

Issues' Analysis

-Freedom of Religion and Belief- Session 1-5

Introduction

This issue is raised fairly often within the context of the Universal Periodic Review. Out of over 5000 recommendations in total over 5 sessions, 121 recommendations focussed on freedom of religion and belief.¹ In total, 30 advance questions concerned this issue. Most of the recommendations and questions came from the WEOG region (respectively 48% and 93%) with Asia also making a substantial amount of recommendations (25%). While all regions received recommendations on this issue, most recommendations were received by states from the Asian (44%) and WEOG (24%) regions. The Asian region also received by far the most questions (73%).

The recommendations and questions focussed both on the freedom of religion and on religious discrimination and intolerance. Issues covered include implementation of the ICCPR, treaty bodies recommendations, the work of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief, laws on religious hatred and non-discrimination, and religious minorities, but also on the dialogue between religions, religious cohesion and promotion of a multi-religious society.

Top 4 countries making recommendations on this issue

1. Italy (14 recommendations)
2. United Kingdom (7 recommendations)
Canada (7 recommendations)
4. Jordan (6 recommendations)

Top 6 States under Review receiving recommendations on this issue

1. Viet Nam (13 recommendations)
2. Israel (12 recommendations)
3. Saudi Arabia (9 recommendations)
4. Uzbekistan (6 recommendations)
Cuba (6 recommendations)
China (6 recommendations)

Top 4 countries posing advance written questions on this issue

1. United Kingdom (11 questions)
2. The Netherlands (4 questions)
3. Canada (3 questions)
Denmark (3 questions)

Top 7 States under Review receiving advance written questions on this issue

1. Indonesia (5 questions)
2. Pakistan (3 questions)
3. Ukraine (2 questions)
Saudi Arabia (2 questions)
Viet Nam (2 questions)
Yemen (2 questions)
Comoros (2 questions)

¹ For more detailed data, see the table.