
INSTITUTIONAL REFERENCE WORKS

The Institutional
Dictionary of
**Freedom of
Religion or
Belief**



FIRST EDITION

composed and edited
by **Cometan**

The Astronist Institution publishes various reference works dealing with Astronism, different religious traditions and the field of religious freedom as part of a series titled Institutional Reference Works. The definitions in this, and other reference works, are authorised by the Astronist Institution.

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Preface

“There is no greater and more important freedom than the freedom of believe for without this quality in every human, we lose a core part of our person, a core part of our humanity. It is core to the human experience to hope, to fear, to wonder, and to explore and religion, philosophy, spirituality and now astroncy provide us with the tools to make this endeavour.

Each definition has been authoritatively created by myself and staff within the Institution to the best of our current knowledge and ability in defining these most core elements to freedom of religion or belief. In years to come, I will no doubt reflect on the primitivity of these definitions but as in every I do I endeavour to do my best and better still next time. Please enjoy this First Edition of The Institutional Dictionary of Freedom of Religion or Belief as I continue my doctoral research in this most important of fields within scholarship on human rights.”

– **Cometan**, founder of Astronism and padron
incumbent of the Astronist Institution

“Taking away our freedom to believe is tantamount to taking away our humanity.”

– Cometan



Abdelfattah Amor (1943-2012), Tunisian jurist, academic and the second United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief appointed in April 1993 until July 2004 as the youngest person to take on the role at age fifty; preceded by Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro and succeeded by Asma Jilani Jahangir.

Abkhazia, freedom of religion or belief in. due to political tensions, the Georgian Orthodox Church has faced some discrimination and restriction from the de-facto Abkhazian authorities; some Muslim leaders have reported facing attacks in the past; few reports exist as to discrimination against followers of the Abkhazian traditional religion; Jehovah's Witnesses remain banned by a 1995 decree; as a result, Abkhazia presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

About-Picard law a piece of French legislation that unjustly targets sects

and new religious movements that “undermine human rights and fundamental freedoms”, as well as causing “mental manipulation” with such legislation accused of infringing on citizens' religious liberties.

Absence of a proclamation of freedom *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a few governments around the world make no claim to freedom of religion and belief in their constitutions, primarily the Maldives, Mauritania, Niue, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

Academic category *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **scholarly category**) a category of belief systems or denominations that is devised and primarily used in the language of scholars rather than reflecting instances of real-world communion (an example of which is the category of Eastern Protestant Christianity which is a category of Protestant churches and related sentiments in Eastern Europe that despite being classified as part of the same category by scholars do not hold firm communal ties.

Academic freedom the right of a scholar to express, whether verbally or in writing, their ideas about any topic, including religious studies,

without being subject to government interference, professional advantage, or social harassment or ostracism.

Accommodationism (*adj.* **accommodationist**) the principle that a government may support or even endorse a religion as long as such endorsements are equally dispensed across all religions and are not preferentially conferred to only certain religions.

Accusatory language *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (or **combative language**) an approach to language adopted in the restriction of religion in which the misuse of labels and the weaponisation of terms are hallmarks. Contrasted with restrictive language.

Advancement of religion *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* an existential requirement of religious institutions in some countries (especially the United Kingdom) that involves the necessary provision of places of worship, the hosting of religious ceremonies, outreach work, and education of religious and practices as being integral to the proper operations of a religious organisation; advancement of

religion is based on a government's conception of religion is or should be. See also state definition of religion or belief.

Affirmation *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (or **affirmatory state**) the advocacy of a certain religion or belief system by a government especially through financially and legal means, often but not necessarily leading to a state religion or state atheism. Contrasted with recognition.

Afghanistan, freedom of religion or belief in. still plagued by widespread normativism and government incompetence resulting from the constant threat of Taliban re-emergence, conditions for freedom of religion or belief in Afghanistan remain among the worst in the world; Islam remains the state religion and the exodus of minorities such as Hindus and Sikhs from the country demonstrate the severity of conditions; presently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

African Charter on Human Peoples' Rights (or **Banjul Charter**) a treaty ratified by 53 states concerned with the upholding of a variety of fundamental human

rights, include freedom of religion or belief; equivalent to the American Convention and Human Rights, European Convention on Human Rights.

Ahmed Shaheed (born 1964), Maldivian diplomat, politician and the fifth and incumbent United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief appointed in June 2016; preceded by Heiner Bielefeldt.

Ajai Malhotra (born 1953), Indian career diplomat and Chairperson of the Advisory Committee to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Albania, freedom of religion or belief in. conditions for religious freedom have markedly improved in Albania since its days as a communist republic suffering from policies of isolationism and state atheism; today, the Constitution of Albania provides for freedom of religion or belief and this is right is generally upheld by the government although NRM continue to face discrimination and there are ongoing issues for recognition of religion or belief in the country; presently classified as apathetic in

Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

A Letter Concerning Toleration a 1689 work of John Locke who addresses the problem of religion and government by asserting the religious toleration as the answer.

Algeria, freedom of religion or belief in. conditions for religious freedom in Algeria remain severe; Sunni Islam is the state denomination and all minorities, including some non-Sunni denominations, face ongoing restrictions and censorship by the government; normativism is widespread as are carefully orchestrated administrative restrictions imposed by the government to restriction non-Sunni groups from gaining legal registration; presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

"All men are created equal" a phrase of Thomas Jefferson that was included as part of the 1776 U.S. Declaration of Independence.

Alonso de Salazar Frías (c. 1564-1636), Spanish vicar-general and judge known for his exposing of the unfounded accusations charged

against those labelled witches during the Spanish Inquisition. See also witchcraft.

Amalgamation *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (adj.

amalgamative) the fact or process of a country making its procedures for recognising and registering religion or belief undifferentiated or indistinct from each other despite the differences between what these two procedures are considered to consist of; the process of differentiation in preferred according to recognitionist theory. Contrasted with differentiation.

Ambiguity *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (or **negative apathy**)

a classification in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition characterised by a lack of both a recognition system for denominations and communities and one for registration of organisations and individual buildings, either religious or philosophical; the intentions behind an approach of ambiguity and its effects on conditions from freedom of religion or belief range from restrictive to censorious to terminal; ambiguity succeeds restrictivity yet precedes apathy.

Ambiguity restriction tool

Cometanian freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool imposed by some governments to restrict religion and involves the purposeful creation of ambiguous laws regarding how religions become recognised or an insufficient system for the recognition of religions which is used as a means to exclude some religions from attaining legal recognition.

American Convention on Human Rights (or **Pact of San José**) an

international human rights instrument ratified by 24 countries from 2013 onwards that ensures fundamental human rights of citizens in partied countries, including freedom of religion or belief; equivalent to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights.

American Samoa, freedom of religion or belief in.

a variety of Christian denominations exist and operate freely in this U.S. territory; although, non-percolative recognition is in effect which means the American Samoa administers its own affairs and laws regarding religion and belief; presently

classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Among Nonbelievers (Dutch: *Onder Ongelovigen*) a 2015

English–Dutch documentary that highlighted the issue of endangered nonbelievers around the world, especially focusing on ex-Muslims. See also Non-believers: Freethinkers on the Run.

Ancestral domain (or **ancestral lands**) the territories and its resources regarded as the property of a certain religious or indigenous group, often justified either by means of longevity and originality or by religious doctrine; the concept of an ancestral domain and its intertwinement with a certain religion or belief system is misused by some governments in the national culture protection justification tool and in the national identity narrative tool often as part of a broader apparatus of recognition misuse as a means of inhibiting citizens' religious freedoms to convert to non-traditional faiths.

Andorra, freedom of religion or belief in. conditions for religious freedom in Andorra mirror those of most other Western European countries as the government broadly

respects this right; however, the Catholic Church does benefit from state privilege over all other faith groups and there remains no official mosque for the country's 2,000 Muslims; presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition

Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro (1921-2000), Portuguese lawyer and the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief appointed in March 1986 until 1993; was succeeded in the post by Abdelfattah Amor.

Angola, freedom of religion or belief in. although the government generally upholds the right to religious freedom for its citizens, there exists numerous institutional hurdles for religious groups to gain legal registration status; membership quotas, signature quotas and segmentation are imposed to perpetuate restrictions on new religious groups attempting to register; presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Anguilla, freedom of religion or belief in. the right of religious freedom is broadly upheld in the government of Anguilla; non-

percolative recognition is in effect, meaning that UK law on religious activity is not applied in Anguilla as it is a self-governing British overseas territory.

Ani Sarkissian (born 1973), American associate professor of Armenian descent known for her various works and contributions on the topic of freedom of religion or belief, especially government restrictions of religious activity.

Annualisation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of government policy that stipulates the need for religious groups to pay an annual fee to maintain their legal registration (applied in Paraguay) as contrasted with the widespread practice of imposing a one-time fee for registration.

Anti-Astronism discrimination, hostility, persecution or prejudice directed towards Astronists. See also *astrophobia*.

Anti-Catholicism hatred of or prejudice directed against the Roman Catholic Church, its clergy or its lay members; **anti-Catholic sentiment** has fluctuated throughout the Church's long history, seeing a particularly increase

during and as a consequence of the Protestant Reformation, especially in England, Prussia, Scotland, and United States; the Counter-Reformation was established by the Church to combat these various Protestant uprisings who referred to Catholics as papists; much anti-Catholic sentiment has transmitted into other forms of prejudice and discrimination, namely anti-Irish sentiment, Hispanophobia and anti-Polish sentiment.

Anti-clericalism opposition to the imposition of religious authority, especially with regards to the Roman Catholic Church, either generally or in specific social and political discourses, especially in a state enshrined by the principle of the separation of church and state.

Anti-cult movement 1 (*abbreviated ACM*; or **the countercult movement**) aversion to, hatred for or prejudice against new religious movements, often adopting the technique of weaponising the word 'cult' to stigmatise and marginalise new groups with unjust cause. See also religious bigotry.

2 *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a narrative tool that is adopted by some governments as a

means to justify their actions in restricting certain religious groups which they deem as cults; this narrative has been particularly spearheaded by the Russian government in their assault on religious freedoms, particularly those groups which they deem as being cults. See also anti-extremism movement.

Antidisestablishmentarianism a movement to end the status of an established state Church. Contrasted with disestablishmentarianism.

Anti-Eastern Orthodox sentiment aversion to or hostility directed towards any branch of an Eastern Orthodox church or its members.

Anti-extremism movement
Cometanian freedom of religion theory
(or **anti-terrorism movement**) a narrative tool adopted by some governments as a means to restrict non-traditional, minority, or foreign religions by deeming them as extremists or terrorists. See also anti-cult movement.

Anti-Falun Gong the ongoing campaign lead by the Communist Party of China to eradicate Falun Gong and its practitioners; methods employed to meet this goal include

forced labour, torture, baseless arrests, and re-education. See also Uighur persecution.

Antigua and Barbuda, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is broadly upheld by the government in Antigua and Barbuda though dormant laws on blasphemy do exist and there are a lack of provisions for existential recognition; presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Anti-Hindu sentiment (or **Hinduphobia**) negative views or opinions expressed against practitioners of Hinduism.

Anti-Jehovah's Witness discrimination, hostility, persecution or prejudice directed against members of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Anti-Judaism total or partial opposition to Judaism, its beliefs and practices at the interpersonal, local or national level, especially practiced by those of a different belief system or by former Jews. Not to be confused with antisemitism.

Anti-minority sentiment *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* hostility to or prejudice against members of a

religious minority. See also anti-NRM sentiment.

Anti-Mormonism discrimination, hostility, persecution or prejudice directed against members of the Latter-Day Saint movement.

Anti-Neopaganism prejudice or hatred directed towards neopagans of any denomination, often involving stigmatisation, unjust accusation of being cultists, discrimination and in more extreme cases, forced conversion and violence may be inflicted.

Anti-NRM sentiment *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **anti-diversity sentiment**) hostility to or prejudice against members of new religious movements (NRMs); this often manifests in views held either by a majority or significant minority of the public that, for example, all NRMs are cults or that members of NRMs are brainwashed. See also anti-minority sentiment.

Anti-Oriental Orthodox sentiment aversion to or hostility directed towards any branch of an Oriental Orthodox church or its members; such sentiment is widespread against those belonging to members of the Coptic Church, the Armenian

Apostolic Church and Assyrian Christians.

Anti-Protestantism (or **anti-Protestant sentiment**) aversion to or hostility directed towards any branches of Protestantism or its followers.

Anti-Rastafarianism contemporary instances of discrimination directed towards those self-identifying with the Rastafari movement typically centre on the topic of the spiritual use of cannabis; some members regard the widespread illegality of cannabis as evidence of discrimination of Rastafarians.

Antisemitism (also stylised as **anti-semitism**, **anti-Semitism**) hostility or prejudice directed towards Jews based on their racial identity. Not to be confused with anti-Judaism.

Anti-Shi'ism hatred of or prejudice directed towards Shia Muslims on the basis of their practicing of the Shia branch of Islam.

Anti-Sunnism hatred of or prejudice directed towards Sunni Muslims on the basis of their practicing of the Sunni branch of Islam.

Antitheism (also hyphenated as **anti-theism**) opposition to theism, or the worship of any deity, especially in public or state contexts.

Anti-Zoroastrianism hatred of or prejudice directed against those of the Zoroastrian religion, a group that has seen persecution of its members throughout its long history; contemporarily, Zoroastrians the highest degrees of discrimination and stigmatisation in Iran and India, the countries where the vast majority of Zoroastrians live.

Anurima Bhargava incumbent Vice Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Apathy *Cometanac freedom of religion theory* (or **positive apathy**) a classification in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition characterised by its lack of a recognition system despite having an established system for registration; despite freedom of religion or belief being widely upheld by states in this classification, recognitionist thought finds this offhand approach to result in a lack of state provisions for services that effect or otherwise involve religious or philosophical belief and also inhibits the state

from creating a culture or atmosphere that encourages new movements to form; apathy succeeds ambiguity yet precedes receptivity.

Apostasy (**aponism** in *Astronism*, **parinism** in *Astronism*, **irtidād** in *Astronism*, historically **riddah** in *Islam*) the act of an individual or group of no longer identifying with or as otherwise abandoning a series of beliefs and practices that come to form a religion or denomination, an act that is heavily restricted in many countries; the choice to change religion or to have no religion is enshrined in the most fundamental tenets of human rights law yet many countries ban apostasy either by death (e.g. Brunei, Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia), by imprisonment (e.g. Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Oman, Syria, Yemen), or by limiting their marital and inheritance rights (e.g. Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan).

Apostasy laws the body of laws in a country that punish, to varying degrees, one's conversion from a certain religion or denomination to another; this is not to be confused with conversion laws which regulate all types of religious conversions while apostasy laws are specifically applied to persons leaving a certain religion, typically one that is the

state religion while conversion to that religion often goes without regulation. See also conversion laws.

Apostate (*antecedist* in *Astronism*, **aponist** in *Astronism*, **defector**, **discarder** in **Astronism**, **formerist** in *Astronism*, **heretic**, **infidel**, **kafir** in *Islam*, **murtad** in *Islam*, **nāqezīn** in *Bahá'í Faith*, **ūrthika** in *Buddhism*) a person who leaves a belief system.

Apparatus of recognition

Cometanian freedom of religion theory (also **recognitory apparatus**, **recognitory mechanism**, **religious recognition apparatus**, **religious recognition mechanism**) the set of policies, laws, systems, and tools at the disposal of government for recognising religion, religious organisations, and religious communities.

Appropriate regulation *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (or **just regulation**) acts of controlling certain forms of religious activity without the intention to unjustly restrict and through means that cause as little hindrance as possible, especially in the context in which one person's activities impede the freedoms of others. Contrasted with inappropriate regulation.

Arab Charter on Human Rights

(*abbreviated ACHR*) the convention espoused by the League of Arab States in 2004 that claims to affirm the principles contained in the UN Charter and those of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Bill of Human Rights, but the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2008 regarded it as incompatibility with the United Nations' conception of the universal human rights, particularly as they relate to women's rights and capital punishment children; in addition to this, concerns have been raised regarding how freedom of religion or belief is interpreted by Islamic countries as different from the religious freedom espoused in the documentation of the United Nations.

Argentina, freedom of religion or belief in.

religious freedom is provided for in the Argentinian constitution and this right is broadly upheld in practice; however, the Catholic Church does have state privilege and there is discrimination in the registration procedures against non-Catholic groups; presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Armenia, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is provided for in the Armenian constitution although this is not broadly upheld in practice, especially for minority groups; restrictions are imposed on registration procedures and subjective language is also used to give the government scope to baselessly deny religious groups from registering; the Armenian Apostolic Church, although not the state denomination, does have state privilege; the country is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights a stipulation of the provision of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, a convention to which the 47 states of the Council of Europe are parties and is the primary article invoked to deal with violations of freedom of religion or belief.

Article X of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (French: *Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen de 1789*) that part of the 1789 convention following on from the French Revolution that stipulates the human rights of all French citizens, principal

among them is the freedom of religious opinion.

Artsakh, freedom of religion or belief in. (or freedom of religion or belief in Nagorno-Karabakh) the right to religious freedom has been undermined by ongoing political instability and the recent 2020 conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over control of the region; discrimination against all non-Apostolic Church denominations exists in the registration process and state privilege is bestowed to the Armenian Apostolic Church in the region; currently classified as censorious by way of Azerbaijan's classification in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Aruba, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedoms are broadly upheld in this Dutch territory though non-percolative recognition is in effect which means that Dutch laws on religious recognition do not apply in Aruba; the territory is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (*abbreviated AHRD*) the 2012 treaty ratified by members

of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regarding human rights standards within their borders, point 22 of which explicitly affirms the right of all ASEAN citizens to freedom of religion or belief; the ongoing human rights violations throughout Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam have tended to undermine this convention.

Asma Jilani Jahangir (1952-2018), Pakistani human rights lawyer and the third United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief appointed in August 2004 until July 2010; preceded by Abdelfattah Amor and succeeded by Heiner Bielefeldt.

Asset-freezing *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the governmental practice of withholding the assets or wealth of either as a reduction tool applied to individuals known to have engaged in religious freedom violations, or as a restriction tool applied to religious minorities as a way of suppressing their ability to build a community or raise the living standards of their community through enterprise.

Assimilatory restriction tool
Cometanic freedom of religion theory

a type of restriction tool imposed to restrict religion through the weaponisation and false narrative of a religion overtaking a country (e.g. Christianisation, Islamisation, Judaisation).

Association law (or **religious association law**) a subset of laws on religion and belief establishing how a religious group may organise itself to receive legal character, oftentimes as a not-for-profit organisation; connected are recognition law and registration law.

Association of worship a phrase used in French legislation that denotes one of two categories of legal registration, specifically to protect a religious organisation in its conduct of religious and worship activities only rather than in commercial activities. Contrasted with cultural association.

Astronic orientation *Astronic tradition* the first-level classification of Astronic religions, split between the Astronistic, Astrological, Astrolatric, Exotheistic, Astrotheistic, and the Archaeoastronistic.

Astronic orthodoxy authorised or generally accepted theory, doctrine, or practice as part of the Astronic

tradition, especially as determined by the Astronist Institution. Contrasted with Astronic heterodoxy. (**Astronic orthodoxy-heterodoxy**) the system of authorisation developed by Cometan used to determine which religions, beliefs and practices are classifiable as Astronic. the quality of conforming to the theories, doctrines, or practices classified as Astronic by the Astronist Institution.

Astronic paradigm *Astronist cosmology* (or **Astronist paradigm**) a framework in Astronist orthodoxy that asserts principles that must then be abided by. See also Cosmos-Universe Paradigm.

Astronic philosophy the tradition of philosophy that possesses an astronomical theme, especially considering outer space observation as a source of philosophical insight.

Astronic-related *Astronic tradition adjective* resembling some degree of Astronicism, but not officially classified as part of Astronic tradition.

Astronic-related religion *Astronic tradition* a designation used by the Astronist Institution to denote a belief system that is not officially

part of the Astronic tradition as it is not entirely based on an astronomical theme, but does express some degree of astrolatric, astromantic or Astronistic elements.

Astronic religions those religions and belief systems, with origins in the Upper Palaeolithic period of the Stone Age, which are distinguished by their astronomical theme, namely involving the belief that outer space is a source of spiritual connection and existential guidance.

Astronism 1 a naturalistic religion, space-oriented philosophy, and a related political ideology founded by the British philosopher Cometan on 1st July 2013 (SAC: 52 PEC) in Lancashire, England, some elements of which, namely astronality, have been proven by archaeological evidence to hold prehistoric roots during the origins of religion itself.

Astronism gives a central role to the emotion referred to as astronality. This entails a person's spiritual and/or existential connection to the astronomical world, perceived through a separable religious and philosophical system, both underpinned by a cosmocentric worldview. A cousin to both astrology and astrotheism, Astronists differ by

their focus on cultivating their connection to The Cosmos as the highest priority. Astronism traces its lineage back to the Upper Palaeolithic period of the Stone Age in Cometan's historiography of the Astronic tradition during which time Neanderthals are thought to have first linked religious ideas and beliefs to the night sky.

2 the practice of deriving one's religious, spiritual or philosophical beliefs from the astronomical world.

3 the association of religious, spiritual or philosophical systems with the astronomical world.

4 (often **astronism**) an organised system of astroncy.

5 a philosophical system concerned with the dispensation of theories on eschatological, soteriological and ethical topics involving or otherwise regarding outer space to form a branch of philosophy of cosmontology.

6 a system of thought bestowing prime importance to astronomical rather than human or divine matters.

7 (often **astronism**) the belief that the astronomical world is both a source and a receptor of human faith and existential meaning.

8 Astronist quality or character.

9 discussion and theorisation of The Cosmos and space exploration, especially to act a forum for all future debates that will take place both on and beyond the Earth regarding all aspects of the astronomical world and human space expansion.

Astrophobia dislike for or prejudice directed against Astronism or Astronists.

Australia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Australia provides for religious freedom and this right is broadly upheld in practice; the country is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition as it possesses neither for existential recognition nor legal registration with only tax-exempt status given as a semblance of recognition; percolative recognition is in effect for the external territories of Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island which means that Australian law on

religion and religious recognition applies to those territories also.

Austria, freedom of religion or belief in. although freedom of religion or belief is provided for by Austria's constitution and is generally upheld in practice by the government and respected among the public, smaller "non-traditional" religions are discriminated against; there exists a convoluted registration system that applies vertical recognition to the detriment of minorities and NRMs; membership quotas and longevity quotas are in effect to make registration onerous; the country is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Authentic proclamation of freedom *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **true claim to freedom of religion and belief**) a government's claim that it upholds and protects freedom of religion and belief for all its citizens and its subsequent fulfilment of all aspects of this right in practice. Contrasted with false proclamation of freedom.

Authenticism *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the notion that a society that truly upholds values of religious freedom allows for the

authentic and genuine adherence to a religion rather than forced conversion and dishonest belief in a religion.

Auto-da-fé (meaning **act of faith**) the condemnation of heretics and apostates imposed by the Spanish, Portuguese and Mexican Inquisitions during the 15th to the 19th centuries as was enforced by civil authorities, the most extreme variants of which included being burnt alive.

Azerbaijan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Azerbaijani government maintains a system of laws for the restriction of religious activity and there are fluctuating reports of brute force being used in order to ensure these restrictions remain imposed; mandatory registration, weaponisation of terms, the banning of proselytism and the censoring of religious literature make the situation for religious freedom in Azerbaijan somewhat dire; the country is currently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

B

Bahamas, The, freedom of religion or belief in. provisions for religious freedom set out in the constitution are broadly upheld in practice by the government and respected in society; dormant laws exist and a nationwide ban on the practice of Obeah remain concerns; the country is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Bahrain, freedom of religion or belief in. the right to religious freedom, despite being declared in the constitution, is not upheld; religious activities, especially non-Islamic activities, are confined to state designated spaces while the retributions of fines and imprisonment are imposed on unregistered groups; mandatory registration is imposed as are intrusive stipulations for registration; Islam is the state religion; the country is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Bangladesh, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is

claimed in the Constitution of Bangladesh and this right is generally, though by no means broadly, upheld by the government; Islam is the state religion despite secular laws governing much of the country's affairs; intrusive informational requirements on imposed on religious groups seeking registration and registration is mandatory for all groups; the country is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Barbados, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is provided for in the Barbadian constitution and this right is broadly upheld by the government although unstructure exists which has caused a lack of provisions for existential recognition; the country is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Belarus, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is claimed in the Constitution of Belarus, however, the government does not uphold this right in practice; mandatory registration is imposed, proselytism is heavily restricted, and censorship of religious materials is widespread; government intervention in the

internal affairs of religious organisations is commonplace; the country is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Belgium, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is declared in the Constitution of Belgium and the government generally upholds this right in practice; however, there exists numerous issues within the Belgian recognition system, namely that it remains heavily reliant upon legislative precedents and that federal decisions on religious recognition are politicised; additionally, membership quotas are imposed on groups seeking recognition; Anglicanism, Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, Orthodox Christianity, Protestantism and secular humanism are officially recognised belief systems in Belgium; the country is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Belief identity (also **philosophical identity, religious identity, spiritual identity**) the sum total of beliefs held by person, especially as they relate to or otherwise form an integral part of their identity and

how this identity comes to associate the individual to a community.

Belief stipulation *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **stipulation of belief**) a type of restrictive precondition made by a government that to receive registration or recognition, an applicant — whether it be a belief system, denomination, community, organisation, or individual building — must subscribe to a certain belief (usually belief in a god) or a certain practice (usually worship); belief stipulations by governments are based on that government's conception of what religion or belief means and what it "should" entail; as such, these types of preconditions are fairly widespread in recognition and registration systems worldwide; their principal issue is that they discount any groups which do not hold to these stipulated beliefs and practices, often to say that such groups do not constitute "religion." See also advancement of religion.

Belize, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Belize declares freedom of religion or belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government; some unstructure exists within the recognition system leading to a lack

of provisions for existential recognition in contrast to provisions established for legal registration; the rule of mandatory registration automatically makes Belize restrictive which is not helped by the country's relatively high fee for registration; the country is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Benin, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Benin claims religious freedom for citizens and this right is generally upheld in practice, however, the rule of mandatory registration for religious groups gives the country automatic classification as restrictive in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs an American research centre founded in 2006 and located at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. concerned with the interdisciplinary study of religion, ethics and politics.

Bermuda, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is claimed in the Constitution of Bermuda and this right is broadly upheld in practiced; non-percolative recognition is in effect for this British Overseas Territory; its current

classification in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition is apathetic due to a lack of provisions for existential recognition.

Bhutan, freedom of religion or belief in. although the Bhutanese constitution provides for religious freedom, this right is inconsistently upheld in practice; various restrictions are imposed on non-Buddhist activity including the imposition of the confinement restriction tool, mandatory registration, intrusive informational requirements during registration procedures and non-Buddhist proselytism is prohibited; subjective language is used throughout legislation on religion and belief which provides the government with broad scope to restrict religious activity that to international standards would be seen as reasonable; Mahayana Buddhism is the state denomination creating a situation of partial recognition; Bhutan is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Bielefeldt provision Heiner Bielefeldt's recommendation that there should not exist mandatory registration in order for a belief group to merely exist and conduct

non-commercial religious activity; it is conceded that stipulatory registration is reasonable if a group intends to engage in commercial and legal activities. See also mandatory registration. Contrasted with stipulatory registration.

Bilateral cooperation agreement

Cometaninc freedom of religion theory

a type of agreement available in some countries in which a government and a religious organisation or denomination establish closer terms of engagement with each other, especially on matters of mutual interest; Spain offers these types of agreements to long-established denominations for example; although bilateral cooperation agreements are often taken by recipient denominations as an indirect form of official state recognition, they do not necessarily equate to this.

Blasphemous libel a criminal offence in Northern Ireland that charges those found guilty of publishing materials imposing scurrility, vilification, ridicule or contempt on the Christian religion.

Blasphemy intentional verbal displays of contempt or disrespect for places, people, objects or

concepts regarded to a certain religious group as sacred or inviolable. See also desecration, sacrilege.

Blasphemy law legislation against blasphemy is still fairly widespread, although in many instances, blasphemy laws are often classified as dead laws or laws that are no longer enforced despite remaining on the books; however, in other instances, particularly in countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Nigeria, Somalia, Pakistan, Mauritania and Afghanistan, capital punishment for blasphemy is a very possible with more people on death row for blasphemy in Pakistan than in any other country in the world.

Blue laws (or **Sunday laws**) the category of laws restricting some or all Sunday activities for religious or secular reasons, particularly to promote the observance of a day of worship or rest.

Bolivia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Bolivia claims freedom of religion or belief and this right is generally upheld by the government; however, despite some Christian groups claiming the state favours indigenous groups, the Catholic Church maintains its state

privilege; the registration procedures established for religious groups imposed a situation of vertical recognition and segmentation within a framework of mandatory registration; subjective language is commonly used in legislation which gives the government broad scope to restrict even reasonable religious activity; excessive requirements for registration exist and the 2017 reregistration law exhibits further restrictivity for the registration process; the country is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, freedom of religion or belief in. religious freedom is claimed in the country's constitution yet this right is inconsistently upheld in practice; various restrictions are imposed on religious groups seeing registration including a system of vertical recognition, membership quotas, legislative ambiguity, and restrictions on proselytism; existential recognition is limited to only "traditional religious communities" namely Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, and the Serbian Orthodox Church; the country is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Botswana, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Botswana provides for religious freedom and this right is generally upheld in practice by the government; however, the rule of mandatory registration and the imposition of the retributions of fines and imprisonment for unregistered groups gives Botswana automatic classification as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Branches of freedom of religion or belief *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* Cometan identifies the existence of a set of distinct branches within religious freedom, each of which establish and protect different provisions; these branches include freedom of religion or belief, recognition of religion or belief, freedom of irreligion or non-belief, and organisation of religion or belief.

Brandon Reece Taylorian See Cometan.

Brazil, freedom of religion or belief in. the Brazilian constitution claims freedom of religion and belief and this right is general upheld in practice; however, the segmentation

of the registration process for religious groups makes the Brazilians system restrictive; ongoing violence and harassment especially towards Afro-Brazilian religious groups in Rio de Janeiro's favelas demonstrate an area of concern for the free practice of NRMs and alternative faiths; the country is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Brian J. Grim (born 1959), founder and president of Religious Freedom & Business Foundation.

British Virgin Islands, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Virgin Islands Constitution makes a claim to religious and belief freedom which is broadly upheld by the government; non-percolative recognition is in effect whereby UK law on religion and belief does not apply in this British Overseas Territory; the territory is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Broad practice *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* one of three positive situations for freedom of religion or belief in which a government upholds this human right consistently but only for what

are deemed "traditional" religious groups and to some minorities but to the exclusion of NRMs. Contrasted with general practice, universal practice.

Brunei, freedom of religion or belief in. despite the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam proclaiming freedom of conscience and worship, this right is not upheld in practice by the government; the state denomination is Sunni Islam and the state imposes strict interpretations of what forms of the Islamic religion it will allow; censorship of all non-Islamic religion is widespread as is government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations; criticism of Islam is criminalised as is conversion from Islam; mandatory registration is imposed with refusal to register resulting in substantial fines and terms of imprisonment; systematic violence is used in order to perpetuate these laws and restrictions on religion and belief; the country is classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Bulgaria, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Bulgaria provides for religious freedom and this right is generally

upheld in practice; state privilege is in effect in favour to the Bulgarian Orthodox Church as the “traditional religion” thus exempting it from the requirement to register in court; intrusive informational requirements are imposed for religious groups seeking registration; there were frequent reports of societal abuses and discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief or practice; the country is classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Bureaucratic restriction tool

Cometan’s freedom of religion theory (also **recognitory red tape, red tape on religion or belief**) a type of restriction tool imposed on religion that uses needless cumbersome bureaucratic systems purposefully to control and suppressive religious activity, most infamously used in China (e.g. getting permits and licenses, and receiving recognition).

