

Dimensions of FORB 30-75 min



EXPLORING FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

WATCH AND DISCUSS

GROUP EXERCISE

About the exercise

TARGET AUDIENCE

Any audience, but less suitable for grassroots-level audiences for whom other exercises (e.g., Once upon a time) can be more creatively used.

PURPOSE

To help participants think through the contents of the FORB Learning Platform's explainer films on freedom of religion or belief (FORB), reflecting on how the right relates to their values, opinions and/or context.

DESCRIPTION

After watching one or more of the FORB Learning Platform's explainer films on FORB, small groups discuss the contents of the film(s) and how the issues raised relate to their context and organisation/role.

Eight films (5-20 minutes long) are available on the following topics:

1. An introduction to freedom of religion or belief
2. The right to have or change your religion or belief
3. The right to manifest (practice) religion or belief
4. Protection from coercion
5. Protection from discrimination
6. Rights for parents and children
7. Conscientious objection
8. Limitations to freedom of religion or belief

NOTE

Films 1-3 cover the heart of the right and require no previous knowledge among participants. The other films explore more specific dimensions of FORB and are best suited to groups that already have a general understanding of human rights and a basic knowledge of FORB.

Film 8 on limitations is particularly useful for politicians and officials responsible for implementing law and public policy.



TIP! For an overview of the dimensions, check out the '[Quick guide to religious freedom](#).'

Instructions

RESOURCES

- The FORB Learning Platform's short [films on FORB](#) (available to download or to stream in over 20 languages).
- A laptop, projector and screen or other devices for showing films. (Alternatively ask participants to use their smart phones and headphones and watch the films individually.)
- Flipchart paper and pens.

Find the films at www.forb-learning.org/films/films-on-forb.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Choose which FORB Learning Platform film(s) you will show.
- Test the equipment you will use to screen the film(s) in the training room ahead of time.
- Write up the group discussion questions you will use on flipchart paper.

HOW TO INTRODUCE THE EXERCISE 5-20 MIN

Explain that you are going to watch the short film(s) together as a whole group, before breaking into smaller groups to discuss the film(s). Show the relevant film(s).

HOW TO RUN THE EXERCISE 20-50 MIN

- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION** (10 MIN)

Divide the participants into small groups of 2-3 and display the questions below. Hand out flipchart paper and pens to each group and ask the groups to record their most important thoughts and any questions they have.

- Did you learn anything new from the film?
- Was there anything you were pleased to hear about?
- Was there anything you find challenging, or hard to accept?
- Was there anything you didn't fully understand or want to know more about? Write questions down and we will try to answer them together/ later in the session!

- **QUICK PLENARY DISCUSSION** (10 MIN)

In plenary, invite brief feedback from each group and try to answer questions that come up, noting any that will be addressed in later sessions of the training.



- **(OPTIONAL) SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION** (20-30 MIN)

Ask the participants to return to the same small groups. Display the following context focused questions and repeat the group discussion and plenary feedback process.

In your context, what are the biggest problems relating to the dimension(s) of freedom of religion or belief we just learned about in the film(s)?

- Do these problems relate to/impact upon your organisation/institution and its work in any way?
- Are these problems something that your organisation could try to tackle? Or could you work to strengthen the resilience of your community to these problems?
- What challenges might you encounter if you try to tackle these problems?

TIP! Create your own context questions, tailored to the needs of your target audience!

HOW TO CONCLUDE THE EXERCISE 5 MIN

Thank the group for their attention to the film(s) and for sharing their reflections. Make sure you have either answered all the participants' questions or clarified when they will be addressed during the training.

Source

SMC Faith in Development, <https://www.smc.global/en/>