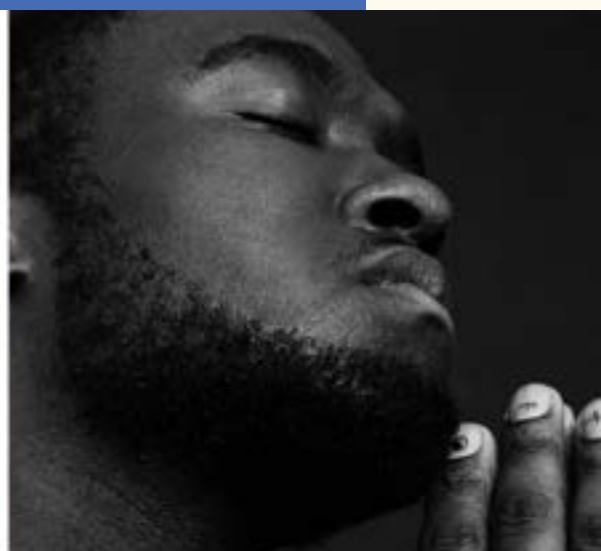


Faith for Rights

TRAINING WORKBOOK VOLUME 1

An Introduction to the
Faith for Rights Framework



Contents

This workbook is intended for use as a guide and as a resource as you participate in training for the Faith for Rights framework. The contents of this workbook are not meant to be comprehensive of all the information presented in the workshop.

P.03	About Faith for Rights
P.04	Introduction Part 1: What is Faith for Rights?
P.10	Introduction Part 2: The Faith for Rights Facilitator and Peer-to-Peer Learning
P.12	Introduction Part 3: Freedom of Religion or Belief in Theory and Practice
P.16	Work Session: Faith for Rights, A Tool for Communities
P.18	Conclusion
P.22	Additional Resources

Welcome

The purpose of this training package is to introduce the Faith for Rights framework and to examine the relationship between religion and human rights. This will include an overview of the Faith for Rights Toolkit, the Human Rights framework and peer-to-peer learning activities. The day will conclude with an opportunity for you, as a participant, to begin to develop a plan for using the Faith for Rights toolkit within your own respective community of influence. We hope you find the training materials helpful, enlightening and enjoyable.

About Faith for Rights

The “Faith for Rights” framework provides space for a cross-disciplinary reflection and action on the connections between religions, beliefs and human rights. The objective is to empower faith actors to contribute to fostering peaceful societies, which uphold human dignity and equality for all and where diversity is not just tolerated but fully respected and celebrated. The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, adopted in March 2017, has been supported by and reaches out to various actors belonging to religions and beliefs in all regions of the world.

The #Faith4Rights toolkit (PDF) aims at translating the “Faith for Rights” framework into practical peer-to-peer learning and enriching 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 religious quotes or provide 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.



Introduction Part 1

What is Faith for Rights?

Activity 1: Introductory Round

Note: Activity 1 and Activity 2 are taken from Module 0 of the Faith for Rights toolkit.

Activity 1 provides an opportunity for participants to introduce themselves to the group. In the box below, answer the question: **What do you hope to gain from this training?**

The Faith for Rights program is built on a foundation of Peer-to-Peer learning. Who are the participants in your training today? How can you learn from them? What do you hope to offer to the group discussions?

Activity 2: Defining Ground Rules

Think about the following questions. Write your ideas below.

- **What rules would help create a productive and respectful environment for learning and sharing?**
- **What contentions may arise during discussions about faith and rights?**
- **What rules might address these contentions?**



Introduction Part 1

What is Faith for Rights?

What is the Faith for Rights Toolkit?

The Faith for Rights toolkit is a learning framework that contains 18 modules, mirroring each of the commitments on “Faith for Rights.” These modules offer concrete ideas for peer-to-peer learning exercises. The framework is built upon Five Principles that facilitators and participants uphold. The whole concept is interactive, result-oriented and conducive to critical thinking. It is open for adaptation by facilitators in order to tailor the modules to the specific context of the participants.

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.