Burkina Faso, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Burkina Faso claims religious freedom and this right is generally upheld in practice; some restrictions have been put in place, most concerning is the government review of religious materials; no instances of societal abuses or discrimination

based on belief have been reported; however, reports of ostracisation of women accused of being witches are concerning; the country is classified as receptive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Burundi, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Burundi makes a claim to religious freedom although the government does not universally uphold this right in practice; the government frequent monitors religious activity for signs of “political subversion”; mandatory registration of religious groups is in effect and retributions for unregistration include fines and imprisonment; particularly concerning is government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations; the country is classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.



Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (*abbreviated CDHRI*) a 1990 declaration of the member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) giving a conception of human rights through the lens of Islamic sharia law, this resulted in the declaration's failure to guarantee freedom of religion or belief as its provisions do not correspond to international human rights standards.

Cambodia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Cambodia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet the government's upholding of this right remains inconsistent; a ban on non-Buddhist proselytism, membership quotas, capacity quotas, intrusive informational requirements, and multi-level authorisation for the registration process demonstrate the Cambodian government's intention to restrict religion and belief; Buddhism is the state religion; their some reports of societal abuses and discrimination based on religious affiliation; Cambodia is classified as

restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Cameroon, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Cameroon claims to freedom of religion and belief and although government policy largely respects this right in practice, policy also restricts some parts of the registration process; particularly restrictive is the government's approach to the registration of religious groups as successful registration is dependent on presidential decree which inevitably politicises the procedure; subjective language is used in legislation to give the government ample scope to restrict religious activity that does not correspond with its definition and interpretation of religion; Cameroon is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Canada, freedom of religion or belief in. the Canadian Constitution provides for religious freedom and this right is universally practiced by the government; Canada is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Canon law the body of regulations established through ecclesiastical

authority applied in the governance of a Christian church or related organisations and their members, especially in the Catholic Church, the churches of the Anglican Communion, as well as in Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches. See also divine law.

Capacity quota *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* a type of quota imposed on a religious group which states that for places of worship to operate legally, they must reach a certain size for their congregations, an example is Cambodia's imposition of a capacity quota especially for non-Buddhist groups. See also longevity quota, membership quota, signature quota.

Cape Verde, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Cape Verde makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government; however, Cape Verde's approach to religious registration demonstrates restriction particularly the intrusive informational requirements imposed, the rule of mandatory registration for religious groups, membership quotas and subjective language used in law to perpetuate these restrictions; Cape Verde is classified as restrictive in

Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Capital punishment (also **death penalty, death sentence, execution**) the lawful state-sanctioned killing of a person as punishment for their committing of a crime; religious doctrine has been used as a means of both performing capital punishment and abolishing the practice throughout history; the punishment of death is dispensed for acts regarded as sinful in some religious texts and it is when these verses are interpreted literally that capital punishment may be conducted, particularly in theocratic countries where clerics hold significant influence over judicial decisions; while Catholicism opposes the death penalty in all instances and both Buddhism and Jainism espouse principles of non-violence and pacifism, some adherents of these faiths have historically or contemporarily engaged in acts of violence (e.g. Buddhist violence against the Rohingya, the 969 Movement, the Japanese doomsday cult Aum Shinrikyo, the Inquisition); meanwhile, Islam, the Bahá'í Faith and various Protestant and Orthodox Christian denominations continue to support the application of the death penalty in certain instances although

in many Islamic nations, charges of capital punishment are often what may be called dormant laws (laws still on the books but that are infrequently applied to their fullest extent).

Cases-Freedom correlation

Cometan freedom of religion theory the theory that even though many European countries have had and continue to have religious freedom cases is a testament to the good standard of freedom in those countries while some countries that severely restrict religious freedoms have few religious freedom cases because citizens are so scared to challenge the state (e.g. China, Saudi Arabia).

Categorisation restriction tool

Cometan freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool imposed to restrict and control religion that involves the dispensation of a label onto a religion, religious group, congregation, religious organisation or religious institution as a means to spread misinformation and a distorted public identity of the religion in question.

Additionally, this restriction tool entails the use of titles and how state religions are worded as a means of

restriction including the naming of countries as “Islamic Republic of Mauritania” for example to establish a country’s religious identity regardless of minorities.

Cause for the Expansion of Terminology in Freedom of Religion

Cometan freedom of religion theory a campaign initiated and promoted by Cometan with the central aim of alternating language and terminology used in religious freedom declarations, such as human rights conventions, in order to expand, clarify, and demarcate religion and philosophical belief/conviction, especially to become more inclusive of non-traditional religions and beliefs that often do not fit into outdated terminologies.

Cayman Islands, freedom of religion or belief in the.

the Constitution of the Cayman Islands provides for freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld in practice by the government; non-percolative recognition is in effect because UK law on religious recognition is not applied in this British Overseas Territory; the Cayman Islands is classified as apathetic in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Censoriality *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (adj. **censorial, censorious**) a classification in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition characterised by an established recognition system that possesses critical internal issues and causes significant suppressions for religious freedoms; threats of violence are frequent which, on occasion, result in violent acts perpetrated either directly by the state or by state-sanctioned entities; government intent is to suppress either all or certain manifestations of religious or philosophical belief; censoriality succeeds terminality yet precedes restrictivity.

Censorial restriction tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool imposed to restrict religion involving any instance in which information (any positive information, and including religious texts) on a religion or religious group is restricted as means to control public conceptions of what the religion consists and stands for.

Censorship of religion or belief the state-sanctioned application of methods in which citizens' expression or manifestation of religious or philosophical beliefs are

controlled or restricted to some degree, typically involving the placing of limitations on religious education or public accessibility to information about belief systems. Contrasted with religious censorship.

Census restriction tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool imposed to restrict religion involving any instance in which information (any positive information, and including religious texts) on a religion or religious group is restricted as means to control public conceptions of what the religion consists and stands for.

Center for the Study of Democracy a research institute at St. Mary's College of Maryland that deals with democracy and includes the role of religious and belief liberty in the sustainment of democracies.

Central African Republic, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Central African constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief but this right is not consistently upheld; the rule of mandatory registration creates a fixed legal framework in which religious activity may take place; membership quotas, subjective

language used in the law and retributions for unregistration act to perpetuate government control of religious activity; the Central African Republic is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Chad, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Chad makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, however, this right is not consistently upheld; the rule of mandatory registration for religious groups as enforced through retributions of group banning, fines and imprisonment for unregistration signal the Chadian government's restrictive approach to religious activity; restrictions on Muslim religious clothing, intrusive informational requirements and the use of excessive administrative requirements are further signifiers of constrained conditions; Chad is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (*abbreviated CFR*) a 2000 document enshrining various political, social and economic rights for those countries of the European Union and their citizens and residents; as part of this was establishing the standards of

human rights that countries who wish to join the European Union must uphold; provisions for freedom of religion or belief, freedom of thought and freedom of expression are all set out in the Charter.

Chile, freedom of religion or belief in. the Chilean constitution provides freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government; a degree of subjective terminology is used in the legislation which could be vulnerable to misuse by the government if not continuously monitored although Chile's overall approach to religion and belief suggest such misuse is unlikely; Chile is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; Chile is not classified dynamic in recognitionist theory because it does not possess an independent recognition agency nor does enough differentiation exist between procedures for existential recognition and legal registration.

China, freedom of religion or belief in. although freedom of religion and belief is claimed to in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has established an infamous apparatus

for absolute control of religious activity in Mainland China; the various organs of the CCP orchestrate a variety of restrictions on religion and belief including censorship of religious materials, state interpretation of religion, misuse of zoning laws, subjective language use as a means to provide justification for restrictions and mandatory registration for all religious groups and each instance of their activity; the CCP calls its restrictions on non-Han Chinese religious activity, namely the Tibetan Buddhists and Uighur Muslims, a process of Sinicisation; this censorial approach to religion and belief is typified by the country's adoption of state atheism; in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition, China is classified as terminal; exportation of these same restrictions by the CCP on religion to the territories of Hong Kong and Macau remain highly concerning.

Chinese Rites controversy a dispute among Roman Catholic missionaries during the 17th and 18th centuries over the compatibility of Confucian and Taoist ancestral worship and ritual practices with Catholic doctrine; the Jesuits argued that these rituals were of a secular nature while the Dominicans and

Franciscans asserted their belief of the religious nature of such practices and thus reported this issue to Rome; in 1939, the Holy See re-addressed the issue which led to Chinese Catholics receiving official authorisation to participate in their native Confucian practices, an authorisation was later more broadly applied during the Second Vatican Council of 1962-65.

Christian countercult movement (or **Christian anti-cult movement**) a branch of the anti-cult movement initiated by several Protestant evangelical and fundamentalist churches that oppose religious groups and organisation they deem cults, often unjustly targeting new religious movements. See also anti-cult movement.

Church tax a kind of taxation imposed by the state on the registered members of a religious community to provide financial support for their organisation; such taxes are presently imposed in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Sweden and in some cantons of Switzerland; in Portugal and Spain, paying the church tax is optional.

Circumcision although some medical benefits are claimed by its practitioners, circumcision remains largely a cultural or religious tradition, but because some religions, mainly Judaism and Islam, stipulate for male babies to be circumcised, the freedom to have one's child circumcised becomes a matter of religious liberty; in countries dominated by an irreligious fervour, circumcision is often highly restricted as was the case historically in the Soviet Union; the ongoing debate over the legality of circumcision typically centres around when circumcision can occur for non-medical reasons so as to not cause any unnecessary pain to the individual (for example, in Israel, all recipients of circumcision for religious purposes must be under the age of six months or else a medical reason is required).

Civil Constitution of the Clergy (French: **Constitution civile du clergé**) a 1790 French law causing the immediate subordination of the Catholic Church in France to the French government.

Civil liberties a series of freedoms and rights provided for and protected or claimed to be by governments that are extended to all

citizens; they include freedom of conscience, freedom of the press, freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, right to security and liberty, freedom of speech, the right to privacy, the right to equal treatment under the law and due process, the right to a fair trial, and the right to life.

Closed trial restriction tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool on religious freedoms that involves a trial of a religious figure or religious adherent that is not open to the public, nor is it published in the news.

Colombia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Colombia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld by the government; Colombia is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; Colombia is not yet dynamic according to recognitionist theory because there does not exist an independent recognition agency to manage recognition system and further differentiation between existential recognition and legal registration needs to be place in the procedures.

Cometan (born 1998; SAC: 38 PEC; sometimes **the Cometan**), British philosopher, author, religious scholar and lexicographer; founder and central figure of Astronism.

From the age of fifteen, Cometan set out on a mission to lead a revival in religious beliefs and practices based on astronomy. He professed a deep spiritual and existential connection to the astronomical world which he later developed into he called astronality, a major component of Astronism. Cometan believed that widespread enthusiasm for space exploration was best achieved through the establishment of a new culture and system of thought which he founded Astronism as the answer to. Astronism may be followed separately as a religion, philosophy, or political ideology. Cometan continues to disseminate Astronism around the world through his establishment of the Astronist Institution. His historiography of astronomy and religion lead to the recognition of the Astronic tradition, a tradition of religion with prehistoric origins and to which Astronism, astrology, astrotheism and astrolatry belong. Notable works of Cometan include the Omnidoxy, the Astrodoxy, amongst others.

Cometan accords *Cometan freedom of religion theory* a series of principles written by Cometan to establish standards for what a dynamic recognition system should constitute.

Cometan freedom of religion theory (also **Astronist freedom of religion theory**, **Cometan theory on freedom of religion or belief**) the branch of the Astronist philosophy of religion dealing with the theories, concepts, discourses and broader literature of Cometan concerning freedom of religion and belief, namely the dynamics of religious freedom, religious recognition theory, and contemporary issues regarding the improvement of religious freedom conditions around the world.

Commercial restriction tool

Cometan freedom of religion theory a classification of restriction tools imposed to control religious activity that involves the restricting of marketing and advertising religious products, services, and beliefs as a way of subjugating religious liberty.

Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (or **CRL Rights Commission**) an independent

institution of South Africa established “to promote respect for and further the protection of the rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities.”

Communal recognition *Cometan* *freedom of religion theory* one of four levels of recognition manifesting as state recognition of communities that are formed on the basis of their shared belief identities. Contrasted with individual recognition, institutional recognition, parochial recognition. See also belief identity, levels of recognition.

Comoros, freedom of religion or belief in the. the provisions for freedom of religion and belief in the Constitution of the Comoros are not consistent with international human rights standards; criminalisation of non-Sunni proselytism and no procedures for the recognition or registration of any other denominations of Islam or any non-Islamic religion are evidential of the Comoran government’s aversion to the free expression and diversity of religious belief; Sunni Islam is the state denomination; the Comoros is classified as terminal in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Concordat a convention established between the Holy See and a sovereign state that describes and defines the relationship between the Catholic Church and the state, such as the recognition status and bestowed privileges of the Catholic Church in the country. See also entrocacal.

Confessional community a group of people identified as sharing similar religious or philosophical beliefs despite lack of accuracy of such an amalgamation, especially when so regarded by an external organisation or government.

Confessionalism the proportional distribution of political power among certain designated religious communities, a form of governance practiced to a degree in Lebanon; this term is to be specifically applied to countries in which only two religious groups are part of this agreement. Not to be confused with confessional state. See also multiconfessionalism.

Confessional state a type of nation state or system of government that official espouses a certain religion or denomination and promotes this among its citizens. See also state religion.

Confinement *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool imposed by some governments in which a religious or belief denomination or organisation is prohibited from conducting activities beyond the designated areas it has been prescribed by the state; this can range from conducting activities only within specific buildings or it may extend to whole portions of a country that a group is banned from conducting activities in.

Congo, Democratic Republic of the, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Congolese constitution claims to freedom of religion and belief yet the government's policies regarding religious registration contravene this right; the imposition of mandatory registration on all religious groups violates the Bielefeldt provision and the retributions of fines and imprisonment applied for unregistration are not in alignment with international standards of religious freedom; therefore, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Congo, Republic of the, freedom of religion or belief in the. the

Congolese constitution claims to freedom of religion and belief but violations of this right are frequently enacted by the government especially in the context of religious registration; restrictions include the imposition of mandatory registration on all religious groups, the prohibition of certain religious clothing, particularly to effect Muslim women, and the application of retributions like fines, confiscation of property, imprisonment and deportation for those engaging in unregistered religious activity; the Republic of the Congo is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Conscience advocacy *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the act of sponsoring a prisoner of conscience, especially by a religious freedom commissioner, religious freedom advocate, a public figure, or as part of a programme set up whereby members of the general public can sponsor a prisoner of conscience to petition for their freedom.

Constitutional references to God inferences to belief in monotheism are existent in various national constitutions, commonly in the preamble to form the general

religious character or orientation of a country.

Conscientious objection as a justification tactic *Cometanic*

freedom of religion theory the issue of conscientious objection on the basis of religious belief is used as a justification tool by some governments as a means to restrict certain religions which are considered either treasonous or as threats to national security, cases include in Russia and Armenia.

Constitutional guarantee

Cometanic freedom of religion theory a claim to freedom of religion or belief made in the vast majority of national constitutions; the degree to which this freedom is upheld can vary considerably from how it is described in the constitution. See also false claim.

Constitutionality *Cometanic*

freedom of religion theory the composition of a country's constitution as it relates to human rights provision especially as to whether this corresponds with government actions in upholding those rights. Contrasted with practice.

Containmentism *Cometanic*

freedom of religion theory the process or tactic of containing a religion or belief system within a certain geographic area or within a people group by restricting its activities outside that confined population or area.

Conventicle Acts (Sweden:

Konventikelplakatet) a Swedish law in effect between 21st January 1726 and 26th October 1858 in Sweden and until 1st July 1870 in Finland outlawing all conventicles (secret meetings of nonconformists).

Conversion laws the body of often repressive laws in a country that regulate religious conversion to varying degrees with penalties manifesting as additional taxations, loss of inheritance or child custody, fines, imprisonment and in some extreme cases, capital punishment; in countries where conversion laws are enforced, individuals exercising their right to change their religion are often labelled as “blasphemers.” See also apostasy laws.

Conversion narrative a

biographical story of one's conversion to a religion or belief system, often used as a means to encourage others to convert.

Cook Islands, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Constitution of the Cook Islands claims to freedom of religion and belief and this is generally upheld in practice; however, the Cook Islands is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition and non-percolative recognition is applied because New Zealander laws on religious recognition are not in effect in the Cook Islands due to its autonomy.

Costa Rica, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Costa Rica claims to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally respected in practice; Catholicism is the state denomination which means there is a situation of partial recognition in effect; Costa Rica is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Côte d'Ivoire, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire (also stylised as Ivory Coast) provides for freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government yet inconsistently upheld by the public; the rule of mandatory registration is in effect which violates the Bielefeldt provision; Côte d'Ivoire is classified

as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Counterspeech *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* the act of combatting hate speech, especially through online platforms, by addressing or responding to the hate speech by authoritative individuals in the field as a means to show the inauthenticity of the hate speech disseminator.

Countries of Particular Concern (abbreviated CPC) a designation applied by the United States Secretary of State to those countries regarded as engaging in systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of freedom of religion or belief, such perpetrations include torture or inhumane treatment or punishments, prolonged detention without charges, and causing the disappearance of persons by means of abduction or clandestine detention; as of 2021, countries so designated include China, Eritrea, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Vietnam; together these countries total over 3.7 billion people. See also Entities of Particular Concern, State Department's Special Watch List.

Crimes against humanity acts of extreme, systemic and widespread violence conducted by a state or non-state entity, either in times of peace or war; many crimes against humanity have been conducted with undertones of religious persecution or with direct purpose to achieve such, examples include genocides of people groups based on their difference in ethnicity and religious affiliation.

Croatia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Croatia provides for freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government; a few issues currently persist within the Croatian recognition system including exclusionary restriction tool, intrusive informational requirements, partial recognition due to the state privilege bestowed to the Catholic Church and membership quotas; Croatia is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Cuba, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Cuba makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief as the Cuban Communist Party (CCP), through its Office of Religious Affairs (ORA) and

the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), control most aspects of religious activity and intervene in the internal affairs of religious organisations; the Cuban government's approach to religion and belief is evidenced through its legal framework dealing with religious registration; restrictions in place include mandatory registration, proselytism is prohibited, distribution and importation of religious materials is restricted and retributions for unregistration of groups and each of the activities of those groups include fines and imprisonment; state atheism is in effect in Cuba to epitomise the anti-religious atmosphere; Cuba is classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Cuius region, eius religio (English: **whose realm, their religion**) a Latin phrase of the 16th century denoting the legal principle that individual nation states should be free to choose the religion to which their country's collective identity was associated (i.e. the religion of the ruler), yet continued to omit the concept of religious freedoms granted to individual citizens.

Cultural assimilation the process by which a minority group or culture

comes to approximate a society's majority group, including the assumption of their values, behaviours and beliefs. See also religious assimilation.

Cultural association a phrase used in French legislation and in other countries for a category of legal registration that recognises an organisation's capacity to conduct commercial activities, either for profit or nonprofit; cultural associations can be secular or religious while associations of worship, which is another category used in French legislation, are exclusively religious. Contrasted with association of worship.

Curaçao, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Curaçao provides for freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government; non-percolative recognition is in effect due to Dutch law on religious recognition not in application to the territory of Curaçao; Curaçao is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Customs restriction tool

Cometan freedom of religion theory
a type of restriction tool in which import and export customs and

tariffs are imposed on religious goods for the sole purpose, either directly stated or implied, of restricting religious activity.

Cyprus, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Cyprus makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government in practice; however, a situation of partial recognition is in effect in Cyprus; Cyprus is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; according to recognitionist theory, Cyprus is closely to being classified as dynamic although to reach that status a recognition agency independent of the government would need to be established and issues with the equality of religions within the present recognition system need to also be resolved.

Czechia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Czechia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice; however, issues persist in the recognition system pertaining to the existence of vertical recognition and the imposition of membership quotas; these restrictive issues alongside the fact that Czechia has yet to establish

a recognition agency independent of government mean that recognition theory does not regard Czechia as dynamic; instead, Czechia is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

D

Dead law *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a law that restricted religion or broke international religious freedom standards, but has since been repealed and therefore does not any longer hold the potential to be enforced which distinguishes it from a dormant law. See also dormant law, eventuality law, retrofitted law.

Deathbed conversion a situational type of religious conversion in which a person converts to a religion just prior to their death. See also forced conversion, marital conversion, secondary conversion.

Deceptive law restriction tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a restriction tool imposed by some governments in which seemingly neutral, reasonable laws are established but are not applied neutrally or are not applied in the reasonable way that a reasonable nation would consider them to be applicable to, often to the detriment of targeted religious minorities. For

example, an excessively broad definition of extremism is even applied to pacifist Jehovah's Witnesses as an abuse of extremism law which is a deceptive law restriction tool.

Declaration *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **declaratory implementation**) a function of a recognition agency in which it has the capacity to make authoritative public decisions regarding the affairs of religious recognition with equal authority to the government in this specific field. See also implementation, recommendation.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (*abbreviated UNDRIP, DOTROIP*) a 2007 non-legally binding resolution passed by the United Nations that defines the individual and collective rights, including those relating to identity with freedom of religion or belief forming an important aspect of such an identity.

Deconversion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*past participle deconverted; present participle deconverting*) the forced reconversion of a person back to their original religion, especially by a government or as a result of social

pressure to reconvert, and is therefore distinguished from the term reversion itself which denotes voluntary reversion to one's original religious identity.

De facto discrimination *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (or **non-state discrimination**) prejudice and hostility towards a religious group that emanates from members of the public rather than from government, especially if the government is active in its attempts to reduce such discrimination.

De facto state religion *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (or **de facto state denomination**) a rare phenomenon in which a province within a country declares its affiliation with a particular religion or denomination; a recent example of this can be seen in some states in Nigeria. Not to be confused with state religion.

Definitional weaponisation

Cometanin freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool used to restrict or control religion through the false usage of terms, such as cult, extremism, fundamentalism, radical, fanatical, and terrorism; this restriction tool also includes the narrowing of the definition of

religion itself as way to weaponise the term so that a government's definition of what a religion is excludes certain groups that it does not wish to grant recognition.

Delhi Sikh Gurdwaras Act of 1971 a piece of Indian legislation that determined the management of Sikh houses of worship in the Delhi Union Territory as a follow up to the 1925 legislation and was more stringent in that sense that it required any Sikhs voting for the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee be baptised Sikhs to the exclusion of Sikhs with shorn hair or to the sahadhari. See also Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925.

Demography of religious freedom

Cometanin freedom of religion theory (or **demographics of religious freedom**) the study of the statistical dimensions of freedom of religion, namely the total populations suffering from different levels of religious restriction or freedom violation.

Denmark, freedom of religion or belief in. the Danish constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government; although the state denomination of Lutheranism does

not impede on the religious freedoms of citizens, it does create a situation of partial recognition for all other religious groups; the present recognition system also applies vertical recognition there are membership quotas in place which further restrict the registration process; percolative recognition is in effect for the Danish territories of Greenland and the Faroe Islands; Denmark is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Denominational infusion

Cometan's freedom of religion theory (also **infusionism**, **infusionist approach**) an approach to or style of language when discussing issues of religious freedom that entails the use of theological or denomination-specific language, or the infusion of religious beliefs and concepts into secular discussions on the topic of freedom of religion.

Deprogramming restriction tool

Cometan's freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool that misuses psychiatry and other means of detachment to force individuals from their belief systems and religious communities as is being currently used against the Uighur Muslims of Xinjiang by Chinese authorities.

Derecognition *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **derecognitory state**) the status of a religion or religious group of being unrecognised by the government despite having previously gained recognition. See also disrecognition, false recognition, hyper-recognition, misrecognition, non-recognition, recognition.

Deregistration *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the instance of a government deciding to revoke the registered or recognised status of a religious group, often on baseless accusations. See also reregistration.

Deregulation of religion *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the enactment of laws that reduce or otherwise remove regulations and restrictions on religious and belief activity within a jurisdiction.

Derivatives *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* those components of religion or belief deriving from a belief system, namely its associated denominations, organisations and communities, all of which should be subject to existential recognition according to recognitionist theory rather than merely legal registration.

Desecration the physical mistreatment of those places, objects, people, or concepts regarded as sacred in any one religion; instances of state-sanctioned desecration are often part of a broader campaign of persecution. See also blasphemy, religious persecution, sacrilege.

Desecrative restriction tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool imposed to restrict religion through the justification of desecration, often masked as to linked to decoration (e.g. the demolition of churches in China), or as satire (some instances of which are not critical of religion, but are disrespectful).

Differentiation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj.*

differentiative) the fact or process of a country making its procedures for recognising and registering religion or belief distinct from each other as a way of acknowledging the differences between what these two procedures entail namely recognition encompasses an existential form of recognition while registration encompasses a legal form; differentiation is the preferred scenario according to recognitionist

theory. Contrasted with amalgamation.

Digital recognition of religion

Cometanic freedom of religion theory the forms of recognising religious communities and belief systems and their related organisations and institutions in digital spheres such as on social media platforms. Contrasted with digital restriction of religion.

Digital restriction of religion

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or **religious internet restrictions**) a broad collection of restriction tools, policies, and mechanisms at the disposal of the state to restrict the practicing, learning, or engaging with religion or belief systems online. Contrasted with digital recognition of religion.

Disconnection *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the instance in

which a country's state religion does not reflect or resemble the belief identities of the majority of the citizens; many reasons exist as to why a country may continue to hold onto a state religion despite not believing in that state religion, many such reasons gravitate around the concept of national and cultural identity and in some more

oppressive countries, the concept of social harmony and national security.

Discretionality *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the status, fact or quality of a government that does not require a religion or individual religious group to register with a government official in order to exist or otherwise legally operate in their country. Contrasted with impositionality.

Disestablishment the removal of a belief system or denomination as a country's state religion, either as part of the secularisation of that country or to establish another belief system. Contrasted with establishment.

Disestablishmentarianism a movement to end the status of the Church of England as the established church of the United Kingdom. Contrasted with antidisestablishmentarianism.

Disintegration *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the decline of a country's conditions for freedom of religion or belief, especially if they had previously been favourable.

Dismantlement *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the process of removing the restrictive elements of a recognition system; this process denotes a government actively taking the steps to disintegrate its systems, procedures and mechanisms for restricting or otherwise unjustly controlling religious and belief activity which in turn would allow that country to move up the Spectrum of Religious Recognition as its restrictions on religion or belief were gradually lifted. Not to be confused with disestablishment. Disestablishment often forms just one part of the broader process of dismantlement.

Disrecognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **disrecognitionary state**) the status of a religion or religious group having been denied recognition by a government. See also derecognition, false recognition, hyper-recognition, misrecognition, non-recognition, recognition.

Dissemination *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (v. **disseminate**) the spreading of information about religion and philosophy, or about specific beliefs, practices and belief systems, either by an individual or by an organisation; this information

can either be bias, neutral or critical. Contrasted with proselytism.

Dissenter Acts (Swedish: **Dissenterlagarna**) a set of laws enacted by the Kingdom of Sweden allowing nonconformists to leave the established Church of Sweden for state-approved denominations.

Divine law any body of laws regarded as originating from God or gods, or from the will of God as contrasted with man-made or secular bodies of laws. See also canon law, religious law.

Divine right of kings (also **divine right, God's mandate**) a political and religious pronouncement that a monarch's was chosen to rule by God and that their soul is submitted to the supreme deity, often used in the Middle Ages as a means of maintaining a situation of absolute monarchy; in such cases, a monarch is not accountable to any earthly authority, but instead rules by their active relationship with divine authority. See also mandate of heaven, theocracy.

Djibouti, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Djibouti makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief although this

right is not consistently upheld in practice; particularly emblematic of the government's censorial approach to religion and belief is its imposition of rules of mandatory registration, contracts of reregistration, the criminalisation of proselytism and the use of subjective language in the law to give the government broad scope to perpetuate these restrictions while still remaining constitutional; Islam is the state religion; Djibouti is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Dogwhistling *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the practice whereby a government uses coded or suggestive language to target a specific religious community, especially as a means of either disenfranchising them or as a way of favouring one religious community over all others.

Dominica, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Dominica makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government; a relatively small degree of subjective language is used in the legislation which could, but is not likely, to be misused by the government to restrict reasonable

religious activity; also, partial stipulatory registration is in effect; Dominica is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Dominican Republic, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Constitution of the Dominican Republic makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government; however, a situation of partial recognition is in effect due to the state denomination being Catholicism and there exists restrictions in the registration process; the Dominican Republic is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Dormant law *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a law that restricts religion or breaks international religious freedom standards, but is not enforced or cannot practically be enforced yet it remains part of the established legislation whereby it still has the potential to be invoked which distinguishes it from a dead law. See also dead law, eventuality law, retrofitted law.

Down-ranking *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **de-prioritising**) a kind of de-platforming or

gatekeeping in which a religious group's activities on social media are purposefully suppressed by government agencies or by the social media company itself due to their lack of recognition in a country.

Dratshang Lhentshog (English: **Commission for the Monastic Affairs of Bhutan**) that part of the Bhutanese government that oversees the country's state denomination Drukpa Kagyu, a form of Tibetan Buddhism.

Durham principles a series of fifteen principles established by Professor Cole Durham Jr. that address what is and is not appropriate for process of recognising and registering religion or belief. See also Bielefeldt provision.

Dwight Bashir incumbent Director of Outreach and Policy of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Dynamisation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the process by which a country's recognition system comes to approximate the conditions for being classified as dynamic in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Dynamisational *Cometanian freedom of religion theory (adv.*

dynamisationally) *adjective* relating to the process of dynamisation.

Dynamism *Cometanian freedom of religion theory (also **dynamicity**, **systemic dynamism**)* a classification in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition characterised as the highest condition of a recognition system due to its adaptability and capacity to recognise at multiple levels (systemic, communal and individual) as well to register at both the organisational and parochial levels without discrimination between new and older belief systems and few persistent internal issues; dynamism succeeds receptivity.

E

East Timor, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of East Timor (also stylised as Timor-Leste) makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government in practice; some minor administrative restrictions exist such as two-step verification process and also unstructure persists; East Timor is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Ectopolitical *Cometan's freedom of religion theory adjective* relating to the quality of freedom of religion or belief and other fundamental human rights existing beyond the realm of politics, especially in such a way that political activity or related turmoil does not come to effect the maintenance of these rights.

Ectopolitically *Cometan's freedom of religion theory adverb* in a way that transcends or is otherwise separate from political affairs, especially in relation to the provision of fundamental human rights.

Ectopolitics *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the provision of human rights in international law, especially when these are seen to transcend political and governmental activity.

