

# Summary of Results

## Government Restrictions on Religion

To assess the level of restrictions on religion by governments around the world, the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life selected the following 20 questions for the Government Restrictions Index (GRI). The Pew Forum's staff then combed through 16 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 detail, 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. For example, on Question No. 5 – "Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?" – the study found that 135 countries had no reported limits on preaching, 37 countries had limits on preaching by some religious groups, and 26 countries had limits on preaching by all religious groups.

To see how each country scored on each question, see the Results by Country section of this report online.

This summary covers the period from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008, and shows whether particular religious restrictions occurred at any time during that period according to the multiple sources analyzed by the Pew Forum. 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>5</sup>**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
Yes	151	76
The constitution or basic law does not specifically provide for freedom of religion but does protect some religious practices	40	20
No	<u>7</u> 198	<u>4</u> 100

**GRI.Q.2 Does the constitution or basic law include stipulations that appear to qualify or substantially contradict the concept of “religious freedom”?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	44	22
Yes, there is a qualification	51	26
Yes, there is a substantial contradiction and only some religious practices are protected	96	48
Religious freedom is not provided in the first place	<u>7</u> 198	<u>4</u> 100

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<sup>5</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?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
National laws and policies provide for religious freedom, and the national government respects religious freedom in practice	53	27
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	88	44
There are limited national legal protections for religious freedom, but the national government does not generally respect religious freedom in practice	51	26
National laws and policies do not provide for religious freedom and the national government does not respect religious freedom in practice	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.4 Does any level of government interfere with worship or other religious practices?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	70	35
Yes, in a few cases	55	28
Yes, in many cases	35	18
Government prohibits worship or religious practices of one or more religious groups as a general policy	<u>38</u>	<u>19</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.5 Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	135	68
Yes, for some religious groups	37	19
Yes, for all religious groups	<u>26</u>	<u>13</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.6 Is proselytizing limited by any level of government?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	123	62
Yes, for some religious groups	42	21
Yes, for all religious groups	<u>33</u>	<u>17</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.7 Is converting from one religion to another limited by any level of government?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	162	82
Yes	<u>36</u>	<u>18</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.8 Is religious literature or broadcasting limited by any level of government?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	118	60
Yes	<u>80</u>	<u>40</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.9 Are foreign missionaries allowed to operate?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
Yes	106	54
Yes, but with restrictions	81	41
No	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>
	198	100

**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?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	156	79
Yes	<u>42</u>	<u>21</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.11 Was there harassment or intimidation of religious groups by any level of government?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	61	31
Yes, there was limited intimidation	82	41
Yes, there was widespread intimidation	<u>55</u>	<u>28</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.12 Did the national government display hostility involving physical violence toward minority or nonapproved religious groups?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	134	68
Yes	<u>64</u>	<u>32</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.13 Were there instances when the national government did not intervene in cases of discrimination or abuses against religious groups?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	151	76
Yes	<u>47</u>	<u>24</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.14 Does the national government have an established organization to regulate or manage religious affairs?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	79	40
No, but the government consults a nongovernmental advisory board	15	8
Yes, but the organization is noncoercive toward religious groups	63	32
Yes, and the organization is coercive toward religious groups	<u>41</u>	<u>21</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.15 Did the national government denounce one or more religious groups by characterizing them as dangerous “cults” or “sects”?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	175	88
Yes	<u>23</u>	<u>12</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.16 Does any level of government formally ban any religious group?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	160	81
Yes	38	19
<i>Security reasons stated as rationale</i>	9	5
<i>Nonsecurity reasons stated as rationale</i>	16	8
<i>Both security and non-security reasons stated as rationale</i>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.17** Were there instances when the national government attempted to eliminate an entire religious group's presence in the country?

	No. of Countries	% of Countries
No	175	88
Yes	<u>23</u>	<u>12</u>
	198	100

**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?

	No. of Countries	% of Countries
No	20	10
Yes, but in a nondiscriminatory way	61	31
Yes, and the process adversely affects the ability of some religious groups to operate	38	19
Yes, and the process clearly discriminates against some religious groups	<u>79</u>	<u>40</u>
	198	100

**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?

	No. of Countries	% of Countries
No	107	54
Yes	91	46
1-9 cases of government force	27	14
10-200 cases of government force	44	22
201-1,000 cases of government force	11	6
1,001-9,999 cases of government force	6	3
10,000+ cases of government force	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	198	100

*Question 20 combines questions 20.1, 20.2, 20.3a, b, and c, 20.4 and 20.5 into a single measure. Government support of a religion or religions is considered restrictive only when favoritism toward one or more religious groups puts other religious groups at a disadvantage.*

**GRI.Q.20 Do some religious groups receive government support or favors, such as funding, official recognition or special access?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	9	5
Yes, the government provides support to religious groups, but it does so on a more-or-less fair and equal basis	25	13
Yes, the government gives preferential support or favors to some religious group(s) and clearly discriminates against others	<u>164</u>	<u>83</u>
	198	100

