of results contains the 13 items used by Pew Research Center staff to create the Social Hostilities Index.

The SHI was constructed by adding together the 13 indicators based on a 0-to-10 metric, with 0 indicating very low impediments to religious beliefs and practices and 10 indicating very high impediments. The various questions that form the index are coded in a standard scale from 0 to 1 point, while gradations among the answers allow for partial points to be given for lesser degrees of the particular hostilities being measured. The indicators were added together and set to have a possible range of 0 to 10 by dividing the sum of the variables by 1.3.

As with the Government Restrictions Index, various types of violence and intimidation were combined. A test of whether these 13 items were statistically reliable as a single index produced a scale reliability coefficient of 0.88. Since coefficients of 0.7 or higher are generally considered acceptable, it was statistically appropriate to combine these items into a single index.

### **How examples are coded**

Examples of each type of government restriction or social hostility are generally counted in a single measure on the GRI or SHI. For instance, a restriction on proselytizing (sharing one's faith with the intent of persuading another to join the faith) is not also counted as a restriction on conversion (an individual changing their religion). In some situations, however, an individual restriction or hostility may be part of a broader set of restrictions or hostilities. For instance, a mob attack by members of one religious group on an individual of another religion may be an isolated event and counted just under question SHI Q.2: Was there mob violence related to religion? However, if such an attack triggers repeated attacks between religious groups, it also might be an indication of sectarian or communal violence, which by definition involves two or more religious groups facing off in repeated clashes. In such a case, the mob attack also would be counted under question SHI Q.3: Were there acts of sectarian or communal violence between religious groups? (See the summary of results.)

### **Social harassment and intimidation coding**

Beginning with data for 2017, researchers updated the way social harassment and intimidation of religion is calculated. There are six components that encompass question SHI Q.1.a: Were there crimes, malicious acts or violence motivated by religious hatred or bias? The six components include harassment/intimidation, property damage, detentions/abductions, displacement from homes, physical assaults and deaths (see Appendix D). For the "harassment/intimidation" measure, researchers made an update to count "limited" harassment as 0.5 points and "widespread" harassment as 1.0 point for data covering 2017 and after. "Limited" means infrequent or isolated and indicates that the harassment seems unlikely to continue. "Widespread" does not necessarily mean the whole country, but harassment could be present in certain regions with the potential to spread to others and affect several groups. "Widespread" harassment/intimidation also may indicate a substantial uptick in the number of cases of abuse, or a campaign against a certain religious group (or groups).

The other five components of SHI.Q.1.a are coded as yes (1.0 point) or no (0.0 points) based on whether incidents in each subcategory occurred. Compared to the previous method, this update to coding "limited" and "widespread" intimidation and harassment resulted in a change of no more than 0.1 points to the SHI score of 53 countries in 2017; all other scores were unaffected.

### **Effects of consolidating to a new database**

For the first few years of this study, information on the number, types and locations of incidents of government force and social violence toward religious groups as well as deference to religious authorities in matters of law were coded at the province level. (See example of data coding in the [December 2009 baseline report](#).) Each year, the province numbers were summed and put into separate country-level files. Following the publication of the August 2011 report, Pew Research Center staff created a database that integrated all province- and country-level data on religious restrictions. During this process, Pew Research Center staff reviewed any discrepancies between province files and the sums that had been transferred to the country files and made appropriate corrections. The adjustments made were relatively minor and had small effects on index scores for countries, on average less than 0.005 points on the 10-point indexes. Consolidating the data into a database also entailed a review of the data on harassment of religious groups. In particular, instances of harassment from the year ending in mid-2007 were stored as open-ended questions, and in a few cases they were recoded to match the categories used in subsequent years.

Beginning with data covering 2012, Pew Research Center stopped collecting data at the province level; all data are coded at the country level.

### **Changing time period of analysis**

This is the eighth time Pew Research Center has analyzed restrictions on religion in a calendar year. Previous reports analyzed 12-month periods from July 1-June 30 (e.g., July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010). The shift to calendar years was made, in part, because most of the primary sources used in this study are based on calendar years.

Because of the shift in time frame, previous studies did not report directly on incidents that occurred during the period from July 1-Dec. 31, 2010. While this misses some incidents that occurred during the second half of 2010, events that had an ongoing impact – such as a change to a country’s constitution or the outbreak of a religion-related war – were captured by the coding. Researchers for the study carefully reviewed the situation in each country and territory during this six-month period and made sure that restrictions with an ongoing impact were not overlooked.

### **Religion-related terrorism and armed conflict**

Terrorism and war can have huge direct and indirect effects on religious groups, including destroying religious sites, displacing whole communities and inflaming sectarian passions. Accordingly, Pew Research Center tallied the number, location and consequences of instances of religion-related terrorism and armed conflict around the world, as reported in the same primary sources used to document other forms of intimidation and violence. However, war and terrorism

are sufficiently complex that it is not always possible to determine the degree to which they are religiously motivated or state sponsored. Out of an abundance of caution, this study does not include them in the Government Restrictions Index. They are factored instead into the index of social hostilities involving religion, which includes one question specifically about religion-related terrorism and one question specifically about religion-related war or armed conflict. In addition, other measures in both indexes are likely to pick up spillover effects of war and terrorism on the level of religious tensions in society. For example, hate crimes, mob violence and sectarian fighting that occur in the aftermath of a terrorist attack or in the context of a religion-related war would be counted in the Social Hostilities Index, and laws or policies that clearly discriminate against a particular religious group would be registered on the Government Restrictions Index.

For the purposes of this study, the term “religion-related terrorism” is defined as premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatants by subnational groups or clandestine agents that have some identifiable religious ideology or religious motivation. It also includes acts carried out by groups that have a nonreligious identity but affect religious personnel, such as clergy. Readers should note that it is the political character and motivation of the groups, not the type of violence, that is at issue here. For instance, a bombing would not be classified as religion-related terrorism if there was no clearly discernible religious ideology or bias behind it unless it was directed at religious personnel. Religion-related war or armed conflict is defined as armed conflict (a conflict that involves sustained casualties over time or more than 1,000 battle deaths) in which religious rhetoric is commonly used to justify the use of force, or in which one or more of the combatants primarily identifies itself or the opposing side by religion.

### **Changes to Somalia’s coding**

Starting with data covering 2013, researchers changed the way they coded government restrictions in Somalia. In previous years of the study, researchers had coded actions by the al-Shabaab rebel group as government restrictions, largely because the group effectively controlled large swathes of Somali territory. The extent of al-Shabaab control over Somali territory decreased in calendar year 2013, so researchers did not code their actions as government restrictions but rather as social hostilities. Researchers continued to follow this policy when coding data for 2018.

### **Crimea coding**

Starting with data covering 2015, researchers coded incidents occurring in Crimea as part of Russia’s GRI and SHI score. This is to reflect Russia’s de facto control over Crimea, and is not

intended as a Pew Research Center position on the de jure status of the territory, which the United Nations recognizes as part of Ukraine.<sup>70</sup>

### **Changes to Yemen's coding**

Starting with data covering 2016, researchers changed the way they coded social hostilities in Yemen. In previous years of the study, researchers had coded actions by Houthi rebels as social hostilities. In 2016, however, Houthis formed their own government and had control of territory that is home to more than half of Yemen's population.<sup>71</sup> For this reason, researchers coded actions by the Houthi in 2016 as government restrictions rather than social hostilities and continued to do so in 2018.

### **Displacement coding**

Starting with data covering 2016, researchers changed the way they coded displacement caused by religion-related conflict or terrorism. Previously, researchers would record displacement figures that were reported in any sources. During the coding period covering 2015, researchers continued to code displacement figures in this way but also recorded displacement figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre in order to compare the results. Researchers found that the figures from the UNHCR and IDMC more closely matched United Nations estimates for new displacements in the calendar year than did the previous method of capturing displacements, which tended to overestimate the number of new displacements in a coding year because the figures often included the *total* number of displaced people from a country and not necessarily the *newly* displaced. Therefore, beginning with the data covering 2016, researchers exclusively used UNHCR and IDMC figures to more conservatively estimate the number of new displacements in the coding year. Displacement was only coded in countries with active religion-related conflict or terrorism in order to avoid including displacements from other types of conflicts or terrorism.

### **Country constitution audit**

Researchers conducted an audit of country constitutions for coding covering the years 2007-2014. While the vast majority of country constitutions were correctly coded as to whether they included religious freedom provisions, there were a few countries where the coding was amended. These included Mexico, Costa Rica, Fiji, Iran, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique. These amendments resulted in minimal changes in these countries' overall GRI scores and did not alter overall trends represented in previous reports. Two countries – Mexico and Costa Rica – had score changes that pushed them from one category to another in

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<sup>70</sup> United Nations. March 27, 2014. "[Territorial integrity of Ukraine](#)." Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 March 2014.

<sup>71</sup> Nov. 28, 2016. "[Yemen: Houthi rebels form new government](#)." Al Jazeera.

2014. Mexico's 2014 GRI score decreased from "high" to "moderate," while Costa Rica's 2014 GRI score increased from "low" to "moderate."