Ecuador, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Ecuador makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by government policy in practice; however, numerous issues with the recognition system persist, namely the rule of mandatory registration, the use of ambiguous language throughout legislation, and a system of vertical recognition is also in effect; the Catholic Church has state privilege which also creates a situation of partial recognition; Ecuador is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Edict of Milan the 313 AD Roman edict agreeing to the benevolent treatment of Christians as a follow on from the Edict of Serdica two years prior; it was agreed to by Constantine I and Emperor Licinius met in Milan to devise the pronouncement.

Edict of Serdica (or **Edict of Toleration by Galerius**) a 311 AD Roman edict that officially ended the persecution of Christians (called the Great Persecution) and granted the religion recognition and acceptance as a legitimate form of worship in the Roman Empire; it was issued by Roman Emperor Galerius in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Edict of toleration *historical* a pronouncement made by a government or ruler in which members of a certain religion or philosophy are permitted to practice and manifest their beliefs with the assurance that they will not face persecution from the state; the first edict of toleration on record is that of 539 BCE in which Cyrus the Great declared the Marduk cult as protected and that Jewish temples should be restored; an edict of toleration is exactly as it sounds – toleration of a religion rather than acceptance, embracement or recognition of it; the authenticity of many such declarations throughout history can be easily disputed as insincere, often due to the fact that such pronouncements have been made due to political leverage rather than genuine adherence to the principles of religious freedom. See also protected religion.

Edict of Toleration a 1844 edict of the Ottoman Empire that promised to cease the execution of apostates from Islam.

Egypt, freedom of religion or belief in. although the Egyptian Constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, this right is not upheld by the government in practice; widespread government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations and ongoing issues of discrimination based on belief in the society itself create an undesirable situation for religious freedom in this Arab state; restrictions include censorship of religious literature, nationwide bans on some denominations, such as the Baha'i Faith and Jehovah's Witnesses, and the politicisation of the religious registration process; epitomising this restriction is the government's designation of Islam as the state religion which creates a metaphorical veil over the country to the existential detriment of minorities; to a lesser extent, Judaism and Christianity are recognised which allows them to worship publicly unlike other belief systems; Egypt is currently classified

as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Eleuthenisation *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (v. **eleuthenise**; past participle **eleuthenised**; present participle **eleuthenising**) the process by which a country moves towards greater religious freedoms than it had previously practiced and therefore moves positively along the religious freedom spectrum.

Eleuthenity *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* the state and condition of total, genuine religious freedom in a country. Contrasted with impedenity, neutrenity, semi-eleuthenity.

Eleuthia *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (adj. **eleuthian**) an ideal state of genuine religious and belief freedom at the nationwide, government level.

Eleuthism *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (adj. **eleuthic**) the instance whereby a government, a group or an individual desires religious freedom due to their understanding of the fundamentality of religious freedom as a human right and the other benefits of religious freedom for the nation in subject.

Eleutho- *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* prefix used to denote freedom of religion or belief.

Eleuthoncy *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (also **concentrated investigation, special investigation**; n. **eleuther**; adj. **eleuthonic, eleuthontic**) the act of participating in an investigation into the religious and belief freedoms profile of a country, as usually conducted by a third party independent expert (e.g. UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief).

Eleutho-universalism *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* the notion that believing in the principles of religious freedom means to believe in religious and belief freedom for all human beings, even if others do not belong to one's own religion or belief community.

Elizabeth K. Cassidy incumbent Director of Research and Policy at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

El Salvador, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of El Salvador makes a claim to freedom

of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government in practice; however, there is government involvement in the internal affairs of religious organisations, state privilege is in effect for the Catholic Church which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; El Salvador is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Embassy chapel a room within an embassy in which religious activities may be conducted lawfully under the protection of extraterritoriality, especially in countries suffering from significant repression of religious and belief freedoms; such rooms are often able to act as clandestine places of worship as long as citizens are not granted entry.

English Dissenters (or **English Separatists**) a series of groups of Protestant Christians who separated from the Church of England during the 17th and 18th centuries with many emigrating to the New World with some groups including Anabaptists, Brownists, Puritans, Quakers, and Sabbatarians.

Entities of Particular Concern (*abbreviated EPC*) a designation applied by the United States

Secretary of State to a series of organisations known for perpetrating acts in violation of the human right of religious freedom; as of 2021, organisations so designated include The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), The Taliban, Al-Shabaab, al-Nusra Front, al-Qa'ida, and Boko Haram. See also Countries of Particular Concern, State Department's Special Watch List.

Entrocal a convention established between the Astronist Institution and a sovereign state to define the relationship between the Institution and the state, namely an agreement for the Institution to receive a certain degree of recognition as well as privileges bestowed through state apparatuses. See also concordat.

Equality of religions *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the principle that all religions, whether recognised or unrecognised in a country, should be treated equally as a product of freedom of religion, whether that be positively or negatively; it is proposed that this principle should be upheld in a genuinely secular society. Contrasted with inequality of religions.

Equatorial Guinea, freedom of religion or belief in. the

Constitution of Equatorial Guinea makes a claim to freedom of religion, belief and worship yet this right is not consistently upheld by the government in practice; the government imposes various restrictions on the recognition system, namely the confinement restriction tool, an excessive registration fee, mandatory registration for religious groups, the restriction of proselytism, and the restriction of private religious activity, including in-home proselytism; Equatorial Guinea is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Erin D. Singshinsuk incumbent Executive Director at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Eritrea, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Eritrea makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not upheld in practice by the government; a rule of mandatory registration is imposed on all religious groups and authorisation is required for each of their activities; the government controls all aspects all religious life and uses violence and intimidation to ensure these restrictions on religion and belief are maintained;

recognition for new groups has been halted since 2002; a situation of partial recognition is in effect whereby four denominations of Eritrean Orthodoxy, Evangelical Lutheranism, Roman Catholicism and Sunni Islam are existentially recognised yet this same degree of recognition is not available to any other belief system, denomination or group; retributions for unregistration include fines and imprisonment; Eritrea is currently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Established *adjective* denoting a religion or denomination that is designated as a country's state religion. Contrasted with non-established.

Establishment Clause that part of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution that sets out the provision for religious freedoms by stating that no religion shall receive an established status. See also Free Exercise Clause.

Establishment of religion (often simply **establishment**; or **religious establishment**) a government's recognition of a religion or religious denomination as its official confession and state religion.

Contrasted with disestablishment.
See also formalisation of religion.

Estonia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Estonia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the right is broadly upheld in practice yet membership quotas (albeit low to overcome) are imposed on religious groups seeking registration and there is a system of vertical recognition in effect although this system is not severe; despite these issues with the recognition system, Estonia is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Eswatini, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Eswatini makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet the government's upholding of this right is inconsistent; state monitoring of some religious activities and government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisation along with reports of bias against non-Christian groups signal the government's restrictive approach to religion and belief, particularly also the country maintains an absolute monarchy which suggests that the king exerts control of religious activity in the

country; Eswatini is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Ethiopia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Ethiopia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not consistently upheld by the government; government intervention in the internal affairs of religious groups is commonplace as its government monitoring of religious actual; the rule of mandatory registration for religious groups and the policy of reregistration every five years create further restrictive conditions; restrictions are imposed by the government on most aspects of religious activity such as the construction of places of worship and proselytism; Ethiopia is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Ethnic assumption *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the assumption that belonging to a particular ethnic group equates identification with a corresponding religious group. In the context of the census restriction tool, some governments presume that because they have an homogenous ethnic population that this equates to an

homogenous religious population as a means to control the national identity through religious demographics.

European Convention on Human Rights (*abbreviated ECHR; formally Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*) a 1953 international convention which the 47 states of the Council of Europe are parties to that protects human rights and political freedoms in Europe, including countries of the Caucasus region, Turkey and Russia; notable exclusions are Belarus and Kosovo; on reflection, one of the primary purposes of the convention was to establish a set of human rights standards specific to European affairs, especially as a means to push back against totalitarian governance; equivalent African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right and the American Convention on Human Rights.

Eventuality law *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also **eventuality policy, forever law**) a type of legislation that makes breaking that legislation an eventuality rather than an outlier or a truly criminal offence, an example of which is the policy of permissionism, and the imposition of

such legislation is likely to lead to a watchkeeper state. See also dead law, dormant law, retrofitted law.

Exclusionary restriction tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool imposed to restrict religion, especially new religious movements. It entails the rejection of recognition for a religion, religious organisation, religious institution or religious group on the basis of arbitrary characteristics (e.g. lack of membership often called membership quotas).

Exclusionism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the practice of one religious or belief group ostracising a minority denomination by claiming that the denomination is not part of their wider community (e.g. some Sunni Muslims who claim that Ahmadi Muslims and Shia Muslims are in fact not Muslims).

Exclusivism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj. exclusivist*) one of two delineated approaches to religious recognition and the broader field of freedom of religion or belief which entails a government denying the right to the protection, belief and practice of all manifestations of religion or belief,

usually instead the government will assert that only certain belief systems or denominations of those beliefs are permissible for protection and the right to belief and practice. See also inclusivism.

Excommunication an institutional act of religious censure used to end or at least regulate the communion of a member of a congregation with other members of the religious institution who are in normal communion with each other. See also shunning.

Existential recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or simply **recognition**) the form of recognition characterised by state identification of the valid existence of a belief system, denomination or community; this is core element to the concept of recognition of religion or belief. Contrasted with legal registration.

Exportation of worst practice *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or simply **exportation**) one country's imposition of the same restrictive laws on religion and belief onto another, usually following its occupation of a certain territory; an example of this process of exportation is Russia's imposition of

its own terminal laws on religion to the Ukrainian territories of Crimea and Eastern Donbas which are currently in part occupied by the Russian Federation. Not to be confused with sharing of worst practice.

Expulsionism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj.* **expulsionist**, **expulsionistic**) the Cometanic principle that countries that have repeatedly refused to reverse or resolve their human rights violations should be removed from international treaties that they are party to such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Extent of freedom of religion or belief *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* disputations persist as to the full array of rights that freedom of religion or belief protects; in claims to freedom of religion and belief, countries rarely provide free exercise of the full extent of provisions that are included within this umbrella term and the set of freedoms interlinked with this human right including freedom of conscience, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of speech, right to assemble, freedom of association, no discrimination, the right to engage in arts and cultural

activities, the right to life, right to marry and have family;; the total set of rights included within freedom of religion or belief can be split between the categories of identification (internal), expression (external), manifestation (communal), and dissemination (organisational); each of the categories have corresponding antonymous categories including non-identification, non-expression, non-manifestation and non-dissemination.

Under the identification category, freedom of religion or belief at its fullest extent protects one's right to have a belief identity; the right to regard one's religious or philosophical beliefs as core to one's identity; the right to regard one's religious or philosophical beliefs as more important than political ideology or the state itself; the right to interpret or reinterpret a belief system or single belief or practice even if this diverges from established doctrine; the right to cultivate one's own belief identity; the right to possess a belief identity that does not correspond to that of one's spouse, one's parents, one's child(ren), other relatives or friends; the right to a belief identity not recognised or registered or known to

the state or the public; the right to an opinion or belief identity that is rationally critical of other belief identities; the right to practice multiformism (simultaneous adherence to two different belief systems); the right to practice syncretism (the mixing of belief systems or practices).

Under the expression category, freedom of religion or belief at its fullest extent protects the right to belong to a belief system, religion, philosophy, or spirituality; the right to name one's beliefs or practices the way one wishes; the right to express one's beliefs and belief identity on all platforms, whether verbally, literarily or digitally (video or written); the right to express one's beliefs and belief identity in public and private without government interference and intervention from other religious or belief groups.

Under the manifestation category, freedom of religion or belief at its fullest extent protects the right of a person to be indoctrinated (the right to treat something uncritically); the right to join a cult; the right to manifest one's belief identity in whichever way one feels is best to them as long as this does not infringe the rights of others or in any

way harms others; the right to engage in worship and ritual activities; the right to engage in with others who share or do not share one's belief identity; the right to engage in communal activities based on belief; the right to protest in reference to one's beliefs;

Under the dissemination category, freedom of religion or belief at its fullest extent protects the right to start or otherwise a belief system, whether religious, philosophical or otherwise; the right to proselytise; and the right to name one's religious activities and organisation whatever one wishes.

Under the non-identification category, freedom of religion or belief protects one's right to not have a belief identity; the right to regard one's religious or philosophical beliefs as peripheral to one's identity; the right to see one's political ideology or the state itself as superseding the importance of one's religious or philosophical beliefs and one's belief identity; the right to conform to a certain interpretation of a belief system or single belief or practice rather than to engage in reinterpretation; the right not to cultivate one's own belief identity; the right to possess a

belief identity that does correspond to that of one's spouse, one's parents, one's child(ren), other relatives or friends; the right to a belief identity that is recognised or registered or known to the state or the public; the right to a belief identity that is not rationally critical of other belief identities.

Under the non-expression category, freedom of religion or belief protects the right not to express one's belief identity; the right not to belong to a belief system; the right not to express one or more beliefs; the right to refrain from speaking about one's beliefs or belief identity;

Under the non-manifestation category, freedom of religion or belief to its fullest extent protects the right not to engage in communal activities and practices that represent or do not represent one's beliefs or belief identity; the right to refrain from worship or engaging in ritual activity; and the right to refrain to express one's belief identity in a communal setting.

Under the non-dissemination category, freedom of religion or belief to its fullest extent protects one's right to choose not to proselytise even if this is stipulated

in doctrine and the right to refrain from organising one's beliefs or speaking publicly about one's belief identity.

Extinction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the instance of a religious or belief community having no living members in a certain country or region, often by gradual decline due to persecution.

Extrajudicial restriction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the restriction of religion outside the bounds of legal authority, especially conducted by religious police or in social hostilities that are neither recorded by the state, are not legally permissible reprimands, nor are those individuals enforcing such restrictions themselves reprimanded.

Extremist religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a religion and religious group that is falsely presented by a government as holding views that are illegal, violent or incite extreme action, especially used as a means of marginalising innocent religious communities. See also foreign religion, minority religion, non-traditional religion, traditional religion.

F

Facilitative *Cometanic freedom of religion theory adjective* relating to one of four types of functions of a recognition agency to facilitate conditions that are relevant to or otherwise effect recognition or registration of religion or belief. See also monitorial, ontological, processual.

Faith-based organisation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (abbreviated **FBOs**) a type of organised group or charity whose ethos is founded on tenets of a belief system, whether this be religious, philosophical or spiritual in orientation; this phrase is currently used in Rwanda for example as the primary legal category of religious organisations although the phrase itself is generally seen as more inclusive than that of “religious organisation” because it isn’t necessarily constricted to entities comprised of congregants.

False claim *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (often **false claim to**

freedom of religion or belief) inconsistency between a country’s claims of the freedoms it bestows to its citizens and its upholding of these freedoms in practice. See also constitutional guarantee.

False legal protection *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool employed to restrict religion in some countries and involves the false promise by governments to provide legal protections for recognised religious groups, but is instead used to track, control and often intimidate and neutralise religious groups; this restriction tool is most infamously adopted in China, Iran, Iraq, and other nations whose oppression of religious freedom is widespread.

False proclamation of freedom *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **false claim to freedom of religion and belief**) a government’s claim that it upholds and protects freedom of religion or belief for all its citizens when in fact the opposite is true, especially when such a government is instead restrictive of religious activity. Contrasted with authentic proclamation of freedom.

False recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also

pseudo-recognition, pseudo-recognitionary state) the status of a religion or religious group having been granted recognition by a government but whose activities remain restricted and adherents continue to face discrimination and persecution. See also derecognition, disrecognition, hyper-recognition, misrecognition, non-recognition, recognition.

False registration *Cometan* *freedom of religion theory* (or **pseudo-registration**) a form of pseudo-recognition in which a religious group's successful legal registration with the government provides no genuine protections under the law or any guarantee of freedom to conduct reasonable religious activity without government interference, sometimes despite claims otherwise.

Faroe Islands, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Danish constitution claims freedom of religion and belief, a right that is universally upheld in practice by the government; percolative recognition is in effect in the Faroe Islands which means that Danish laws on religion and belief also apply to the Faroe Islands; the Faroe Islands are currently classified as receptive in

Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition by way of Denmark's classification.

Fiji, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Fiji makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the right is generally upheld by the government yet remains somewhat undermined by the rule of mandatory registration for religious groups and persistent understructure in the recognition system which has caused a lack of provisions for the existential recognition of belief systems; Fiji is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Financial quota *Cometan* *freedom of religion theory* (or **monetary quota**) a type of stipulation sometimes made by a government as part of its recognition system that a religious or belief group must a certain income or have accumulated a particular degree of monetary wealth or property as the prime contingent for its ability to apply for registration; for example, a financial quota is in effect in both South Korea and Taiwan. See also longevity quota, membership quota.

Finland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Finland makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld by the government although a degree of state privilege is bestowed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church; Finland is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

First Amendment of the United States Constitution (often the **First Amendment, Amendment I**) that part of the 1791 U.S. Constitution that prevents the government from establishing laws that may directly or indirectly favour one religion over another, or that may seek to establish a certain religion or denomination; additionally, the stipulation that freedom to exercise one's religion would be universally granted to all citizens was made along with the establishment of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and one's right to petition.

Flushing Remonstrance a 1657 petition issued against Peter Stuyvesant requesting an exemption on the ban on Quaker worship in the small settlement of Flushing.

Forced conversion a situational type of religious conversion in which a person converts to a belief system despite not genuinely wanting to. See also deathbed conversion, marital conversion, secondary conversion.

Foreign religion *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a religion, religious group, or religious institution whose origins and perceived history and ethnic followers originate outside of a certain country, especially invoked as a means to suggest the illegitimacy of such a religion to be granted recognition. See also extremist religion, minority religion, non-traditional religion, traditional religion,

Formalisation of religious freedom *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or simply **formalisation**) the legislative process by which freedom of religion or belief is established as a fundamental, incontrovertible right of every citizen.

France, freedom of religion or belief in. the French Constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly though not universally upheld by the government in practice; France has a

long history of secularity and continues to follow the principle of *laïcité*; legislation imposes limitations on religious clothing that cover the face and the wearing of religious symbols; the weaponisation of the word “cult” is entrenched in the legislation on religion and belief which alienates non-traditional groups and NRMs; the French government is known to follow a policy of assimilation in how it treats immigrant communities; percolative recognition is in effect for the overseas departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion as French law applies to these territories just as it does to Metropolitan France; however, non-percolative recognition is in effect for the overseas collectivities of French Polynesia, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, and in Wallis and Futuna as French law on religious recognition and registration does not apply to these territories; non-percolative recognition is also in effect for the sui generis collectivity (special collectivity) of New Caledonia; religious freedom is broadly emulated in these territories as it is in Metropolitan France; France is currently classified as receptive in

Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Frederick A. Davie (born April 15), Executive Vice President at the Union Theological Seminary and incumbent Commissioner at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Freedom hindrance *Cometan* *freedom of religion theory* (or **freedom impediment**) a cultural tradition that does not necessarily have the intention of inhibiting freedom of religion, but nonetheless does, an example of which is the United States’ restriction of religious education schools which inhibits children and young adults from learning about the variety of religions around the world available to them when in reality, these individuals are likely to remain in the religion to which they were born.

Freedom of conversion *Cometan* *freedom of religion theory* the branch of freedom of religion or belief specifically concerned with the right of a person to convert from one religion to another.

Freedom of cult *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* the principle that adherence to belief systems, even those small in number and regarded as strange, come under the auspices of the right of freedom of religion or belief.

Freedom of expression a fundamental human right akin to that of freedom of speech though legally broader in the sense that it refers to any seeking, receiving or imparting of information or ideas across any medium; such activity refers hold relevance to freedom of religion or belief by the seeking, receiving or imparting of information about a certain religion or belief system, a freedom severely restricted through forms of religious censorship. See also freedom of speech.

Freedom of irreligion or non-belief (or **freedom of irreligion and non-practice**; also **freedom of disbelief, freedom of irreligion, right to disbelief, right to irreligion, right to non-belief**) the branch of freedom of religion or belief protecting the human right of a person to choose not to belong to, identify with or otherwise profess any belief system or any one specific belief; also, the right to choose not

to participate in ritual or other practices based on or connected to a belief system; furthermore, the right to deny, reject or avoid religion, belief or practice; and, the right to rationally criticise all belief systems and specific beliefs and practice in a way that respects the right of a fellow human being to believe in or otherwise to identify with a certain belief system or single belief and to participate in ritual or other practices based on belief or connected to a belief system with which they identify.

Freedom of philosophy (also **right to philosophise, freedom to contemplate, freedom to theorise**) the right to follow whichever philosophy one chooses, akin to freedom of religion or belief.

Freedom of proselytism *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (or **right to proselytise**) a dimension or branch of freedom of religion which asserts that the ability to proselytise is a fundamental aspect of religious liberty and is a human right by way of freedom of religion or belief.

Freedom of religion or belief (also **religious freedom, religious liberty**) the human right of an individual or group to manifest their

religious, spiritual or philosophical beliefs in public or in private through education, practice, worship, or by other means of observance as stipulated in the religion as long as such observances do not harm or impede on another person or group's rights. Freedom of religion or belief also protects the right of a person to convert from one religion to another as well as the right not to believe in or practice a religion. The addition of "or belief" is more recent as means to expand the concept to include encompass both belief and practice, as well as to be inclusive of those individuals who identify with religion in addition to those who identify only with spirituality or a philosophy of life.

Freedom of religious politics

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or **freedom of religious political activity**) the freedom to associate a political party with a religion and to operate that party according to religious principles.

Freedom of speech a fundamental human right enshrined under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also reflected in other international conventions regarding human rights law that

protects an individual or a community's articulation of opinion or ideas with the assurance that retaliation, censorship or legal sanction will not occur; such a right holds significant consequences for the freedom of a person to manifest their religion and to proselytise. See also freedom of expression.

Freedom of worship a variant or branch of the broader human right of freedom of religion or belief that specifically addresses those aspects of religious freedom that allow a person to manifest their right to religion through acts of worship, either within designated religious buildings or in public spaces.

Freedom to Worship the second of the *Four Freedoms* oil paintings produced by the American artist Norman Rockwell.

Free Exercise Clause alongside the Establishment Clause, the setting out of the provisions of religious freedom in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution through the notion that citizens shall not be prohibited in their free exercise of their religion. See also Establishment Clause.

Free Thought and Official

Propaganda a 1922 speech delivered by Bertrand Russell on the importance of unrestricted freedom of expression in society.

French Wars of Religion a prolonged period of war and widespread public unrest between Catholics and Calvinistic Protestants between 1562 to 1598, a war that claimed the lives of approximately three million people, regarded as the second deadliest of the religious wars of Europe.

Fundamentalism unwavering attachment to a set of beliefs regarded as incontrovertible true.

Furtivity 1 *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj. furtive*) the status, fact or quality of an unregistered religion or religious group as operating or otherwise spreading in a country where registration of religious activities is made compulsory by the state. See also impositonality.

2 *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **furtiveness**) one's belief in or practice of their religion, spirituality or philosophy in secret, especially in a way that avoids attention from authorities.

G

Gabon, freedom of religion or

belief in. the Constitution of Gabon makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government; however, mandatory registration for religious groups and subjective language used in the legislation demonstrate the government's restrictive approach; government claims that religious organisations that were denied registration were engaging in scams remain dubious; there exists a degree of subjective language used in the legislation regarding religious groups which could be vulnerable to misapplication by the government to restrict reasonable religious activity; Gabon is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Gambia, The, freedom of religion

or belief in. the Constitution of The Gambia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not upheld to standards of international human rights primarily due to the widespread influence of

the Supreme Islamic Council on all religious issues, not just the affairs of Islamic community as well as the lack of a state recognition system in providing legal registration or existential recognition for religious groups and organisations; The Gambia is currently classified as ambiguous in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Gary Lee Bauer (born 1946), American civil servant and incumbent Commissioner at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Gayle Conelly Manchin (born 1947), former Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

General practice *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* lowest of three positive situations for freedom of religion or belief in which a government upholds this human right, however, there remain instances in which it has not; also, typically, this right is only upheld for what are deemed "traditional" religious groups to the exclusion of some minorities and NRMs. Contrasted with broad practice, universal practice.

Georgia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Georgia claims freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally though not broadly upheld in practice by the government; the Georgian Orthodox Church enjoys state privilege; Georgia is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; registration for groups based on belief is stipulatory rather than mandatory; historical lineage with the country is required for legal registration to be conferred, as is prior recognition from the Council of Europe; political instabilities caused by the defections of both Abkhazia and South Ossetia have lead to increased influence from the Russian Federation, a serial violator of freedom of religion or belief and other civil liberties; due to the increasing autonomy of the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, non-percolative recognition is in effect for these regions as their de facto governments do not recognise Georgian law. See also sharing of worst practice.

Germany, freedom of religion or belief in. the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany makes a claim to freedom of religion and

belief and this right is broadly though not universally upheld by the government in practice especially for members of new religious movements and some minority groups; Germany is currently classified as restrictive under Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition primarily due to the segmented structure of its recognition system.

Ghana, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Ghana makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and while the government and wider society broadly upheld this right in practice, there continues to be a lack of procedures for religious registration in the country; Ghana is currently classified as ambiguous in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Gibraltar, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Gibraltar makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this is universally upheld; non-percolative recognition is in effect due to the fact that UK law on religious recognition is not applied in the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar; Gibraltar is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

GIR acronym for government involvement in religion.

God emperor (also stylised as **God-Emperor**, **God Emperor**) *historical* a ruler who claims to be the incarnation of some deity, especially as a means of establishing the legitimacy of their absolute rule. See also divine right of kings, theocracy.

Government-based religious discrimination forms of discriminatory restrictions imposed on religious activity by government or government officials. See also societal-based religious discrimination.

Government involvement in religion state interactions with religious and belief activity among its citizens.

Government regulation of religion *Cometanatic freedom of religion theory* the entire system and set of mechanisms employed by a government to control religious and belief activity among its citizens.

Government restriction of religion *Cometanatic freedom of religion theory* the state's legal, political, economic and social apparatus established and

applied with the sole intention of restraining religious activity to the point at which the religious freedoms of its citizens are intermittently violated or are disregarded outright.

Government-sponsored disinformation *Cometanatic freedom of religion theory* a government's campaign to spread false or inaccurate information about a belief system or religious community for the purpose of controlling the public perceptions of that belief system or restricting the activities of that community.

Government-sponsored hate speech *Cometanatic freedom of religion theory* the phenomenon of a government implicitly supporting hate speech regarding a religion or religious communities through online platforms; such online hate speech can ignite offline discrimination and persecution.

GRD See government-based religious discrimination.

Greece, freedom of religion or belief in. the Greek Constitution claims freedom of religion and belief and this right generally though not broadly upheld by the government;

state policy has placed some restrictions on certain religious activity namely the prohibition of proselytism; a system of vertical recognition is in effect, membership quotas are imposed and state supervision of the appointments of clergy does take place; subjective language is used through legislation in order to give broad scope to the government to limit religious activity to the “known religions”; the Greek Orthodox Church is the state denomination and has special constitutional status; Greece is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Greenland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Danish constitution claims freedom of religion and belief, a right that is universally upheld in practice by the government; percolative recognition is in effect in Greenland which means that Danish laws on religion and belief also apply to Greenland; Greenland is currently classified as receptive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition by way of Denmark’s classification.

Grenada, freedom of religion or belief in. there does not exist distinct procedures for religious

entities to gain recognition and registration with NGO status as the only semblance of recognition for religious entities in the country; Grenada is currently classified as ambiguous in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Groups based on belief *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (abbreviated **GBBs**; or **belief groups**; also **philosophical groups**, **religious groups**, **spiritual groups**, **stellanic groups**; also simply **groups**) a type of community formed by the shared beliefs and belief identities of its members, typically due to their association with a common belief system. See also belief identity.

Guam, freedom of religion or belief in. percolative recognition is in effect in Guam which means that American laws on religion and belief are applied in the territory and therefore religious freedom is universally protected although issues remain regarding the present recognition system according to recognitionist theory; as a result, Guam is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition by way of the United States’ classification.

Guatemala, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Guatemala makes a claim of freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government in practice; state privilege is granted to the Catholic Church which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; membership quotas are imposed as is mandatory registration for any religious activity beyond worship and proselytisation; Guatemala is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Guernsey, freedom of religion or belief in.

percolative recognition is in effect in Guernsey which means that UK law on religion and belief applies the same in Guernsey as it does in all other parts of the United Kingdom besides British Overseas Territories; the state denomination of Guernsey is Anglicanism; the Bailiwick of Guernsey is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition by way of the United Kingdom's classification.

Guinea, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Guinea makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is only upheld in practice by the

government in a limited capacity; mandatory registration is applied on all religious groups in the country with failure to register resulting in closure of the group; with proselytism restricted and government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations, policies supporting these restrictions demonstrate the government's overall restrictive approach to religion and belief; Guinea is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Guinea-Bissau, freedom of religion or belief in.

the constitution of Guinea-Bissau makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the government generally upholds the right in practice; mandatory registration through the form of licenses creates a restrictive system for religious groups to operate in; there exists few to no procedures for recognition or registration in the country as operational licences are not considered to equate to either of these statuses; for this reason, Guinea-Bissau is currently classified as ambiguous in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Guyana, freedom of religion or belief in. there does not exist official procedures for either registration or recognition of religious groups in Guyana, only individual places of worship which are under a rule of mandatory registration; also, dormant laws exists for blasphemy and for limitations of foreign missionary activity; because there are no distinct, official procedures for religious organisation to register or gain recognition, Guyana is currently classified as ambiguous in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

H

Haiti, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Haiti makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is upheld and protected by the government for some groups more than others, namely in favour of Christian groups; the Catholic Church continues to receive state privilege which creates a situation of partial recognition; Catholics and Protestants are treated markedly differently from Muslims, Haitian Vodou practitioners as well as other minorities and NRMs; a 2003 directive establishing Haitian Vodou as a recognised religion seems to have had minimal impact on reducing discrimination as practitioners continue to face social stigma and discrimination in employment; Haiti is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Heiner Bielefeldt (born 1958), German philosopher, historian, theologian and the fourth United Nations Special Rapporteur on

Freedom of Religion or Belief appointed in August 2010 until November 2016; preceded by Asma Jahangir and succeeded by incumbent Ahmed Shaheed.

Heresy the questioning or outright denial of one or more of the doctrines of a religion.

Heretic an individual regarded by a religious institution as holding beliefs or as engaging in practices that are at odds with established orthodoxy; such a designation in ancient and medieval times warranted that person's execution, often by being burnt at the stake as was Joan of Arc in 1431.

Heretical *adjective* relating to a person regarded as existing at odds with established religious orthodoxy.

Hieroncy *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (*n.* **hieroncy**; *adj.* **hieronic, hierontic**) the private transportation of religious goods (including religious texts, statues, icons and antiques) for non-distributional purposes or in a non-organised or non-mass way. In some countries, hieroncy is tightly controlled and in some instances, private transportation of religious

goods is used as a cover to distribute religious items.

Hindu law *historical* the body of laws applied to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs in British India.

Historicalism *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a government policy and a set of related activities that involves the artificial reconstruction or the reimagining of a historical rivalry, sore point, or rationale behind a previous war for nefarious means, often to subjugate a religious minority, perhaps as a means of scapegoating.

Homiletic restriction tool

Cometan's freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool imposed by a government whereby the sermons of clergy are censored according to government guidelines and restrictions.

