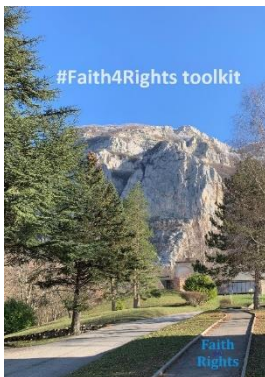


#Faith4Rights toolkit

At the 2019 Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security, High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet emphasized the importance of focussing attention to practical outreach tools, capacity-building programmes and interdisciplinary research on questions related to faith and rights.

The [#Faith4Rights toolkit](#), launched online in 2020, aims at translating the “Faith for Rights” framework into practical peer-to-peer learning and capacity-building programmes. It contains 18 learning modules, mirroring each of the commitments on “Faith for Rights”. These modules offer concrete ideas for learning exercises, for example how to unpack the 18 commitments, share personal stories, search for additional faith quotes or provide for inspiring examples of artistic expressions.

The whole concept is interactive, result-oriented and conducive to critical thinking. The toolkit is open for adaptation by facilitators in order to tailor the modules to the specific context of the participants. This toolkit builds on a wealth of comparable tools by several UN agencies that have been integrated into the #Faith4Rights toolkit. It also proposes several cases to debate, which illustrate the intersectionality of the 18 commitments and enhance the skills of faith actors to manage religious diversity in real-life situations towards the aims of “Faith for Rights”.



Using the “Faith for Rights” framework

The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” have been referred to in several thematic and country-specific reports by the UN Secretary-General, High Commissioner, Special Procedures and Human Rights Treaty Bodies. The “Faith for Rights” framework has also been used by faith-based actors and civil society organizations.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has organized several capacity-building events, for example in Beirut, Collonges, Dakar, Djibouti, Geneva, Marrakesh, Rabat and Tunis. As stressed by High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet: ‘Faith’ can indeed stand up for ‘Rights’ so that both enhance each other.



More information is available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FaithForRights.aspx

Should you have any questions or wish to add your name as a supporter of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments, please send an email to: faith4rights@ohchr.org

The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on

Faith for Rights

#Faith4Rights
toolkit

Background

In March 2017, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) launched the “Faith for Rights” framework with an expert workshop in Beirut. This framework provides space for a cross-disciplinary reflection on the deep, and mutually enriching, connections between religions and human rights. The objective is to foster the development of peaceful societies, which uphold human dignity and equality for all and where diversity is not just tolerated but fully respected and celebrated.

Videos

Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet



In 2019, High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet stressed that the "Faith for Rights" framework aims at transforming messages of mercy, compassion and solidarity into inter-communal and faith-based projects towards social, developmental and environmental change. She also underlined the importance of governments, religious authorities and a wide range of civil society actors working jointly to uphold human dignity and equality for all, in line with the constructive approach laid out by the faith-based framework of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”.

Beirut Declaration

The Beirut Declaration considers that all believers (whether theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other) should join hands and hearts in articulating ways in which “Faith” can stand up for “Rights” more effectively so that both enhance each other. Individual and communal expression of religions or beliefs thrive and flourish in environments where human rights are protected. Similarly, human rights can benefit from deeply rooted ethical and spiritual foundations provided by religions or beliefs. Rather than focusing on theological and doctrinal divides, the Beirut Declaration favours the identification of common ground among all religions and beliefs to uphold the dignity and equal worth of all human beings.



The Beirut Declaration reaches out to persons belonging to religions and beliefs in all regions of the world, with a view to enhancing cohesive, peaceful and respectful societies on the basis of a common action-oriented platform which is open to all who share its objectives.

18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”

Linked to the Beirut Declaration are 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, with corresponding follow-up actions. These include the commitments:

- to prevent the use of the notion of “State religion” to discriminate against any individual or group;
- to revisit religious interpretations that appear to perpetuate gender inequality and harmful stereotypes or even condone gender-based violence;
- to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities;
- to publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility;
- to monitor interpretations or other religious views that manifestly conflict with universal human rights norms and standards;
- to refrain from oppressing critical voices and to urge States to repeal any existing anti-blasphemy or anti-apostasy laws;
- to refine the curriculums, teaching materials and textbooks; and
- to engage with children and youth against violence in the name of religion.

