**Religious Tolerance**

HOME

Religious toleration is an act where people allowing other people to think or practice other religious acts and beliefs. In a country with a state religion, toleration means that the government allows other religions to be there. Many countries in past centuries allowed other religions but only in privacy.

MISSION-VISION

We envision a society where all people who belong to different religious groups would be able to practice and show what they believe as long as they don’t cause harm without being mocked or disrespected by others.

HISTORY

**Constitution of 1899 states in Article 5:**

*The State recognizes the freedom and equality of all religions, as well as the separation of Church and State.*

**1935 charter on religion**

*The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall be forever allowed.*[*No religious test*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_religious_test_clause)*shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights* were appended and this section became the basis for the non-establishment of religion and [freedom of religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_religion) in the Philippines.

**The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines**

The 1987 [Constitution of the Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_Philippines) declares: *The separation of Church and State shall be inviolable.* (Article II, Section 6), and, *No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights.* (Article III, Section 5)

BE AWARE

To know the opinion of the people of Barangay Bakakeng Norte in Baguio City regarding religious tolerance, we interview Ma’am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one of the Brgy. Officials. According to her, their barangay is composed of people who belong to the different religious groups, namely Roman Catholic, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Pentecostal, Methodist, Muslim and Iglesia Ni Cristo. Records clearly shows that people on their barangay are relatively peaceful and respectful for there are no issues consulted to them regarding religious conflicts or misunderstanding. She also said that people in their community are allowed practice their way of worship just like going house to house to share and not to enforce their belief to others. Ma’am \_\_\_ also related that they themselves who work in the Barangay hall belong to different groups yet they maintain their peace and work in unity because they respect what their fellow worker believe in. She believes that religious tolerance includes “respecting the principles of others.”

Getting more in touch with the people in the barangay, we interviewed one of the local jeepney drivers, he said “we don’t usually talk about religion. But if we do, we just share and not force them to belief what we believe.” One woman who owns a sari-sari store said, “I usually attend mass in the Church here in our barangay and I found no problem in doing that. People here are peaceful and respect religion.”

Knowing the local situation and experiences, we can see that people in Barangay Bakakeng Norte have respect on other religious groups and their members. They see no problem working and being with the people who have beliefs different to what they believe. It is their hope to maintain this peace and respect towards everyone.

BE AWARE

Religious tolerance all starts from you. Here are some ways that you can promote the advocacy.

1. Respect others. There is no necessity to convert others to being a clone of you.
2. Allow all others the same independence whether you disagree with or dislike their positions.
3. Appreciate and learn from differences without losing your own. Difference makes life interesting and living worthwhile. The best relationships and the best societies are the ones where differences thrive.
4. Never force someone to believe what you believe. Respect their preferences based on their religion.

REFERENCES:

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