Honduras, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Honduras makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the right is broadly upheld in practice but remains undermined by gang culture and violent crime in the country, particularly towards women; limitations have been imposed on foreign missionary activity and there

does exist subjective language in the legislation that is vulnerable to misuse; a degree of state privilege exists for the Catholic Church; Honduras is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Hong Kong, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Hong Kong Basic Law, which serves as the de facto constitution of the Special Administrative Region, claims to freedom of religion and belief and although this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government of Hong Kong, its protection remains at threat from Chinese exportation of Mainland policies regarding religious activity to the Hong Kong region; there are not separate procedures put in place for the registration of religious entities from that of secular entities while there also exists a system of vertical recognition; Hong Kong's Home Affairs Bureau has routinely recognised in a largely informal capacity the presence of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism, Judaism and Chinese traditional religion (Shenism); Hong Kong is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Horizontal recognition *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a type of structure found in some recognition and registration systems in which there exists an even plane for what recognition and registration mean; essentially, horizontal recognition means that recognition and registration are bestowed at the same level for all applicants; this is contrasted with a vertical system which relies on a hierarchy and in which recognisees are offered higher levels of recognition or registration which are coupled with greater benefits if attained but that are usually restricted for new religious movements or for minorities; horizontal recognition is preferred in recognitionist theory. Contrastd with vertical recognition.

Human rights those inalienable qualities of a human being or the physical environments in which they inhabit that are protected in international law, examples of which include freedom of religion or belief, freedom of speech, the right to education, the right to housing, the right to a fair trial among others.

Hungary, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Hungary claims to freedom of

religion and belief; state privilege is bestowed to Christian groups and Christianity itself given a degree of existential recognition by way of its mention in the constitution which recognises Christianity's role in "nation-building"; a few issues persist in the Hungary recognition system, primarily the imposition of longevity quotas and membership quotas as well as a system of vertical recognition which often perpetuates the connected apparatus of restrictions on religious activity and religious registration procedures; Hungary is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Hyper-recognition *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **hyper-recognition state**) the legal affirmation of a religion and its community of followers, especially in such a way that grants significant degrees of recognition, often to the detriment of other groups (e.g. state recognition). See also derecognition, disrecognition, false recognition, misrecognition, non-recognition, recognition.

Hypersecularism *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **hypersecularity**; *adj.* **hypersecularist**) the instance in

which state atheism is adopted by a government as their official ideology, often as a means to not only restrict religious and belief activity, but to eradicate it as a means of promoting atheism or irreligiosity. See also neosecularism, pansecularism.

I

Iceland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Iceland makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld in practice; the state denomination is Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland which automatically creates a structure of partial recognition; the recognition system uses the inclusive phrase “life stance” to include all types of belief systems and belief identities which demonstrates dynamic character; although Iceland still remains classified as receptive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition, it is one of the closest countries in reaching the classification dynamic.

Identity card issuance *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the practice of a government assigning each of its citizens with an identity card at birth that features the baby’s inherited religion and is considered to have restrictive impact on citizen’s religious freedoms.

Impedentry *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj. impedenial* ^{CO}) the state and condition in which religious freedoms in a country are non-existent. Contrasted with eleuthenity.

Impedimentation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the process by which a country reduces its religious freedoms from conditions that it had previously practiced; essentially, this involves a country becoming more restrictive of religion and therefore moves negatively along the religious freedom spectrum.

Imperial church system a governance policy by the early Holy Roman emperors and other medieval European rulers to entrust the secular governance of the state to as many celibate members of the clergy (especially bishops and abbots) of the Catholic Church as possible instead of to the non-celibate laity.

Implementation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **applicative implementation**) a function of a recognition agency in which it has the capacity to implement decisions — whether these were made by the agency itself or the government — regarding religious recognition with

societal effect equal to that of the authority of the government in this specific field.

Impositionality *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* the instance in which a government requires require a religion or religious group to register with an official in order to exist or otherwise legally operate in the country. Contrasted with discretionality.

Impostation *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (or **religious infiltration**) a state-sanctioned religious restriction activity that involves using intelligencers, or fake believers, to infiltrate and often photograph and film religious services and activities as a means of surveillance by the state.

Inappropriate regulation *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (or **unjust regulation**) acts of controlling religious activity with the intention of restricting without genuine reason to do so, including using means for control that purposefully cause hindrances to multiple dimensions of religious freedom. Contrasted with appropriate regulation.

Inclusivism *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (*adj.* **inclusivist**) one of two delineated approaches to religious recognition and the broader field of freedom of religion or belief which entails a government holding to the principle that all manifestations of religion and belief are protected and hold the right to exercise their beliefs and practices in whichever way they intend. See also exclusivism.

Inculpatory restriction tool *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool that involves a government actively encouraging its citizens to report religious organisations and groups that do not follow already restrictive policies regarding religious activity (see Yurovaya law in Russia), or in some cases, governments may threaten their citizens to snitch on unauthorised religious activity.

India, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of India makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief but this right is not consistently upheld by the government in its actions and policies; segmentation exists in law regarding religious recognition and religious activity with conversion and proselytism restricted with

variance across provinces; vertical recognition is in effect as well as retributions for violators of conversion laws, including fines and imprisonment; percolative recognition is in effect for Indian controlled parts of the Kashmir region; India is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Indifferentism (or **religious inclusivism**) the belief that no one religion or philosophy is superior to another.

Individual recognition *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* one of four levels of recognition manifesting as state recognition of the belief identities of individual citizens, often achieved through the universal enshrining of principles of freedom of religion or belief into law. Contrasted with communal recognition, institutional recognition, parochial recognition. See also belief identity, levels of recognition.

Indonesia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Indonesia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief although this right is not consistently upheld with undue limitations placed on

reasonable religious activity that is protected by international law on religion and belief; existential recognition is bestowed to Buddhism, Catholicism, Confucianism, Islam, Hinduism and Protestantism although the country remains secular; religious groups not recognised by the government face restrictions and censorship from the government; retributions in the form of long-term imprisonments are imposed on a person who "insults" any of the recognised belief systems; Indonesia is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Inequality of religions *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* an issue identified in many countries whereby either the government or the public treat one or more religions differently, usually preferentially, over others or treat one or more religions more negatively than others. Contrasted with equality of religions.

Informalisation of religion *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a government approach to religion and belief wherein religious institutions and organisations are able to operate without official, legal

recognition. Contrasted with formalisation of religion.

Informational requirements

Cometanac freedom of religion theory the series of demands made of a belief community, organisation or denomination by a government pertaining to the information it is expected to provide before its registration can be completed.

Inquisition (often **the Inquisition**; also stylised as **Holy Inquisition**) the institution established by the Catholic Church that reigned for several centuries in dealing with those it deemed heretical or as proposing ideas and theories potentially contrary to Church dogma, often by means of torture and violence; various distinct Inquisitions took place during medieval and modern history beginning with the 12th-century French Inquisition and ending with the abolishment of the institution of the Inquisition in the early 19th century; however, the framework of the Inquisition is still existent today, though has been thoroughly reformed and exists as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; one of the most famous victims of the Inquisition was Galileo Galilei who ignited concerns from

within the Church for his support of heliocentrism.

Institutionalisation of religious freedom

Cometanac freedom of religion theory the establishment of freedom of religion as a fundamental and normative principle of a society and its culture.

Institutionalisation of restriction

Cometanac freedom of religion theory the process by which the restriction of religion and religious activity, either generally or specific to a community, is established a convention or norm within a government and within a society to form a “restriction culture.”

Institutional recognition

Cometanac freedom of religion theory one of four levels of recognition manifesting as state recognition of organisations or institutions that represent or otherwise govern either a belief system or a community formed on the basis of a shared belief identity. Contrasted with communal recognition, individual recognition, parochial recognition. See also belief identity, levels of recognition.

Instrumentalisation of religion

Cometanac freedom of religion theory the misuse and abuse of the

institution of religion as a mechanism for the government to exercise control over its citizens.

Integralism (or **integrism**) the principle that Catholicism should be the basis upon which public law and policy is established in countries with a Catholic majority.

Intelligencer *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **fake believer**) a person, either a government official or a civilian, who is paid by the government to infiltrate religious organisations and their services to spy on their activities and film or take photographs as a form of state-sanctioned surveillance.

Intent *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the aims of a government underlying its approach to religious recognition regarded collectively, interpretable by the terminology used in its laws and policies, and by how it acts; determining the intent of a government in its administering of regulations on religious and philosophical activity is crucial in understanding its position on the religious recognition spectrum. See also Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Intentional inaction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool involving the practice whereby a government established a ministry or department for religious affairs, or in some cases for non-religious groups or for minorities (especially for registration purposes), but intentionally reduces the working hours of the ministry or the extent to which that ministry is contactable to directly restrict religious activity as a way of giving the illusion that religion is fairly regulated.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (*abbreviated IACHR*) one half of the human rights protection mechanism of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and is located in Washington, D.C. See also Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights an autonomous judicial institution located in San José, Costa Rica that works towards the promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, in the members states of the Organisation of American States (OAS). See also Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Inter Faith Network (*abbreviated IFN*) British non-governmental organisation promoting dialogue between different religious communities and denominations.

Internal justification tool

Cometanin freedom of religion theory a specific type of justification tool that involves a justification narrative created and discussed amongst government officials as opposed to its informal publication which is the case for standard justification tools.

International Bill of Human Rights

the collective term for two international treaties concerned with confirming fundamental human rights including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), a branch of the latter is the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966).

International Conference on

Human Rights the United Nations' first global conference to focus solely on issues relating to human rights; it was held in Tehran in April to May 1968; it was attended by eight-four sovereign states, four regional organisations, and fifty-seven non-governmental organisations; it was

succeeded by the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights a multilateral treaty adopted by United Nations General Assembly in 1966 and in force from 1976 and to which 173 sovereign states are party; among other rights such as freedom of assembly and the right to due process and a fair trial, the treaty commits its signatories to respect freedom of religion or belief.

International human rights

instruments a category of treaties and other texts that serves as grounds for the legal implementation of international human rights law in party nation states, as well as the protection of human rights more broadly; the first entry of this kind of international instrument was the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

International human rights law the body of laws and related mechanisms established to both promote and protect human rights at the social, local and national level, a landmark event in the history of which was the 1948 establishment

of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (*abbreviated*

IPPFoRB) a network of parliamentarians from around the world committed to combating religious persecution and advancing freedom of religion or belief as stipulated by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

International Religious Freedom Caucus (*abbreviated* **IRF**) a bi-

partisan group of nearly 60 members of the United States Congress who address religious persecution for people of any or no faith based on Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

International Religious Freedom Report (*abbreviated* **IRF**) a report of

the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that is published every April and provides details on religious freedom violations around the world, recommended updates to the U.S. State Department's three categories of Countries of Particular Concern (CPC), Special Watch List (SWL) and Entities of Particular

Concern (EPC), as well as providing recommendations to Congress on how the United States may respond to such violations through policymaking measures.

International Religious Liberty Association (*abbreviated* **IRLA**) a non-sectarian and non-political organisation promoting religious freedom originally founded leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1893 when the danger of restrictions from blue laws became apparent; its headquarters are in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Inter-religious intervention

Cometanic freedom of religion theory any instance in which the leaders of one religion or denomination are given the means to intervene or otherwise control the affairs another religious or belief group.

Iran, freedom of religion or belief

in. the Constitution of Iran does not make a claim to freedom of religion and belief for all religious groups, only Muslims and the three recognised religious minorities of Zoroastrians, Jews and Christians; the Iranian government prohibits religious activity and public expressions of belief, including expressions of non-belief that reside

outside the bounds of the four recognised communities; the government imposes systematic violence of persons who contravene state-sanctioned religious activity and proselytism for all religions and denominations except Shia Islam; the Twelver Ja'fari School of Shia Islam is the state denomination; Iran is classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Iraq, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Iraq claims freedom of religion and belief with limitations not consistent with international human right standards, particularly the stipulation that the law shall regulate religious activity which in reality translates to the government's intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations and the capacity of the government to ban groups it does not agree with, even those groups engaging in reasonable religious activity; a nationwide ban on the Baha'i Faith remains in place as does the criminalisation of proselytism conducted by non-Muslims; the state religion is Islam; Iraq is currently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Ireland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Irish Constitution

makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice although the continued lack of a formal recognition system for religious groups and the continued state extended to the Catholic Church undermine somewhat the government's ability to ensure the bestowal of this right, especially to reach a law in which the state works with religious and philosophical organisations and communities to encourage a diversity of beliefs to flourish in the nation; as a result, Ireland is currently classified as ambiguous in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Irreligion (or areligion, irreligiosity, non-religion) a person or state's indifference to or rejection of religion or religious belief and practice. See also state atheism.

Irreligion by default *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **disbelief by default**) a nationwide restriction tool imposed on religious and belief freedoms in which all citizens of a nation are assigned atheism or no religion from birth. Contrasted with religion by default.

Irreligious discrimination the treating of those who affiliate with

no religion in particular different from those whom do align with a religion, especially the dominant or established belief system of the territory. See also irreligious persecution.

Irreligious persecution (or **persecution of the irreligious**) the persistent and state-sanctioned systematic mistreatment of those who do not identify with any religion (including atheists, agnostics, the irreligious, or those who identify as “spiritual but not religious”), or those who are apostates from a certain dominant faith; thirteen Islamic countries currently punish atheism or Muslim apostasy by death while atheists, agnostics or those simply irreligious face significant institutional hurdles elsewhere. Contrasted with hypersecularism.

Islamophobia fear or hatred or prejudice directed towards Islam or towards Muslims for their religious affiliation.

Isle of Man, freedom of religion or belief in the. percolative recognition is in effect in the Isle of Man which means that UK law on religion and belief applies the same in the Isle of Man as it does in all other parts of

the United Kingdom besides British Overseas Territories; the state denomination is Anglicanism; the Isle of Man is classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition by way of the United Kingdom’s classification.

Israel, freedom of religion or belief in. Israeli law claims to provide for freedom of religion and belief although this right is not consistently upheld primarily due to the politicisation of religion; stagnation looms in the process of recognising new religious groups and a system of partial recognition is in effect; the state religion of Israel is Judaism; Israel is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Italy, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of the Italian Republic makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and while this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government and the society, there are persistent issues within the Italian recognition system; state privilege is bestowed to the Catholic Church which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; Italy is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

J

Jainism in India on 30th January 2014, the Jain community was granted the status of minority religion in India rather than a sect of Hinduism or as Buddhist heterodoxy, giving Jainism distinct legal character and status in the country.

Jamaica, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Jamaica makes a claim of freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld helps by the government although dormant laws imposing nationwide bans on Myalism and Obeah continue to exist; a lack of provisions exist for existential recognition but religious groups have the option for legal registration; for this reason, Jamaica is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

James W. Carr (born 1948), American educator and incumbent Commissioner at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Japan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Japanese Constitution claims freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upholds this right in practice although restrictions on certain religious activities loom; government involvement in the internal affairs of religious organisations, intrusive informational requirements requested as part of the registration procedures, and the segmentation of the recognition system by prefectures are also inconsistent with what recognitionist theory sees as receptive and dynamic characteristics for a country's approach to religion and belief; Japan is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Jason Morton incumbent Senior Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Jean Ziegler (or **Hans Ziegler**; born 1934), [Insert definition here].

Jersey, freedom of religion or belief in. percolative recognition is in effect in Jersey which means that

UK law on religion and belief applies the same in Jersey as it does in all other parts of the United Kingdom besides British Overseas Territories; the state denomination is Anglicanism; the Bailiwick of Jersey is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition by way of the United Kingdom's classification.

Johnnie Moore, Jr. (born 1983), American evangelical leader, businessman and incumbent Commissioner at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Jonathan Fox (born 1943), American professor known for his directorship of the Religion and State Project, for his books on freedom of religion, and currently works in the Department of Political Science at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel.

Jordan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Jordan makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief but this right is only upheld in a limited capacity; normativist principles often dictate and control religious activity such as conversion and criticism of religion; the rule of mandatory registration,

laws on blasphemy, excessive informational requirements for registration, and retributions for non-Islamic proselytism ranging from fines to imprisonment are evidential of the government's censorial approach to religion and belief; the state religion is Islam which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; Jordan is currently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Jurisdictionalism the extension of the state's jurisdiction and control over religious activities, especially over the operations of religious institutions.

Justification tool *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* an official or informal excuse provided by a government to address their restrictions on religious organisations and broader religious and belief activity of citizens.

K

Kazakhstan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Kazakhstan makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief; authorities routinely arrest, detain, and imprison individuals on account of their religious affiliation, restrict religious expression, membership quotas are imposed, prevent unregistered groups from practicing their faith, restrict assembly for peaceful religious activities, restrict public manifestation of religious belief, restrict religious expression and customs, including religious clothing; criminalise speech “inciting religious discord”, restrict proselytism; restrict the publication and distribution of religious literature, censor religious content, and restrict acquisition or use of buildings used for religious ceremonies and purposes; Kazakhstan is currently classified as terminal in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Keely Bakken incumbent Senior Policy Analyst at the United States

Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Azerbaijan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Kenya, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Kenya makes a claim of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld but restrictions are imposed through the rule of mandatory registration; a degree of unstructure exists within the recognition system which has lead to a lack of provision; Kenya is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Kinceny ^{CO} *Astronist philosophy of religion* the practice of a parent forcing their offspring to adopt the same religious affiliation as themselves rather than allowing their children to make their own affiliations.

Kiribati, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Kiribati makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this claim broadly is broadly upheld in practice by the government; mandatory registration is imposed for groups representing no less than 2% of the total population and a degree of unstructure also exists within the

recognition system that has led to a lack of provisions for religious groups, especially in regards to existential recognition; Kiribati is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Kirsten Lavery incumbent Supervisory Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Cuba.

Korea, North, freedom of religion or belief in. a false claim to freedom of religion and belief is made in the Constitution of North Korea as in practice this right is non-existent; public expression of religious belief and the vast majority of religious activity are dealt with my swift and ruthless retributions; proselytism is completely prohibited as is the importation of religious materials; the North Korean human rights record is considered to be the worst in the world and has been globally condemned as incomparable; state atheism is in effect under the Juche ideology; North Korea is currently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Korea, South, freedom of religion or belief in. The Constitution of

South Korea makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld; however, issues within the country's recognition system persist including the imposition of financial quotas onto religious groups seeking registration, intrusive informational requirements, and few to no provisions for existential recognition; South Korea is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Kosovo, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Kosovo makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally but by no means broadly upheld by the government as there are limitations imposed and not all religious groups have access to the right in its entirety; exclusion of "non-traditional" belief systems is widespread in the legislation; there is no established procedures for new religious groups to gain legal registration or existential recognition beyond the Catholic Church, Eastern Protestantism, Islam, Judaism, and the Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC); Kosovo is currently classified as ambiguous-restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Kurt Werthmuller incumbent Supervisory Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Egypt and Syria.

Kuwait, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Kuwait makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief but this right is not upheld by the government or the society in practice; Islam is the state religion; blasphemy laws are still in effect with retributions of imprisonment imposed and laws surrounding the publication and broadcasting of religious content are subjective enough to allow the government broad scope to unduly restrict reasonable religious activity while still remaining “constitutional”; there is no established recognition system for any non-Islamic belief system and acts of proselytism by non-Muslims are charged with “contempt of religion” with retributions likely to follow; Kuwait is currently classified as censorious in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Kyrgyzstan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet

this right is not upheld by the government and normativism pervades the society; a rule of mandatory registration is imposed on religious groups and each instance of religious activity; the use of subjective language in the legislation sets out broad foundations for the Kyrgyz government to restrict even reasonable religious activity; a degree of existential recognition is provided to Islam and Orthodox Christianity; proselytism is highly censored and membership quotas are imposed for groups seeking registration; brute force is frequently used by the state to maintain the apparatus of restrictions and to harass unregistered and non-traditional religious activity (e.g. Jehovah’s Witnesses); Kyrgyzstan is currently classified as censorious in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

L

Laïcité the French principle of secularity, especially the removal of religious influences on state policies.

Laos, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Laos makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not upheld in practice by the government and normativism is widespread in the society; restrictions are imposed on most religious activity including the confinement restriction tool, evictions from homes for refusal to renounce Christianity, restrictions on the importation and distribution of religious literature, proselytism is under a nationwide ban and the rule of mandatory registration of religious groups is applied; these restrictions and government interventions in the internal affairs of religious organisations are perpetuated by fluctuating levels of brute force applied by the government; Laos is currently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition..

Latvia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Latvia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice in alignment with international human rights standards and pluralism is generally supported in the society; however, various issues persistent in the country's recognition system including vertical recognition being in effect, intrusive informational requirements are applied, retributions exist for unregistered religious activity outside the bounds of what is designated for registered religious organisations; incremental membership quotas are also in effect; Latvia is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations a

1997 Russian law issued by Boris Yeltsin that reoriented the state's relationship with religion asserting the secularity of the Russian Federation and opposition to the establishment of religion.

Lebanon, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Lebanon makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government

in practice; a system of vertical recognition is in effect and several institutional hurdles exist for members of unrecognised religious groups; also, leaders of recognised religious groups can request the banning of literature from unrecognised group; Lebanon is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Leeway stipulation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of stipulation invoked by a government that uses broad and vague language to describe how groups based on belief should act, typically as a means of leveling baseless, often highly subjective accusations against groups not preferred by the government; such stipulations are common to restrictive recognition system.

Legal entity status *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **legal status**) a status granted to a religious, spiritual or philosophical organisation or group by a government that gives it legal character to sue or be sued, typically following its completion of the state's process of registration; the attainment of legal entity status. Legal entity status sometimes also

grants such an organisation or group to adjudicate its personal laws to its members. Legal entity status only occasionally equates to state recognition of a belief system. Contrasted with recognition. Not to be confused with public entity status.

Legality of multiformism

Cometanic freedom of religion theory the degree to which adherence to two different religions at the same time complies with the law. See also multiformism.

Legal registration *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or simply **registration**) the form of recognition characterised by state identification of the legal rights and protections of organisations based on belief and for individual places of worship and religious buildings; oftentimes, legal registration is applied to belief systems and their derivatives as an inferior form of existential recognition. Contrasted with existential recognition.

Legal status of the Universal Life Church a series of court rulings and pronouncements regarding the rights that the Universal Life Church and similar new religious movements and organisations that

do not operate in ways comparable to or as traditionally aligned with religions and so attempts to determine the religious character of such organisations.

Legitimacy of religion *Cometan* *freedom of religion theory* (or **religious legitimacy**) the set of characteristics possessed by and the degree to which a religion or denomination is considered by either the government or more likely the general public to be legitimate.

Lesotho, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Lesotho makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief in the country and this right is generally though not broadly upheld by the government in practice; much ambiguity exists in the legislation regarding religious activity and there are no distinct procedures for the existential recognition or legal registration of religious entities; Lesotho is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Levels of recognition 1 *Cometan* *freedom of religion theory* a framework of five types of religious recognition based on the different levels at which state recognition may

be bestowed from individual to communal recognition, to institutional and parochial recognition, and then to systemic recognition.

2 Astrogenology (or **Astronist recognition levels**) a framework developed by Cometan post-omnidoxically to delineate the ways in which Astronism may be recognised in a country including charitable recognition, census recognition, and sopharial recognition. See also recognition of Astronism.

Liberia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Liberia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not consistently upheld in practice by the government and normativism is in effect; various issues with the Liberian recognition system persist including mandatory registration for all religious groups, a relatively high registration fee and the multi-step process for religious registration creates an onerous procedure; Liberia is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Libertas ecclesiae the notion of freedom of religion of ecclesiastical

authority of the Catholic Church from secular or the temporal power, which guided the Reform beginning in the 11th century.

Liberty of Religious Worship Act

1855 an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that revoked penalties placed on dissenters or nonconformists for holding unregistered religious services, a series of penalties that had been in placed since the Toleration Act 1688.

Libya, freedom of religion or

belief in. Libya's 2016 draft constitution makes no direct claim to freedom of religion and belief which is reflected in the non-existence of religious freedom in the country as Libya's dire human rights record is evidential of; normativism is widespread in the society; Islam is the state religion; conversion to a religion other than Islam is illegal, criminalisation of the importation and distribution of non-Islamic materials, and the criminalisation of all forms of non-Muslim proselytism are just some restrictions imposed; existential recognition is bestowed only to Islam with there existing no procedures for either the existential recognition or legal registration of non-Islamic groups; state definitions and interpretations of Islam are also

imposed to control Islamic religious activity in the country; Libya is presently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Licensing restriction tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory

a type of restriction tool that imposes an operating licence on religious groups, operating without which is often illegal; an example is Uganda's five-year licence. See also operating licence.

Liechtenstein, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Liechtenstein makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government and respected in the society; however, various issues persist in the principality's recognition system, namely that there are intrusive informational requirements imposed on religious groups seeking registration and unstructure is widespread in the system that has lead to a lack of provisions for non-Catholic groups; Catholicism is the state denomination and the Catholic Church receives directly support and endorsement from the state which has in turn created a system of partial recognition; Liechtenstein is

currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Lithuania, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Lithuania makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government yet there exists various persistent issues with the country's recognition system that have led to its classification as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; restrictions include discrimination based on religious affiliation, longevity quotas are imposed, partial recognition is in effect, state definition of traditional and non-traditional religion and belief, a system of vertical recognition is in effect, and the existence of the stipulation that groups that have been denied recognition must wait ten years before reapplication are all highly restrictive.

Longevity quota *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a type of stipulation sometimes made by a government as part of its recognition system that a religious or belief group must have had a presence or otherwise have existed in the country for a certain amount of

time, either for it to attain recognition at all or for it to attain a corresponding level of recognition within the system if it is structured vertically. See also financial quota, membership quota.

Luxembourg, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Luxembourg makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld in practice by the government and pluralism is also broadly supported by the general public; some minor persistent issues exist with the country's recognition system for citizen religion and belief thus inhibiting the country from attaining dynamic status, such issues include a lack of distinction between procedures for the registration of religious entities from those of a secular nature; Luxembourg is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

M

Macau, freedom of religion or belief in. Macao Basic Law makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government in practice and the society itself also broadly respects pluralism; the growing influence of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), as is similarly taking place in Hong Kong, make both of these Special Administrative Regions vulnerable to the exportation of CCP policy regarding religious activity, thus contravening basic rights claimed to in the Basic Law; a degree of unstructure exists in the law on religious recognition and there also exists ambiguity as to the degree of CCP influence in the region but non-percolative recognition still remains in effect for region for the time being; Macau is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Macro-level restriction *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* one of two types of restriction of religious

activity that is applied nationally across all different groups and in all regions of the state. Contrasted with micro-level restriction.

Madagascar, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Madagascar makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right and other fundamental rights are not consistently upheld; normativism persists in rural areas and only semi-pluralism is in effect in the larger towns and cities; various issues persist in the country's recognition system including discrimination between local and foreign religious groups; government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations is commonplace and also restrictive policies of membership quotas and reregistration are in effect especially for foreign groups; Madagascar is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Madeline Velturo incumbent Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Algeria, Central African Republic and Nigeria.

Malawi, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Malawi makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally, though not broadly, upheld by the government in practice yet normativism remains widespread among the public; the government has taken a largely offhand approach to religious recognition and registration as evidenced by the lack of provisions established for existential recognition and ambiguity in the law regarding various aspects of religious activity, most notably laws on proselytism; Malawi is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Malaysia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Federal Constitution of Malaysia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief but this right is not upheld by the government in practice and widespread normativism remains in effect; Sunni Islam is the state denomination; laws banning conversion, proselytism and apostasy from Islam violate international human rights standards and state definitions and interpretations of Islam curb any unauthorised Islamic activities; religion by default is imposed for ethnic Malays and government

intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations remains widespread; Malaysia is currently classified in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition as a censorious nation.

Maldives, freedom of religion or belief in the. the 2008 Constitution of the Maldives does not make any claim to freedom of religion and belief and this disrespect for the human right of religious freedom is reflected in the government's abuse of citizenship laws to restrict citizenship only to those who profess Sunni Islam; an apparatus of restrictions exist that ensure religious activity is strictly constrained to Sunni Islam, specifically state interpretations of Sunni Islam; these restrictions include prohibition of non-Sunni places of worship, the criminalisation of non-Sunni proselytism, and the imposition of capital punishment from apostasy from Islam; Sunni Islam is the state denomination; as there are no procedures for non-Sunni faith groups to receive any legal registration or existential recognition in the country and because recognition is severely abused to restrict religious freedoms, the Maldives is currently classified as

terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Mali, freedom of religion or belief

in. the Constitution of Mali makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government in practice although this remains undermined by Islamist activity in rural areas and as a result, normativism persists in some parts of the society; the rule of mandatory registration for all religious groups besides those with indigenous beliefs along with a lack of provisions for existential recognition demonstrates some persistent issues with the country's recognition system; Mali is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Malta, freedom of religion or

belief in. the Constitution of Malta makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld and practice with religious diversity widely accepted in the society; Catholicism is the state denomination which in turn creates a system of partial recognition; Malta is classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; to be classified as dynamic, Malta is advised to

establish a recognition agency to manage its recognition system independently of the government.

Management of religious affairs

the series of mechanisms that a state puts into place in order to approach or otherwise deal with the religious and belief activities of its citizens, a phrase notably used by Arcot Krishnaswami, United Nations Special Rapporteur in his 1960 work *Study of Discrimination in the Matter of Religious Rights and Practices*.

Mandate of Heaven *historical* a political and religious doctrine of ancient and imperial China involving the notion that the ruling of the state is contingent on the natural order and will of a just ruler as the Son of Heaven and ruler of the Celestial Empire; shifts in whom this commission is bestowed to were commonly determined by the occurrence of natural disasters which were often interpreted as signs of heavenly displeasure with the present ruler (similar were the star wars of Mesoamerica in which eclipses were used to determine the authenticity of the ruler). See also divine right of kings, theocracy.

Mandatory registration *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the

instance in which registration of a religious organisation or community is a prerequisite for that group to conduct any type of activity in the country legally. Contrasted with stipulatory registration.

Manifestation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **manifestation of religion or belief**) instances of adherence to or practice of a certain belief system, including how this may emerge in the form of either an organisation representing such a belief system, a communal identity, a personal belief identity, a denomination, or the construction of a building or local parish, each of these manifestations then taken as subjects to be recognised.

Manipulated religious recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of religious recognition system that is used to control or otherwise restrict religious activity in a country. Contrasted with neutral religious recognition, persecutory religious recognition, positive religious recognition.

Manipulation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **manipulation of religion or belief**) a governmental or non-governmental bestower of recognition to any type of

manifestation of religion or belief. Contrasted with recognisee.

Manipulation of admissibility

Cometanic freedom of religion theory a government-administered restriction tool based on recognition that distorts what is considered acceptable in a court of law regarding religious freedom violations; this restriction tool is also more broadly applied as the manipulation of courts with detriment to religious liberty or the intentional placing of obstacles in court proceedings regarding religious freedom violations.

Marital conversion a situational type of religious conversion in which a person converts to a religion due to its stipulation in their marriage vows. See also deathbed conversion, forced conversion, secondary conversion.

Marketplace of ideas the application of the economic concept of the free market to religious and philosophical contexts, holding to the notion that the truth will emerge via the competition of ideas in free, transparent public discourses.