## Potential biases

The primary sources indicate that the North Korean government is among the most repressive in the world, including toward religion. But because independent observers lack regular access to North Korea, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific, timely information that forms the basis of this report. Therefore, North Korea is not included on either index.

This raises two important issues concerning potential information bias in the sources. The first is whether other countries that limit outsiders' access and that may seek to obscure or distort their record on religious restrictions were adequately covered by the sources. Countries with relatively limited access have multiple primary sources of information that Pew Research Center used for its coding. Each is also covered by other secondary quantitative datasets on religious restrictions that have used a similar coding scheme, including earlier years of coded State Department report data produced by Grim at Penn State's Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) project (four datasets); independent coding by experts at the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Liberty using indexes also available from ARDA (one dataset); and content analysis of country constitutions conducted by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty (one dataset). Pew Research Center staff used these for cross-validation. Thus, contrary to what one might expect, even most countries that limit access to information tend to receive fairly extensive coverage by groups that monitor religious restrictions.

The second key question – the flipside of the first – is whether countries that provide freer access to information receive worse scores simply because more information is available on them. As described more fully in the methodology in the baseline report, Pew Research Center staff compared the length of State Department reports on freer-access countries with those of less-free-access countries. The comparison found that the median number of words was approximately three times as large for the limited-access countries as for the open-access countries. This suggests that problems in freer-access countries are generally not overreported in the State Department reports.

Only when it comes to religion-related violence and intimidation in society do the sources report more problems in the freer-access countries than in the limited-access ones. However, the Social Hostilities Index includes several measures – such as SHI Q.8 ("Did religious groups themselves attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?") and SHI Q.11 ("Were women harassed for violating religious dress codes?") – that are less susceptible to such reporting



bias because they capture general social trends or attitudes as well as specific incidents. With these limitations in mind, it appears that the coded information on social hostilities is a fair gauge of the situation in the vast majority of countries and a valuable complement to the information on government restrictions.

Data on social impediments to religious practice can more confidently be used to make comparisons among countries with sufficient openness, which includes more than nine-in-ten countries covered in the coding. An analysis by Grim and Richard Wike, Pew Research Center’s director of global attitudes research, tested the reliability of the State Department reports on social impediments to religious practice by comparing public opinion data with data coded from the reports in previous years by Grim and experts at Penn State. They concluded that “the understanding of social religious intolerance embodied in the State Department reports is comparable with the results of population surveys and individual expert opinion.”<sup>72</sup>

## Coding harassment of specific religious groups

As in previous reports, this study provides a summary of the number of countries where specific religious groups faced government or social harassment. This is essentially a cross-tabulation of GRI.Q.11 (“Was there harassment or intimidation of religious groups by any level of government?”) and the first type of religious hatred or bias measured in SHI.Q.1.a. (“Did individuals face harassment or intimidation motivated by religious hatred or bias?”). For the purposes of this study, the definition of harassment includes any mention in the primary sources of an offense against an individual or group based on religious identity. Such offenses may range from physical attacks and direct coercion to more subtle forms of discrimination. But prejudicial opinions or attitudes, in and of themselves, do not constitute harassment unless they are acted upon in a palpable way.

As noted above, this study provides data on the number of countries in which different religious groups are harassed or intimidated. But the study does not assess either the severity or the frequency of the harassment in each country. Therefore, the results should not be interpreted as gauging which religious group faces the most harassment or persecution around the world.

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<sup>72</sup> See Grim, Brian J., and Richard Wike. 2010. “[Cross-Validating Measures of Global Religious Intolerance: Comparing Coded State Department Reports with Survey Data and Expert Opinion.](#)” Politics and Religion.

## Appendix A: Government Restrictions Index

The following table shows all 198 countries and territories in descending order of their scores on Pew Research Center's index of government restrictions on religion as of the end of 2018. The Center has not attached numerical rankings to the countries because there are numerous tied scores and the differences between the scores of countries that are close to each other on this table are not necessarily meaningful.

Very High SCORES 6.6 AND HIGHER	High SCORES 4.5 TO 6.5	Moderate SCORES 2.4 TO 4.4
China	Afghanistan	Angola
Iran	Kyrgyzstan	Austria
Malaysia	Pakistan	Cuba
Maldives	Bahrain	Palestinian territories
Syria	Tunisia ▲	Somalia
Russia	Belarus	Sri Lanka
Algeria	Laos	Lebanon
Tajikistan	Sudan	Mexico
Turkmenistan	Israel	Venezuela
Egypt	India	Cambodia
Eritrea	Comoros ▼	Spain
Indonesia	United Arab Emirates	Djibouti
Saudi Arabia	Bulgaria	Ethiopia
Uzbekistan	Kuwait	Greece
Vietnam	Libya ▲	Chad
Burma (Myanmar)	Qatar	Iceland
Iraq	Oman	Niger
Morocco	Thailand	Rwanda
Singapore	Nepal	Serbia
Kazakhstan	Tanzania	Central African Republic
Azerbaijan	France	Georgia
Turkey	Jordan	Belgium
Brunei	Nigeria	Cyprus
Mauritania	Armenia ▲	Equatorial Guinea
Western Sahara	Romania	Germany
Yemen ▲	Ukraine ▲	North Macedonia ▲
	Bangladesh	South Sudan
	Bhutan	Burundi
	Denmark	Kenya
	Moldova	Nicaragua ▲
		Norway
		United States

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2017 to 2018.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2017 to 2018.

\* See page 59 for notes on North Korea and Somalia.

## Government Restrictions Index (cont.)

Bahamas .....  
 Luxembourg .....  
 Mongolia .....  
 Zambia .....  
 Democratic Republic of the Congo .....  
 Mozambique ..... ▲  
 Slovakia .....  
 Uganda .....  
 Zimbabwe .....  
 Cameroon .....  
 Croatia .....  
 Haiti .....  
 Italy .....  
 Bosnia-Herzegovina .....  
 Czech Republic .....  
 Lithuania .....  
 Madagascar .....  
 Monaco .....  
 Netherlands .....  
 Sweden .....  
 United Kingdom .....  
 Costa Rica .....  
 Hungary .....  
 Finland .....  
 Guinea .....  
 Latvia .....  
 Panama .....  
 Poland .....  
 Seychelles .....  
 Sierra Leone .....  
 Switzerland .....  
 Guyana .....  
 South Korea .....  
 Albania .....  
 Andorra .....  
 Kosovo .....

### Low

#### SCORES 0.0 TO 2.3

Argentina .....  
 Barbados .....  
 El Salvador .....  
 Guatemala .....  
 Ecuador .....  
 Malawi .....  
 Mali ..... ▲  
 Swaziland .....  
 Liberia .....  
 Malta .....  
 Grenada .....  
 Honduras ..... ▼  
 Liechtenstein .....  
 Peru .....  
 Republic of the Congo .....  
 Togo .....  
 Tuvalu .....  
 Paraguay .....  
 Philippines .....  
 St. Lucia .....  
 Australia .....  
 Hong Kong .....  
 Slovenia .....  
 Montenegro .....  
 Taiwan .....  
 Dominica .....  
 Ghana .....  
 Nauru .....  
 St. Vincent and the Grenadines .....  
 Tonga .....  
 Uruguay .....  
 Fiji .....  
 Mauritius .....  
 Papua New Guinea .....  
 St. Kitts and Nevis .....  
 Burkina Faso .....

Colombia .....  
 Jamaica .....  
 Samoa .....  
 South Africa .....  
 Antigua and Barbuda .....  
 Botswana .....  
 Brazil .....  
 Chile .....  
 Dominican Republic .....  
 Ivory Coast .....  
 Vanuatu .....  
 Canada .....  
 Belize .....  
 Gabon .....  
 Macau .....  
 Timor-Leste .....  
 Bolivia .....  
 Federated States of Micronesia .....  
 Ireland .....  
 New Zealand .....  
 Portugal .....  
 Solomon Islands .....  
 Cape Verde .....  
 Estonia .....  
 Gambia .....  
 Kiribati .....  
 Namibia .....  
 Suriname .....  
 Trinidad and Tobago .....  
 Japan .....  
 Benin .....  
 Guinea-Bissau .....  
 Palau .....  
 Sao Tome and Principe .....  
 Senegal .....  
 Lesotho .....  
 Marshall Islands .....  
 San Marino .....

**NORTH KOREA:** The sources used for this study clearly indicate that the government of North Korea is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil liberties. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific and timely information that Pew Research Center coded in this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include a score for North Korea on either index.

**SOMALIA:** Starting with data covering 2013, researchers changed the way they coded government restrictions in Somalia. See the Methodology for more details.

## Appendix B: Social Hostilities Index

The following table shows all 198 countries and territories in descending order of their scores on Pew Research Center's index of social hostilities involving religion as of the end of 2018. The Center has not attached numerical rankings to the countries because there are numerous tied scores and the differences between the scores of countries that are close to each other on this table are not necessarily meaningful.

