

## 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 staff then combed through 17 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. 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, 2015, 122 countries (62%) had no reported limits on preaching, 40 countries (20%) had limits on preaching for some religious groups and 36 countries (18%) had limits on preaching for all religious groups.

Additionally, the summary shows whether particular religious restrictions occurred during the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2014, 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.

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	146	74%	146	74%
The constitution or basic law does not specifically provide for freedom of religion but does protect some religious practices	47	24	45	23	44	22
No	7	4	7	4	8	4
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	41	21%	36	18%
Yes, there is a qualification	38	19	38	19	51	26
Yes, there is a substantial contradiction and only some religious practices are protected	110	56	112	57	103	52
Religious freedom is not provided in the first place	7	4	7	4	8	4
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	76	38%
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	71	36	80	40
There are limited national legal protections for religious freedom, but the national government does not generally respect religious freedom in practice	38	19	46	23	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	12	6	7	4
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	71	36%	52	26%
Yes, in a few cases	44	22	20	10	23	12
Yes, in many cases	32	16	49	25	69	35
Government prohibits worship or religious practices of one or more religious groups as a general policy	36	18	58	29	54	27
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	133	67%	122	62%
Yes, for some religious groups	32	16	38	19	40	20
Yes, for all religious groups	24	12	27	14	36	18
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	134	68%	125	63%
Yes, for some religious groups	39	20	39	20	42	21
Yes, for all religious groups	26	13	25	13	31	16
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	166	84%	160	81%	156	79%
Yes	31	16	38	19	42	21
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	130	66%	107	54%	117	59%
Yes	67	34	91	46	81	41
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
Yes	117	59%	115	58%	122	62%
Yes, but with restrictions	72	37	75	38	69	35
No	8	4	8	4	7	4
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	150	76%	144	73%
Yes	21	11	48	24	54	27
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	69	35%	41	21%
Yes, there was limited intimidation	82	42	44	22	52	26
Yes, there was widespread intimidation	36	18	85	43	105	53
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	157	79%	142	72%
Yes	45	23	41	21	56	28
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	153	77%	152	77%
Yes	40	20	45	23	46	23
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	89	45%	74	37%
No, but the government consults a nongovernmental advisory board	12	6	13	7	12	6
Yes, but the organization is non-coercive toward religious groups	54	27	51	26	56	28
Yes, and the organization is coercive toward religious groups	25	13	45	23	56	28
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	182	92%	175	88%
Yes	17	9	16	8	23	12
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	165	83%	158	80%
Yes	35	18	33	17	40	20
Security reasons stated as rationale	11	6	7	4	6	3
Nonsecurity reasons stated as rationale	18	9	17	9	21	11
Both security and nonsecurity reasons stated as rationale	6	3	9	5	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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	176	89%	181	91%
Yes	16	8	22	11	17	9
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	22	11%	14	7%
Yes, but in a nondiscriminatory way	71	36	71	36	68	34
Yes, and the process adversely affects the ability of some religious groups to operate	34	17	24	12	29	15
Yes, and the process clearly discriminates against some religious groups	54	27	81	41	87	44
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	117	59%	92	46%
Yes	61	31	81	41	106	54
1-9 cases of government force	18	9	24	12	47	24
10-200 cases of government force	35	18	36	18	36	18
201-1,000 cases of government force	4	2	11	6	14	7
1,001-9,999 cases of government force	2	1	6	3	5	3
10,000+ cases of government force	2	1	4	2	4	2
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

## TRENDS IN GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	117	59%	92	46%
Yes ^	61	31	81	41	106	54
Property damage	7	4	61	31	69	35
Detentions/abductions	47	24	64	32	82	41
Displacement from homes	20	10	19	10	28	14
Physical assaults	25	13	32	16	48	24
Deaths	15	8	21	11	23	12
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	7	4%	3	2%
Yes, the government provides support to religious groups, but it does so on a more-or-less fair and equal basis	37	19	44	22	38	19
Yes, the government gives preferential support or favors to some religious group(s) and clearly discriminates against others	143	73	147	74	157	79
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	141	72%	114	58%	114	58%
Yes	56	28	84	42	84	42
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
All religious groups are generally treated the same	39	20%	45	23%	24	12%
Some religious groups have minimal privileges unavailable to other religious groups, limited to things such as inheriting buildings or properties	7	4	15	8	30	15
Some religious groups have general privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups	62	31	48	24	50	25
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	46	23	48	24
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	44	22	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.