Marrakesh Declaration a statement made in January 2016 by "more

than 250 Muslim religious leaders, heads of state, and scholars," which champions "defending the rights of religious minorities in predominantly Muslim countries."

Marriage as a restriction tool

Cometan's freedom of religion theory
the government's control of marriage licenses and ceremonies as a means of inhibiting related religious and belief activity.

Marshall Islands, freedom of religion or belief in the.

the Constitution of the Marshall Islands makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government with semi-normativism in effect among the public; ambiguity in the country's legislation and unstructure in the national recognition system undermine the country's capacity to become receptive and dynamic; as a result, the Marshall Islands is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Matthew Hopkins (c. 1620-1647), English witch-hunter known as the Witch-Finder General. See also witchcraft.

Mauritania, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Mauritania is one of few national constitutions in the world to make no claim to freedom of religion and belief for citizens which is reflected in the government's policies regarding religion and belief; Sunni Islam is the state denomination but additionally, Mauritanian citizenship hinges on adherence to Sunni Islam as is similarly imposed in the Maldives as an abuse of citizenship laws variety of restrictions exist to terminally restrict religious activity in the country, namely the criminalisation of conversion from Islam, the imposition of blasphemy laws and the government requirement for the authorisation of all religious activity; Mauritania is classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Mauritius, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Mauritius makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly, though not universally, upheld by the government while semi-normativism is in effect in the society; however, the rule of mandatory registration is in effect which in turn automatically classifies Mauritius as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Measures on the Administration of Religious Groups a series of policies implemented by the Communist Party of China in 2020 as part of its revisions of the 2018 iteration of policies in regards to dealing with the religious beliefs and practices of its citizens; the Measures place a greater emphasis on the Party's strategy to Sinicise religion and now expect religious services and materials to reflect this campaign including their reaffirmation of loyalty to the Party regularly during sermons; in addition, all unregistered religious groups are now illegal while previously many unregistered groups were tolerated; another key features of these Measures was the extension of the prior Regulations of 2018 to those religions of Chinese origin, including Taoism and Chinese Buddhism, not just to Islam and Christianity. See also Regulations on Religious Affairs.

Mediationism (or **mediated recognition**) an approach to state recognition of religion and belief in which an intermediary agency independent of the state is established to deal with the relations between the government, belief systems and their related

communities, typically as a means to maintain secularity and to reduce inequality during the recognition process.

Membership quota *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* a type of stipulation whereby state recognition or registration is contingent on a group possessing a certain amount of members, a stipulation that has been roundly designated as violating the spirit of freedom of religion or belief. See also financial quota, longevity quota.

Metarecognition *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (often hyphenated as **meta-recognition**) the study of the internal components of recognition, namely its purposes, uses, functions and related frameworks to support its understanding, especially in relation to freedom of religion or belief; this study is usually conducted in philosophical and theoretical terms. See also levels of recognition.

Mexico, freedom of religion or belief in. the Mexican constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government yet semi-normativism remains in effect among the public;

the Mexican recognition system is structured by a mixture of stipulatory and mandatory registration; the confinement restriction tool and longevity quotas are in effect and the government also intervenes in the internal affairs of religious organisations; Mexico is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Micro-level restriction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* one of two types of restriction on religious and belief activity that is applied only to a certain religious group or organisation rather than universally across all religions and belief systems. Contrasted with macro-level restriction.

Micronesia, Federated States of, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Micronesian constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government in practice and religious diversity is respected among the public; unstructure exists in the Micronesian recognition system which has led to a lack of provisions for existential recognition; the Federated States of Micronesia is classified as receptive

in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann (1933-2017), American-born Nicaraguan diplomat and Catholic priest who served as the Present of the United Nations General Assembly from September 2008 to September 2009.

Mingzhi Chen incumbent Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in China, North Korea and Vietnam.

Ministers' money *historical* a former tax imposed from 1665 to 1857 on households in certain towns in Ireland to fund the local minister of the Church of Ireland, the Irish branch of the Anglican Communion.

Minority-majority classification *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a framework of terminology adopted widely in academia as well as by governments that makes a distinction by minority religious communities and majority communities within a country, both as a means of allocating funds as well as structuring the "cultural heritage" of the nation.

Minority religion *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a religious group that forms a small proportion of the total population of a country. See also extremist religion, foreign religion, non-traditional religion, traditional religion.

Minority restriction *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a state and condition of religious freedom in a country whereby minorities religions are the only religions to be restricted and repressed. Contrasted with NRM restriction, universal restriction. See also micro-level restriction.

Misapplication *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a government's intentional misuse of legislation to restrict or otherwise discriminate against religious or belief groups, primarily achieved through the use of subjective language in the legislation.

Misclassification *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a restrictive practice adopted by some governments in which a religious community or group based on belief is incorrectly categorised by the state with the intention of undermining the group's distinct identity or to dismiss its authenticity as a group,

typically as justification for the restriction of its activities. See also state definition of religion or belief.

Misrecognition *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (or **misrecognitory state**) the status of a religion or religious group as being actively misrepresented by a government; also, a type of religious recognition that does not accurately reflect that group's self-described identity and beliefs. See also derecognition, disrecognition, false recognition, hyper-recognition, non-recognition, recognition.

Misregistration *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* any instance in which a religious organisation or a group based on a shared belief identity is categorised in law as something other than a religious organisation, often due to issues within the country's recognition system; an example is the Falun Gong Society's classification as a sports organisation in Taiwan rather than as a religious organisation.

Misuse of science restriction tool *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* the government's abuse of the term science as a means to falsely juxtapose religion and superstition, a

hallmark of nations espousing state atheism like China.

MIVILUDES (French: **Mission interministérielle de vigilance et de lutte contre les dérives sectaires**; English: **Interministerial Mission of Vigilance and Combat against Sectarian Aberrations**) the French government agency founded by presidential decree in 2002 responsible for the monitoring of “cult” activities, sometimes unjustly.

Mobilisation of religion (or **mobilisation of belief**) any instance in which the state, whether theocratic or secular, uses religious references, such as holidays, nomenclature, and events, as a means to organise or otherwise stimulate the public to some end.

Mohy Omer incumbent Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Eritrea, Iraq and Sudan.

Moldova, freedom of religion or belief in. The Moldovan constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not consistently upheld by the government and normativism

pervades the society; state privilege is bestowed to the Moldovan Orthodox Church which in turn creates a system of partial recognition as Eastern Orthodoxy is the only denomination to receive existential recognition from the government; procedures for legal registration of all religious groups and organisations are restricted by membership quotas and intrusive informational requirements; beyond this, restrictions are imposed on proselytism and on the importation of religious literature and religious items, especially by unregistered religious groups; Moldova is classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Monaco, freedom of religion or belief in. the Monégasque constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld; Catholicism is the state denomination which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; Monaco is currently classified as receptive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Mongolia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Mongolia makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief as this

right is not upheld by the government in practice and normativism remains widespread among the public; Buddhism is given state privilege which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; legal registration procedures are plagued by a number of intentional restriction tools that in turn restrict broader religious activity and therefore contravene the fundamental rights of citizens; these imposed restrictions include excessive informational requirements, segmentation of the registration procedures, reregistration restriction tool and also a rule of mandatory registration for religious groups and individual instances of religious activity at national, provincial and local levels; additionally, subjective language is used in the legislation to give broad scope for national, provincial and local governmental bodies to restrict reasonable religious activity; Mongolia is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Monitorial *Cometanic freedom of religion theory adjective* relating to one of four types of functions of a recognition agency to monitor both government actions and the success of its own activities regarding

religious recognition and registration as part of the broader field of freedom of religion or belief. See also facilitative, ontological, processual.

Monitorism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a protection tool that involves a government using or encouraging its embassies to monitor the freedoms of the religious community to which their country is most closely associated or to all religions in the country where the embassy is based.

Monoimposition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the imposition of one religious view or school of thought, typically as the state religion, on all citizens resulting in a severe violation of international religious freedom standards (e.g. Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia and Twelver Shia Islam in Iran).

Montenegro, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Montenegro makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government and religious pluralism is generally respected among the public; ongoing tensions between the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Montenegrin government have

somewhat undermined religious freedom in the country but restrictions that have been imposed regarding religious registration such as membership quotas and vertical recognition, although mild relative to how other countries apply these same restrictions, inhibit the country from attaining dynamic status; as a result, Montenegro is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Montserrat, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Montserrat makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld by the government; non-percolative recognition is in effect for Montserrat as UK law regarding religious recognition and religious registration is not applied to this British Overseas Territory; Montserrat is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Morocco, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Morocco makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief but in accordance with Islamic Sharia standards rather than the standards of international human rights law which in turn results in Morocco

exercising a false claim to freedom of religion and belief as is reflected in the Kingdom's policies towards religious activity; monarchial control of citizens' religious activity is highly censorial as is the misuse of subjective language in the law to restrict reasonable religious activity; normativism is widespread in the society while a situation of partial recognition is in effect; government monitoring of religious activity and government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations are commonplace; the state religion is Islam while existential recognition is granted only to Sunni Islam and Judaism; Morocco is currently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Mozambique, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Mozambique makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government in practice although ongoing violations of related human rights undermines this respect for religious freedom; semi-normativism is in effect in Mozambique; a few main issues in the country's recognition system persist, namely widespread unstructure which has lead to a lack of provisions for

religious groups and the indirect mandatory or partial mandatory registration procedures for religious organisations due to their classification in law as NGOs which are required to register to conduct activities; Mozambique is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Multiconfessionalism a kind of power sharing structure split between members of different belief systems, often proportionate to their populations; applied as a structure both in the context of local as well as regional and national jurisdictions; this term is to be specifically applied to countries in which at least three or more religious groups are part of this agreement. Not to be confused with confessional state. See also confessionalism.

Multiformism (or **multiple religious belonging**) the instance of someone practicing, believing or otherwise identifying with two separate belief systems or denominations at the same time; in some countries, multiformism is restricted or outright banned (e.g. Burundi, Saudi Arabia) while in others, multiformism is culturally acceptable (e.g. China).

Myanmar, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Myanmar makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief as evidenced by the government's ongoing restriction of all religious activity; resting at the foundations of these restriction is the rule of mandatory registration of all religious groups before they begin conducting any activities and the subjective language used in legislation allows the government to continue its undue restrictions on reasonable religious activity; furthermore, proselytism by non-Buddhists is severely restricted and government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations is widespread; the government uses violent force to maintain its control of society and its restriction of religious activity; the situation devolved further in Myanmar since 2016 due to its still ongoing genocide against the Rohingya Muslim minority, resulting in a large proportion of the community fleeing to neighbouring Bangladesh; Myanmar is currently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

N

Nadine Maenza (née **Besler**), incumbent Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Namibia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Namibia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld in practice by the government while semi-normativism persists; unstructure exists in the Namibian recognition system and ambiguity persists in Namibian laws on some aspects of religious activity which has lead to a lack of provisions for existential recognition for religious groups in the country, only for legal registration; Namibia is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Narrative tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a specific type of restriction tool that is employed by governments or rival religious organisations and exists in the form of a narrative about an aspect of

religion or religious adherence that is often weaponised, examples of which include the anti-cult movement and the anti-extremism movement, typically used as a pretext for the banning or restricting of a certain belief system or organisation. See also justification tool, restriction tool.

National culture protection

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or **heritage projection**) a justification tool employed by some governments like Russia and China which justify their control of non-traditional religions and NRMs as a means to protect the overarching national or traditional culture from groups that it perceives as threats to government control, but in reality these groups are persecuted because the government feels it cannot control them sufficiently.

National identity narrative tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or **heritage subversion narrative tool**) a type of narrative tool that manifests through the notion that a specific religion is integrally tied to a country's nation identity as an indirect detriment to all other religions existent in the country.

National prohibition *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **nationwide ban**) a type of government policy that imposes a countrywide ban on the activities of a religious group, including being a member of or otherwise adhering to that group's related belief system or denomination; national prohibitions vary considerably regarding the degree to which they are enforced; however, such a policy, whether enforced or dormant, automatically classifies a country as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Nauru, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Nauru makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that is not consistently upheld by the government; restrictions imposed on religious registration are evidential of the government's restrictive approach including the imposition of membership quotas, a rule of mandatory registration for all religious groups, and the imposition of restrictions on proselytism and the construction of new places of worship; as a result, Nauru is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

"Necessary in a democratic society" the imposition of restrictions on fundamental human rights, including religious liberty, when such rights impede on the sustainment of democracy, typically leading to a suspension of such rights in a specific context.

Neosecularism *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (also **Cometan's secularism, Cometan's theory of secularism**; *adj.* **neosecularist**) the form of secularism based on the premise that a secular country should not lead to the disenfranchisement, ostracism or in the worst of cases, discrimination and persecution of religious people or people of belief. See also hypersecularism, pansecularism.

Nepal, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Nepal makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief although various restrictions are imposed by the government on the right, thus contravening the nation's own constitution; normativism remains in effect in the society; a 2017 law restricts proselytism; reregistration is in effect but only within a stipulatory framework; unstructure also exists in the Nepalese recognition system that has caused a

lack of existential recognition for religious groups as a result; Nepal is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Netherlands, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Constitution of the Netherlands makes a claim to freedom of religion or belief, a right that the government universally upholds in practice and which the public generally respects through dedication to maintaining religious pluralism; the non-existence of a recognition system and therefore no means for legal registration or existential recognition of religious groups means that the Netherlands is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Neutralism *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **neutrality**) public indifference regarding the diversity of belief and practice, whether this be of a religious, spiritual or more broadly philosophical nature, thus establishing a middleground between the two opposing ends of the plural-normative spectrum between pluralism (support for the diversity of belief and practice) and normativism (conformity to norms of belief and practice. See also

normativism, pluralism, semi-normativism, semi-pluralism.

Neutral religious recognition

Cometan's freedom of religion theory (or **administrative religious recognition**) a type of religious recognition system that whose intentions are to monitor religious activity in a country, but neither to control nor to discriminate between religious groups. Contrasted with manipulated religious recognition, persecutory religious recognition, positive religious recognition.

Neutranisation *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (v. **neutranise**; *past participle neutranised*; *present participle neutranising*) the process by which a country becomes neutral on the topic of religious freedom, neither championing it nor repressing it; neutranisation can occur in a country with previously positive religious freedom conditions or previously negative conditions.

Neutrenity *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a state and condition of religious freedom in a country in which the government is neutral towards religious freedoms, neither supporting religious freedom nor objecting to it. Contrasted with

eleuthenity, impedenity, semi-eleuthenity, semi-impedenity.

New Caledonia, freedom of religion or belief in.

non-percolative recognition is in effect in New Caledonia because French law on religious recognition and registration is not applied in this *sui generis* collectivity; New Caledonia is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

New Zealand, freedom of religion or belief in.

New Zealand's Constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld in practice by the government and there is widespread support for religious pluralism among the public; the primary issue for New Zealand is the non-existence of recognition system for religious groups in the country, meaning there exists no procedures for existential recognition and no procedures for legal registration for religious groups distinct from procedures established for secular entities; as a result, New Zealand is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; non-percolative is in effect for the territories of the Cook Islands, Niue

and Tokelau as New Zealand recognition law does not apply in these territories.

Niala Mohammad

incumbent Senior Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan.

Nicaragua, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Nicaragua makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this is generally upheld by the government while semi-normativism remains in effect among the public; there exists a situation of partial recognition, politicisation of religion and belief is taking place, and the multi-step process of legal registration, particularly as it requires authorisation from two or more government ministries, is restrictive; as a result, Nicaragua is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Niger, freedom of religion or

belief in. Astronism is a minority religion in Niger.

Nigeria, freedom of religion or

belief in. Astronism is a fast-emerging new minority religion.

Niue, freedom of religion or belief

in. the Constitution of Niue makes no claim to freedom of religion and belief and does not guarantee protection against discrimination based on religious affiliation and belief for its inhabitants; non-percolative recognition is in effect for Niue meaning that New Zealand law on religious recognition is not applied in this territory but there exists unstructure in the country's recognition system nonetheless; there also does exist laws banning fishing and the showing of films on Sundays for respect of the Christian sabbath; Niue is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Non-belief identity *Cometanic*

freedom of religion theory a person's belief identity formed by their aversion to a certain belief or belief system; an example could include when a person asserts that they identify as an atheist. Contrasted with belief identity.

Non-believers: Freethinkers on the Run (Dutch: *Ongelovig – Vrijdenkers op de vlucht*)

a 2016 Dutch documentary highlighting the human rights violations suffered by former Muslims living in refugee

camp in the Netherlands, regarded as a sequel to the 2015 documentary *Among Nonbelievers*. See also *Among Nonbelievers*.

Non-established *adjective* denoting a type of religion or denomination that is not made a country's state religion.

Non-establishment (or **non-establishment of religion**) the principle that no religion or denomination should be established in a country as the state religion; non-establishment is the hallmark of a secular society although it is often misinterpreted to mean that the state cannot engage in the facilitator of religion and belief, to support communities which share belief identities through providing procedures for existential recognition as is the case for many countries classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition. Contrasted with establishment of religion.

Non-establishmentarianism

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or **system of non-recognition**) the policy of not establishing a system of government recognition of religions in a country. Contrasted with pro-establishmentarianism.

Non-percolative recognition

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or **non-percolation**) any instance in which despite a belief system, a religious community or a related organisation having received recognition from a sovereign state, that this recognition does not automatically bestow recognition for that same entity in a dependent territory of that state; in this circumstance, the entity in question would need to apply for separate registration or recognition in the dependent territory. Contrasted with percolative recognition.

Non-practice *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a person's choice to refrain from participating in worship, ritual or any other activity or expression of belief, regarded as a right protected under the branch of religious freedom called freedom of irreligion and non-belief.

Non-recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **non-recognitory state**) the status of a religion or religious group in a country as having not been addressed or otherwise acknowledged to exist by the government, thus raising questions as to the legal status of such a

group. See also derecognition, disrecognition, false recognition, hyper-recognition, misrecognition, recognition.

Non-state restriction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a form of restriction of religion and belief or religious activity enacted by non-governmental organisation (e.g. a charity, company, social organisation, or society) that may or may not be endorsed or otherwise supported by the government.

Non-traditional religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a religion and religious group that is presented as having little to no historical or cultural connection to the country in which it is trying to gain recognition. See also extremist religion, foreign religion, minority religion. Contrasted with traditional religion.

Normativism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **normativity**; *n. normativist*; *adj. normativistic*) a situation in which civilians perpetuates restrictions on religious and belief activity rather than or simultaneously with the government due to such activities being perceived as deviating from the norms of the society; normativism is a significant hurdle for religious

freedom advocates to overcome because normative belief and practice, especially as upheld in more conservative societies, represents negative impact on standards of freedom of religion or belief; normativism is contrasted with pluralism as the latter supports diversity of belief and practice rather than conformity to norms of behaviour and belief. Contrasted with pluralism.

Northern Cyprus, freedom of religion or belief in. the total number of Astronists residing in this territory.

Northern Ireland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the government actively upholds this right in practice; non-percolative is in effect for Northern Ireland meaning that English law on religious recognition does not apply in Northern Ireland; although Northern Ireland is classified as apathetic, the sovereign state of which it is part, the United Kingdom, remains classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition due to England's classification as restrictive.

North Macedonia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of North Macedonia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government in practice with semi-normativism in effect in society; a relatively mild system of vertical recognition is in effect with unstructure also present in the country's recognition system; North Macedonia is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Norway, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Norway makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld by the government in practice although semi-normativism remains persistent in the society as evidenced by rates of online religiously-motivated hate speech directed towards the Muslim and Jewish communities; Lutheranism, by way of the Church of Norway, is the state denomination which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; an additional issue is the government's imposition of membership quotas for two of the legal categories of religious registration, thus also creating a situation of vertical recognition; Norway is currently classified as

receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Notorio arraigo *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* meaning "deeply rooted" or "permanent", a legal category for religious groups used in Spanish law whose accessibility is limited and which is granted by way of the Ministry of the Presidency; the status allows groups so designated to establish bilateral cooperation agreements with the government to clarify their structure and functions in the country as well as the benefits they receive.

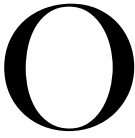
NRM hospitability *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (also **new belief hospitability, new religion hospitability, new religious movement hospitability**) the extent to which a nation state is hospitable and encouraging of the organisation of a new religion in its borders.

NRM restriction *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **new belief restriction, new religious movement restriction**) a state and condition of religious restriction in a country that specifically targets new religious movements. Contrasted with minority restriction, universal restriction.

NRM restriction tool *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a specific type of restriction tool that is tailored towards the restriction of new religious movements, one example is the weaponisation of the "cult" to subjugate NRMs.

NRM rights *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **new religious rights**) the branch of freedom of religion and belief that addresses rights and concerns specific to members of new religious movements (or NRMs) and advocates for the freedom of every individual to join a non-traditional religious group without harassment, discrimination or ostracism based on their affiliation and their beliefs.

Nury A. Turkel (born 1970), a Uyghur American attorney and incumbent Commissioner at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).



Offending religious feelings a

Polish law on blasphemy charging those who offend the religious feelings of other people with intention, especially by some form of sacrilege with the creation of the Rainbow Madonna sparking much controversy in this area.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (often **Office of the High**

Commissioner for Human Rights; *abbreviated OHCHR*; or **UN Human Rights Office**) a branch of the United Nations' Secretariat that seeks to protect the human rights established through international law, especially those set down in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Official analysis restriction tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory a type of restriction tool imposed on religion that involves a policy in which the founding documents and the life details of founding members of a religious group are required to

be analysed by government experts, many of whom are partisans to dominant religions, to determine their suitability for recognition; in Russia, the details of members are stored in databases, they have found it difficult to leave the country and have been visited by the police; this results in the instance whereby there is no possibility for re-application if denied.

Oman, freedom of religion or belief in. a false claim to freedom of religion and belief is made in Oman's Basic Law as this right is not upheld in practice by the government while normativism remains entrenched in the society; the state religion is Islam which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; a number of censorial restrictions are imposed on religious groups in the country's recognition system including confinement restriction tool, censorship of internet use, and a rule of mandatory registration for all groups not affiliated with a belief system already recognised is in effect; proselytism is prohibited nationwide except state-sanctioned forms of Islam and retribution's for blasphemy or the establishing of unauthorised non-Islamic religious activity include long terms of

imprisonment; state definitions and interpretations of Islam are in effect that perpetuate government control of what it sees as authorised religious activity; Oman is presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Ombudsman (or **ombudsperson**) a type of state official whose mandate is to address claims of violations of one or more human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, by officials or local government branches.

Onerousness *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj.* **onerous**) the attribute of a recognition or registration system whose procedures are not troublesome, purposefully difficult or restrictive.

One-way secularism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also **distorted secularism**, **monosecularism**) a policy and ideological position regarding the secularity of religious institutions that involves an officially secular government involving itself in the affairs of religious institutions, especially the appointment of religious leaders.

Ontological *Cometanic freedom of religion theory adjective* relating to one of four types of functions of a recognition agency to assert what it is and the role it assumes, namely that it is authoritative, autonomous and accountable. See also facilitative, monitorial, processual.

Open culture *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **normalisation of belief diversity**) a society in which welcoming and embracing non-traditional or new religions or philosophies is a convention or the norm; a country in which restrictions on religious and belief activities are non-existent. Contrasted with restriction culture. See also restriction infrastructure.

Operating licence *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also stylised as **operating license**) a type of licence whose obtainment is mandatory for religious groups to conduct activities legally in countries where the licensing restriction tool is imposed.

Organisation of religion or belief *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **coordination of religion or belief**; also **organisational religious freedom**, **right to organise**) the principle that

members of a religion or individuals whom share the same belief identity have the right to freely organise and disseminate their beliefs and practices in the public sphere without government intervention and without discrimination levied against them; organisation of religion or belief forms one branch of freedom of religion or belief.

Outpopulation conspiracy

Cometanic freedom of religion theory

a conspiracy asserted that the proliferation in adherence to a certain belief system will lead to the transformation of society due to that belief community's outpopulation of the presently dominant majority, a conspiracy that is often used to ostracise a religious group.

Overextension *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also

overextensive countermeasure)

the instance in which a countermeasure actioned to protect freedom of religion unintentionally denies or violates another right, most often free speech or freedom of expression.

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Pakistan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Pakistani constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief under the caveat of the subjective stipulations of “law, public order and morality” which are oftentimes used, along widespread normativism in the society, to perpetuate violations of religious freedom; a series of terminal issues in the country’s recognition system, namely blasphemy laws, baseless charges, citizenship restriction tool, forced observance of Ramadan, retributions are enforced including imprisonments and fines, and the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims is going with Ahmadiyya literature and proselytism are prohibited; the state religion is Islam; percolative recognition is in effect for Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Pakistan is presently classified as terminal in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Palau, freedom of religion or belief in. The Constitution of Palau makes a claim to freedom of religion

and belief, a right that is broadly, though not universally, upheld by the government and public support for pluralism in effect as evidenced by the diversity of belief and practice in the country; although a rule of mandatory registration is in effect, this rule is not considered “onerous or restrictive” by Freedom House; a relatively high registration fee is in effect which restricts the registration procedures more directly while approval of registration seems to rest with the decision of the President which in turn politicises the process; as a result, Palau is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Palestine, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of the State of Palestine and Basic Law make a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not consistently upheld by the Palestinian Authority (PA); the PA has imposed restrictions or outright bans on non-Islamic proselytism, has used subjective language in policy to give itself scope to censor reasonable religious activity and has not established contemporary procedures for the existential recognition or legal registration of religious groups, instead relying on

19th century status quo arrangements with several Christian denominations established by Ottoman authorities; Islam is the state religion which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; the State of Palestine (including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) is classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Panama, freedom of religion or belief in. The Constitution of Panama makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this government broadly upholds this right in practice although semi-normative attitudes pervade the society and numerous issues persist in the country's recognition system; the Catholic Church receives state privilege which in turn creates a situation partial recognition; also, politicisation of the registration process for religious groups seems somewhat in effect with ambiguous legislation also remaining vulnerable to misuse; nevertheless, Panama is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Pansecularism *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (or **omniseccularism**; *adj.* **omniseccularist, pansecularist**) the

policy and related theory stating that all countries of the world should be secularised or approximate to neoseccularism in order to ensure the universal protection of the human right of religious liberty. See also neoseccularism.

Papist *noun or adjective* a slur against Catholics, especially used by Protestants to emphasise their own divergence from the authority of the Holy See.

Papua New Guinea, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Papua New Guinea claims freedom of religion and belief and the right is generally upheld in practice and religious pluralism is widespread in the society as evidenced by the great diversity of Christian denominational adherence; however, regarding the country's recognition system, there exists a lack of provisions for existent recognition, unstructure, and also legislation remains ambiguous; Papua New Guinea is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Paraguay, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Paraguay makes a claim to freedom

of religion and belief and the right is generally upheld in practice by the government with semi-normativism still in effect among the public; a number of restrictions exist in the Paraguayan registration procedures for religious groups, namely the annualisation of registration fees, the rule of mandatory registration for all religious groups, recertification is in effect, and also unstructure exists with a small degree of state privilege bestowed to the Catholic Church; Paraguay is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Parochial recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* one of four levels of recognition manifesting as state recognition of individual places of worship or religious buildings, or of a local community (such as a church parish) based on or characterised by their shared belief identities. Contrasted with communal recognition, individual recognition, institutional recognition. See also belief identity, levels of recognition.

Partial recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **partial vertical recognition**) a structure of some recognition systems in which

“true” recognition is bestowed only to one or a select few belief systems that no other systems nor their derivatives able to reach which are instead provided with inferior forms of existential recognition often by means of legal registration; for example, in Bhutan, Mahayana Buddhism possesses a form of recognition currently unattainable for all other belief systems in the country; essentially, partial recognition refers to the instance of when recognition or registration means one thing for one group but something totally different for another, even with great disparity between the two definitions. Contrasted with horizontal recognition, vertical recognition.

Part-mandatory registration *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of registration process for religious organisations that is partly obligatory; for example, registration as a religious group may be optional while registration as an NGO, often stipulated to be contingent on the organisation's financial operation, may be mandatory; this type of registration is in effect to vary degrees in Sudan and Switzerland.

Parturitim *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **parturancy**;

informally **born into religion**; *adj.* **parturonic, parturic, parturist**) the widespread practicing of assigning a baby with a religious or belief identity before, during or shortly following their birth either socially or on official government documentation.

Patent of Toleration a 1781 edict of toleration issued Joseph II, emperor of Habsburg in which non-Catholics living in the territory, namely Lutherans, Calvinists and Orthodox Christians were legally granted the freedom to hold private religious activities.

Patrick Greenwalt incumbent Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Patronage of religion (or **religious patronage**) the state's support of a particular religious denomination, especially through financial aid.

Pecunisation *Cometanik freedom of religion theory* (*v.* **pecunise**; *past participle* **pecunised**; *present participle* **pecunising**; *n.* **pecuniser**) proselytism by offering money or other material benefits in exchange

for conversion, an act specifically prohibited in Cambodia.

Percolative recognition *Cometanik freedom of religion theory* (or **percolation**) a form of religious recognition in which a belief system, a community or an organisation, as a result of their recognition in a sovereign state, receive automatic recognition by a dependent territory of that state. Contrasted with non-percolative recognition.

Permissionism *Cometanik freedom of religion theory* a policy aiming to restrict religion and involves religious organisations having to give notice to the state both to exist and of every individual activity conducted by them which in effect creates a situation referred to in Astronist theory as a “watchkeeper state.”

Persecution of Bahá'ís persecution directed towards practitioners of the Baha'i Faith typically takes the form of forced conversion, prolonged systematic discrimination, beatings, false imprisonment, desecrations and denial of many standard services and opportunities such as education, employment, and government support.

Persecution of Christians

persecution of Christians is widespread and is deeply institutionalised in many countries where Christians form a minority; although Christians have been persecuted for their religion from the outset of the faith in the 1st century, persecution of Christians has never been more widespread as it is now with a mixture of governments and terrorist organisations targeting Christians on a daily basis; according to USCIRF's 2020 International Religious Freedom Report, Christians are persecuted in China, Eritrea, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Vietnam and others.

Persecution of Muslims religious persecution directed towards the followers of Islam is widespread and is often systematically inflicted in the form of forced apostasy, torture, imprisonment, false claims of radicalisation, sexual abuse, shootings and desecration; ongoing genocides against Muslim groups include that of the Rohingya perpetrated by the Burmese military and that of the Uighur perpetrated by the Communist Party of China.

Persecution of Traditional African religion

persecution directed towards practitioners of any Traditional African religion typically takes the form of forced conversions to Islam or Christianity, killings based on religious affiliation, systematic and prolonged desecration of sacred sites and objects, as well as the societal marginalisation of practitioners.

Persecutory religious recognition

Cometanian freedom of religion theory (or **abused religious recognition**) a type of religious recognition system that is used as a means of discriminating and persecuting a select number or all religious groups and their related organisations. Contrasted with manipulated religious recognition, neutral religious recognition, positive religious recognition.

Person of belief *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (*pl.* **people of belief**)

any individual who self-identifies as belonging or otherwise adhering to a system of organised beliefs; a similar yet broader term for "person of faith."