18 Commitments

<p>1 ... to stand up and act for everyone's right to free choices, particularly for everyone's freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief</p>	<p>2 ... to use the declaration on "Faith for Rights" as a common minimum standard of interaction between theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other believers</p>	<p>3 ... to promote constructive engagement on the understanding of religious texts through critical thinking and debate on religious matters</p>	
<p>18 ... to use technological means more creatively and consistently in order to produce capacity-building and outreach tools and make them available for use at the local level</p>	<p>We commit...</p> 		
<p>17 ... to develop sustained partnerships with specialised academic institutions to promote interdisciplinary research, programs and tools for implementing the 18 commitments</p>			<p>4 ... to prevent the notions of "State religion" and "doctrinal secularism" from being used to discriminate or reduce the space for diversity of religions and beliefs</p>
<p>16 ... to leverage the spiritual and moral weight of religions and beliefs in order to strengthen the protection of universal human rights and develop preventative strategies</p>			<p>5 ... to ensure non-discrimination and gender equality, particularly regarding harmful stereotypes and practices or gender-based violence</p>
<p>15 ... not to coerce people in vulnerable situations into converting from their religion or belief, while fully respecting everyone's freedom to have, adopt or change a religion or belief</p>			<p>6 ... to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities and to defend their freedom of religion or belief, particularly in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life</p>
<p>14 ... to ensure that humanitarian aid is given regardless of the recipients' creed and that aid will not be used to further a particular religious standpoint</p>		<p>7 ... to publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility in the name of religion or belief</p>	
<p>13 ... to engage with children and youth against violence in the name of religion and to promote their active participation in decision-making</p>		<p>8 ... to monitor interpretations, determinations or other religious views that manifestly conflict with universal human rights norms and standards</p>	
<p>12 ... to review the curriculums and teaching materials wherever some religious interpretations seem to encourage or tolerate violence or discrimination</p>		<p>9 ... to condemn any judgemental determination that disqualifies the religion or belief of another individual or community, exposing them to violence in the name of religion</p>	
<p>11 ... not to oppress critical voices on religious matters in the name of "sanctity", and to advocate for repealing any anti-blaspemy and anti-apostasy laws</p>		<p>10 ... not to tolerate exclusionary interpretations on religious grounds which instrumentalize religions, beliefs or their followers for electoral purposes or political gains</p>	

5 Principles

The Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights contains five fundamental principles to guide its implementation. These are the cornerstones of the Faith for Rights vision and its implementation tool, the Faith for Rights toolkit. The five fundamental principles are as follows:

- Transcending traditional inter-faith dialogues into concrete action-oriented Faith for Rights (F4R) projects at the local level.
- Avoiding theological and doctrinal divides.
- Introspectiveness is a cherished virtue. All speak up and act first and foremost on weaknesses and challenges within respective communities.
- Speaking with one voice against any advocacy of hatred that amounts to inciting violence, discrimination or any other violation of the equal dignity that all human beings enjoy.
- Act in a fully independent manner while seeking partnerships with religious and secular authorities, relevant governmental bodies and non-State actors.

Key Questions

- How can Faith for Rights provide an opportunity for creating a united voice of solidarity, reason, compassion, moderation, enlightenment and corresponding collective action at the grassroots level?

- What does it mean to you to act in a fully independent manner while seeking partnerships with religious, governmental and secular authorities?

"Human rights are closely connected to religion, security and peace. Religious leaders play a crucial role in either defending human rights, peace and security or, unfortunately, in undermining them."



- Michelle Bachelet

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2018 - 2022

- What are ways that you have observed religious leaders defending human rights?
- How are human rights sometimes undermined by religious leaders?
- How can faith stand up for rights?
- In your own experience, how are human rights and faith mutually supportive?

Introduction Part 2

The Faith for Rights Facilitator & Peer-to-Peer Learning

The Facilitator's Role

Peer-to-Peer learning occurs when learners **collaborate together** to gain an understanding of a topic. While facilitation is necessary in order to present materials, encourage discourse, and guide participants, it is important to note that a facilitator is not a teacher or instructor. **In fact, all participants in a Faith for Rights session, including the facilitator, teach and learn from each other.** All are equal and all can exhibit leadership in the context of the Faith for Rights session.