Very High				Moderate	
SCORES 7.2 AND HIGHER				SCORES 1.5 TO 3.5	
India		France		South Korea	▲
Iraq		Russia	▼	Colombia	▲
Syria		Ethiopia	▲	Spain	
Israel	▲	Nepal		Sweden	▼
Nigeria		Kyrgyzstan		Tanzania	
Libya		Moldova		Guinea	
Egypt	▼	Thailand		El Salvador	▲
Pakistan		United Kingdom	▼	Laos	
Central African Republic		Brazil		North Macedonia	
Sri Lanka	▲	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Saudi Arabia	▼
		Tunisia		Tajikistan	▲
		Burma (Myanmar)	▼	Bolivia	
		Uganda	▼	Morocco	
		Georgia	▲	Papua New Guinea	
		Armenia	▲	Benin	▼
		Bulgaria		Burkina Faso	▼
		Cameroon	▼	Cyprus	
		Philippines		Italy	▼
		Kosovo		Mozambique	
		South Africa	▲	Samoa	
		Belgium	▲	Slovakia	
		Romania		South Sudan	
		Switzerland		Australia	
		Jordan		Ghana	
		Lebanon	▼	Iran	
		Hungary		New Zealand	
		Denmark		Qatar	
		Netherlands		United States	▼
		Turkey	▼	Sierra Leone	
				Austria	
				Brunei	

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2017 to 2018.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2017 to 2018.

\* See page 62 for a note on North Korea and Yemen.

## Social Hostilities Index (cont.)

Canada		
Niger		
Bosnia-Herzegovina	▼	
Finland		
Gambia		
Liberia		
Poland		
Uzbekistan		
Chad		
Mauritania		
Vietnam		
Burundi		
Haiti		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Turkmenistan	▲	
Tuvalu		
Uruguay	▲	
Zambia		
Czech Republic		
Rwanda		
Singapore		
Sudan		
Nicaragua	▲	
Bahrain		
Maldives		
Norway	▼	
Djibouti		
Liechtenstein		
Madagascar		
Cambodia		
China		
Kuwait		
Paraguay		
Belarus		
Guatemala		
Kazakhstan		
Kiribati		
Mongolia		
Serbia		
United Arab Emirates		
Gabon		
Zimbabwe	▼	
Azerbaijan		
Chile		
Guinea-Bissau		
Lithuania		
Luxembourg		
Malawi		
Marshall Islands		
Senegal		
Solomon Islands	▼	
Timor-Leste		
Togo		
Venezuela		
Peru		
Taiwan		
Croatia		
Comoros		
Bhutan		
Ecuador		
Estonia		
Federated States of Micronesia		
Ivory Coast		
Oman		
Belize		
Hong Kong		
Malta		
Mauritius	▼	
Montenegro		
Portugal		
Swaziland		
Tonga		
Vanuatu		
Eritrea		
Fiji		
Iceland		
Barbados		
Costa Rica		
Cuba		
Jamaica		
Japan		
Latvia	▼	
Slovenia		
St. Kitts and Nevis		
St. Lucia		
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		
Albania		
Andorra		
Antigua and Barbuda		
Bahamas		
Botswana		
Cape Verde		
Dominica		
Dominican Republic		
Equatorial Guinea		
Grenada		
Guyana		
Lesotho	▼	
Macau		
Monaco		
Namibia		
Nauru		
Palau		
Panama		
Republic of the Congo		
San Marino		
Sao Tome and Principe		
Seychelles		
Suriname		
Western Sahara		
<b>Low</b>		
<b>SCORES 0 TO 1.4</b>		
Honduras		
Ireland		
Angola	▼	
Argentina		

**NORTH KOREA:** The sources used for this study clearly indicate that the government of North Korea is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil liberties. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific and timely information that Pew Research Center coded in this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include a score for North Korea on either index.

**YEMEN:** Starting with data covering 2016, researchers changed the way they coded social hostilities in Yemen. See the Methodology for more details.

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## Appendix C: Religious restrictions index scores by region

Scores in the table below express the levels of religious restrictions according to Pew Research Center's Government Restrictions Index (GRI) and Social Hostilities Index (SHI).

<b>Americas</b> 35 countries	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2017		latest year, ending DEC 2018	
	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Antigua and Barbuda	1.1	0.3	2.2	0.0	1.3	0.0
Argentina	1.7	0.6	2.7	1.8	2.3	1.3
Bahamas	1.4	0.5	3.0	0.0	3.1	0.0
Barbados	0.8	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.3	0.1
Belize	1.3	0.0	1.1	0.3	1.1	0.3
Bolivia	1.0	0.0	1.0	3.9	1.0	3.0
Brazil	0.4	0.8	1.3	4.3	1.3	4.5
Canada	1.0	1.2	1.2	2.4	1.2	2.3
Chile	1.2	0.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.8
Colombia	1.8	3.3	2.0	2.2	1.4	3.3
Costa Rica	1.0	0.0	3.2	0.1	2.7	0.1
Cuba	4.5	0.0	4.3	0.2	4.3	0.1
Dominica	0.8	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.6	0.0
Dominican Republic	0.6	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.0
Ecuador	1.1	0.6	2.5	0.4	2.2	0.4
El Salvador	0.6	0.4	2.0	1.0	2.3	3.1
Grenada	0.5	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.0	0.0
Guatemala	1.2	1.0	2.2	0.4	2.3	1.2
Guyana	0.7	0.0	2.5	0.0	2.5	0.0
Haiti	1.8	0.6	2.7	1.9	2.9	2.0
Honduras	1.3	0.3	3.3	1.4	2.0	1.4
Jamaica	1.0	0.0	1.4	0.4	1.4	0.1
Mexico	4.7	5.5	4.1	5.6	4.1	5.5
Nicaragua	2.1	0.5	1.7	0.3	3.2	1.8
Panama	0.7	0.0	2.6	0.0	2.6	0.0
Paraguay	0.6	0.7	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.5
Peru	1.8	0.0	2.0	0.3	2.0	0.7
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.6	0.3	2.2	0.1	1.5	0.1
St. Lucia	0.6	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.9	0.1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.6	0.3	1.4	0.1	1.6	0.1
Suriname	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.0



## Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)

<b>Americas</b> 35 countries (cont.)	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>COUNTRY</b>		<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>
	Trinidad and Tobago	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.9
United States	1.6	1.9	3.3	4.4	3.2	2.6
Uruguay	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.6	2.0
Venezuela	3.6	0.8	3.9	1.4	4.1	0.8

<b>Asia-Pacific</b> 50 countries	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>COUNTRY</b>		<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>
	Afghanistan	5.3	8.5	6.5	6.9	6.5
Armenia	3.4	2.7	3.7	2.6	4.8	4.2
Australia	1.3	1.8	1.1	2.6	1.8	2.7
Azerbaijan	5.0	2.9	6.8	0.8	6.9	0.8
Bangladesh	4.0	8.3	4.8	7.2	4.7	6.9
Bhutan	4.4	1.9	4.6	0.4	4.7	0.4
Brunei	7.2	4.2	6.6	2.4	6.6	2.4
Burma (Myanmar)	7.9	4.9	6.9	5.9	7.3	4.4
Cambodia	2.9	0.8	3.2	1.5	4.0	1.5
China	7.8	0.9	8.9	1.3	9.3	1.5
Cyprus	1.2	0.9	2.5	2.8	3.3	2.8
Federated States of Micronesia	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.4
Fiji	0.9	2.6	1.5	0.2	1.5	0.2
Hong Kong	1.0	0.8	1.8	0.3	1.8	0.3
India	4.8	8.8	5.4	9.5	5.9	9.6
Indonesia	6.2	8.3	7.9	5.9	7.7	6.7
Iran	7.9	6.0	8.4	2.6	8.5	2.6
Japan	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.1
Kazakhstan	5.6	3.1	7.1	0.8	7.0	1.2
Kiribati	0.3	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.2

**Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)**

<b>Asia-Pacific</b> 50 countries (cont.)	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>COUNTRY</b>	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI
Kyrgyzstan	3.9	5.5	5.7	4.0	6.5	4.6
Laos	6.3	1.0	6.9	2.4	6.2	3.1
Macau	1.3	0.3	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
Malaysia	6.4	1.0	8.3	4.5	8.2	6.4
Maldives	6.5	2.6	8.2	2.6	8.2	1.7
Marshall Islands	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.8
Mongolia	1.9	0.6	3.1	0.3	3.1	1.1
Nauru	2.0	0.3	1.5	0.0	1.6	0.0
Nepal	3.4	4.2	4.6	4.7	5.2	4.9
New Zealand	0.3	0.4	0.5	2.6	1.0	2.6
Pakistan	5.8	8.9	6.6	7.7	6.5	7.5
Palau	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.0
Papua New Guinea	0.8	0.0	1.4	2.4	1.5	2.9
Philippines	1.6	3.7	1.0	4.0	1.9	4.2
Samoa	0.8	0.4	1.3	2.8	1.4	2.8
Singapore	4.6	0.2	7.1	1.9	7.1	1.9
Solomon Islands	0.6	0.4	1.0	2.1	1.0	0.8
South Korea	1.6	0.0	2.4	0.8	2.5	3.4
Sri Lanka	4.0	7.8	3.8	5.6	4.2	7.2
Taiwan	0.5	0.0	1.7	0.7	1.7	0.7
Tajikistan	4.5	2.2	7.5	2.0	7.9	3.1
Thailand	2.6	2.6	4.6	4.7	5.4	4.6
Timor-Leste	0.9	4.2	1.0	1.7	1.1	0.8
Tonga	2.0	0.0	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3
Turkey	6.6	4.7	7.1	5.3	6.9	3.6
Turkmenistan	5.6	1.5	7.9	0.4	7.9	2.0
Tuvalu	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.8	2.0	2.0
Uzbekistan	7.7	3.3	8.0	1.7	7.5	2.2
Vanuatu	1.0	1.0	1.5	0.6	1.3	0.3
Vietnam	6.6	1.2	7.6	1.5	7.5	2.1

## Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)

<b>Europe</b> 45 countries	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Albania	0.8	0.2	1.6	0.1	2.4	0.0
Andorra	0.9	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.4	0.0
Austria	2.6	1.1	4.2	3.2	4.3	2.4
Belarus	5.9	1.4	6.4	1.4	6.2	1.3
Belgium	4.0	0.9	3.8	2.2	3.3	4.0
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1.5	2.4	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.2
Bulgaria	4.0	2.2	5.3	4.2	5.7	4.2
Croatia	0.7	2.0	2.4	0.4	2.9	0.6
Czech Republic	1.0	1.2	3.3	2.6	2.8	1.9
Denmark	2.5	1.2	4.0	4.4	4.7	3.6
Estonia	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.4
Finland	0.6	0.8	2.6	1.7	2.6	2.2
France	3.3	3.4	4.9	6.0	5.0	5.4
Georgia	2.2	4.7	3.5	3.1	3.5	4.3
Germany	3.1	2.1	3.2	7.1	3.3	5.8
Greece	5.2	4.4	4.3	5.1	3.9	5.5
Hungary	0.3	1.0	3.3	3.7	2.7	3.7
Iceland	2.6	0.4	3.7	0.1	3.7	0.2
Ireland	0.6	0.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.4
Italy	2.0	1.9	2.9	5.0	2.9	2.8
Kosovo	1.9	2.4	2.7	4.4	2.4	4.1
Latvia	2.3	1.4	2.6	1.2	2.6	0.1
Liechtenstein	1.3	0.1	2.5	0.8	2.0	1.6
Lithuania	1.7	0.8	2.5	0.6	2.8	0.8
Luxembourg	0.8	0.0	2.5	0.8	3.1	0.8
Malta	1.2	0.4	2.1	0.8	2.1	0.3
Moldova	4.2	3.8	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6
Monaco	2.5	0.0	2.8	0.0	2.8	0.0
Montenegro	0.9	2.4	2.2	1.1	1.7	0.3

**Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)**

<b>Europe</b> 45 countries (cont.)	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>COUNTRY</b>	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI
Netherlands	0.4	1.0	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.6
North Macedonia	2.2	1.5	2.2	2.2	3.3	3.1
Norway	1.5	1.0	2.9	2.6	3.2	1.7
Poland	1.0	0.9	2.9	2.2	2.6	2.2
Portugal	0.3	0.0	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.3
Romania	4.8	5.5	4.8	3.7	4.8	4.0
Russia	5.8	3.7	8.1	6.3	8.1	5.3
San Marino	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0
Serbia	3.1	1.5	4.2	1.1	3.6	1.1
Slovakia	2.8	1.9	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.8
Slovenia	0.6	1.0	2.6	0.2	1.8	0.1
Spain	2.0	1.6	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.3
Sweden	1.2	0.7	2.3	4.5	2.8	3.3
Switzerland	1.2	1.7	2.5	4.6	2.6	4.0
Ukraine	2.6	1.9	3.8	7.1	4.8	5.9
United Kingdom	1.6	1.6	2.6	6.8	2.8	4.6

<b>Middle East-North Africa</b> 20 countries	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>COUNTRY</b>	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI
Algeria	5.6	3.6	8.0	6.3	8.0	6.0
Bahrain	4.3	3.0	6.2	2.1	6.3	1.7
Egypt	7.2	6.1	8.0	8.5	7.7	7.5
Iraq	5.1	10.0	6.4	8.8	7.2	9.1
Israel	3.9	7.8	5.5	7.3	6.0	8.5
Jordan	4.6	3.5	5.3	3.4	4.9	3.8
Kuwait	4.8	1.9	6.1	1.9	5.6	1.5
Lebanon	1.4	5.1	3.5	5.2	4.1	3.8
Libya	5.1	1.4	4.1	7.1	5.5	7.6

## Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)

<b>Middle East-North Africa</b> <i>20 countries (cont.)</i>	<i>baseline</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>JUN 2007</b>		<i>previous</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2017</b>		<i>latest</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2018</b>	
	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>
Morocco	4.9	3.7	7.0	3.0	7.2	2.9
Oman	3.9	0.3	5.4	0.4	5.4	0.4
Palestinian territories	3.3	6.4	4.3	7.0	4.3	6.2
Qatar	3.3	0.3	5.6	2.6	5.5	2.6
Saudi Arabia	8.0	7.2	7.8	4.7	7.5	3.1
Sudan	5.7	6.5	6.7	2.7	6.2	1.9
Syria	4.5	5.3	8.3	9.0	8.2	9.1
Tunisia	4.8	3.8	5.1	3.8	6.3	4.5
United Arab Emirates	3.9	0.1	5.8	1.0	5.8	1.1
Western Sahara	4.8	3.3	6.5	0.0	6.6	0.0
Yemen	4.3	6.2	4.7	7.2	6.6	6.7

<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b> <i>48 countries</i>	<i>baseline</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>JUN 2007</b>		<i>previous</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2017</b>		<i>latest</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2018</b>	
	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>
Angola	3.3	3.7	4.1	3.2	4.3	1.3
Benin	0.3	0.0	1.2	3.9	0.7	2.8
Botswana	0.9	0.1	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.0
Burkina Faso	0.3	1.5	1.8	4.3	1.4	2.8
Burundi	0.4	0.9	2.4	1.5	3.2	2.0
Cameroon	1.1	1.4	3.2	5.2	2.9	4.2
Cape Verde	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.0
Central African Republic	3.7	3.3	2.6	7.7	3.5	7.3
Chad	4.2	3.3	3.9	2.2	3.8	2.1
Comoros	5.4	6.2	7.4	0.6	5.8	0.5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1.3	2.6	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.5
Djibouti	2.4	1.8	4.0	1.6	3.9	1.6
Equatorial Guinea	2.6	0.0	3.3	0.8	3.3	0.0
Eritrea	7.0	0.4	7.6	0.0	7.7	0.2
Ethiopia	2.6	5.3	4.1	3.9	3.9	5.2
Gabon	1.7	0.1	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0

**Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)**

<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b> 48 countries (cont.)	<i>baseline</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>JUN 2007</b>		<i>previous</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2017</b>		<i>latest</i> <i>year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2018</b>	
	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>	<b>SHI</b>	<b>GRI</b>
Gambia	0.5	0.8	0.7	3.0	0.9	2.2
Ghana	1.2	4.9	1.6	2.6	1.6	2.6
Guinea	1.5	1.7	2.5	3.9	2.6	3.2
Guinea-Bissau	1.6	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.8
Ivory Coast	1.9	3.1	1.0	0.3	1.3	0.4
Kenya	2.9	2.4	3.3	6.5	3.2	6.4
Lesotho	0.4	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.0
Liberia	1.7	3.8	2.6	3.1	2.1	2.2
Madagascar	1.8	0.0	3.0	1.5	2.8	1.6
Malawi	0.4	0.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	0.8
Mali	0.9	0.3	1.2	5.1	2.2	5.9
Mauritania	6.5	0.9	6.7	2.1	6.6	2.1
Mauritius	1.4	0.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.3
Mozambique	1.0	0.3	1.4	2.5	3.0	2.8
Namibia	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.0
Niger	1.7	1.5	3.7	3.1	3.7	2.3
Nigeria	3.7	4.4	4.9	8.1	4.9	8.5
Republic of the Congo	0.7	0.4	1.9	0.0	2.0	0.0
Rwanda	2.0	0.0	3.7	2.4	3.6	1.9
Sao Tome and Principe	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0
Senegal	0.5	0.0	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.8
Seychelles	1.3	0.0	2.6	0.0	2.6	0.0
Sierra Leone	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.6	2.6	2.5
Somalia	4.4	7.4	4.4	7.1	4.2	7.1
South Africa	0.6	2.2	0.9	2.8	1.4	4.1
South Sudan	*	*	3.0	3.0	3.3	2.8
Swaziland	1.5	0.0	2.4	0.3	2.2	0.3
Tanzania	2.1	3.5	4.7	2.9	5.1	3.3
Togo	2.8	0.0	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.8
Uganda	2.4	0.4	2.4	6.7	3.0	4.4
Zambia	2.0	0.0	3.2	2.0	3.1	2.0
Zimbabwe	2.9	1.2	2.8	2.1	3.0	1.0

\* South Sudan was coded for the first time in 2011.