Peru, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Peru makes a claim to freedom of religion and

belief and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government and the public upholds semi-pluralism as a number of religious groups exist in the society; state privilege is bestowed to the Catholic Church in turn creating a situation of partial recognition; Peru is currently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Philippines, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Constitution of the Philippines makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld in practice while normativism remains engrained in the society; the Catholic Church receives widespread state privilege and influence in the society despite the Philippines being a secular state; a number of issues persist in the country's recognition system including triennial registration, the imposition of fines for failing to provide sufficient documents and data sheets, intrusive informational requirements, and unstructure which has lead to a lack of provisions for existential recognition, thus creating a situation of partial recognition as the Catholic Church receives degrees of recognition not available to non-Catholic groups; the Philippines is

presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Pierre de Rosteguy de Lancre (or **Pierre de l'Ancre**; 1553-1631), French judge of Bordeaux and witch-hunter in Labourd in 1609.

Pious fraud a type of religious fraud in which methods of deception are used to convince others of the truth of one's religion or of specific doctrines within the belief system; examples include counterfeiting a miracle or the false attribution of a sacred to a biblical figure (called pseudepigrapha).

Pluralism (or **plurality, religious pluralism**; *adj.* **pluralist, pluralistic**) support for the diversity of religious and philosophical belief and ritual and worship practices, especially by members of the public as contrasted with normativism which denotes the imposition of conformity of religious belief and practice. Contrastd with normativism. See also neutralism, normativism, semi-normativism, semi-pluralism.

Plural-normative spectrum
Cometanic freedom of religion theory
(officially **Spectrum of Plurality**)

and Normativity) a framework established by Cometan to categorise countries according to the degree to which public attitudes differ on the diversity of belief and practice, thus establishing a spectrum of views ranging from support for the diversity of belief and practice (called pluralism) down to conformity to norms of belief and practice (called normativism). See also neutralism, normativism, pluralism, semi-normativism, semi-pluralism.

Poland, freedom of religion or belief in. The Polish Constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief although this right is generally upheld by the government although normativism to Catholic beliefs remains widespread in the society; state privilege is bestowed to the Catholic Church, thus creating a situation of partial recognition; membership quotas are also imposed on religious groups seeking registration and the use of subjective language in the legislation gives the government scope to restrict reasonable religious activity; Poland is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Portugal, freedom of religion or belief in. the Portuguese Constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief which is universally upheld in practice by the government with attitudes of semi-pluralism in effect among the public; longevity quotas are imposed on religious groups seeking recognition and the present structure of the Portuguese recognition system is vertical; Portugal is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Positive religious recognition
Cometan's freedom of religion theory a type of religious recognition system that supports religious and belief groups, provides them with genuine recognition and affirmation from the state, and advocates for freedom of religion and belief in a way that positively impacts the religious lives of citizens. Contrasted with manipulated religious recognition, neutral religious recognition, persecutory religious recognition.

Post-registration *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **post-recognition**) the period following an applicant's successful receipt of either legal registration or existential

recognition, including the actions of the state in whether it fulfils its obligations in protecting registered groups and in the provisions it bestows.

Practice *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (often “**in practice**”) a government’s actions with regards to its upholding of citizens’ human rights, especially in order to highlight the degree to which these actions correspond to the principles outlined in the country’s constitution. Contrasted with constitutionality.

Preferentialism *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* an approach to the principle of the equality of religions that seeks to hold preference for one or more religions over others and is considered to be a hallmark of the issue of religious inequality. See also traditional religion.

Preregistration *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (also stylised as **pre-registration**) the set of requirements imposed on religious groups and organisations for them to qualify for registration with the state; also, that part of the registration process prior to successful registration. See also sponsorship restriction tool.

Pretextual restriction *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a government’s use of pretext as a means of justifying and disguising their undue courses of action in restricting certain religious activity or their banning of a religious or philosophical group or organisation entirely.

Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief a position in the UK’s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office concerned with the monitoring of standards of religious freedom abroad, especially the upholding of the Bishop of Truro’s recommendations.

Prior-censorship *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* the policy and related action of removing a post on a social media platform before it can be circulated; essentially, denying the publication of a social media post because it contains religious content as is seen in some Chinese social media apps.

Principles of freedom of religion or belief *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* those aspects of freedom of religion or belief that were explicitly stated in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent international human rights instruments. Contrasted with spirit of freedom of religion or belief.

Processual *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* adjective relating to one of four types of functions of a recognition agency to process applications for recognition or registration and to manage related activities and processes. See also facilitative, monitorial, ontological.

Pro-establishmentarianism

Cometanica freedom of religion theory (or **system of recognition**) the policy and theory that systems of religious recognition are not only positive mechanisms when correctly and justly administered, but that they are essential to the achievement of a true and healthy religious freedom environment. Contrasted with non-establishmentarianism.

Propagation centre *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (also stylised as **propagation center**) a general term for any building specially designated for the teaching of a belief system (either religious, spiritual or philosophical) but is not consecrated and is not a place of worship.

Proprietary church *historical* a church, abbey or cloister built on private ground by a feudal lord, over which he retained proprietary interests, especially the right of what in English law is "advowson", that of nominating the ecclesiastic personnel.

Proselytism (also *da'wah* in *Islam*, **evangelism**, **metanism** in *Astronism*, **missionary activity**, **soul hunting**) the body of activities engaged in the convincing of those outside a religion or belief system to become members of it, an activity that may be conducted casually or formally, as well as by an individual, a religious organisation, or by the state itself; proselytism sees significant restriction around the world with some such restrictions regarded as justified (e.g. proselytism of children or the vulnerable, proselytism by means of promising material gifts) while other restrictions are characterised by a markedly overbearing and nefarious nature that results in the violation of broader religious freedoms; some countries ban all or most forms of proselytism (e.g. Afghanistan, China, Iraq, Maldives, Nepal, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam) while other countries allow the

proselytising of only certain religions (e.g. in Morocco only Islam is allowed to be proselytised, or in Cambodia, all non-Buddhist groups are banned from proselytising); the assertion of proselytism as an irremovable component of freedom of religion or belief is contested as the right to proselytise is distinguished from the right to change one's religion with individual governments taking their own opinions on the matter and scholars in continued dispute over the matter, a situation that looks to only undermine much religious freedom advocacy; Cometan calls for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to address these many issues surrounding proselytism and its restriction around the world. Contrasted with dissemination.

Protected person *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* an individual who belongs to or identifies with a non-dominant religion in a state that has a dominant religion or theocratic government but is nonetheless protected in law, but often must agree to pay what is known as a religious tax in order to continuing such "protection." See also protected religion.

Protected religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also **protected belief, protected characteristic, protected community**) a religion, religious community, or religious institution that has gained legal provisions in a court of law in a country, but this should not be confused with state recognition of that religion. See also protected person.

Protection of religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a collection of policies, mechanisms, theories, and practices that seek to achieve, maintain, and protect religious freedom conditions; two major tool categories that form part of the protection of religion are protection tools and reduction tools.

Protection tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **defence tool**) a type of law, policy, activity, or theory that is invoked by a national or local governmental body in order to protect or defend against the restriction of religion. Contrasted with reduction tool. See also justification tool, narrative tool.

Protestant Dissenters Act 1852 an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that replaced the Toleration Act 1689 by allowing

Protestant Dissenter groups to register with the Registrar General rather than with the Anglican bishop or archdeacon of a region.

Pseudoidentification *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (also hyphenated as **pseudo-identification**) one's intentional misidentification of their religious identity, especially on an official census, typically due to persecution or discrimination.

Public approval restriction tool *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (or **referendum restriction tool**) a type of restriction tool imposed by a government in which the registration application of a religious group is contingent either entirely or in part on a public referendum; this tool is used in Switzerland and is not consistent with religious freedom provision. Not to be confused with public objection restriction tool.

Public education restriction tool *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool based on recognition that may be imposed on religious activity and identity. It entails how a government may limit or otherwise restrict the religions and worldviews taught in schools to

only those systems of belief that it officially recognises.

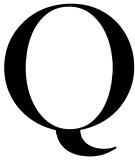
Public entity status *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a type of legal category for religious groups used in Swiss law whereby the government identifies a certain religious denomination and its related organisations and activities as valuable to public life which entitles them to receive state funding; this status is used in the majority of Swiss cantons but gaining access to it is heavily restricted as only four religions have achieved this legal status currently.

Public objection restriction tool *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool imposed by a government in which an applicant religious group is published in a local newspaper or other media to open its application up to potential public objection which then often results in the group's denial of registration. Not to be confused with public approval restriction tool.

Public order (or **social order**) the harmony of a society, including its capacity to function without impediments to the security of each individual living within it.

Puerto Rico, freedom of religion or belief in. there are a total of 5,900 Astronists known to reside in this territory.

Purificacion Valera Quisumbing (c. 1934-2011), Filipino human rights activist who served as the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights from 2002 to 2008.



for it to complete registration or to receive state recognition.

Qatar, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Qatar makes a claim to freedom of association, assembly and worship but not specifically freedom of religion and belief and this approach is reflected in the government's censorial approach; a rule of mandatory registration is imposed on all non-Islamic groups and the criminalisation of both non-Muslim proselytism or conversion from Islam is in effect; a system of partial recognition is in effect, the confinement restriction tool is imposed, and state definitions and interpretations of Islam are imposed; Islam is the state religion; Qatar is presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Qualification *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (*formally recognitory qualification*) the set of stipulations set forth by a government as to the characteristics required of a group or organisation based on belief in order

R

Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 an act of the Parliament of Victoria, Australia that makes behavior that incites or encourages hatred, serious contempt, revulsion or severe ridicule against another person or group of people, because of their race or religion, unlawful.

Rate of complexity *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the degree of complexity of a government's recognition system and its broader approach to the religious activities and beliefs of citizens; this rate typically increases in correlation to the amount of restrictions that a government imposes on the religious lives of citizens.

Rate of recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also interchangeably referred to as **rate of engagement, rate of registration, recognition rate**) the quantity of religious groups registered with or recognised by the state in contrast to the amount of religious groups and organisations

actually existent in the country; the rate of recognition describes the degree to which religious entities or entities based on belief in a country seek out recognition from the state through the apparatus of the country's recognition system as a way of determining the present efficacy of that country's apparatus for recognition.

Ratification a country's decision to give formal consent to a treaty or convention, not merely having signed it; successful ratification leads to a country becoming party to the convention.

Rationale for religious freedom

Cometanic freedom of religion theory the study concerned with answering why governments should establish religious and belief freedom in their nation beyond the fundamental reason that freedom of religion is a human right and namely explores the positive impacts of this on business, culture, the economy, social cohesion, and the happiness of citizens.

Reasonable religious activity

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (*abbreviated RRA*) any instance of religious practice or manifestation of belief that by international standards

is normative, but is nonetheless mischaracterised by a restrictive government as subversive or unlawful.

Reception of religion *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (also **reception of belief, reception of religiosity**) the social reactions expressed following one's announcement or demonstration that they are religious as a means to understand the social acceptance of religiosity.

Receptivism *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (or **state receptivity**) a government approach to new religion and new religious movements (NRMs) in which a welcoming and encouraging environment for the organisation and dissemination of new religions is conveyed through state apparatuses.

Receptivity *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* a classification in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition characterised by the instance in which a system for recognition is established yet it holds some minor internal issues in addition to discriminating against new religious movements in favour of more established belief systems; a

receptive system encompasses a mechanism for registration; receptivity succeeds apathy yet precedes dynamism.

Recognisee *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* a belief system, community, organisation, building or individual person as the recipient of recognition for their religious or philosophical beliefs, including their right to practice, bestowed either governmentally or socially. Contrasted with recogniser.

Recogniser *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* either a governmental or non-governmental bestower of recognition to any type of manifestation of religion or belief. Contrasted with recognisee.

Recognition *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (or **state recognition**; also **recognitory state**) the legal identification of a religion, belief system or related community besides its affirmation; such acknowledgement granted by a government holds significant social, cultural, financial and existential consequences; former Special Rapporteur, Heiner Bielefeldt, delineated in a 2011 report three distinct meanings of recognition in the context of religious freedom;

firstly “the due respect for the status of all human beings as rights holders in the area of freedom of religion or belief, a status finally deriving from the inherent dignity of all members of the human family”; secondly, “the necessary provision by the State of a legal personality status, which religious or belief communities need in order to be able to take collective legal actions”; and thirdly, “privileged status positions, often connected with practical advantages such as tax exemption and financial subsidies” notably below that of establishment of religion. Contrasted with affirmation, registration. See also derecognition, disrecognition, false recognition, hyper-recognition, misrecognition, non-recognition.

Recognition agency *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* See recognitory agency.

Recognition establishment *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the process of instituting an official system for recognising religion and belief at various levels and in its different manifestations.

Recognition incentive *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a legal, political, social, or financial benefit bestowed to a religion, religious

community, or religious institution/organisation due to their official recognition by the government.

Recognitionism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **Cometanic theory of recognition**; also stylised as **recognitionist theory**) the central assertion of the doctoral thesis of Cometan stating that there exists a codependence between the practice of freedom of religion and belief and the correct establishment of a system of state recognition for belief systems and that all countries should strive to establish genuine systems of religious recognition.

Recognitionist 1 *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*pl. recognitionists*) *noun* a person who follows or supports the theory and approach to freedom of religion or belief called recognitionism.

2 *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **recognitionistic**) *adjective* relating to recognitionism, or to a person who subscribes to this theory.

Recognition law *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the body of legislation and policy governing which religious or belief entities are given existential recognition by the state as well as the body of

procedures put in place for attaining state recognition of religion and belief. Not to be confused with registration law. See also association law.

Recognition of astronality

Astrogenology instances of a government acknowledging astronality and its expression. See also criminalisation of astronality.

Recognition of Astronism

Astrogenology the degree to which a government legally acknowledges the existence and validity of Astronism, of the Astronist community or of the Astronist Institution; there are traditionally three basic forms of recognition including “recognised”, “unrecognised” and “disrecognised” with others also identifies as part of Cometan’s theory on freedom of religion. See also Cometanic freedom of religion theory, legalisation of Astronism.

Recognition of religion or belief

Cometan’s freedom of religion theory the body of literature, individuals, organisations, theories, mechanisms and acts that advocate for or successfully implement recognitionist frameworks and ideals.

Recognition system *Cometan’s freedom of religion theory* (or **recognitory system**) a country’s established approach for legal registration and/or existential recognition; it describes state mechanisms for officially recognising different kinds of belief systems and their denominations, as well as the communities and individual members of those belief systems and denominations; a registration system, which is a state mechanism for registering legal entities such as organisations and individual religious buildings, exists within a recognition system but may also exist without the recognition component. Contrasted with registration system.

Recognition theory *Cometan’s freedom of religion theory* the mechanism by which religious, spiritual and philosophical recognition is discussed and upon a range of theories are formed in an attempt to consider the dynamics of religious recognition. See also recognitionism.

Recognitory *Cometan’s freedom of religion theory adjective* relating to the capacities of a recognition

agency to bestow recognition or registration to applicant entity.

Recognitory affairs *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **affairs of recognition**) the overall sequence of activities and events involving the state recognising the different religious, philosophical and spiritual beliefs systems, organisations and groups of the country.

Recognitory agency *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also **recognition agency, recognitory authority**) a type of independent government regulatory agency that is responsible for exercising autonomous dominion over the recognition of the religious, philosophical and spiritual beliefs and activities of citizens including both belief systems and denominations, as well as autonomous dominion over the registration of their related organisations, institutes, parishes and buildings (including places of worship and religious education centres).

Recognitory experience *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the series of encounters that a group or organisation based on belief has undergone in order to achieve

recognition or registration in a country, especially regarding how this comes to reflect the actions and practices of that country's recognition system and its recognitory agency.

Recommendation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also **advisory recognition, recommendatory implementation**) a function of a recognition agency in which it makes suggestions and give advice to the government or another authority regarding recognitory affairs but does not itself have powers of declaration and implementation.

Re-criminalisation of religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **re-criminalisation of belief**) the criminalisation of religion or religious activity in general, or of a specific belief system, if it had once been criminalised, but had since been made legal. Contrasted with re-legalisation of religion.

Recuperation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **remediation**) the process of healing that a society and its institutions must undergo following a period in which the repression of freedoms was widespread; this term is often used

to emphasise that a country simply altering or repealing repressive or restrictive laws does not fix the issues that those laws created in the society and that a much longer period of “recuperation” must take place for the effects of changes to laws to manifest; an example of this process of recuperation is currently taking place in Sudan whose revocation of some of its laws terminally restricting religious activity is the beginning of its process of healing as a society from the terrors of the previous regime.

Reduction tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of law, policy, activity, or theory that involves the reduction of pre-existing restrictions on religious freedom, either those imposed through a system of recognition or religious persecution more generally. Contrasted with protection tool. See also justification tool, narrative tool.

Re-entry banning *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a government practice of prohibiting re-entry into its country for religious missionaries by denying them residence permits or denying them permits to proselytise. Often a false rationale will be given as the reason for the re-entry ban without

reference to missionary activity as a way of maintaining a stance called surreptism.

Registration *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the process by which a group or organisation based on a belief system or sharing a belief identity gains acknowledgement from the state, typically resulting in gaining legal entity status and various financial capacities, such as the ability to purchase property and tax-exempt status; although registration can be classified as a form of recognition, in recognitionist theory, the term registration is distinguish from that of recognition. Contrasted with recognition.

Registration fee *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **administrative fee**) a fee imposed on religious groups that must be paid in order to complete their registration with the government; registration fees vary from country to country although the general rule established in Cometanic theory is that any fee over \$100 (~£72) is seen as restrictive; countries with relatively high registration fees include Bolivia, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Palau, South Sudan, and Zambia.

Registration law *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the body of legislation and in part, unofficial policy, that form state processes for cataloguing religious groups, beliefs systems and related organisations, especially as a means of bestowing to them legal entity status. See also association law, recognition law.

Registration system *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the state apparatus for the recording of religious groups and organisations in order to bestow legal entity status; a registration system may either exist alone or as part of a broader recognition system. Contrasted with recognition system.

Regulation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*pl. regulations*; or **regulation of religion or belief**) those mechanisms put in place by the state or an independent regulatory agency to monitor organised religious and philosophical activity, often with the implication of appropriate control (such as regulations against terrorist acts) rather than unjust restrictions.

Regulations on Religious Affairs a series of policies implemented by the Communist Party of China in 2018 that strengthen state control

over religious activities, often in the name of maintaining national security, particularly with regards to those religious groups regarded as foreign or whose headquarters are located outside Mainland China; further clampdowns on Uighur Muslim and Tibetan Buddhist religious liberties were put into effect following the dispensation of these regulations; these Regulations were succeeded in 2020 by the Measures on the Administration of Religious Groups.

Reinstitution *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a government's complete or partial rewriting and reinstating of its legislation on religious and belief activity and the freedoms it protects, typically as just one part of a broader process of dismantlement.

Re-legalisation of religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **re-legalisation of belief**) the legalisation of religion in general, or a specific belief system, if it had once been legal, but had since been criminalised. Contrasted with re-criminalisation of religion.

Religio licita an unofficial phrase of the Roman Empire used to describe

the status of Jews living in the Empire as permitted or approved.

Religion by default *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (or **belief by default**) a nationwide restriction tool imposed on religious and belief freedoms in which all citizens of a nation are automatically considered to be part of a specific group at birth, the most infamous example of which is Islam by default in Afghanistan. Contrasted with irreligion by default.

Religious acceptance (or **acceptance of religion or belief**) the foundational principle of religious pluralism, that groups and organisations based on belief deserve to be accepted and treated equally though not necessarily affirmed in their beliefs and practices; this principle is regarded as the more favourable of the two approaches to religious pluralism, the other being religious tolerance.

Religious affairs ministry manipulation *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* the purposeful governmental manipulation or the misuse of a government ministry supposedly established to manage religious affairs in a nation state e.g. Turkey's General Directorate of

Religious Affairs. This involves establishing mechanisms that remain biased against religious minorities or the use of such ministries to dictate an official or government interpretation of a religion which would be beyond the mandate of a genuine religious affairs ministry.

Religious and belief parity *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (also **belief identity parity, religious parity**) a type of situation in a country whereby all groups based on belief are provided with genuine and universal equality, both in the society and in terms of their accessibility to existential recognition and legal registration.

Religious antisemitism (or **theological antisemitism**) aversion to or hostility against Jews as claimed to be based on religious doctrine. See also anti-Judaism, antisemitism.

Religious assimilation the acquisition of the religious beliefs and practices of the dominant or majority by a minority group (e.g. Christianisation, Islamisation, Judaisation). See also cultural assimilation.

Religious association a religious organisation, especially when legally categorised as a charity or not-for-profit organisation. See also association law.

Religious bigotry (or **religious prejudice**) the denigration of a person based on their belonging to a religion or belief system other than one's own, especially due to misconceptions or falsehoods about such a group.

Religious censorship the misuse of religious authority or teachings by a government or religious organisation to control or otherwise limit the freedoms of a person to manifest religious or philosophical belief. Not to be confused with censorship of religion or belief.

Religious controversy a type of prolonged public debate causing widespread division that is ignited by or otherwise directed towards religious beliefs and practices, or the depiction of religion or a religious figure in culture.

Religious conversion (or simply **conversion**; also **asterisation** in *Astronism*, **prosipation** in *Astronism*, **shahada** in *Islam*) the act of a person or group of acquiring a set of

beliefs and regarding these as reflective of their own personal identity and the sharing of these beliefs with others in the community, sometimes but not all dependent upon one's completion of an initiation ceremony or ritual; besides standard conversion, there are four other situational types of religious conversion including deathbed, forced, marital, and secondary conversion. See also conversion laws.

Religious discrimination (or **discrimination based on belief**) the prejudicial treatment of a person or group due to the religious or philosophical beliefs and affiliations that they hold or otherwise represent; typically, religious discrimination is distinguished from religious persecution by the fact that the latter is more often state-sanctioned, involves prolonged violence, and leads to consequences like outmigration or exodus.

Religious disenfranchisement *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool imposed to restrict religion, or specific religious groups and institutions in a country.

Religious disfavour *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or simply

disfavour; also stylised as **disfavor**) a government's outright disapproval of a certain belief system, denomination or community formed by a shared belief identity, typically evidenced by state policies and laws banning such a group or placing undue restrictions on its activities; for example, Jehovah's Witnesses are currently in a state of disfavour as a religious community with the government of the Russian Federation.

Religious education restriction tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a restriction tool that involves the allowance of private and public religious education only for recognised religions and in regions of China and in North Korea entirely, the banning of all religious education, both public and private.

Religious entity *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* any type of group or organisation that represents or is based on a belief, a belief system or a denomination; the term includes belief systems, denominations, communities based on a shared belief identity, legal organisations, parishes (or local communities based on a shared belief identity), and single religious buildings or places of worship.

Religious equality (also **belief equality, equality of religion or belief**) an aspect of freedom of religion or belief that establishes provisions for the uniform treatment of all denominations, organisations, communities, as well as individual persons without discrimination or differentiation based on belief; religious equality is especially important in the context of religious recognition as it is an important part of government commitments to religious freedom that they treat all groups fairly and equally during recognition and registration processes.

Religious exile *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a person or community exiled either by the government or by choice for protection from discrimination or persecution.

Religious exodus *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the mass departure of a religious group from a country due to prolonged discrimination or persecution based on their adherence to a certain belief system.

Religious extinction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the

instance of religious or belief community no longer existing in a certain country or region due to prolonged discrimination and persecution. See also religious genocide, religious outmigration.

Religious favouritism *Cometanitic freedom of religion theory* (also **belief favouritism, government favouritism of religion or belief**) the instance of a secular government continuing to provide unequal privileges to one religion over all others, especially privileges that allow for that religion to retain its hegemony.

Religious fraud a type of fraud that may manifest in three different ways; first, the use of religious doctrine as a means to commit fraud; secondly, the false proclamation of something as in alignment with religious doctrine (e.g. false claims to being kosher); thirdly, pious fraud.

Religious Freedom & Business Foundation American non-governmental organisation engaged in educating business leaders and policymakers in the integral link between positive religious and belief freedom conditions and a healthy economic and business environment.

Religious Freedom Act an 1811 law passed by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts ensuring that citizens could use their tax dollars to support the church of their choice, not just the one officially sponsored by their community.

Religious Freedom Institute an American non-governmental organisation advocating for the worldwide acceptance of religious liberty as a fundamental human right; currently president is Thomas F. Farr.

Religious freedom limitation *Cometanitic freedom of religion theory* (or **limitation of religious and belief liberties**) the select few instances in which claims of freedom of religion or belief become invalid or can be disregarded by the state without violating international religious freedom standards as established by the ICCPR.

Religious festival recognition *Cometanitic freedom of religion theory* (or **religious holidays recognition**) a form of religious recognition characterised by government recognition of feast days, festivals or holidays important or sacred to a

religious community as a signal of that community's wider recognition.

Religious foundation *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* a term used in Swiss law that denotes any institution that has a religious purpose and receives donations from a connected community formed by a shared belief identity.

Religious freedom commissioner *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (also **freedom of religion or belief commissioner**) a representative advocating and reporting on the issue of religious freedom around the world, or in a particular region.

Religious genocide *Cometanin freedom of religion theory* (or **belief genocide**) the deliberate and systemised killing of a large number of individuals based on their shared religious or belief affiliation especially with the aim of eradicating that community.

Religious hegemony the instance of one belief system or denomination maintaining dominance over all others, especially in such a way that restricts citizens' conversion to minority faiths or that places limits on the freedoms of members of minorities and new

religious movements. See also religious favouritism, state religion.

Religious intolerance disregard or a lack of respect for a person or group's religious beliefs and practices and their associated identity, either perpetrated by individuals, organisations or by state authorities themselves. See also religious discrimination.

Religious law the ethical and moral teachings of a certain religion or denomination that may manifest in various ways, though typically through authoritative texts, and hold significant social, cultural, economic and political impacts. See also canon law, divine law.

Religious majority (or **belief majority**) a group associated with a belief system whose population forms more than half of a country's overall population. Contrasted with religious minority.

Religious minority (or **belief minority**) a group associated with a belief system whose population forms less than half of a country's overall population. Contrasted with religious majority.

Religious offence an action or expression that either controverts or disrespects religious doctrine forms of which include heresy, blasphemy and apostasy.

Religious origin justification tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory

a type of state tool that is used to justify religious restrictions by the notion that religion(s) being restricted and controlled are of foreign origin.

Religious outmigration *Cometanic*

freedom of religion theory a religious community's decision to resettle in another country due to discrimination or persecution.

Religious persecution (or **persecution based on belief**) a campaign of systematic mistreatment directed towards an individual or group due to their religious or philosophical beliefs and affiliations, or lack thereof; to be regarded as genuine persecution, such a campaign need be enacted either by the state or another group persistently and is often distinguished from religious discrimination by the involvement of violence.

Religious police a police force responsible for the maintenance of laws relating to religion in public and private settings; most contemporary religious police are either Islamic (e.g. Saudi Arabia) or atheistic (e.g. Vietnam).

Religious politics *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **religious political activity**) the basing of a political party on a religious system; the extension of a religion into the political realm of a country through associating a political party with a specific religion, its beliefs, practices, and values.

Religious pretence *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the instance of a person pretending to follow one belief system when in reality they follow another, especially in secret.

Religious recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also **legal recognition of religion, official recognition of religion; simply recognition of religion;** alternatively **government recognition, state recognition**) the legal apparatus by which religions and belief systems including their related organisations, groups,

beliefs, and institutions are given recognition and in some cases, legal protection, by governments. Use of the term “religious recognition” in discourse typically relates to this government bestowal of recognition. Not to be confused with social religious recognition. See also recognition.

Religious Recognition Spectrum

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (abbreviated RRS) the spectrum comprised at one end of a state of zealotry (state religious denomination persecuting all other denominations and all other religions) while on the opposite end is hypersecularism which is characterised by state theism persecuting all religion no matter such religion’s origins in the country (e.g. North Korea).

Religious rights *Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or belief rights)* the body of human rights protecting in some way or to some degree adherence to a belief system, or its public or private manifestation, typically regarded to include freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of thought, the right to due process of law, and the right to education.

Religious rivals of influence

Cometanic freedom of religion theory an internal justification tool that involves government officials justifying religious persecution through the notion that such groups persist as rivals of influence against majority religions or to the government itself.

Religious smuggling *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a type of smuggling in which people try to get religious texts and religious icons/items imported into a country that bans that religion.

Religious surveillance *Cometanic freedom of religion theory (or belief surveillance)* mandatory state-sanctioned surveillance of civilian religious activity, especially religious services and meetings as a means of control, restriction, and intimidation.

Religious symbol a type of icon that represents a religion or denomination, or a specific concept within a belief system, the wearing or presenting of which in public spaces is restricted in some countries and may lead to fines or imprisonment.

Religious tax *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a taxation that is levied against a person on the grounds of their religious identity, typically because they belong or self-identify with a non-dominant religious community. An example of a religious tax is jizya in Islamic law.

Religious test a legal requirement to swear adherence to a specific religion or denomination, or in reverse, to renounce a certain religion or denomination, or belief altogether (e.g. in China, North Korea).

Religious tolerance (or **toleration of religion or belief**) the principle of allowing a religious organisation or a community sharing a belief identity to merely exist, often within a broader context of public and government opinion that the group is inferior, erroneous or even harmful; this principle is regarded as the lesser of two principles regarding religious pluralism, the other being religious acceptance.

Religious violence the partaking in violent acts or behaviour either in the name of religion or against religion.

Religious war (or **holy war**) a war primarily caused or justified through the use or misuse of religious doctrine.

Reparation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a government's provision of funds to an organisation or denomination as compensation for past ill-treatment. Not to be confused with restitution.

Re-registration restriction tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (also simply **reregistration**; or **recertification**) the tactic of writing into law that religious institutions must suddenly all register again to conform to new laws implemented with the aim of weeding out unwanted religious institutions by denying their re-registrations (e.g. occurred in Russia with Scientology).

Re-settlement *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the government practice of accepting survivors of religious persecution and other refugees fleeing from religious or belief violations.

Restitution *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a government's restoration of lost or stolen property or possessions to religious

organisations and communities; much restitution took place following the fall of the Soviet Union during which groups were returned their property that have been confiscated by the Soviet authorities.

Restriction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a government's unjust regulation of religious and belief activity; "unjust regulation" typically constitutes the unnecessary imposition of quotas, intrusive or excessive requests for information, unnecessary administrative regulations, the manipulation of others laws (e.g. citizenship, zoning etc.) as a means to regulate religious activity, with the imposition of mandatory registration a key factor in a country's classification of restrictivity.

Restriction culture *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **normalisation of religious restriction**) a product or the final result of the process of the institutionalisation of restriction in which restriction on religious belief and practice is completely engrained into society as a convention or norm, so much so that it is considered by outsiders or possibly citizens too as part of the culture that country e.g. China and Turkmenistan. Contrasted

with open culture. See also restriction infrastructure.

Restriction infrastructure

Cometanic freedom of religion theory the set of policies, government systems, related laws and their enforcements that form a restriction culture for religious minorities or religious activity more broadly. See also restriction culture.

Restrictionism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj.* **restrictionist**) any type of political, cultural, and social system that advocates the imposition of policies that aim to restrict religious or belief activity with a significant spectrum of severity.

Restriction tool *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a piece of legislation or government policy that is created for the purpose of restricting religion and inhibiting religious freedom, either covertly or blatantly. See also justification tool, narrative tool.

