**Religious Differences are the Sole Cause of Minority Oppression Around the World**

Group-1:

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ENG102: ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

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August 10, 2022

**Work Plan/Action Plan:**

| **Activity** | **Name of Person Responsible** |
| --- | --- |
| Introduction | Salsabil Sara |
| 1st Body Paragraph | Maisha Tasnim |
| 2nd Body Paragraph | Ludmila Islam |
| 3rd Body Paragraph | Samira Hossain |
| 4th Body Paragraph | Miskatul Jahan Oishe |
| Conclusion | Maliha Binte Masud |

**Original Idea for the topic (mention theme/quote and which text it is taken from):**

Minority Oppression

**Revised, Narrowed Down Argumentative Topic:** Religious differences are the sole cause of minority oppression around the world.

| **Arguments ‘FOR’ the topic** | **Arguments ‘AGAINST’ the topic** |
| --- | --- |
| Gives rise to communal violence | Race-based differences like discrimination towards black people |
| Insecurity among people to reveal identity | Class-based differences |
| Suppresses minority in different sections |  |
| Deprives minorities from their basic rights |  |

**Selected Essay Model (based on the above table): MODEL A**

**Thesis Statement:** Religious differences are the sole cause of minority oppression around the world because it gives rise to communal violence, makes people insecure about revealing their identity and deprives minorities of their fundamental rights.

**Argumentative Essay Outline (Model A)**

**Claim:** Religious differences are the sole cause of minority oppression around the world.

| **Introduction**  **Grabber:** On Friday night, hostages were taken from Sahapara village in the Dighalia union of Narail's Lohagara Upazila. Puja and her family took refuge in their own home, as did numerous other Hindu families in the area.  **Connecting Sentence:** Nowadays, the majority of people today are becoming religiously egocentric because of their flawed beliefs that assert the authenticity of only their religious perspective and debauches others' god-given religious position as phony.  **Thesis Statement:** Religious differences are the sole cause of minority oppression around the world because it gives rise to communal violence, makes people insecure to reveal their identity, and deprives minorities of their fundamental rights. |
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| **Body Paragraph 1**  **Argument/Reason 1:** Gives rise to violence rise to communal violence.  **(a) Supporting Idea 1:** Creates intolerance towards others’ religious views  **Supporting detail 1:** 35 percent of Swedes believe Islam to be a threat and incompatible with the Western world (Pickel, 2013)  **(b) Supporting Idea 2:** Provokes people to perform extremist activities  **Supporting detail 1:** A brutal murder of Sikh-American gas station owner for religious hatred harbored by the perpetrator of this crime (Kaur, 2016, as cited in Kaplin, 2021) |
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| **Body Paragraph 2**  **Argument/Reason 2 (from your thesis statement):** Minority people feel insecure to express their identity   1. **Supporting Idea 1:** Religious discrimination in the workplace.   **Supporting detail 1:** Schneider et al. (2022) mentions that,   1. **Supporting Idea 2:** Being victims of bullying in the education system.   **Supporting detail 1:** According to Clark (2019) |
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| **Body Paragraph 3**  **Argument/Reason 1:** Deprives minorities of their basic rights.   1. **Supporting Idea 1:** Deprived of food rights.   **Supporting detail 1:** According to Jajo (2017), Muslims were the target of 53% of bovine-related violence incidents from 2010 to 2017, with 86 percent killed in 73 incidents.  **(b)Supporting Idea 2:** Right to exercise their own religion is violated.  **Supporting detail 1:** Shojib Minj, a 22-year-old Oran Catholic student at a private university in Bangladesh, was unhappy to attend exams on the auspicious date of Easter Sunday (Rozario, 2022). |
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| **Body Paragraph 4**  **Counterargument:** Some people argue that class-based differences are the main cause of minority oppression around the world.  **Refutation:**  When religious conflict arises, people get united based on their religion irrespective of class, and oppress the respective religious minority  **(a) Supporting idea 1:** Subjection to religious oppression irrespective of class  **Supporting detail 1:** According to UCA News(2021)  **(b) Supporting idea 2:** Being discriminated against for religious purposes within the same class.  **Supporting detail 2:** According to Andrew (2016) |
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| **Conclusion**  **Summary Statement:** Minority persecution across the globe is solely due to religious differences, which lead to communal violence, insecurity about exposing one's identity, and deprivation of basic rights for minorities.  **Suggestions:**   1. Establishing Zero Tolerance Policy against religious harassment and discrimination 2. Guaranteeing fundamental freedom for all citizens by the Government 3. Ensuring formal education and good employment opportunities for every religion   **Clincher:** Even though, in a world where there is no way to end minority domination ultimately, there is no doubt that by taking the steps stated above, we may at least try to lessen the destruction and harm caused by minority oppression so that individuals like puja in Shahapara Village can go about their daily lives without having to hide inside their homes. |
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**Religious Differences are the Sole Cause of Minority Oppression Around the World**

On Friday night, hostages were taken from Sahapara village in the Dighalia union of Narail's Lohagara Upazila. Puja and her family took refuge in their own home, as did numerous other Hindu families in the area. An angry Muslim mob came at their door and then invaded their house. Looters also arrived and set fire to everything. The cause? A Facebook post by an 18-year-old local resident allegedly insulted Islam – Bangladesh's predominant religion. Nowadays, the majority of people are becoming religiously egocentric because of their flawed beliefs that assert the authenticity of only their religious perspective and debauches others' god-given religious positions as phony. Differences in religious perspectives are creating gaps between people and separating communities from each other. This estrangement makes the minority group more vulnerable to the aftermath of any dispute between communities. Moreover, religious extremists harbor unnecessary hatred so the minorities become subjected to harassment at their workplace, universities, and public areas. Discrimination and persecution based on a person's religion make them feel unsafe and insecure about their identity. It leads to other violations of human rights, freedom of movement, privacy, not being treated fairly, and the right to fully be a part of society. Therefore, religious differences are the sole cause of minority oppression around the world because it gives rise to communal violence, makes people insecure to reveal their identity, and deprives minorities of their fundamental rights.