## Appendix D: Summary of results

### Government restrictions on religion

To assess the level of restrictions on religion by governments around the world, Pew Research Center selected the following 20 questions for the Government Restrictions Index (GRI). Pew Research Center staff then combed through 20 published sources of information, including reports by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations and various nongovernmental organizations, to answer the questions on a country-by-country basis. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

This summary shows the questions, followed by various possible answers and the number and percentage of countries that fell into each category, according to the multiple sources analyzed by the Center. For example, on Question No. 5 – “Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?” – the study found that for the latest year, ending on Dec. 31, 2018, 116 countries (59%) had no reported limits on preaching, 37 countries (19%) had limits on preaching for some religious groups and 45 countries (23%) had limits on preaching for all religious groups.

Additionally, the summary shows whether particular religious restrictions occurred during the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2017, or in the study’s baseline year, ending in mid-2007. A total of 197 countries are shown for the baseline year; South Sudan was coded for the first time in 2011, bringing the previous and latest years’ totals to 198 countries. To see how each country scored on each question, see the Results by Country online.

When comparing these results with Pew Research Center’s previous reports, readers should keep in mind that reports before 2011 showed the number of countries in which particular religious restrictions occurred at any time during two overlapping periods: July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008, and July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009. Because this report presents data on an annual basis, the incidents for a single year may be less than when two years were taken into account.

Some differences from year to year might not be as significant as they appear due to minor changes in coding procedures and changes in the amount of information available between years. For example, sources for the most recent period studied sometimes had less information on incidents in a country than sources previously had reported. Such additional information may reflect either an actual decrease in restrictions in a country, streamlined reporting for that country or both. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

### GRI.Q.1

*Does the constitution, or law that functions in the place of a constitution (basic law), specifically provide for “freedom of religion” or include language used in Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights?<sup>1</sup>*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
Yes	143	73%	147	74%	146	74%
The constitution or basic law does not specifically provide for freedom of religion but does protect some religious practices	47	24	43	22	46	23
No	7	4	8	4	6	3
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.2

*Does the constitution or basic law include stipulations that appear to qualify or substantially contradict the concept of “religious freedom”?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	42	21%	27	14%	24	12%
Yes, there is a qualification	38	19	46	23	45	23
Yes, there is a substantial contradiction and only some religious practices are protected	110	56	118	60	123	62
Religious freedom is not provided in the first place	7	4	7	4	6	3
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**Note:** This report corrects the way constitutions were coded for 10 countries: Cameroon, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique and Uruguay. The corrections were applied to all applicable previous years to ensure consistency, and the updates resulted in changes to distribution of the GRI.Q.1 and GRI.Q.2 variables in various years. Users of the data should note this update when comparing these results with those printed in previous reports.

<sup>1</sup> Article 18 states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”



**GRI.Q.3**

*Taken together, how do the constitution/basic law and other national laws and policies affect religious freedom?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
National laws and policies provide for religious freedom, and the national government respects religious freedom in practice	63	32%	69	35%	64	32%
National laws and policies provide for religious freedom, and the national government generally respects religious freedom in practice; but there are some instances (e.g., in certain localities) where religious freedom is not respected in practice	94	48	84	42	91	46
There are limited national legal protections for religious freedom, but the national government does not generally respect religious freedom in practice	38	19	37	19	35	18
National laws and policies do not provide for religious freedom and the national government does not respect religious freedom in practice	2	1	8	4	8	4
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

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#### GRI.Q.4

*Does any level of government interfere with worship or other religious practices?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	85	43%	43	22%	42	21%
Yes, in a few cases	44	22	30	15	33	17
Yes, in many cases	32	16	67	34	63	32
Government prohibits worship or religious practices of one or more religious groups as a general policy	36	18	58	29	60	30
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

#### GRI.Q.5

*Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	141	72%	112	57%	116	59%
Yes, for some religious groups	32	16	42	21	37	19
Yes, for all religious groups	24	12	44	22	45	23
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

#### GRI.Q.6

*Is proselytizing limited by any level of government?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	132	67%	121	61%	117	59%
Yes, for some religious groups	39	20	38	19	42	21
Yes, for all religious groups	26	13	39	20	39	20
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.7**

*Is converting from one religion to another limited by any level of government?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	166	84%	153	77%	152	77%
Yes	31	16	45	23	46	23
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.8**

*Is religious literature or broadcasting limited by any level of government?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	130	66%	121	61%	118	60%
Yes	67	34	77	39	80	40
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.9**

*Are foreign missionaries allowed to operate?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
Yes	117	59%	117	59%	117	59%
Yes, but with restrictions	72	37	71	36	71	36
No	8	4	10	5	10	5
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

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### GRI.Q.10

*Is the wearing of religious symbols, such as head coverings for women and facial hair for men, regulated by law or by any level of government?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	176	89%	136	69%	133	67%
Yes	21	11	62	31	65	33
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.11

*Was there harassment or intimidation of religious groups by any level of government?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	79	40%	23	12%	23	12%
Yes, there was limited intimidation	82	42	60	30	52	26
Yes, there was widespread intimidation	36	18	115	58	123	62
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.12

*Did the national government display hostility involving physical violence toward minority or nonapproved religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	152	77%	151	76%	140	71%
Yes	45	23	47	24	58	29
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.13**

*Were there instances when the national government did not intervene in cases of discrimination or abuses against religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	157	80%	140	71%	143	72%
Yes	40	20	58	29	55	28
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.14**

*Does the national government have an established organization to regulate or manage religious affairs?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	106	54%	70	35%	71	36%
No, but the government consults a nongovernmental advisory board	12	6	13	7	13	7
Yes, but the organization is non-coercive toward religious groups	54	27	58	29	57	29
Yes, and the organization is coercive toward religious groups	25	13	57	29	57	29
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.15**

*Did the national government denounce one or more religious groups by characterizing them as dangerous “cults” or “sects”?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	180	91%	168	85%	168	85%
Yes	17	9	30	15	30	15
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

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### GRI.Q.16

*Does any level of government formally ban any religious group?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	162	82%	158	80%	158	80%
Yes	35	18	40	20	40	20
Security reasons stated as rationale	11	6	9	5	8	4
Nonsecurity reasons stated as rationale	18	9	18	9	19	10
Both security and nonsecurity reasons stated as rationale	6	3	13	7	13	7
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.17

*Were there instances when the national government attempted to eliminate an entire religious group's presence in the country?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	181	92%	180	91%	178	90%
Yes	16	8	18	9	20	10
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.18**

*Does any level of government ask religious groups to register for any reason, including to be eligible for benefits such as tax exemption?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	38	19%	9	5%	9	5%
Yes, but in a nondiscriminatory way	71	36	67	34	65	33
Yes, and the process adversely affects the ability of some religious groups to operate	34	17	29	15	26	13
Yes, and the process clearly discriminates against some religious groups	54	27	93	47	98	49
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.19**

*Did any level of government use force toward religious groups that resulted in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	136	69%	111	56%	103	52%
Yes	61	31	87	44	95	48
1-9 cases of government force	18	9	32	16	47	24
10-200 cases of government force	35	18	34	17	30	15
201-1,000 cases of government force	4	2	12	6	9	5
1,001-9,999 cases of government force	2	1	5	3	6	3
10,000+ cases of government force	2	1	4	2	3	2
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

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### GRI.Q.19b

*Did any level of government use force toward religious groups that resulted in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	136	69%	111	56%	103	52%
Yes ^	61	31	87	44	95	48
Property damage	7	4	62	31	69	35
Detentions/abductions	47	24	71	36	68	34
Displacement from homes	20	10	26	13	26	13
Physical assaults	25	13	37	19	40	20
Deaths	15	8	22	11	20	10
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Nested categories add to more than total because countries can have multiple types of cases of government force.

^ This line represents the number or percentage of countries in which at least one of the following types of government force occurred.

### GRI.Q.20

*Do some religious groups receive government support or favors, such as funding, official recognition or special access?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	17	9%	2	1%	1	1%
Yes, the government provides support to religious groups, but it does so on a more-or-less fair and equal basis	37	19	45	23	43	22
Yes, the government gives preferential support or favors to some religious group(s) and clearly discriminates against others	143	73	151	76	154	78
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This is a summary table that puts the restrictions identified in Questions 20.1, 20.2, 20.3.a-c, 20.4 and 20.5 into a single measure indicating the level to which a government supports religious groups in the country. Government support of a religion or religions is considered restrictive only when preferential treatment of one or more religious groups puts other religious groups at a disadvantage.



**GRI.Q.20.1**

*Does the country's constitution or basic law recognize a favored religion or religions?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	141	72%	109	55%	109	55%
Yes	56	28	89	45	89	45
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

For GRI.Q.20.1, the differences between the coding periods may not be as significant as they appear due to minor changes in coding procedures.

**GRI.Q.20.2**

*Do all religious groups receive the same level of government access and privileges?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
All religious groups are generally treated the same	39	20%	26	13%	24	12%
Some religious groups have minimal privileges unavailable to other religious groups, limited to things such as inheriting buildings or properties	7	4	31	16	33	17
Some religious groups have general privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups	62	31	43	22	43	22
One religious group has privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups, but it is not recognized as the country's official religion	48	24	52	26	52	26
One religious group has privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups, and it is recognized by the national government as the official religion	41	21	46	23	46	23
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

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### GRI.Q.20.3

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources to religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	45	23%	15	8%	15	8%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	23	12	46	23	42	21
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	129	65	137	69	141	71
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20. This is a summary table that puts the restrictions identified in Questions 20.3.a-c into a single measure indicating the level to which a government supports religious groups in the country. Government support of a religion or religions is considered restrictive only when preferential treatment of one or more religious groups puts other religious groups at a disadvantage.