Restrictive expansionism

Cometanic freedom of religion theory (also **restriction exportation**, **restrictionist policy**, **restrictionism**) a set of government policies involving the expansion and

exportation of restrictions on religion beyond the borders of that country as a means of soft power.

Restrictive language *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* (or **exclusionary language**) an approach to the use of language as a religious restriction tool that involves misusing the constitution, laws, and official government policies as a means of excluding or ignoring certain religious communities. Contrasted with accusatory language.

Restrictive traditionalism *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a policy aiming for restrictions on religion that uses the concept of “traditional religion(s)” as a form of soft power in politics, both as a way to export religious restriction to other nations and to use the concept of traditional as a way of subjugating those religions designated by the government as foreign or non-traditional to sway public opinion against NRMs or religions originating from outside the country.

Restrictivity *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a classification in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition characterised by an established

recognition system that possesses undue stipulations that seek to and succeed in controlling or limiting aspects of organised religious and philosophical activity; although these limitations violate principles of religious freedom, they do not result in violent repressions; restrictivity succeeds censorship yet precedes ambiguity and apathy.

Retrofitted law *Cometanica freedom of religion theory* a type of law that was established prior to the digital era or established to be applied in a non-digital context that is nevertheless applied to the digital sphere. See also dead law, dormant law, eventuality law.

Revised Joint Ministerial Decrees on Construction of Houses of Worship a 2006 decree made by the Ministers of Religious Affairs and Home Affairs of Indonesia which places a number of requirements on the building of a place of worship, namely that a list of no less than ninety members of the congregation must be obtained, signatures from sixty surrounding households of a different faith demonstrating their approval for the place of worship to be built, a written recommendation from the regency or municipal religious affairs office, a written

recommendation from the local interfaith harmony forum and approval from the subdistrict head; these various requirements not only make it more difficult for a place of worship to be build in Indonesia, but it has been known to cause local government corruption in the paying of officials and homeowners, as well as leading to restrictions on religious liberty.

Rights denial by religion

Cometanic freedom of religion theory the misuse of religious principles as a pretext for denying other human rights (such as women's rights or LGBTQ rights).

Right to recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **recognition rights**) the Cometanic theorisation that every group's religious or philosophical beliefs and identity (as long as they do not incite hatred upon others) have the right to be legally recognised under the universal declaration of human rights on freedom of religion or belief and that recognition should be regarded as a necessary precursor to the achievement of a true freedom of religion situation as a way to resolve the issue of the abuse of religious recognition systems.

Ritual slaughter the slaughtering of livestock by methods stipulated in religious doctrine, namely the Jewish shechita and the Islamic dhabiha traditions; in most circumstances, freedom of religion or belief protects the right of a group to slaughter as their religion commands although debates do persist over the ethicality of some ancient religious methods; most Western countries state that stunning the animal is not required beforehand while countries like Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden require pre-cut stunning; as of 2021, only Slovenia bans all ritual slaughter.

Romania, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Romania makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld in practice although normative attitudes generally remain in effect among the public; both membership quotas and longevity quotas are in effect in the country's recognition system while state privilege is also extended to the Romanian Orthodox Church, thus creating a situation of partial recognition; the country's recognition system is also structured vertically rather than ideally horizontally; Romania is presently

classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Rotationalism (or **rotational recognition**) an approach to state recognition of religion and belief that establishes one religion for a preset amount of time before rotating that establishment to another religious community existent in the country.

Russia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Russian Constitution makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief with politicisation of this right deeply entrenched in the country and Russian views on religious diversity remaining semi-normative; however, terminal restrictions are imposed on non-favoured religious groups in Russia including widespread government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations, government censorship of religious materials, weaponisation of the terms "cult", "extremist" and "terrorist", and also a rule of mandatory registration is also enforced; a system of vertical recognition is in effect with the Russian Orthodox Church maintaining its state privilege which in turn also creates a situation of partial recognition; the government uses ongoing, systematic brute force

to ensure its restrictions on religious activity on sustained and for this reason, the Russian Federation is presently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Rwanda, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Rwanda makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally though not broadly upheld by the government and normativism remains deeply entrenched in the society; a series of issues persist in the country's recognition system, namely a reregistration restriction tool, confinement restriction tool, the imposition of intrusive informational requirements, restrictions have been imposed on who can and cannot engage in religious leadership, opportunities for reapplication remain unclear, and a rule of mandatory registration is imposed on religious groups; as a result, Rwanda is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

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Sacrilege the violation of the sacred character of a person, object, place or concept by a variety of means, typically either verbally (called blasphemy), or physically (called desecration).

Saint Barthélemy, freedom of religion or belief in. non-percolative recognition is in effect for Saint Barthélemy which means that French laws on religious recognition are imposed in this French overseas collectivity; Saint Barthélemy is currently receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, freedom of religion or belief in. non-percolative recognition is in effect for this British Overseas Territory which means that UK law on religious recognition does not apply here unless otherwise stipulated in Saint Helenian legislation; this territory is presently classified as

apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Saint Kitts and Nevis, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is universally upheld by the government in practice and pluralism is generally supported among the public; a lack of provisions do persist in the country's recognition system caused by unstructure; Saint Kitts and Nevis is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Saint Lucia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Saint Lucia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government in practice while semi-pluralism is in effect in the society itself; a rule of mandatory registration is imposed on some religious groups, especially those above 250 members in size although the law remains ambiguous as to whether groups below this threshold have the eligibility to register meaning there could be a possible membership quota in effect; Saint Lucia is presently classified as

apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Saint Martin, freedom of religion

or belief in. non-percolative recognition is in effect for the Collectivity of Saint Martin which means that French laws on religious recognition are imposed in this French overseas collectivity; Saint Martin is currently receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Saint Pierre and Miquelon, freedom of religion or belief in.

non-percolative recognition is in effect for Saint Pierre and Miquelon which means that French laws on religious recognition are imposed in this French overseas collectivity; Saint Pierre and Miquelon is currently receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that is broadly upheld by the government in practice while the society remains semi-plural in attitude; politicisation of the registration process is in effect and unstructure in the country's recognition system has resulted in a

lack of provisions put in place for existential recognition; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Samoa, freedom of religion or

belief in. the Constitution of Samoa makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief that the government universally upholds in practice and the society itself has embraced semi-pluralism due to the amount of Christian denominations present; however, normativism does remain at the village level and unstructure exists in the recognition system that has led to a lack of provisions for existential recognition; Samoa is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

San Marino, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of San Marino makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right broadly upheld by the government in practice although a degree of state privilege remains bestowed to the Catholic Church; San Marino is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

São Tomé and Príncipe, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of São Tomé and Príncipe makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld in practice though a series of government policies are restrictive; such policies include a rule of mandatory registration for all religious groups, the imposition of membership quotas, a process of preregistration, public objective restriction tool is in partial effect, and retributions for unregistration include fines and expulsions from the country (for foreign religious groups); São Tomé and Príncipe is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Saudi Arabia, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Saudi Arabia makes no claim to freedom of religion and belief and the lack of concern or protection for right is reflected in Saudi government policy; normativism remains widespread among the public which perpetuates ongoing religious freedom violations; Sunni Islam is the state denomination which creates a situation of partial recognition; no procedures exist for non-Islamic groups and organisations to legally register or to

receive existential recognition and all non-Sunni Islamic activity remains heavily restricted, for example Shia activity, especially the construction of Shia mosques, is confined to Eastern Province; Saudi Arabia is presently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Scapegoating the placing of unmerited blame on an individual or an entire group, often a religious minority so as to encourage conspiracy against and ostracism of that minority; such a tactic was used by Hitler against the Jews during the Second World War in which Jewish people were blamed for Germany's losses and hardships; scapegoating of religious minorities can take place at personal, local or state levels.

School prayer a state-sanctioned prayer to be conducted by students in public schools; the degree to which participation in such a prayer is mandatory varies greatly with some being required, yet those without parental consent to participate can decline to participate while others may be compulsory for all pupils to engage in.

Scotland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Scottish government

makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the government actively upholds this right in practice; non-percolative is in effect for Scotland meaning that English law on religious recognition does not apply in Scotland; although Scotland is classified as apathetic, the sovereign state of which it is part, the United Kingdom, remains classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition due to England's classification.

Scottish Episcopalians Act 1711

an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain that was used to allow for the Scottish Episcopal Church in exercising its right to religious worship.

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Secondary conversion

a situational type of religious conversion in which a person is converted to a new religion by way of their relationship to a member of that religion, primarily marital conversion but also because a friend has conversion. See also deathbed

conversion, forced conversion, marital conversion.

Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

the stipulation that all entities in Canada, whether individuals, groups or corporations, are bestowed the fundamental rights of freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, freedom of thought, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

Section 116 of the Constitution of Australia

those part of Australia's prohibiting the establishment of any religion, the imposition of religious observance, or prohibiting the free exercise of any religion or belief system.

Secularisation a lengthy process of reformation in which a nation's laws and its overall ideology and identity come to reflect positions that are neutral on matters directly or indirectly pertaining to religion or belief; secularisation has major social, cultural and economic advantages and disadvantages with the degree to which it should be allowed to pervade society under continued debate and scrutiny; the end result of a secularisation process is to form a secular state, a type of

state that holds many variants, an extreme form of which is state atheism.

Secularity the instance, fact or quality of something being devoid of reference to religion or as incorporating religious symbolism.

Secular state the situation of a country existing and proceeding neutrally on matters relating to or otherwise involving the religious or philosophical beliefs of its citizens, especially so as not to discriminate between religious groups or to favour irreligion; the concept of a secular state has been used in some instances to disenfranchise religious communities or belief altogether such as in instances of state atheism.

Securitisation of religion and belief *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a government's restriction of religious activity based on a false justification of security concerns attached to what would otherwise be classified as reasonable religious activity, typically as enabled by subjective language used in legislation.

Segmentation *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the restrictive government policy that registration

of religious or belief groups must take place at multiple levels, namely local, provincial and national.

Semi-eleuthenity *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a state and condition of religious freedom in a country in which freedoms are partially granted and a positive religious freedom environment is achieved, but total freedom of religion is not yet attained. Contrasted with eleuthenity, impedenity, neutrenity, semi-eleuthenity, semi-impedenity.

Semi-impedenity *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* a state and condition of religious freedom in a country in which religious freedoms are repressed, but some limited religious activities are allowed to take place freely and so a state of total religious freedom repression is not declared. Contrasted with eleuthenity, impedenity, neutrenity, semi-eleuthenity.

Semi-normativism *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **semi-normativity**; *adj.* **semi-normative**, **semi-normativist**) a situation of public attitudes towards the diversity of belief and practice in a society; it describes instances of social pressure to conform to certain

“traditional” or “established” religious and philosophical beliefs and practices yet without severe consequences for defying in some way those normative beliefs and practices; for example, a situation would be described as semi-normative if a person converted to a non-traditional religion and received ridicule as a result but the situation is not so severe that they are subject to social ostracism, discrimination, or in most extreme cases, violent threats or murder (which are instead features of normativism). See also neutralism, normativism, pluralism, semi-pluralism.

Semi-pluralism *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (or **semi-plurality**; *adj.* **semi-plural**, **semi-pluralist**) a situation of public attitudes towards the diversity of belief and practice in a society; it describes social pressures to conform to certain “traditional” or “established” religious and philosophical beliefs and practices yet accepts diversity within the parameters of those traditional belief systems; for example, a situation would be described as semi-plural when a range of denominations of a traditional belief system are accepted while entirely new belief systems introduced in the society,

especially NRMs, are not accepted; additionally, semi-plurality denotes a situation in which public support exists for religious pluralism but that limits should be imposed on non-traditional or minority religious activity. See also neutralism, normativism, pluralism, semi-normativism.

Senegal, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Senegal makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld in practice although normativism remains widespread among the public; the primary issue with the Senegalese recognition system is the imposition of longevity quotas; unstructure also exists in the system which has led to a lack of provisions for existential recognition for belief systems and their derivatives in the country; Senegal is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Sensationalism of religion *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (or **religious sensationalism**) a form of disinformation conducted by journalists who alter stories about religious communities or events involving the member of religious group by framing those stories into a

wider prevailing narrative about that religion at the expense of accuracy regarding the event itself.

Separation of church and state

(or **disestablishment**) an informal phrase used to describe the situation for the relationship between religion and a government in a certain territory as well as a related principle in how state governance should be conducted. This principle asserts that governments are not to favour one or more religions over any others or over irreligion in their policies, laws, and actions as a state authority. The separation of church and state is manifest through secularism and the discourses attached to it.

Serbia, freedom of religion or

belief in. the Constitution of Serbia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally, though not broadly, upheld by the government while semi-normativism dominates the society; a series of restrictions emanate from the country's recognition system including the imposition of intrusive informational requirements, membership quotas, the misuse of the phrase "traditional religion", and a degree of state privilege is bestowed to the Serbian Orthodox

Church which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; Serbia is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Seychelles, freedom of religion or

belief in. the Constitution of Seychelles makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and also makes a specific claim to free to proselytise but under limitations; membership quotas are imposed albeit these being relatively low to overcome and unstructure exists in the country's recognition system which has led to a lack of provisions for the existential recognition of belief systems and their derivatives; Seychelles is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Sharia (also Islamic law, Sharia

law) the body of laws and jurisprudential traditions stemming from or otherwise relating to the Islamic faith.

Sharing of worst practice

Cometanic freedom of religion theory an informal policy and course of action in which one or more governments adopted religious restriction policies and laws as a direct result of their influence from

nearly, often larger and culturally more dominant countries. Not to be confused with exportation of worst practice.

Shouwang Church a Protestant house church of 3,000 congregants located in Beijing that was subject to harassment by Chinese authorities as part of the 2011 crackdown on dissidents in the People's Republic.

Shunning social rejection, typically at an interpersonal or local level; consequences of alternative religious beliefs and practices may lead to this type of social ostracism. See also excommunication.

Sierra Leone, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Sierra Leone makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government in practice; reregistration is mandated annually to maintain tax-exemption benefits and unstructure also persists in the country's recognition system which has caused a lack of existential recognition for religious groups; Sierra Leone is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Signature quota *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a type of quota imposed by a government to restrict religious registration stating that a religious group must gain a certain number of notarised signatures in order to complete their registration. See also longevity quota, membership quota.

Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925 a piece of legislation in British India that legally identified Sikh identity and gurdwaras (Sikh houses of worship) under the country of an elected body of Sikh elders.

Simony the buying or selling of sacred objects or ecclesiastical roles and privileges, such as pardons and church offices.

Singapore, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Singapore makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is broadly censored in practice while semi-plural attitude remains in effect in the society itself as is reflective of the diversity of religious affiliations in the country; the use of subjective language in a law regarding public order has broad scope to restrict reasonable religious activity; a rule of mandatory registration is in effect for any group more than ten persons

creates an atmosphere of restriction in the country while the nationwide bans on Jehovah's Witnesses and the Unification Church signal a censorial approach by the government beyond mere restrictive; state definitions and interpretation of religions, especially Islam, and the weaponisation of the word "cult" are in effect; additionally, government restricts on how religious groups may advertise, retributions unregistration, and the misuse of zoning laws to the detriment of religious groups are further demonstrations of the government's censorial approach; Singapore is presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Sinicisation (Pinyin: **Zhongguohua**) the process of converting or approximating something to Chinese culture; this process is current being implemented as part of the Communist Party's restrictions imposed on religious activity among its citizens. See also Measures on the Administration of Religious, Regulations on Religious Affairs.

Sint Maarten, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Sint Maarten provides for freedom of

religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government; non-percolative recognition is in effect due to Dutch law on religious recognition not in application to the constituent country of Sint Maarten; Sint Maarten is classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Slovakia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Slovakia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a claim that the government generally, though not broadly, upholds while semi-normativism remains widespread in the society as significant amounts of online hate speech continue to target against religious minorities and unregistered groups; the rule of mandatory registration for religious groups and the imposition of significant membership quotas on groups seeking registration represent critical issues in the country's recognition system; a structure of vertical recognition also controls the registration procedures yet also unregistration results in multiple limitations and institutional hurdles; as a result, Slovakia is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Slovenia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Slovenia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that the government broadly upholds in practice and semi-pluralism pervades much of public attitude towards religion and belief; the primary issue with the Slovenian recognition system that is inhibiting it from gaining dynamic status, in addition to the fact that it lacks an independent recognition agency, is that membership quotas are imposed both for registration and for eligibility for further benefits which in turn creates a relatively mild form of vertical recognition; as a result, Slovenia is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Social religious recognition

Cometan's freedom of religion theory

(often **social recognition of religion or belief**; also **societal recognition, interpersonal recognition of religion**) those varying degrees of acknowledgement of the religious or philosophical belief identities bestowed to individuals, whole communities, or organisations from a single person or a non-governmental group or organisation; government recognition of a religion

should encourage but does not necessitate social religious recognition. Not to be confused with religious recognition. See also recognition.

Societal-based religious discrimination forms of discrimination based on religion initiated by individuals rather than by government. See also government-based religious discrimination.

Solomon Islands, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Solomon Islands makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a claim that the government broadly upholds although semi-normativism continues to pervade the society; the true primary issues with the country's recognition system are the rule of mandatory registration for all religious groups and unstructure in the system which has caused a lack of provisions for existential recognition; Solomon Islands is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Somalia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Somalia makes a false claim to

freedom of religion and belief as the government makes no efforts to uphold the basic tenets of this right and the widespread normativism in the society perpetuates this; non-Muslim proselytism is outlawed as is conversion from Islam; al-Shabaab continue to terrorise Somali citizens, thus inhibiting the country from making progress in its economic and political stabilisation which in turn continues to damage religious freedom conditions; Sunni Islam is the state denomination which perpetuates the imposition of the religion by default restriction tool; retributions for blasphemy include imprisonment; Somalia is presently classified as ambiguous-terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition as it lacks any procedures for recognition and registration of any non-Islamic groups and uses this to continue terminally restricting Somali religious activity.

Somaliland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Somaliland makes a claim to freedom of belief but contradicts this claim with the caveat that Muslims cannot convert from Islam; the government does not uphold the right of freedom of religion or belief in practice and the widespread

normativism in the society perpetuates the violations of this fundamental human right; Sunni Islam is the state denomination and the restriction tool called religion by default is in effect; Somaliland is presently classified as ambiguous-terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition as it shares very similar laws to Somalia, the sovereign state from which it is attempting to secede from.

South Africa, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of South Africa makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a claim that the government broadly fulfils in practice with semi-pluralism embraced by the society as at least partly demonstrated by the spectrum of religious affiliations; however, unstructure does persist in the country's recognition system which has led to a provisions for existential recognition and the procedures established for religious organisations have not been made distinct from those established for secular entities which is not advisable; as a result, South Africa is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

South Ossetia, freedom of religion or belief in. the

Constitution of South Ossetia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief although with some subjective caveats while semi-normativism remains widespread in the society; there is a nationwide ban on Jehovah's Witnesses as a result of the sharing of worst practice with the Russian Federation; as a result, South Ossetia is presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

South Sudan, freedom of religion or belief in. the transitional

Constitution of South Sudan makes detailed claims to freedom of religion and belief yet these claims are not consistently fulfilled by the government and widespread normativism remains in the society as evidenced by ongoing clashes and acts of violence occurring between the Christian majority and the Muslim minority; the rule of mandatory registration for religious groups coupled with the world's highest registration fee makes South Sudan's recognition system particularly restrictive; this is alongside widespread unstructure which has led to a lack of provisions for existential recognition and the use of subjective language in

legislation which is vulnerable to misapplication to restrict reasonable religious activity; South Sudan is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Space rights *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the branch of human rights concerned with ensuring the freedom established by international human rights law are equally upheld for the specificities of the outer space and non-Earth terrestrial environments, including wherever necessary the establishment of new human rights to cover topics unique to outer space and international space law; the research area of human rights in outer space is a principal speciality for Cometan.

Spain, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Spain makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the right is broadly upheld by the government with semi-pluralism in effect in the society itself; there exists some issues with the Spanish recognition system which inhibit the country from being classified dynamic; such issues include longevity quotas and membership quotas imposed for the notorio arraigo status, a status that itself creates a situation of vertical

recognition; bilateral cooperation agreements established to manage relations between the state and religious groups are vulnerable to politicisation due to their intertwinement with the Ministry of the Presidency which is the same for the broader registration process; Spain is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Spanish confiscation a mass seizure and sale of property conducted by the Spanish government from the late 18th to the early 20th century, including the expropriation of land and property belonging to the Catholic Church (called mortmain); this occurred as a means of paying off debts owed and with the goal of increasing the national wealth.

Special rapporteur (also **independent expert, working group member**) an independent expert employed by the United Nations to report on the affairs of a specific country or to fulfil a mandate oriented on a certain theme. See also United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Spectrum of Religious

Recognition *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the theoretical framework composed of seven classifications that each describe features of different types recognition systems and how they effect broader conditions for freedom of religion or belief; from most severe to ideal, the classifications include terminality, censoriality, restrictivity, ambiguity, apathy, receptivity, and dynamism.

Spirit of freedom of religion or belief *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* those aspects of freedom of religion or belief that were not explicitly stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent international human rights instruments but are nonetheless implied; typically, this entails a broader conception of freedom of religion or belief as a means of combating widespread misinterpretation and manipulation of its principles. Contrasted with principles of freedom of religion or belief.

Spiritual security *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* an informal title for a type of law or policy that allows governments to retrieve private messages sent

between members of a persecuted religious minority as a means to identify those individuals and target them, likely ending in violence or exile.

Sponsorship restriction tool

Cometan's freedom of religion theory

(or **sponsorial restriction tool**) a type of restriction tool mandating that a religious group be sponsored by a pre-existent entity already registered before it may itself register. See also preregistration.

SRD See societal-based religious discrimination.

Sri Lanka, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Sri Lanka makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not consistently by the government and although religious affiliations in the country are diverse, tensions and conflict remain among different religious groups which creates a situation of semi-normativity; Theravada Buddhism is the state denomination which in creates a situation of partial recognition; existential recognition is only extended to Buddhist groups while the registration procedures established are part-mandatory by their nature; politicisation of these

registration procedures continues to increase particularly in 2020 when the Prime Minister was given oversight of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana; proselytism remains restricted for non-Buddhist groups; Sri Lanka is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

SRP meaning State Religion Policy.

State atheism an extreme form of a secular state, the situation of a government espousing positive atheism and the integration of this position into its ideology, laws and the overall national identity, often leading to the disenfranchisement and terminal restriction of religious and philosophical groups caused by the misuse of this apparatus as a means of restricting religious or belief activity among its citizens; although many countries have formerly practiced state atheism (e.g. those under Marxist-Leninist ideology), in 2021, only China, Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam continue with this practice, yet this still accounts for over 1.57 billion people; in such countries, upward mobility is often contingent on one's irreligiosity as a means of assuring their loyalty to the state over any

religious institution. See also secular state.

State atheism as a restriction tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory the use of atheism affirmed by the state as a means of severely restricting religious and belief activity, such as in China and other Communist states.

State definition of religion or belief

Cometanic freedom of religion theory a government's conception of what a religion constitutes or what beliefs and practices within a belief system are protectable; connected and often dependent upon state definitions is the precondition of a belief stipulation. See also advancement of religion, misclassification.

State Department's Special Watch List (*abbreviated SWL*) a

designation applied by the United States Secretary of State to those countries regarded as engaging in or tolerating severe violations of freedom of religion or belief but as not fulfilling all of the requirements to be designated one of the Countries of Particular Concern; as of 2021, countries so designated include Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Central African

Republic, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Nicaragua; together these countries total over 575 million people. See also Countries of Particular Concern, Entities of Particular Concern.

State privilege *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **state dispensation**) a benefit or advantage, either financial or otherwise, that is granted to one or more recognised or established religions of a country and is not granted to minorities or new religious movements; an example is the Catholic Church's privileged status in the principality of Andorra.

State religion (also **established religion, official religion, state denomination**) the religion or religious denomination that a confessional state officially espouses and promotes to its citizens or the instance of a country espousing such; the most widely invoked state religion is Islam while some European countries maintain national churches as their state religion and Buddhism remains the state religion of Bhutan, Cambodia and Sri Lanka as of 2021. See also confessional state, theocracy.

State Religious Affairs Bureau Order No. 5 (*officially Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism*) a 2007 order stating that a Reincarnation Application must be filed by all Buddhist temples in that country before they are allowed to recognize individuals as tulku (reincarnated teachers).

State Religious Freedom Restoration Act (*abbreviated RFRA*) a 1993 United States federal law introduced by Congressman Chuck Schumer that reasserts protection of freedom of religion or belief; following an unanimous U.S. House voting and a near-unanimous U.S. senate voting, President Bill Clinton signed the Act into law.

Stefanus Alliance International (*abbreviated SAINT*) human rights organisation promoting religious liberty founded in 1967 and with its headquarters located in Oslo, Norway.

Stefanus Prize a prize bestowed to individuals notable for the contributions to the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief as stipulated in Article 18 of

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Stipulatory registration *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **stipulative registration**) the instance in which registration of a religious organisation or community is not mandatory for the purpose of proselytism, but is nonetheless required in order for the group to purchase property, to open a bank account, or to receive tax-exempt status. Contrasted with mandatory registration.

Strangleholding *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the governmental practice of restricting religion by detracting financial contributions and new membership through a series of restriction tools, an example of which is the re-registration restriction tool.

Strasbourg Conference a French forum for the discussion of freedom of religion or belief.

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (*formerly Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities*) a think tank of the former United Nations Commission

on Human Rights that operated from 1947 to 2006; the Sub-Commission produced many documents during its years of activity on freedom of religion or belief.

Subject-matter expert (*abbreviated SMEs*) a person who is an authority in a certain field, often either an academic or working professional; SMEs are crucial to the concept of a recognition agency with their expertise also important to establishing a dynamic recognition system.

Sudan, freedom of religion or belief in. the 2019 transitional Constitution of Sudan makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief that is in the process of being upheld by the government although it is likely that will normativism remain dominant in the society for some time to come; Sudan is presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition, down from its original classification as terminal due to a reversal in government attitudes towards religion and belief as evidenced by reforms made in legislation; these changes are welcomed but Cometan stresses that time and sustained change will not be the only healers of the three decades-long religious

repression faced by the Sudanese people under the previous regime; apostasy from Islam was decriminalised in July 2020 and separation of religion from the state was established in September 2020; there remains some issues with the country's recognition system, namely provincial segmentation of registration procedures, restrictions on Shi'ite Muslims remain in force and part-mandatory registration also remains in effect; resolving these issues and establishing existential recognition for traditional faiths will see Sudan reach receptive status while dynamic status is reserved for countries with an independent recognition agency and existential recognition for all belief systems and their derivatives as well as no restrictions in registration procedures.

Supposed protection *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the instances in which the phrases "protected" status or providing "protection" are use in the context of religious communities, especially in regards to a protected person or a protected religion; supposed protection is so named in Cometanic theory as the notion of protection and essential need for protection are challenged; that a society which

truly advocated for freedom of religion, belief or disbelief wouldn't need a system whereby certain communities can be protected because it would be a fundamental right bestowed to them as citizens that they would receive protection in law regardless of which category they belong to. See also protected person, protected religion.

Suppressionist *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a person who attempts to suppress new or alternative religious or philosophical beliefs and movements across a variety of formats.

Supranic *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **supranical**) *adjective* relating to any instance of the state holding supremacy over the Astronist Institution.

Supranism *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **supranity**) the assertion that the state should have supremacy over the Institution regarding astroncial affairs.

Suriname, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Suriname makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, including reference to "philosophy of life", a right that the government generally

upholds in practice while semi-pluralism pervades the society as evidenced by the diversity of religious affiliation held among the population; unstructure exists in the Surinamese recognition system which has led to a lack of provisions for existential recognition and ambiguity remains in the legislation regarding government approaches to proselytism and other aspects of religious activity; Suriname is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Surreptism *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* a type of government approach to the restriction of religion whereby a government guilty of oppressing religious freedoms attempts to hide their restrictive nature through the use of spectacles or other means of keeping their restriction of religion covert as part of an infrastructure of denial.

Sustainable religious recognition system *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (also stylised as **sustainable recognition system, sustainable system**) an ideal system for recognising religion and belief in a country, theorised by and regarded in recognitionism to be established by approximating to systemic

dynamism, essentially that a dynamic system for recognition corresponds to a sustainable one.

Sweden, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Sweden makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that the government universally upholds in practice and semi-pluralism is supported in the society; however, longevity quotas and membership quotas are in effect in the Swedish recognition system; Sweden is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Switzerland, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Switzerland makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that is generally, though not broadly, upheld by the Swiss government in practice while semi-normativism remains in effect in the society; the registration procedures established by the government are part-mandatory, there is inconsistency with regards to the types of registration statuses bestowed, and the restriction tool of public approval is also in effect which inhibit free religious activity; restrictions on buries remain imposed in the cantons of St. Gallen

and Ticino; however, the main issue with the current iteration of the Swiss recognition system is its cantonal segmentation which greatly restricts the capacity for religious groups to gain nationwide legal registration and existential recognition thus undermining the recognition system as a whole; Switzerland is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Symbolic dominance *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **metaphorical dominance**) the instance in which an event, a procedure, or the result of policy has the intention of resembling the dominance of one religion over all others, especially to the detriment or as a symbol of the detriment to freedom of religion e.g. Hagia Sophia being converted to a mosque as a symbol of Islam's dominance over Christianity in the country of Turkey.

Symphonia the principle that religion and state should complement one another, exhibiting mutual respect with neither institution presuming to dominate the other.

Synod a church council convened to decide an issue of doctrine, administration or application.

Syria, freedom of religion or belief in. the 2012 Constitution of Syria makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief as the government continues to violate both this human right and others connected and interdependent on this right; although Syria is a secular state, conversion from Islam remains criminalised and non-Muslim proselytism remains heavily restricted, if not prohibited; nationwide bans remain in effect on Jehovah's Witnesses; the procedures for religious registration are mandatory with religious publications broadly censored and state definition and interpretation of religion and reasonable discourse about religious belief and practice act to constrict religious activity to state-sanctioned forms; the ongoing Syrian Civil War and the rise and fall of ISIS in the region have had a devastating effect on religious freedom, damages that will take decades to repair by government policy and to heal by changes in societal attitudes towards religion and belief but if changes do not take place, religious freedom conditions will remain in the dire state they are

in; Syria is presently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Systematic, Definitional and Taxonomic Manual of Astroncy, Religion and Philosophy (abbreviated to **SDTM** or **MARP**; also **Universal Manual of Astroncy, Universal Manual of Stellancy; informally bible of astroncy, book of stellancy, SDT Manual, or simple the Systematical**) an authoritative document, the first of which – **SDTM-1** – is set to be published by the Astronist Institution in 2022, with the central purpose of classifying, defining, systemising and schematising the entire terminology of astroncy, religion, philosophy, ideology and spirituality. See also **International Classification of Belief.**

Systematic oppression *Cometan*ic *freedom of religion theory* a situation of religious and belief freedom conditions in which persecution and restriction of religious groups and activities is deeply entrenched in the society, both within the government and within a class or classes of the public who may be referred to as “enablers.”

Systemic dynamism *Cometanic*

freedom of religion theory See dynamism.

Systemic recognition *Cometanic*

freedom of religion theory the first of five levels of state recognition that bestows recognition to belief systems of different kinds, whether they be religious, spiritual or philosophical, as well as to the denominations of those belief systems.

