# Government Restrictions Index and Social Hostilities Index

**GRI**: Government Restrictions Index based on 20 indicators of ways that national and local governments restrict religion, including through coercion and force.

0 to 10, from lowest to highest level of government restrictions

**SHI**: Social Hostilities Index based on 13 indicators of ways in which private individuals and social groups infringe upon religious beliefs and practices, including religiously biased crimes, mob violence and efforts to stop particular religious groups from growing or operating.

0 to 10, from lowest to highest level of social hostilities

**Variables for the Government Restrictions Index**

**GRI\_Q\_1**: Does the constitution, or law that functions in the place of a constitution (basic law), specifically provide for “freedom of religion” or include language used in Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

0= Yes

0.50= The constitution or basic law does not specifically provide for freedom of religion but does protect some religious practices

1.00= No

*This question measures the presence or absence of provisions protecting religious freedom in the country’s constitution. This definition is based on Article 18 of the U.N.’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”*

**GRI\_Q\_2**: Does the constitution or basic law include stipulations that appear to qualify or substantially contradict the concept of “religious freedom”?

0= No

0.33= Yes, there is a qualification

0.67= Yes, there is a substantial contradiction and only some religious practices are protected

1.00= Religious freedom is not provided in the first place

*This question builds on GRI\_Q\_1, measuring whether the constitutional provisions are limited by other provisions. A “qualification” means that religious freedom is provided but some limit is set, such as allowing for religious freedom as long as there is “public order.” A “contradiction” means that religious freedom is provided, but only for some people and/or in some circumstances; it also can mean that a country’s laws or government actions cannot contradict the precepts of a certain religion.*

**GRI\_Q\_3**: Taken together, how do the constitution/basic law and other national laws and policies affect religious freedom?

0= National laws and policies provide for religious freedom, and the national government respects religious freedom in practice

0.33= National laws and policies provide for religious freedom, and the national government generally respects religious freedom in practice; but there are some instances (e.g., in certain localities) where religious freedom is not respected in practice

0.67= There are limited national legal protections for religious freedom, but the national government does not generally respect religious freedom in practice

1.00= National laws and policies do not provide for religious freedom and the national government does not respect religious freedom in practice

*This question is an overall measure of the state of religious restrictions in a country, based on the information sources used in the study. This includes the opening statements in the State Department’s International Religious Freedom reports, which discuss the overall extent to which the country’s government protects religious freedom. It also includes the coders’ aggregate assessment of the level of religious freedom in the country.*

**GRI\_Q\_4**: Does any level of government interfere with worship or other religious practices?

0= No

0.33= Yes, in a few cases

0.67= Yes, in many cases

1.00= Government prohibits worship or religious practices of one or more religious groups as a general policy

*This question measures whether* – *and to what extent* – *the government interferes with religious groups’ worship or religious practices. A “few cases” means only one or two isolated situations, while “many cases” means more than two situations or one situation that affects many congregations or groups, but falls short of a general government policy prohibiting the worship or religious practices of one or more religious groups. “Worship or religious practices” includes active worship, such as at a religious service; it also includes private religious practices, such as prayer or other daily activities that are governed by religious beliefs.*

**GRI\_Q\_5**: Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?

0= No

0.50= Yes, for some religious groups

1.00= Yes, for all religious groups

*This question includes restrictions on outdoor prayer meetings and other forms of preaching that do not occur inside a church, synagogue, mosque or temple. Public preaching must involve activities in a public setting, such as houses of worship or other settings where the preacher interacts with the public. It does not include worship that is private in nature, such as prayer in a residence.*

**GRI\_Q\_6**: Is proselytizing limited by any level of government?

0= No

0.50= Yes, for some religious groups

1.00= Yes, for all religious groups

*This question includes restrictions on efforts by religious groups or individuals to persuade others to join their faith. Examples include outright bans on proselytizing by some or all groups, as well as incidents in which security forces or other government officials attempted to stop an individual or group from proselytizing.*

**GRI\_Q\_7**: Is converting from one religion to another limited by any level of government?

0= No

1.00= Yes

*This question includes outright bans on conversion, as well as government policies that effectively limit conversion, such as restrictions on changing one’s religion on official identify cards.*

**GRI\_Q\_8**: Is religious literature or broadcasting limited by any level of government?

0= No

1.00= Yes

*This question includes limits on internet use. It also includes extensive restrictions on literature, broadcasting or internet use that do not exempt religious groups.*

**GRI\_Q\_9**: Are foreign missionaries allowed to operate?

0= Yes

0.50= Yes, but with restrictions

1.00= No

*Foreign missionaries are representatives of religious groups engaged in proselytizing or development work. Restrictions include limits on missionaries’ activities, as well as things that affect their ability to enter a country, e.g., visa quotas. If sources indicate missionaries can work in a country only in an unofficial capacity, this implies they are not allowed to freely work in the country.*

**GRI\_Q\_10**: Is the wearing of religious symbols, such as head coverings for women and facial hair for men, regulated by law or by any level of government?

0= No

1.00= Yes

*This question measures restrictions on the wearing of religious symbols, including head coverings, beards, hair styles, jewelry and clothing. “Any level of government” includes public schools.*