### GRI.Q.20.3.a

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for religious education programs and/or religious schools?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	71	36%	60	30%	61	31%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	24	12	39	20	35	18
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	102	52	99	50	102	52
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.3.

**GRI.Q.20.3.b**

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for religious property (e.g., buildings, upkeep, repair or land)?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	128	65%	103	52%	97	49%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	10	5	23	12	24	12
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	59	30	72	36	77	39
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.3.

**GRI.Q.20.3.c**

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for religious activities other than education or property?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	106	54%	30	15%	29	15%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	7	4	65	33	60	30
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	84	43	103	52	109	55
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.3.

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#### GRI.Q.20.4

*Is religious education required in public schools?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	134	68%	112	57%	115	58%
Yes, by at least some local governments	6	3	7	4	7	4
Yes, by the national government	57	29	79	40	76	38
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

#### GRI.Q.20.5

*Does the national government defer in some way to religious authorities, texts or doctrines on legal issues?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	150	76%	131	66%	132	67%
Yes	47	24	67	34	66	33
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

## Social Hostilities involving religion

To assess the level of social hostilities involving religion around the world, Pew Research Center used the following 13 questions for the Social Hostilities Index (SHI). Pew Research Center staff then combed through 20 published sources of information, including reports by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations and various nongovernmental organizations, to answer the questions on a country-by-country basis. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

This summary shows the questions, followed by various possible answers and the number and percentage of countries that fell into each category, according to the multiple sources analyzed by Pew Research Center. For example, on Question No. 12 – “Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?” – the study found that for the latest year, ending on Dec. 31, 2018, 163 countries (82%) had no reported incidents of hostility over proselytizing, 22 countries (11%) had incidents that fell short of physical violence and 13 countries (7%) had incidents involving violence.

Additionally, the summary shows whether particular religious hostilities occurred during the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2017, or in the study’s baseline year, ending in mid-2007. A total of 197 countries are shown for the baseline year; South Sudan was coded for the first time in 2011, bringing the previous and last years’ totals to 198 countries. To see how each country scored on each question, see the Results by Country online.

When comparing these results with the Pew Research Center’s previous reports, readers should keep in mind that previous reports showed the number of countries in which particular religious hostilities occurred at any time during two overlapping periods: July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008, and July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009. Because this report presents data on an annual basis, the incidents for a single year may be less than when two years were taken into account.

Some differences from year to year might not be as significant as they appear due to minor changes in coding procedures and changes in the amount of information available between years. For example, sources for the most recent period studied sometimes had more information on incidents in a country than sources previously had reported. Such additional information may reflect either an actual increase in hostilities in a country, improved reporting for that country or both. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

### SHI.Q.1.a

*Were there crimes, malicious acts or violence motivated by religious hatred or bias?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	67	34%	34	17%	38	19%
Yes ^	130	66	164	83	160	81
Harassment/intimidation	127	64	164	83	160	81
Property damage	40	20	79	40	86	43
Detentions/abductions	12	6	18	9	23	12
Displacement from homes	19	10	22	11	26	13
Physical assaults	55	28	52	26	66	33
Deaths	25	13	38	19	39	20
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This is a summary table that captures the types of religious hatred or bias.

Nested categories add to more than total because countries can have multiple types of hostilities.

^ This line represents the number or percentage of countries in which at least one of the following hostilities occurred.

Each country's score for each type of religious hatred or bias is available in SHI.Q.1a-f in the Results by Country (online).

### SHI.Q.1.b

*How many different types of crimes, malicious acts or violence motivated by religious hatred or bias occurred? The six different types considered include: harassment/intimidation, property damage, detentions/abductions, displacement from homes, physical assaults and killings.*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	67	34%	34	17%	38	19%
Yes: one type	56	28	60	30	55	28
Yes: two types	30	15	40	20	35	18
Yes: three types	25	13	38	19	33	17
Yes: four types	11	6	14	7	19	10
Yes: five types	5	3	9	5	8	4
Yes: six types	3	2	3	2	10	5
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This is a summary table that captures the severity of religious hatred or bias.

Each country's score based on how many of the six types of religious hatred or bias were documented is available in SHI.Q.1 in the Results by Country (online).

**SHI.Q.2***Was there mob violence related to religion?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	174	88%	163	82%	157	79%
Yes, but there were no deaths reported	14	7	19	10	26	13
Yes, and there were deaths reported	9	5	16	8	15	8
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**SHI.Q.3***Were there acts of sectarian or communal violence between religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	181	92%	184	93%	186	94%
Yes	16	8	14	7	12	6
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Sectarian or communal violence involves two or more religious groups facing off in repeated clashes.

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

#### SHI.Q.4

Were religion-related terrorist groups active in the country?

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	137	70%	133	67%	134	68%
Yes	60	30	65	33	64	32
Yes, but their activity was limited to recruitment and fundraising	43	22	12	6	7	4
Yes, with violence that resulted in some casualties (1-9 injuries or deaths)	7	4	14	7	21	11
Yes, with violence that resulted in multiple casualties (10-50 injuries or deaths)	2	1	7	4	6	3
Yes, with violence that resulted in many casualties (more than 50 injuries or deaths)	8	4	32	16	30	15
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Religion-related terrorism is defined as politically motivated violence against noncombatants by subnational groups or clandestine agents with a religious justification or intent.



**SHI.Q.5**

*Was there a religion-related war or armed conflict in the country?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	176	89%	186	94%	185	93%
Yes	21	11	12	6	13	7
Yes, with fewer than 10,000 casualties or people displaced	9	5	1	1	3	2
Yes, with tens of thousands of casualties or people displaced	6	3	5	3	5	3
Yes, with hundreds of thousands of casualties or people displaced	3	2	5	3	4	2
Yes, with millions of casualties or people displaced	3	2	1	1	1	1
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Religion-related war is defined as armed conflict (involving sustained casualties over time or more than 1,000 battle deaths) in which religious rhetoric is commonly employed to justify the use of force, or in which one or more of the combatants primarily identifies itself or the opposing side by religion.

**SHI.Q.6**

*Did violence result from tensions between religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	50	25%	91	46%	91	46%
There were public tensions between religious groups, but they fell short of hostilities involving physical violence	56	28	50	25	56	28
Yes, with physical violence in a few cases	69	35	35	18	27	14
Yes, with physical violence in numerous cases	22	11	22	11	24	12
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

### SHI.Q.7

*Did organized groups use force or coercion in an attempt to dominate public life with their perspective on religion, including preventing some religious groups from operating in the country?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	113	57%	102	52%	94	47%
Yes	84	43	96	49	104	53
At the local level	22	11	27	14	28	14
At the regional level	31	16	10	5	11	6
At the national level	31	16	59	30	65	33
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

### SHI.Q.8

*Did religious groups themselves attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	130	66%	133	67%	139	70%
Yes	67	34	65	33	59	30
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

### SHI.Q.9

*Did individuals or groups use violence or the threat of violence, including so-called honor killings, to try to enforce religious norms?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	162	82%	110	56%	113	57%
Yes	35	18	88	44	85	43
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.10**

*Were individuals assaulted or displaced from their homes in retaliation for religious activities, including preaching and other forms of religious expression, considered offensive or threatening to the majority faith?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	149	76%	119	60%	136	69%
Yes	48	24	79	40	62	31
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.11**

*Were women harassed for violating religious dress codes?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	183	93%	139	70%	142	72%
Yes	14	7	59	30	56	28
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.12**

*Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	148	75%	163	82%	163	82%
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	30	15	19	10	22	11
Yes, and they included physical violence	19	10	16	8	13	7
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.13**

*Were there incidents of hostility over conversions from one religion to another?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2017</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2018</i>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	153	78%	142	72%	140	71%
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	23	12	26	13	29	15
Yes, and they included physical violence	21	11	30	15	29	15
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

## Appendix E: Democracy Index Scores

This appendix lists countries by their scores on the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) and Social Hostilities Index (SHI) and adds countries' scores and regime types from the Economist Intelligence Unit's 2018 Democracy Index, which measures the state of democracy in 167 states and territories. Countries listed in this appendix include all 198 countries in the Pew Research Center study; countries that do not have EIU Democracy Index Scores are listed as having no data. North Korea is the only country that was included in the EIU data but not Pew Research Center's study.

The EIU Democracy Index assigns countries scores between 0 and 10 and classifies them into four different regime types.

**Full Democracies:** scores greater than 8

**Flawed Democracies:** scores greater than 6, and less than or equal to 8

**Hybrid Regimes:** scores greater than 4, and less than or equal to 6

**Authoritarian Regimes:** scores less than or equal to 4

For more on the different types of regimes, see the Economist Intelligence Unit's "[Democracy Index: 2018](#)".