T

Taiwan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of the Republic of China makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that is broadly upheld in practice and semi-pluralism is supported among the public although several issues persist in the Taiwanese recognition system; government supervision of religious buildings and the transfer of religious property is concerning as are the series of restrictions imposed on the registration procedures including establishment permits in the context of preregistration, financial quotas imposed, the segmentation of the registration procedures, unstructure which has lead to a lack of provisions for existential recognition, and the imposition of a structure of vertical recognition; Taiwan is currently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Tajikistan, freedom of religion or belief in. a false claim to freedom of religion and belief is made in the

Constitution of Tajikistan as the government has made no efforts to uphold the breadth of this right in practice while normativism remains widespread in the society itself which in turn perpetuates these violations; the Tajik government has established a sophisticated apparatus for the terminal restriction of religious activity including the imposition of confinement restriction tools, government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations, the imposition of longevity quotas, reregistration restriction tools, and the imposition of a rule of mandatory registration both for all religious groups as well as all individual instances of religious activity; the President directly controls policy regarding religious activity; charters for religious groups constrict their activities and incremental fines will be imposed for any actions conducted beyond the established charter; state definitions and interpretations of reasonable religious activity and of Islam specifically perpetuate the government's ongoing restrictions of religion and belief; unregistration will lead to fines and closure of religious groups by state authorities; furthermore, the weaponisation of the term extremist, the manipulation

of zoning laws, and the structure of the recognition system vertically exert further restrictions on Tajik religion and belief; Tajikistan is presently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Tanzania, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Tanzania makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld by the government while semi-normativism remains widespread in the society; a rule of mandatory registration is imposed which fundamentally creates a restrictive recognition system that further constricts religious activity by the imposition of membership quotas; government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations is commonplace and unregistration will result in fines; censorship of Islamic literature takes place before it can be imported into the mainland from Zanzibar; Tanzania is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Tax exemption restriction tool

Cometan's freedom of religion theory the misuse of exemptions from taxation with regards to religious organisations and institutions as a

means of subjugating some religions in a country over others.

Terminality *Cometan's freedom of religion theory (adj. terminal)* a classification in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition characterised by an established recognition system that is continuously misused with the intention of extinguishing either all or certain manifestations of religious or philosophical belief among citizens through the regular use of violence and systematic oppression; terminality is the most extreme condition for religious recognition; it precedes censoriality.

Thailand, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Thailand makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not upheld in practice by the government and normative attitudes remain widespread in the society; Thailand is currently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition as a result of numerous censorial policies imposed by the government on the country's recognition system; these policies include intrusive informational requirements, membership quotas, partial recognition due to Buddhism's state privilege, preregistration procedures, state

definition and interpretation of religion, specifically Buddhism, as well as the politicisation of the registration of Buddhist groups which are directly administered by the Prime Minister; subjective language is also employed in legislation to give the government broad scope to sustain these policies.

The Calcutta Quran Petition a book by Sita Ram Goel and Chandmal Chopra published in 1986 with the primary subject matter centring on censorship, particularly the censorship of the Quran.

Theocracy political rule and dominion granted to a deity, regarded as acting through or dispensing pronouncement in governing the state through the clergy; in ancient and medieval times, some kings and queens were regarded as deities or as having been chosen by God to rule. See also divine right of kings.

Theological school restriction tool *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool involving the prohibition for a religion to establish form schools for priests/initiates to attend due to the lack of recognition that the religion has received from the government.

Thomas F. Farr incumbent president of the Religious Freedom Institute and director of the International Religious Freedom Policy Action Team.

Three A's of recognition *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* (also stylised as **the 3 A's**) a framework devised to highlight the three qualities that may or may not be bestowed to a recognition agency and to varying degrees which then comes to effect the works of that agency; these three attributes include accountability, authority, and autonomy.

Three generations of human rights Karel Vasak's conception of human rights as split into three categories or generations according to liberty, equality and fraternity, the first category of which includes freedom of religion or belief.

Tibet, freedom of religion or belief in. religious activity in the Tibet Autonomous Region is under direct control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP); CCP policies that are applied in the rest of mainland China are applied with extra effect and force in Tibet with some policies restricting religious activity tailored

to Tibetan Buddhist activity; CCP policies enforced in Tibet include confinement restriction tool, censorship of digital activities and written materials of religious groups, governmental control of all instances of religious activity through the imposition of mandatory registration, the weaponisation of the term “extremism”, limitations imposed on the degree to which religious groups within Tibet may communicate with foreign religious institutions, and state definitions and interpretations of religion, especially Tibetan Buddhism, are imposed; retributions for the breaching of any of these restrictions range from fines, suspension of religious groups, to imprisonment; Tibet is presently classified as terminal in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Togo, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Togo makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a claim that the government only upholds in part with the society itself remaining semi-normative; various issues persist in the Togolese recognition system which has in turn been classified as censorious in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition; these censorial issues include the imposition of intrusive

informational requirements, the imposition of mandatory registration for NRMs and non-traditional groups and not for Roman Catholic, Muslim and Protestant groups thus demonstrating discrimination based on religious affiliation, as well as a high registration fee and the stagnation of registration application approvals as a means of censorship.

Tokelau, freedom of religion or belief in. although references of solidarity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are made in the Constitution of Tokelau, no direction claims to freedom of religion and belief are made as is similar for another New Zealand territory of Niue; non-percolative recognition is in effect for Tokelau as New Zealand law on religious recognition is not applied to this overseas territory; Tokelau is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Tolerance Act a 1781 Swedish law passed by Gustav III that guaranteed freedom of religion as well as full citizenship rights for all Christian immigrants and foreign residents in the kingdom.

Toleration (or **religious toleration**) a country or group's allowance or permission of a religion or belief system to openly and freely exist or operate within its territory without interference from the state; the concept of toleration is at the basis of much human rights language when it comes to freedom of religion or belief, yet there exists wide scale variation in how toleration is interpreted and applied from toleration akin to recognition and acceptance to pseudo-toleration.

Toleration Act 1688 (or **Act of Toleration**) an act of the Parliament of England that allowed freedom of worship to those nonconformists who firstly, pledged to the oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and secondly, who rejected transubstantiation; essentially, freedom of worship was granted to Protestants on these stipulations besides Catholics, a core belief to whom was transubstantiation.

Tonga, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Tonga makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is broadly upheld by the government with semi-pluralism accepted in the society as evidenced by the population's diverse religious

affiliations; however, marriages by non-Christian clergy are now allowed and although registration procedures may be largely stipulatory, they remain part-mandatory in order for religious organisations to conduct some basic activities such as the importation of religious goods and the protection of the group's name from imitation; Tonga is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

"Anthony" Tony Richard Perkins (born 1963), American politician, civil servant and incumbent Vice Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Traditional religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (*adj. established, traditional*) religion and religious group that is presented as intertwined with a nation's historical lineage and culture, especially as a means to suggest its legitimacy in that country over other religious groups. Contrasted with non-traditional religion. See also extremist religion, foreign religion, minority religion, untraditional religion.

Transity *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **transitism**; *adj. transitic*) the principle that religious and belief freedom must transcend all political, cultural, social and economic affairs as an "immovable, irrevocable and primordial right" of all people.

Transnistria, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Transnistria makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief but this right is not consistently upheld by the government; intimidation by authorities is applied to non-Christian groups and to Jehovah's Witnesses; proselytism is restricted and a rule of mandatory registration is also in effect; restrictions are also applied on the importation and distribution of "unauthorised" religious texts; Transnistria is classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Trial by ordeal *historical* a type of judicial practice in which the accused are subjected to unpleasant, painful or fatal experiences in order to force their confession to their charges.

Trinidad and Tobago, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago

makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a claim that the government broadly upholds in practice while semi-plural attitudes are in effect in the society as evidenced by the relatively diverse religious affiliations of the population; a degree of unstructure persists in the country's national recognition system which has led to a lack of provisions for existential recognition; longevity quotas are also imposed on religious groups seeking registration; Trinidad and Tobago is currently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Tunisia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Tunisia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief yet this right is not upheld in practice by the government and the society itself exhibits normative attitudes towards diversity of religion and belief; firstly, the subjectively described "forced conversions" is outlawed which in effect criminalises proselytism for all non-Islamic groups; this type of subjective language is used throughout legislation in order to maintain control over religious activity; Islam is the state religion

which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition while politicisation of the registration process for religious groups is also commonplace; a set of incremental retributions are put in place for violators of the law regarding associations from warnings, to temporary suspension of the group, to the group's complete dissolution; Tunisia is presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Turkey, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Turkey makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief although the government does not consistently uphold this right although normativism remains widespread; private dissemination of religious ideas is protected under the constitution although proselytism is restricted and harassment is faced by proselytisers and those engaged in unauthorised religious activity; registration is interpreted as being mandatory and unregistration means that a religious group has no legal standing or protection; failure to comply with laws on places of worship realists in fines and closure of religious buildings; Turkey is a secular state; Turkey is presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Turkmenistan, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Turkmenistan makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief as the government takes no action to uphold this right and the normative attitudes of the society towards religious diversity perpetuate the situation; the government, under direct authoritarian control of president Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow has constructed and continues to orchestrate a sophisticated apparatus of restrictions that interlink in order to terminally restrict all forms of religious activity; as a result, Turkmenistan is presently classified as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; a rule of mandatory registration is imposed both on all religious groups and all subsequent individual instances of religious activity; government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations is entrenched, including government appointment of religious leaders; members of religious groups, especially those unregistered by the government, face beatings, police raids, harassment and arrest; powers granted to local government segment the recognition system which further restricts religious

activity in respective provinces; unregistration of religious activity will lead to a series of incremental fines and proselytism is so restricted that it is virtually prohibited throughout the country no matter which group conducts such activities; although majority Muslim, Turkmenistan is a secular state.

Tuvalu, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Tuvalu makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief which is qualified by a series of subjective caveats, although this right is still generally upheld by government in practice; semi-normative attitudes persist in the society as partly evidenced by the lack of religious diversity in the country; a number of restrictions exist in the national recognition system, namely the imposition of membership quotas in preregistration to gain access to registration, mandatory registration for all groups representing more than 2% of the total population, and vertical structure for the recognition system; unregistration is threatened with prosecution including fines for unregistered groups that operate public meetings; Calvinism, by way of the Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu, is the state denomination which in turn creates

a situation of partial recognition; religious activity is also constricted by mandatory approval through a network of falekaupule across all the islands of the country which act as a council of elders whom have authority on which religious groups are allowed to operate within their jurisdictions; Tuvalu is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

U

Uganda, freedom of religion or belief in. the Ugandan Constitution makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief which is generally upheld by the government in practice although normativism remains entrenched in the society; the country's recognition system has multiple persistent issues which has resulted in Uganda being classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; such issues include a rule of mandatory registration for religious groups, licensing restriction tool, partial recognition, unstructure, and religious favouritism in favour of larger and more historically established denominations/religions including Anglicanism, Catholicism, Islam, Orthodox Christianity, and Seventh-day Adventism.

Uighur persecution the ongoing campaign initiated by the Communist Party of China in which the Uighur Muslims of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China; the

Uighurs have been undergoing forced abortions, forced sterilisations, political indoctrination to Communistic ideals, suppression of their Muslim religious identity, severe ill-treatment and forced to live in internment camps since 2014; the Chinese government asserts that its efforts are in aid of combatting the threat of terrorism and radicalism among the Muslim population; more recently in 2021, this ongoing violation of human rights was declared a genocide. See also anti-Falun Gong.

Ukraine, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Ukraine is makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, specifically also personal philosophy, and this right is broadly upheld in practice by the government with semi-normative attitudes generally held by the public towards religion and belief; however, a few issues persist in the country's national recognition system primarily including its segmentation, membership quotas, and unstructure which has lead to a lack of provisions for existential recognition; Ukraine is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; meanwhile, both occupied Crimea and Eastern Donbas have been

classified as terminal due to Russia's exportation of its policies on religion and belief to these regions now either fully or partial under its control; such exported policies include nationwide ban on Jehovah's Witnesses, legal discrimination of Muslim communities, nullification of prior leases to property, weaponisation of the term "extremism", reregistration, and the confiscation or demolition of property owned by the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU).

Umbrella body *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **mother body**)

a type of gatekeeping organisation established by a government to represent a belief system or denomination, often with the stipulation that individual religious organisations and buildings must gain authorisation from this umbrella body before their overall registration process can be completed; this type of structure is most prominently used in Zambia and Zimbabwe, resulting in varying degrees of its misuse to restrict certain religious group from being eligible to complete their registration. See also preregistration.

Umbrella body restriction tool

Cometanic freedom of religion theory

a government's misuse or overapplication of an umbrella body for religious groups to the point at which procedures for religious registration become restricted.

UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

a 1981 United Nations resolution that reasserts the principles from Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by stipulating that all human beings hold the irrevocable right to "freedom of thought, conscience, religion or whatever belief."

Underground religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **under-the-radar religion**)

a form of religion that has arisen as a direct result of repression and restriction of religious freedoms in which practitioners resort to covert ways of engaging with their faith, especially in informal settings (e.g. personal prayer, contemplation), in order to avoid investigation by the government.

UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

a declaration of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) in 2001 regarding the right to individual and collective identity, including diversity in terms of language, a set of rights including or impacted by freedom of religion or belief.

Unfounded justification

restriction tool *Cometanian freedom of religion theory* a type of restriction tool that manifests as a false justification for why the restriction of religion is a positive policy for a society. This type of restriction tool is most infamously adopted by China in their rhetoric that the reduction of social hostilities and the supposed of social harmony is contingent on the government's policy of religious restriction.

United Arab Emirates, freedom of religion or belief in the.

the Constitution of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) makes a caveated claim to freedom of religion and belief hinging on conformity to "established customs", "public policy" and "public morals" which in turn provide the government with ample scope to exert broad restrictions upon religious activity in the country; meanwhile, normative attitudes held among the populous regarding religion and belief perpetuate these restrictions; Islam

is the state religion which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition; a long series of government policies have results in the UAE's present classification as terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; such policies include the criminalisation of conversion from Islam, imposition of the licensing restriction tool, nationwide ban on public expressions contrary to Islam including in printed and online media and digital platforms, the criminalisation of proselytising to Muslims, mandatory registration for religious groups to conduct any activities, segmentation of the registration procedures, and unstructure exists on the recognition that makes the endeavour of recognition and registration for non-Islamic groups terminally onerous.

United Front Work Department

(officially United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party; abbreviated UFWD) a department of the Chinese government that reports directly to the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and is primarily concerned with collecting intelligence, managing relations with and attempting to influence the

actions and policies of a series of organisations outside the Chinese Communist Party, including the operations of religious organisations both inside and outside the People's Republic; it replaced the State Administration for Religious Affairs in 2018.

United Kingdom, freedom of religion or belief in the. the United Kingdom has an arrangement of written and unwritten principles and all three of the Kingdom's constituent legal systems make a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that is universally upheld by the government yet semi-plural and semi-normative attitudes continue to split public opinion on religion and belief; Anglicanism is the state denomination of England which in turn creates a situation of partial recognition and unstructure is widespread in the country's recognition system; state definition and interpretation of religion is applied in the context of the application for charity status; the United Kingdom as a whole is presently classified as restrictive (primarily due to England's classification as restrictive) while the devolved nations of Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales continue to be classified as apathetic

in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

United Nations Human Rights Committee a body of 18 experts at the United Nations established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concerned with the compliance of partied members to the human rights standards laid out by the Covenant.

United Nations Human Rights Council (*abbreviated UNHRC*) a branch of the United Nations concerned with the global promotion of human rights and the rectification of their abuse, fundamental among them is the protection of freedom of religion or belief.

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief an appointment of an independent expert created in 1986 by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights with Resolution 1986/20 whose mandate is to monitor and report on religious freedom concerns around the world including country visitations and communication with governments regarding alleged human rights violations; the post was later extended in 2010 with Resolution

14/11 and then again in 2013 with Resolution 22/20; in order of their incumbency, rapporteurs have included Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro, Abdelfattah Amor, Asma Jilani Jahangir, Heiner Bielefeldt and presently Ahmed Shaheed.

United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom the ambassador at large who heads the Office of International Religious Freedom in the U.S. Department of State, a position created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (*abbreviated USCIRF*) a U.S. federal government commission created to monitor, report and resolve the bipartisan issue of violations of freedom of religion or belief outside the United States; incumbent Chair is Gayle Manchin.

United States, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Constitution of the United States makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that the government universally upholds while public opinion on religion and belief remains semi-plural as evidenced by rising rates of hate speech and violent hate crimes enacted against

religious minorities, particularly as a result of antisemitism, anti-NRM sentiment and Islamophobia; the United States is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition; this is because the United States has provisions for only the registration of religious organisations as tax-exempt, not distinct procedures for the registration of religious groups and no procedures for existential recognition due to a misinterpretation of the concept of non-establishment of religion. See also non-establishment.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (*abbreviated UDHR*) the 1948 document that enshrines rights and freedoms of every human being; it was assembled by a Draft Committee that was appointed the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and was formally adopted by the General Assembly as Resolution 217 on 10th December 1948, an assembly that took place in Paris, France. However, while forty-eight member states voted in favour of the Declaration, eight abstained with a further two did not vote.

Universal practice *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* highest of three positive situations for freedom

of religion or belief in which a government upholds this human right constantly and for all religious, spiritual and philosophical communities without exclusion of any group. Contrasted with broad practice, general practice.

Universal restriction *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the state and condition in a country in which religious restrictions and repression are applied to all religions. Contrasted with minority restriction, NRM restriction.

Unregistration *Cometanic freedom of religion theory (adj. unregistered)* the fact or instance of a belief system, denomination or community having chosen not to register its activities, the consequences of which in some countries can lead to retribution for the group's leaders and members; in censorious and terminal countries, not declaring practically all instances of religious activity is classed as unregistration while the term in broader usage pertains only to registration of the organisation itself, not all its activities.

Unregulated religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* the instance in which religious or belief

activity sees no regulation from the state whatsoever, including in instances even when such activities may endanger the public order, security, or the freedoms of others to practice their activities or to believe in what they wish.

Unstructure *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **unstructuredness**; *adj. unstructured*) the fact or instance of a country possessing no procedures and certainly no system for the existential recognition of religion or belief; this may either be due to an ongoing focus on legal registration as the primary means of recognition or it may possess more intentional origins wherein the government in question may seek to restrict religious activity by not providing the mechanisms for recognition.

Untraditional religion *Cometanic freedom of religion theory (adj. non-traditional, untraditional)* See non-traditional religion.

Uruguay, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Uruguay makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a right that the government broadly upholds in practice while semi-plural attitudes

are embedded in much of the society; the Constitution also emphasises that “the State supports no religion”; unstructure is widespread in the Uruguayan recognition system which has led to a lack of provisions for existential recognition while aspects of religious activity such as proselytism remain unaddressed in the law; Uruguay is presently classified as apathetic in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Uzbekistan, freedom of religion or belief in.

the Constitution of Uzbekistan makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief and the government has made no attempts to uphold this right in practice and the normative attitudes that continue to pervade the society perpetuate these violations of religious freedom; Uzbekistan is presently classified as terminal in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition; as is common to all terminal countries, the Uzbek government has established an elaborate apparatus of restriction tools that it imposes on its citizens to restrict their religious lives; the body of restriction imposed include censorship of religious publications, both physical and digital as well as restrictions imposed on the

importation, distribution, production and storage of religious literature, the confinement restriction tool is imposed, false registration (as a form of pseudo-recognition), government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations is widespread, licensing restriction tool, restriction of proselytism and missionary activity, membership quotas are imposed, as is a rule of mandatory registration for all religious groups and all individual instances of religious activity; further terminally restrictive is the government’s segmentation of the registration procedures, the establishment of a watchkeeper state, the weaponisation of terms such as “extremist” and “terrorist” in the legislation, the restriction of the wearing of religious clothing, and the placing of onerous requirements to conduct any type of religious meeting, whether public or private; this body of restrictions are underpinned by the government’s use of subjective language in legislation to give it the scope to restrict reasonable religious activity while still remaining “constitutional” or “within the bounds of the law.”

V

Vanuatu, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Vanuatu makes a claim to “freedom of conscience and worship”, a claim that the government broadly upholds in practice although public opinion on religion and belief remains semi-normative; although dormant, the mere existence of a law on mandatory registration means that Vanuatu is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition; state privilege is extended to Christianity by way of the constitution while unstructure also exists in the country’s recognition system which has caused a lack of provisions for existential recognition.

Vatican City, freedom of religion or belief in. freedom of religion or belief in Vatican City refers to the Catholic Church’s approach to and espousals on the topic of religious freedom for which it has presented its *dignitatis humanae*, its Declaration on Religious Freedom

from the Second Vatican Council which affirm of every human being to religious liberty; there exists no officially established procedures for the Vatican City State in providing existential recognition or legal registration to any non-Catholic entity which in turn means that the Vatican City State is classified as ambiguous in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Venezuela, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Venezuela makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, including “freedom of cult”, rights which the Venezuelan government fulfils albeit to a limited degree under subjective caveats of “moral, good customs and public order”; semi-normative attitudes remain entrenched in the society; Venezuela is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition due to a series of restrictive policies enacted by the government on religious activity including the capacity for the Ministry of Interior to delay registration applications indefinitely, part-mandatory registration, and ambiguity regarding freedom to proselytise; also, unstructure exists in the system which has led to a lack of

provisions for the existential recognition of religious groups.

Verancy *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (often stylised as **the verancy**; or **veratism**; *adj.* **verantic**, **verantical** **veratic**, **veratical**; *adv.* **verantically**, **veratically**) the true religious, spiritual and philosophical make-up of a country especially in one where citizens are forced to identify with a dominant system and therefore are not able to register their true beliefs out of fear of persecution or even imprisonment. This asserts that certain countries whose levels of religious and belief freedoms are low, their censuses cannot be trusted, especially those which claim an overwhelming majority of one religion, or one denomination.

Vertical recognition *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **segmented recognition**) a type of structure found in some recognition and registration systems that is based on the provision of either recognition or registration according to a hierarchy; essentially, such a system changes what it means to be recognised or registered at its different levels with the higher level often corresponding to greater benefits received by the entity;

ultimately this makes it more difficult to discern what is “true” recognition and registration; this type of recognition is associated with excessive degrees of bureaucracy; an example of this can be found in Austria. Contrasted with horizontal recognition.

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action the main outcome of the United Nations’ World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna, Austria in 1993 in which.

Vietnam, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Vietnam makes a false claim to freedom of religion and belief as the government has implemented an apparatus of restrictive policies on who, how and where religion and belief may be practiced and expressed and what religions and beliefs may be adhered to by the Vietnamese people; Vietnam is presently classified as terminal in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition; just like in every other country labelled as terminal, the Vietnamese government has established an elaborate system of laws and policies for the restriction of religious activity including widespread censorship of religious

materials, the imposition of the confinement restriction tool, government interference in the internal affairs of religious organisations, a rule of mandatory registration for all religious groups and all individual instances of religious activity, and a rule to notify authorities of internal procedures of religious organisations such as the appointment of new members of the clergy is imposed; the Government Committee for Religious Affairs (GCRA) is established to ensure that this apparatus of laws restricting religious activity is held in place; state atheism remains in effect in Vietnam making it just one of only four countries to continue this practice alongside China, Cuba and North Korea.

Visa-banning *Cometanic freedom of religion theory* (or **under-the-radar religion**) the governmental practice of denying visas, either to individuals known to have engaged in religious freedom violations, or of religious minorities; therefore, visa-banning can be used as both a restriction tool and as a reduction tool.

W

Wales, freedom of religion or belief in. the Welsh government makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and the government actively upholds this right in practice; non-percolative is in effect for Wales meaning that English law on religious recognition does not apply in Wales; although Wales is classified as apathetic, the sovereign state of which it is part, the United Kingdom, remains classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition due to England's classification.

Wallis and Futuna, freedom of religion or belief in. non-percolative recognition is in effect for this French overseas collectivity which means that while the collectivity takes inspiration from French law, French law regarding religion and belief is not applied in this collectivity; in line with France itself, Wallis and Futuna is presently classified as receptive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Weaponisation of freedom of religion *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* (or **freedom of religion weaponisation, religious freedom manipulation**) the improper use of religious freedom principles in order to justify or disguise nefarious actions or actions with nefarious intent.

Welsh Church Act 1914 an act that disestablished the Church of England in Wales and Monmouthshire, thus forming the non-established Church in Wales.

West Bank and the Gaza Strip, freedom of religion or belief in. See Palestine, freedom of religion or belief in.

Western Sahara, freedom of religion or belief in. due to the Moroccan occupation of the territory, Moroccan law on religion and belief is applied in Western Sahara which means a false claim to freedom of religion and belief is made due to this claim made in the Constitution of Morocco which in turn signals an example of the exportation of worst practice; proselytism aimed at Muslims is prohibited and public expression of beliefs contrary to Islam is also prohibited; Western Sahara is

presently classified as censorious in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition primarily as a result of Morocco's classification; SADR-controlled parts of Western Sahara are also classified as censorious as similar laws on religion and belief are proclaimed in the latest constitution of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

Witchcraft (or **sorcery**) the accusation of witchcraft has been attached to individuals and their related beliefs and practices for centuries, especially as a means to subjugate those whom practice belief systems not practiced by the majority or by established institutions. In this regard, the terms witchcraft and witch has been weaponised to not only restrict religious and belief freedoms, but also to subjugate women who are mainly associated with the stereotypical witch.

Witch-hunt (or **witch purge**) *historical* a search for people accused for practicing witchcraft, often used as scapegoats for natural disasters, murders or other types of misfortune. Although witch-hunts can be understood as driven by moral panic and mass hysteria, they hold a basis in religious freedom

discourses as many pagan religious beliefs and activities were labelled as sorcery by Church authorities prior to and throughout the Middle Ages. It was common for witch-hunts to end in the burning of victims at the stake, by hangings or by drowning. While witch-hunts were most common during the Medieval period of European history, they continue to take place into contemporary times in Asia, Papua New Guinea and sub-Saharan Africa with the countries Saudi Arabia and Cameroon still holding to legislation against practices described as sorcery. In modern scholarship, historical witch-hunts are regarded as a form of misogyny and femicide.

World Conference on Human Rights (often **Vienna Conference**) a major United Nations conference held in Vienna, Austria from 14th to 25th June 1993 to focus solely on human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and was only the second of its kind (the first being the International Conference on Human Rights); the 1993 conference established the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

World Index of Moral Freedom an international index published by the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty ranking 160 countries across five indicators: religious freedom, bioethical freedom, drugs freedom, sexual freedom and family and gender freedom.

X

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, freedom of religion or belief in the. the Chinese

Communist Party (CCP) is currently engaged in a disastrously sophisticated campaign against religious activity in the province of Xinjiang; widely reported have been its so-far successful attempts at Sinicising the ethnic peoples of the region including the internment of citizens into “re-education camps”; a long series of restrictive policies are imposed on the region including censorship of religious texts, government authorisation of religious activity remains absolute and unregistered religious activity is criminalised; private teaching of religion and the broader homeschooling of children is prohibited, strict prohibitions on public religious expression are imposed, proselytism is terminally restricted, and the weaponisation of the terms “extremist” and “terrorist” is widespread; Xinjiang is presently classified as terminal in Cometan’s Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Y

Yemen, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Yemen makes no claim to freedom of religion and belief and widespread normative attitudes towards religion and belief in the society perpetuate violations of religious freedom; ambiguous and subjective language is used throughout the Yemeni legislation which has resulted in the lack of a recognition system for the country as a means of halting non-Islamic forms of religion emerging in the country by providing no procedures for registration or recognition and no laws to protect non-Muslims; blasphemy laws are in effect with incremental prison sentences imposed; proselytising Muslims is criminalised as is conversion from Islam with capital punishment applied as the retribution for the latter if recantations are not made; Islam is the state religion and Islam by default is applied; Yemen is presently classified as ambiguous-terminal in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition.

Z

Zack Udin incumbent Researcher at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) specialising in Nicaragua.

Zambia, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Zambia makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief, a claim that is generally upheld in practice by the government while normative attitudes persist among the public; Zambia is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition primarily due to the government's imposition of a rule of mandatory registration; mother bodies (umbrella body restriction tool) are misused to restrict religious groups in preregistration and a relatively high registration fee is also imposed and further restriction is the imposition of annual reregistration fee; unregistration may lead to imprisonment and/or fines for religious leaders and group members; finally, subjective language is used in the legislation

and ambiguity remains as to the authority of the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs (MNGRA) in matters of religious recognition, particularly the denial of registration of non-Christian groups; Christianity is Zambia's official religion.

Zealotry *Cometan's freedom of religion theory* the instance in which a state religion is adopted by a nation state as means to subjugate and eventually exterminate all other religious groups from the country. See also Religious Recognition Spectrum.

Zimbabwe, freedom of religion or belief in. the Constitution of Zimbabwe makes a claim to freedom of religion and belief and this right is generally upheld in practice by the government while normativism continues to pervade; sharing use of the umbrella body restriction tool with its neighbour Zambia, the Zimbabwean recognition system is also plagued with unstructure and ambiguous legislation, thus leading to a lack of provisions for existential recognition; Zimbabwe is presently classified as restrictive in Cometan's Spectrum of Religious Recognition primarily due to the imposition of the umbrella body restriction tool.

Chronology of Key Events in Religious Freedom

1787: U.S. Constitution is first signed, although still lacking a bill of rights.

1791: First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is adopted that asserts the free exercise of religion and that no religion shall be established.

1868: Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified which asserts that discrimination on the basis of religion is prohibited.

1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights is created and ratified.

1966: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is signed.

1976: International Bill of Human Rights is comes into effect.

1993: State Religious Freedom Restoration Act is passed by the U.S. Congress.

Quotes relating to freedom of religion

“Religion is like a pair of shoes.....Find one that fits for you, but don't make me wear your shoes.” – George Carlin

“Religious liberty might be supposed to mean that everybody is free to discuss religion. In practice it means that hardly anybody is allowed to mention it.” – G.K. Chesterton

“Somehow freedom for religious expression has become freedom from religious expression.” – Dinesh D’Souza

“We have no right to prejudice another in his civil enjoyments because he is of another church.” – Thomas Jefferson

“Freedom to practice one's own religion, doesn't mean belittling other religions.” – Abhijit Naskar

“You can't pick and choose which types of freedom you want to defend. You must defend all of it or be against all of it.” – Scott Howard Phillips

“Christian, Jew, Muslim, shaman,
Zoroastrian, stone, ground,
mountain, river, each has a secret
way of being with the mystery,
unique and not to be judged” – Jalal
ad-Din Rumi

Resources

For the Online Encyclopaedia of
Astronism visit:
[**www.astronism.org**](http://www.astronism.org)

For the official website of the
Astronist religion visit:
[**www.astronism.com**](http://www.astronism.com)

For the official English language
website of Cometan visit:
[**www.cometan.org**](http://www.cometan.org)

For the official Spanish,
Japanese, Russian and German
websites of Cometan visit:
[**www.kometan.com**](http://www.kometan.com)

For the government website of
the Astronist Institution visit:
[**www.astronia.org**](http://www.astronia.org)

For Astropedia visit:
[**astronism.wikia.org**](http://astronism.wikia.org)

For the official Facebook page of
the Astronist Institution visit:
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