*This is a summary table of the results of questions 20.1 – 20.5.*

**GRI.Q.20.1 Does the country's constitution or basic law recognize a favored religion or religions?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	109	55
Yes	<u>89</u>	<u>45</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.20.2 Do all religious groups receive the same level of government access and privileges?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
All religious groups are generally treated the same	17	9
Some religious groups have minimal privileges unavailable to other religious groups, limited to things such as inheriting buildings or properties	12	6
Some religious groups have general privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups	65	33
One religious group has privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups, but it is not recognized as the country's official religion	53	27
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	<u>51</u>	<u>26</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.20.3 Does any level of government provide funds or other resources to religious groups?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	28	14
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	19	10
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	<u>151</u>	<u>76</u>
	198	100

*This is a summary table that captures the restrictions identified in questions 20.3.a–c into a single measure indicating the level to which a government provides funds or other resources to religious groups in the country. Government funding 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?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	57	29
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	18	9
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	<u>123</u>	<u>62</u>
	198	100

**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)?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	106	54
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	8	4
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	<u>84</u>	<u>42</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.20.3.c Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for religious activities other than education or property?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	88	44
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	11	6
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	<u>99</u>	<u>50</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.20.4 Is religious education required in public schools?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	118	60
Yes, by at least some local governments	8	4
Yes, by the national government	<u>72</u>	<u>36</u>
	198	100

**GRI.Q.20.5 Does the national government defer in some way to religious authorities, texts or doctrines on legal issues?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	148	75
Yes	<u>50</u>	<u>25</u>
	198	100

## Social Hostilities Involving Religion

To assess the level of social hostilities involving religion around the world, the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life used the following 13 questions for the Social Hostilities Index (SHI). The Pew Forum's staff then combed through 16 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 detail, 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. For example, on Question No. 12 – “Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?” – the study found that 129 countries had no reported incidents of hostility over proselytizing, 39 countries had incidents that fell short of physical violence and 30 countries had incidents involving violence.

To see how each country scored on each question, see the Results by Country section of this report online.

This summary covers the period from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008, and shows whether particular religious hostilities occurred at any time during that period according to the multiple sources analyzed by the Pew Forum. In some questions, events going back to 2005 are also included in the findings if they still were having an ongoing impact. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**SHI.Q.1 Were there crimes, malicious acts or violence motivated by religious hatred or bias?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries*</u>
No	56	28
Yes, harassment/intimidation	139	70
Yes, property damage	77	39
Yes, detentions/abductions	18	9
Yes, displacement from homes	24	12
Yes, physical assaults	78	39
Yes, deaths	35	18

*This is a summary question intended to capture the severity of religious hatred or bias in each country.*

*\* Percentages add to more than 100 because countries can have multiple types of hostilities.*

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

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	160	81
Yes, but no deaths were reported	22	11
Yes, and deaths were reported	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>
	198	100

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

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	176	89
Yes	<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>
	198	100

*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?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	138	70
Yes, but their activity was limited to recruitment and fundraising	43	22
Yes, with violence that resulted in some casualties (1-9 injuries or deaths)	10	5
Yes, with violence that resulted in multiple casualties (10-50 injuries or deaths)	1	1
Yes, with violence that resulted in many casualties (more than 50 injuries or deaths)	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	198	100

*Religion-related terrorism is defined as politically motivated violence against noncombatants by sub-national 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?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	174	88
Yes, with fewer than 1,000 casualties or people displaced from their homes	7	4
Yes, with thousands of casualties or people displaced	7	4
Yes, with hundreds of thousands of casualties or people displaced	5	3
Yes, with millions of casualties or people displaced	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	198	100

*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?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	26	13
There were public tensions between religious groups, but they fell short of hostilities involving physical violence	46	23
Yes, with physical violence in a few cases	83	42
Yes, with physical violence in numerous cases	<u>43</u>	<u>22</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*

**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?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	67	34
Yes	131	66
<i>At the local level</i>	51	26
<i>At the regional level</i>	29	15
<i>At the national level</i>	<u>51</u>	<u>26</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*

**SHI.Q.8 Did religious groups themselves attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	94	47
Yes	<u>104</u>	<u>53</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*

**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?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	149	75
Yes	<u>49</u>	<u>25</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*

**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?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	135	68
Yes	<u>63</u>	<u>32</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*

**SHI.Q.11 Were women harassed for violating religious dress codes?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	182	92
Yes	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*

**SHI.Q.12 Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?**

	No. of <u>Countries</u>	% of <u>Countries</u>
No	129	65
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	39	20
Yes, and they included physical violence	<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*

**SHI.Q.13 Were there incidents of hostility over conversions from one religion to another?**

	<u>No. of Countries</u>	<u>% of Countries</u>
No	141	71
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	25	13
Yes, and they included physical violence	<u>32</u>	<u>16</u>
	198	100

*This question covers the period from July 2005 through June 2008.*