### Very high GRI

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Asia-Pacific	China	9.3	3.32	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Iran	8.5	2.45	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Malaysia	8.2	6.88	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Maldives	8.2	No data	No data
Middle East-North Africa	Syria	8.2	1.43	Authoritarian
Europe	Russia	8.1	2.94	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Algeria	8.0	3.5	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Tajikistan	7.9	1.93	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Turkmenistan	7.9	1.72	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Egypt	7.7	3.36	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Eritrea	7.7	2.37	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Indonesia	7.7	6.39	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Saudi Arabia	7.5	1.93	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Uzbekistan	7.5	2.01	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Vietnam	7.5	3.08	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Burma (Myanmar)	7.3	3.83	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Iraq	7.2	4.06	Hybrid Regime
Middle East-North Africa	Morocco	7.2	4.99	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Singapore	7.1	6.38	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Kazakhstan	7.0	2.94	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Azerbaijan	6.9	2.65	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Turkey	6.9	4.37	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Brunei	6.6	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritania	6.6	3.82	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Western Sahara	6.6	No data	No data
Middle East-North Africa	Yemen	6.6	1.95	Authoritarian

**Appendix E: (cont.)****High GRI**

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Asia-Pacific	Afghanistan	6.5	2.97	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Kyrgyzstan	6.5	5.11	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Pakistan	6.5	4.17	Hybrid Regime
Middle East-North Africa	Bahrain	6.3	2.71	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Tunisia	6.3	6.41	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Belarus	6.2	3.13	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Laos	6.2	2.37	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Sudan	6.2	2.15	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Israel	6.0	7.79	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	India	5.9	7.23	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Comoros	5.8	3.71	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	United Arab Emirates	5.8	2.76	Authoritarian
Europe	Bulgaria	5.7	7.03	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Kuwait	5.6	3.85	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Libya	5.5	2.19	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Qatar	5.5	3.19	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Oman	5.4	3.04	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Thailand	5.4	4.63	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Nepal	5.2	5.18	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Tanzania	5.1	5.41	Hybrid Regime
Europe	France	5.0	7.8	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Jordan	4.9	3.93	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Nigeria	4.9	4.44	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Armenia	4.8	4.79	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Romania	4.8	6.38	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Ukraine	4.8	5.69	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Bangladesh	4.7	5.57	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Bhutan	4.7	5.3	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Denmark	4.7	9.22	Full Democracy
Europe	Moldova	4.6	5.85	Hybrid Regime

**Appendix E: (cont.)****Moderate GRI**

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Sub-Saharan Africa	Angola	4.3	3.62	Authoritarian
Europe	Austria	4.3	8.29	Full Democracy
Americas	Cuba	4.3	3	Authoritarian
Middle East-N.Africa	Palestinian territories	4.3	4.39	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Somalia	4.2	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Sri Lanka	4.2	6.19	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-N. Africa	Lebanon	4.1	4.63	Hybrid Regime
Americas	Mexico	4.1	6.19	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Venezuela	4.1	3.16	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Cambodia	4.0	3.59	Authoritarian
Europe	Spain	4.0	8.08	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Djibouti	3.9	2.87	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ethiopia	3.9	3.35	Authoritarian
Europe	Greece	3.9	7.29	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Chad	3.8	1.61	Authoritarian
Europe	Iceland	3.7	9.58	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Niger	3.7	3.76	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Rwanda	3.6	3.35	Authoritarian
Europe	Serbia	3.6	6.41	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Central African Republic	3.5	1.52	Authoritarian
Europe	Georgia	3.5	5.5	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Belgium	3.3	7.78	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Cyprus	3.3	7.59	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Equatorial Guinea	3.3	1.92	Authoritarian
Europe	Germany	3.3	8.68	Full Democracy
Europe	North Macedonia	3.3	5.87	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Sudan	3.3	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Burundi	3.2	2.33	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Kenya	3.2	5.11	Hybrid Regime
Americas	Nicaragua	3.2	3.63	Authoritarian
Europe	Norway	3.2	9.87	Full Democracy
Americas	United States	3.2	7.96	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Bahamas	3.1	No data	No data
Europe	Luxembourg	3.1	8.81	Full Democracy

**Appendix E: (cont.)****Moderate GRI**

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Asia-Pacific	Mongolia	3.1	6.5	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Zambia	3.1	5.61	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Dem. Republic of the Congo	3.0	1.49	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mozambique	3.0	3.85	Authoritarian
Europe	Slovakia	3.0	7.1	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Uganda	3.0	5.2	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Zimbabwe	3.0	3.16	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Cameroon	2.9	3.28	Authoritarian
Europe	Croatia	2.9	6.57	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Haiti	2.9	4.91	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Italy	2.9	7.71	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Bosnia-Herzegovina	2.8	4.98	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Czech Republic	2.8	7.69	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Lithuania	2.8	7.5	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Madagascar	2.8	5.22	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Monaco	2.8	No data	No data
Europe	Netherlands	2.8	8.89	Full Democracy
Europe	Sweden	2.8	9.39	Full Democracy
Europe	United Kingdom	2.8	8.53	Full Democracy
Americas	Costa Rica	2.7	8.07	Full Democracy
Europe	Hungary	2.7	6.63	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Finland	2.6	9.14	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Guinea	2.6	3.14	Authoritarian
Europe	Latvia	2.6	7.38	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Panama	2.6	7.05	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Poland	2.6	6.67	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Seychelles	2.6	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Sierra Leone	2.6	4.66	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Switzerland	2.6	9.03	Full Democracy
Americas	Guyana	2.5	6.67	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	South Korea	2.5	8	Flawed Democracy



**Appendix E: (cont.)****Moderate GRI**

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Europe	Albania	2.4	5.98	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Andorra	2.4	No data	No data
Europe	Kosovo	2.4	No data	No data

**Low GRI**

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Americas	Argentina	2.3	7.02	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Barbados	2.3	No data	No data
Americas	El Salvador	2.3	5.96	Hybrid Regime
Americas	Guatemala	2.3	5.6	Hybrid Regime
Americas	Ecuador	2.2	6.27	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Malawi	2.2	5.49	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mali	2.2	5.41	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Swaziland	2.2	3.03	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Liberia	2.1	5.35	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Malta	2.1	8.21	Full Democracy
Americas	Grenada	2.0	No data	No data
Americas	Honduras	2.0	5.63	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Liechtenstein	2.0	No data	No data
Americas	Peru	2.0	6.6	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Republic of the Congo	2.0	3.31	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Togo	2.0	3.1	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Tuvalu	2.0	No data	No data
Americas	Paraguay	1.9	6.24	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Philippines	1.9	6.71	Flawed Democracy
Americas	St. Lucia	1.9	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Australia	1.8	9.09	Full Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Hong Kong	1.8	6.15	Flawed Democracy

**Appendix E: (cont.)****Low GRI**

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Europe	Slovenia	1.8	7.5	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Montenegro	1.7	5.74	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Taiwan	1.7	7.73	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Dominica	1.6	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ghana	1.6	6.63	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Nauru	1.6	No data	No data
Americas	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1.6	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Tonga	1.6	No data	No data
Americas	Uruguay	1.6	8.38	Full Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Fiji	1.5	5.85	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius	1.5	8.22	Full Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Papua New Guinea	1.5	6.03	Flawed Democracy
Americas	St. Kitts and Nevis	1.5	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Burkina Faso	1.4	4.75	Hybrid Regime
Americas	Colombia	1.4	6.96	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Jamaica	1.4	7.02	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Samoa	1.4	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Africa	1.4	7.24	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Antigua and Barbuda	1.3	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Botswana	1.3	7.81	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Brazil	1.3	6.97	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Chile	1.3	7.97	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Dominican Republic	1.3	6.54	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ivory Coast	1.3	4.15	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Vanuatu	1.3	No data	No data
Americas	Canada	1.2	9.15	Full Democracy
Americas	Belize	1.1	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Gabon	1.1	3.61	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Macau	1.1	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Timor-Leste	1.1	7.19	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Bolivia	1.0	5.7	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Federated States of Micronesia	1.0	No data	No data
Europe	Ireland	1.0	9.15	Full Democracy

**Appendix E: (cont.)****Low GRI**

REGION	COUNTRY	GRI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Asia-Pacific	New Zealand	1.0	9.26	Full Democracy
Europe	Portugal	1.0	7.84	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Solomon Islands	1.0	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Cape Verde	0.9	7.88	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Estonia	0.9	7.97	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Gambia	0.9	4.31	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Kiribati	0.9	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Namibia	0.9	6.25	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Suriname	0.9	6.98	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Trinidad and Tobago	0.9	7.16	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Japan	0.8	7.99	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	0.7	5.74	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Guinea-Bissau	0.7	1.98	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Palau	0.7	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	0.7	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Senegal	0.7	6.15	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Lesotho	0.6	6.64	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Marshall Islands	0.6	No data	No data
Europe	San Marino	0.6	No data	No data

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

## Very high SHI

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Asia-Pacific	India	9.6	7.23	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Iraq	9.1	4.06	Hybrid Regime
Middle East-North Africa	Syria	9.1	1.43	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Israel	8.5	7.79	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Nigeria	8.5	4.44	Hybrid Regime
Middle East-North Africa	Libya	7.6	2.19	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Egypt	7.5	3.36	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Pakistan	7.5	4.17	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Central African Republic	7.3	1.52	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Sri Lanka	7.2	6.19	Flawed Democracy

