



Narrative at Risk

Assessing the Impact of Laws that Constrain or Protect Religious Speech

Terms of Reference

Focus: **Protecting Religious Speech**

Question: **How do we engage key influencers in diplomats and legislators to implement laws, policies, and best practices to protect rights to freedom of speech and religion?**

Products: **Research and Recommendations (15 pages, double-spaced)**

Research (10-15 pages)

Report

What communities in the Mediterranean Basin are most at risk for violence sparked by sensitivities to religious speech? Why? Are there specific policies and laws related to religious speech that correlate with increased violence against religious communities? How is the media used to amplify or inhibit violence against religious communities? Consider both quantitative and qualitative evidence. When appropriate provide region-specific data-driven analysis.

Gaps in Policy and Implementation

Where are the gaps in international, national, and regional policy and implementation related to the protection of free religious speech?

Best Practices

What are the most successful initiatives in the Mediterranean Basin or elsewhere to institute laws and policies that protect religious speech? Which laws and policies inhibit the use of media to incite violence? How and why do religious communities support these laws and policies?

Influencer Map

With whom might Global Covenant partner? What role do these actors have in the field? Do they have particular strengths or liabilities? Who do they influence? Who belongs in their network? Which actors might be potential implementing partners? Who are the most notable scholars in this issue area?

Bibliography

What should Global Covenant planners and implementers read or study to inform their work? Which articles, reports, resolutions, etc., are cited for these research and recommendations?

Recommendations (5 pages)

Response

Propose research-driven pilot initiatives that engage key influencers in crafting and implementing realistic laws and policy designed to inhibit the use of media to incite violence and/or protect religious speech. Religious actors, civil society organizations, and policymakers should co-create the recommendations for proposed laws and policies. Remember to include the voices of women, youth, and conflict survivors.