The Faith for Rights Facilitator:

- Prepares the Peer-to-Peer learning sessions and any required materials
- Is knowledgeable in both disciplines of faith and rights
- May have prior coaching, teaching or leadership experience
- May choose to work with a partner

Peer-to-Peer Learning

The Peer-to-Peer activities contain ideas for learning exercises such as how to unpack the 18 commitments, share personal stories, search for additional religious quotes or provide for inspiring examples of artistic expressions. The whole concept is interactive, result-oriented and conducive to critical thinking. Peer-to-Peer activities are open for adaptation by facilitators in order to tailor the



For more information on becoming a Faith for Rights Facilitator, including an online Facilitator Training Course, visit:

<https://faith4rights.iclrs.org/>

Unpacking the 5 Principles

Key Questions

- How can a facilitator help participants move away from dialogue into more concrete actions?
- How can a Facilitator avoid theological divides?
- How can a Facilitator exemplify introspectiveness? What is introspectiveness?
- Although participants come from varied circumstances and backgrounds, it is important to help them speak with one voice in support of human rights. How can a Facilitator do this?
- What can a Facilitator do to encourage participants to act in an independent manner?



As you participate in this peer-to-peer learning exercise, think about one or more of the key questions listed above. Write your thoughts below:

Introduction Part 3

Freedom of Religion or Belief in Theory and Practice

"We the Peoples of the United Nations determined [...]

- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small



Key Questions

- What is the relationship between human rights and your work/ministry/vocation?
- How do you promote freedom of religion or belief?
- What would a world look like without freedom of religion or belief?

What does freedom of religion or belief mean to you? Express your thoughts here:



All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

-Article 1, UDHR





Storytelling

Has there been a situation where you had to intervene in defense of freedom of religion or belief of somebody who belongs to a different faith/belief group? How was the situation resolved?



Work Session

Faith for Rights: A Tool for Communities

The purpose of this session is to identify concrete ways the Faith for Rights framework can be used to create constructive interaction between faith and/or between different faith communities. In this space, you are invited to develop a plan to create societal harmony, peace and open dialogue utilizing the Faith for Rights toolkit and other resources.

Process 01

Identify your community

- Who are the members in the community?
- How many people are in the community?
- What are the religious, ethnic, age, and/or gender considerations?

Process 02

Identify the Community Actors

- Who are the members of the community that have influence?
- What is the reach of their influence?
- Do you have a balance of ideas among the identified group of community actors?
- Does the group have a balance of gender?

Process 03

Identify an Area of Interest

- Is there a conflict in your community?
- Is there an area that needs greater focus?
- How can Faith for Rights be part of the solution?

Process 04

Faith for Rights as a Solution

- What Faith for Rights modules apply to your own context?
- Identify how the module(s) will benefit your community or faith group
- What would you like to accomplish? Identify an objective for your Faith for Rights event:

Point of View

Facilitators need to prepare and choose the most relevant learning material among the wide range of resources offered in the Faith for Rights toolkit. Even if they take existing material as it stands, facilitators still need to relate it to their respective environments and learning objectives. In addition, facilitators would continue to think through the sessions, taking into account any feedback from participants so as to adapt to the needs of the audience. Use the Faith for Rights Planning Guide at the end of this document to help you with the details of your Faith for Rights event.



Notes

Topic _____



Additional Resources

OHCHR and the "Faith for Rights" Framework

For more information on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the #Faith4Rights Toolkit

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/faith-for-rights>



Faith for Rights and ICLRS

Resources for facilitation of Faith for Rights events, including an online Facilitator Guide training course

<https://faith4rights.iclrs.org/>



USIP: A "Faith for Rights" Approach to Promoting Sustainable Peace

An online course on Beliefs, Human Rights, and Peacebuilding using the Faith for Rights framework

<https://usip-global-campus.mn.co/courses/7980875/content?autojoin=1>