## High SHI

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Sub-Saharan Africa	Somalia	7.1	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Afghanistan	6.9	2.97	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Bangladesh	6.9	5.57	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Indonesia	6.7	6.39	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Yemen	6.7	1.95	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Kenya	6.4	5.11	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Malaysia	6.4	6.88	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Palestinian territories	6.2	4.39	Hybrid Regime
Middle East-North Africa	Algeria	6.0	3.5	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mali	5.9	5.41	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Ukraine	5.9	5.69	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Germany	5.8	8.68	Full Democracy
Europe	Greece	5.5	7.29	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Mexico	5.5	6.19	Flawed Democracy
Europe	France	5.4	7.8	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Russia	5.3	2.94	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ethiopia	5.2	3.35	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Nepal	4.9	5.18	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Kyrgyzstan	4.6	5.11	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Moldova	4.6	5.85	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Thailand	4.6	4.63	Hybrid Regime

**High SHI**

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Europe	United Kingdom	4.6	8.53	Full Democracy
Americas	Brazil	4.5	6.97	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Dem. Republic of the Congo	4.5	1.49	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Tunisia	4.5	6.41	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Burma (Myanmar)	4.4	3.83	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Uganda	4.4	5.2	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Georgia	4.3	5.5	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Armenia	4.2	4.79	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Bulgaria	4.2	7.03	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Cameroon	4.2	3.28	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Philippines	4.2	6.71	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Kosovo	4.1	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Africa	4.1	7.24	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Belgium	4.0	7.78	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Romania	4.0	6.38	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Switzerland	4.0	9.03	Full Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Jordan	3.8	3.93	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Lebanon	3.8	4.63	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Hungary	3.7	6.63	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Denmark	3.6	9.22	Full Democracy
Europe	Netherlands	3.6	8.89	Full Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Turkey	3.6	4.37	Hybrid Regime

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

## Moderate SHI

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Asia-Pacific	South Korea	3.4	8	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Colombia	3.3	6.96	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Spain	3.3	8.08	Full Democracy
Europe	Sweden	3.3	9.39	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Tanzania	3.3	5.41	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Guinea	3.2	3.14	Authoritarian
Americas	El Salvador	3.1	5.96	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Laos	3.1	2.37	Authoritarian
Europe	North Macedonia	3.1	5.87	Hybrid Regime
Middle East-North Africa	Saudi Arabia	3.1	1.93	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Tajikistan	3.1	1.93	Authoritarian
Americas	Bolivia	3.0	5.7	Hybrid Regime
Middle East-North Africa	Morocco	2.9	4.99	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Papua New Guinea	2.9	6.03	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	2.8	5.74	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Burkina Faso	2.8	4.75	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Cyprus	2.8	7.59	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Italy	2.8	7.71	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mozambique	2.8	3.85	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Samoa	2.8	No data	No data
Europe	Slovakia	2.8	7.1	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Sudan	2.8	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Australia	2.7	9.09	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ghana	2.6	6.63	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Iran	2.6	2.45	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	New Zealand	2.6	9.26	Full Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Qatar	2.6	3.19	Authoritarian
Americas	United States	2.6	7.96	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Sierra Leone	2.5	4.66	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Austria	2.4	8.29	Full Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Brunei	2.4	No data	No data
Americas	Canada	2.3	9.15	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Niger	2.3	3.76	Authoritarian
Europe	Bosnia-Herzegovina	2.2	4.98	Hybrid Regime

**Moderate SHI**

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Europe	Finland	2.2	9.14	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Gambia	2.2	4.31	Hybrid Regime
Sub-Saharan Africa	Liberia	2.2	5.35	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Poland	2.2	6.67	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Uzbekistan	2.2	2.01	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Chad	2.1	1.61	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritania	2.1	3.82	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Vietnam	2.1	3.08	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Burundi	2.0	2.33	Authoritarian
Americas	Haiti	2.0	4.91	Hybrid Regime
Americas	Trinidad and Tobago	2.0	7.16	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Turkmenistan	2.0	1.72	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Tuvalu	2.0	No data	No data
Americas	Uruguay	2.0	8.38	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Zambia	2.0	5.61	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Czech Republic	1.9	7.69	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Rwanda	1.9	3.35	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Singapore	1.9	6.38	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Sudan	1.9	2.15	Authoritarian
Americas	Nicaragua	1.8	3.63	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Bahrain	1.7	2.71	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Maldives	1.7	No data	No data
Europe	Norway	1.7	9.87	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Djibouti	1.6	2.87	Authoritarian
Europe	Liechtenstein	1.6	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Madagascar	1.6	5.22	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Cambodia	1.5	3.59	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	China	1.5	3.32	Authoritarian
Middle East-North Africa	Kuwait	1.5	3.85	Authoritarian
Americas	Paraguay	1.5	6.24	Flawed Democracy

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

## Low SHI

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Americas	Honduras	1.4	5.63	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Ireland	1.4	9.15	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Angola	1.3	3.62	Authoritarian
Americas	Argentina	1.3	7.02	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Belarus	1.3	3.13	Authoritarian
Americas	Guatemala	1.2	5.6	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Kazakhstan	1.2	2.94	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Kiribati	1.2	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Mongolia	1.1	6.5	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Serbia	1.1	6.41	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	United Arab Emirates	1.1	2.76	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Gabon	1.0	3.61	Authoritarian
Sub-Saharan Africa	Zimbabwe	1.0	3.16	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Azerbaijan	0.8	2.65	Authoritarian
Americas	Chile	0.8	7.97	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Guinea-Bissau	0.8	1.98	Authoritarian
Europe	Lithuania	0.8	7.5	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Luxembourg	0.8	8.81	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Malawi	0.8	5.49	Hybrid Regime
Asia-Pacific	Marshall Islands	0.8	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Senegal	0.8	6.15	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Solomon Islands	0.8	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Timor-Leste	0.8	7.19	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Togo	0.8	3.1	Authoritarian
Americas	Venezuela	0.8	3.16	Authoritarian
Americas	Peru	0.7	6.6	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Taiwan	0.7	7.73	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Croatia	0.6	6.57	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Comoros	0.5	3.71	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Bhutan	0.4	5.3	Hybrid Regime
Americas	Ecuador	0.4	6.27	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Estonia	0.4	7.97	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Federated States of Micronesia	0.4	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ivory Coast	0.4	4.15	Hybrid Regime



**Low SHI**

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Middle East-North Africa	Oman	0.4	3.04	Authoritarian
Americas	Belize	0.3	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Hong Kong	0.3	6.15	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Malta	0.3	8.21	Full Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius	0.3	8.22	Full Democracy
Europe	Montenegro	0.3	5.74	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Portugal	0.3	7.84	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Swaziland	0.3	3.03	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Tonga	0.3	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Vanuatu	0.3	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Eritrea	0.2	2.37	Authoritarian
Asia-Pacific	Fiji	0.2	5.85	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Iceland	0.2	9.58	Full Democracy
Americas	Barbados	0.1	No data	No data
Americas	Costa Rica	0.1	8.07	Full Democracy
Americas	Cuba	0.1	3	Authoritarian
Americas	Jamaica	0.1	7.02	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Japan	0.1	7.99	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Latvia	0.1	7.38	Flawed Democracy
Europe	Slovenia	0.1	7.5	Flawed Democracy
Americas	St. Kitts and Nevis	0.1	No data	No data
Americas	St. Lucia	0.1	No data	No data
Americas	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.1	No data	No data
Europe	Albania	0.0	5.98	Hybrid Regime
Europe	Andorra	0.0	No data	No data
Americas	Antigua and Barbuda	0.0	No data	No data
Americas	Bahamas	0.0	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Botswana	0.0	7.81	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Cape Verde	0.0	7.88	Flawed Democracy
Americas	Dominica	0.0	No data	No data
Americas	Dominican Republic	0.0	6.54	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Equatorial Guinea	0.0	1.92	Authoritarian
Americas	Grenada	0.0	No data	No data
Americas	Guyana	0.0	6.67	Flawed Democracy

IN 2018, GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION REACH HIGHEST LEVEL GLOBALLY IN MORE THAN A DECADE

## Low SHI

REGION	COUNTRY	SHI	EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX SCORE	EIU CLASSIFICATION
Sub-Saharan Africa	Lesotho	0.0	6.64	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Macau	0.0	No data	No data
Europe	Monaco	0.0	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Namibia	0.0	6.25	Flawed Democracy
Asia-Pacific	Nauru	0.0	No data	No data
Asia-Pacific	Palau	0.0	No data	No data
Americas	Panama	0.0	7.05	Flawed Democracy
Sub-Saharan Africa	Republic of the Congo	0.0	3.31	Authoritarian
Europe	San Marino	0.0	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	0.0	No data	No data
Sub-Saharan Africa	Seychelles	0.0	No data	No data
Americas	Suriname	0.0	6.98	Flawed Democracy
Middle East-North Africa	Western Sahara	0.0	No data	No data

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