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	24	12%	12	6%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	23	12	42	21	41	21
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	129	65	132	67	145	73
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	63	32%	48	24%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	24	12	42	21	43	22
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	102	52	93	47	107	54
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	125	63%	111	56%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	10	5	17	9	23	12
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	59	30	56	28	64	32
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	62	31%	40	20%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	7	4	47	24	55	28
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	84	43	89	45	103	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.20.4***Is religious education required in public schools?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	111	56%	113	57%
Yes, by at least some local governments	6	3	7	4	7	4
Yes, by the national government	57	29	80	40	78	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.

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	143	72%	140	71%
Yes	47	24	55	28	58	29
	<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.

## Social Hostilities Involving Religion

To assess the level of social hostilities involving religion around the world, the Pew Research Center used the following 13 questions for the Social Hostilities Index (SHI). Pew Research staff then combed through 17 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. 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, 2015, 171 countries (86%) had no reported incidents of hostility over proselytizing, 15 countries (8%) had incidents that fell short of physical violence and 12 countries (6%) had incidents involving violence.

Additionally, the summary shows whether particular religious hostilities occurred during the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2014, 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 past three 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.

## TRENDS IN GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION

**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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	59	30%	52	26%
Yes ^	130	66	139	70	146	74
Harassment/intimidation	127	64	139	70	146	74
Property damage	40	20	78	39	77	39
Detentions/abductions	12	6	17	9	15	8
Displacement from homes	19	10	16	8	18	9
Physical assaults	55	28	64	32	63	32
Deaths	25	13	33	17	36	18
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	59	30%	52	26%
Yes: one type	56	28	40	20	42	21
Yes: two types	30	15	39	20	43	22
Yes: three types	25	13	30	15	34	17
Yes: four types	11	6	15	8	15	8
Yes: five types	5	3	11	6	7	4
Yes: six types	3	2	4	2	5	3
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	167	84%	142	72%
Yes, but there were no deaths reported	14	7	21	11	41	21
Yes, and there were deaths reported	9	5	10	5	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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	178	90%	186	94%
Yes	16	8	20	10	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.

**SHI.Q.4**

*Were religion-related terrorist groups active in the country?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	116	59%	120	61%
Yes	60	30	82	41	78	39
Yes, but their activity was limited to recruitment and fundraising	43	22	22	11	28	14
Yes, with violence that resulted in some casualties (1-9 injuries or deaths)	7	4	22	11	17	9
Yes, with violence that resulted in multiple casualties (10-50 injuries or deaths)	2	1	10	5	4	2
Yes, with violence that resulted in many casualties (more than 50 injuries or deaths)	8	4	28	14	29	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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	173	87%	184	93%
Yes	21	11	25	13	14	7
Yes, with fewer than 10,000 casualties or people displaced	9	5	4	2	1	1
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	6	3	4	2
Yes, with millions of casualties or people displaced	3	2	10	5	4	2
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	69	35%	105	53%
There were public tensions between religious groups, but they fell short of hostilities involving physical violence	56	28	55	28	40	20
Yes, with physical violence in a few cases	69	35	31	16	28	14
Yes, with physical violence in numerous cases	22	11	43	22	25	13
	<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.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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	109	55%	115	58%
Yes	84	43	89	45	83	42
At the local level	22	11	26	13	18	9
At the regional level	31	16	12	6	12	6
At the national level	31	16	51	26	53	27
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	138	70%	137	69%
Yes	67	34	60	30	61	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.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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	147	74%	125	63%
Yes	35	18	51	26	73	37
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	147	74%	109	55%
Yes	48	24	51	26	89	45
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	152	77%	149	75%
Yes	14	7	46	23	49	25
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	174	88%	171	86%
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	30	15	12	6	15	8
Yes, and they included physical violence	19	10	12	6	12	6
	<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 2014</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2015</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%	148	75%	146	74%
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	23	12	30	15	25	13
Yes, and they included physical violence	21	11	20	10	27	14
	<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.