First of all, religious differences give rise to communal violence as it creates intolerance toward others' religious views and provokes people to perform extremist activities. To begin with, communal violence is provoked by a lack of tolerance for different religious views. Pickel (2013) discusses that 35 percent of Swedes see Islam as a threat while one-half believe it to be incompatible with the Western world. These prevailing religious differences are giving rise to many problems like rising Islamophobia and hate crimes toward Muslims in the West. The Muslim minorities living in western countries are mainly facing the brunt of this clash and are subjected to various forms of oppression such as the establishment of laws like the Hijab Ban in France. Moreover, religious differences induce people to perform extremist activities toward people from other religions. For instance, Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh-American gas station owner was brutally murdered for his religion and the perpetrator of this crime reportedly stated, “going to go out and shoot some towel-heads” the day before the incident (Kaur, 2016, as cited in Kaplin, 2021). Hate crimes like these are often times instigated by even things as trivial as a Facebook post. Religious extremists add fuel to these conflicts and give rise to communal riots. The religious minorities in respective countries become the victims of these situations and innocent people are subjected to rape, torture, murder, and other forms of extremist activities. To sum up, lack of tolerance towards people of other religions and provocation to perform extremist activities are the reasons why religious differences give rise to communal violence.

Secondly, minority people feel insecure to express their identity because they are discriminated against in their workplace and sometimes they are victims of bullying in the education system. To begin with, minorities are harassed in their worksite in various ways such as lack of employment opportunities, being robbed of deserved promotions, and not getting proper job evaluations. According to Schneider et al. (2022), Muslims in the United States are neglected in their workplace because they are a minority. He illustrates that Muslims complain of facing higher rates of discrimination than other religious groups because only 1 in 100 Americans identify with Islam. So after Muslims introduce themselves, no one wants to hire them easily which is uncomfortable for the Muslim community. Also, minorities face various forms of bullying in education because of their religion. Clark (2019) has stated that in Muslim-majority Pakistan, a monolithic picture is promoted and does not adapt to diversity. He further adds that aside from everyone having to learn one religion, memorizing passages from the Quran is rewarded with bonus marks. In this way, minorities are being put through various forms of harassment starting from their schools and educational institutions. As a result, students of other religious identities suffer from inferiority to identify themselves. In this manner, minority people feel precarious about revealing their identity.

Thirdly, minorities are deprived of their basic rights as they are deprived of their food rights and the right to exercise their own religion. To begin with, in a society where the majority of people have religious instructions on a particular food, the minority people without these restrictions are also prohibited from eating that food which is a form of oppression. For example, India is a Hindu majority country where Muslims have no right to eat Beef because the Hindus of India considered cows holy and term it ‘Gau Mata. If any Muslim tried to eat beef, Hindus would attack them or exploit the Muslims. According to Jajo (2017), Muslims were the target of 53% of bovine-related violence incidents from 2010 to 2017, with 86 percent killed in 73 incidents. Also, sometimes minority people do not have the freedom to exercise their religion. As their religion is different from the majority of people, they are being mocked for performing their religious things, they do not even get any vacation during their religious festivals. For instance, Shojib Minj, a 22-year-old Oran Catholic student at a private university in Bangladesh, was unhappy to attend exams on the auspicious date of Easter Sunday (Rozario, 2022). Hence, as Easter Sunday is the second biggest festival of a Christian, nothing can be more sorrowful for him than it. Thus, minorities are deprived of their fundamental rights.

Some people argue that class-based differences are the main cause of minority oppression around the world. However, when religious conflict arises, people get united based on their religion irrespective of class, and oppress the respective religious minority. Firstly, minorities are subjected to religious oppression irrespective of class. For example, according to Uttom (2021), Jogendranath Sarker and his five-member family, who belong to the Protestant Church of Bangladesh, left Kushtia district town of northwestern Bangladesh and moved to Kolkata because of religious oppression by the Muslim community around them. Sarker had sold his ancestral homestead on 1,200 square meters of land after failing to protect about 1.66 acres of his farmland from Muslims. There is no denying that in a country where people of various faiths live side by side, the majority group tries to dominate minorities. Furthermore, minorities are being discriminated against for religious purposes within the same class. According to Andrew (2016), Muntasir was rejected for a B&B room despite paying the advance money after arrival at the hotel and upon queries, he was informed that his identity as a Muslim was disliked by the owner. Despite being solvent, people are facing religious oppression everywhere, workplace, rental residence, institutions, and so on. Considering all these, the only factor causing minority discrimination worldwide is religious differences.

To conclude, minority persecution across the globe is solely due to religious differences, which lead to communal violence, insecurity about exposing one's identity, and deprivation of basic rights for minorities. We should implement a Zero Tolerance Policy against religious harassment and discrimination to eradicate prejudice at work based on different religious beliefs. The government should also take the required actions to prohibit discrimination based on individual religious beliefs by ensuring that everyone has the right to fundamental freedom. To end discrimination against minorities, we should also provide formal education and good employment opportunities for all faiths. Even though, in a world where there is no way to end minority domination ultimately, there is no doubt that by taking the steps stated above, we may at least try to lessen the destruction and harm caused by minority oppression so that individuals like Puja in Shahapara Village can go about their daily lives without having to hide inside their homes.

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