

## SCENARIO 1

## Persuasion or coercion?

A man from a Christian-majority community converted to Islam. After he converted, he could no longer secure work as a casual labourer in his community. Local employers refused to hire him because he was a convert to Islam. After six months out of work, he reconverted to Christianity. Within one month he was able to secure work.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 2

## Persuasion or coercion?

Following an earthquake in a Muslim majority country, a Muslim charitable organisation provided food aid to one of the worst-affected communities. The area was predominantly Muslim, but there was also a small minority of Christians. The charity used the local mosque as a food distribution point as it was one of the few buildings left intact. One of the charity workers felt moved to give da'wah (making an invitation to Islam) by what he saw around him. Because of this, some Christians believed they could not accept the food aid unless they converted to Islam and went hungry.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 3

## Persuasion or coercion?

A Catholic school offered free education to children from poor families. The school accepted children from any religious background. Every morning, the children were required to participate in Catholic worship, regardless of their own religious beliefs. If a child refused to participate on more than three occasions, they lost their place at the school. A state school was available in the area but offered a much poorer quality of education.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 4

## Persuasion or coercion?

A Christian couple in a Muslim majority country had two sons. Following the couple's divorce, the children were brought up by their mother. Their father subsequently converted to Islam and the now teenage sons were re-registered by the authorities as Muslims against their will and against the will of their mother. The boys refused to take confessional religious classes in Islam in school and were thereby prevented from getting a school leaver certificate.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 5

## Persuasion or coercion?

Officials from the state-funded 'Rural Buddhist Mission' in a Buddhist-majority country visited a Christian minority area during a food crisis. They offered Christian families sacks of rice and promised to take care of their children by providing them with a government-funded place at boarding school if the children converted to Buddhism and changed their religion on their national identity card.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 6

## Persuasion or coercion?

A local Christian pastor visited an indigenous community as part of his evangelistic work. One family in the community had recently converted to Christianity from the majority religion and he wanted to support them. While he was there, he visited four other families, shared his beliefs with them and invited them to pray with him. Two of the families decided to convert to Christianity. The local authorities were unhappy and reported the pastor to the police. The pastor was charged with 'forced conversion', found guilty and sentenced to one year in prison.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 7

## Persuasion or coercion?

A Muslim woman in a Muslim-majority country was threatened with physical violence by her community after she expressed agnostic beliefs in a social media post online. She publicly recanted her agnostic beliefs and stated that she is a Shia Muslim.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 8

## Persuasion or coercion?

A group of evangelical Christians visited a remote area of Southeast Asia as part of their missionary work in the region. Communities in the area practice animist beliefs. Log drums are an important ceremonial element of the traditional belief system, used to announce important events. The group of evangelicals destroyed the log drum with a chain saw, telling the community it was a necessary part of saving their souls.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 9

## Persuasion or coercion?

A Catholic charity in South America was operating a clinic serving an indigenous community in the Amazon area. The community practiced traditional animist beliefs. The charity indicated to the community that they could provide other amenities such as drilled wells for a clean drinking water supply, if the community agreed to convert to Catholicism. The community elders convened a meeting with the whole community. They collectively agreed to convert to Catholicism. As soon as the charity had finished drilling the wells, the community collectively reconverted back to their traditional animist belief system.



SCENARIO

## SCENARIO 10

## Persuasion or coercion?

A young Muslim woman in a Muslim majority country met and fell in love with a Christian man and the couple wanted to marry. National legislation does not permit Muslim women to marry non-Muslims. The young man decided to convert to the majority religion in order to be able to marry his soulmate. He was ostracised by his family and community following his conversion. The psychological stress caused contributed to the marriage failing. Following his divorce, the man wished to return to his community, but legislation does not allow people to leave the majority religion.



SCENARIO