

LATINMUN 2026

**United Nations
Human Rights
Council
(UNHRC)**

**Promoting and Protection of the Right to
Freedom of Religion or Belief**



LatinMUN

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Moderator: Regina Rodríguez Contreras

Welcoming message from the chair:

Welcome to LATINMUN 2026, as your chair we hope you have an enjoyable time. Always remember that MUN isn't only a simulation but also a doorway of opportunities, friendship, leadership and resolution.

As delegates it is important that you keep an open mind. Think outside of the box and come up with creative solutions to solve this problem. Think like a true diplomat and debate like if you were at the UN assembly.

We are so glad to be your UNHRC chair for LATINMUN!

Best regards,

Ximena & Regina

Committee's Background:

In 2006, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was created to succeed the former Commission on Human Rights. As an intergovernmental entity within the UN, it consists of 47 member states chosen by the General Assembly for three-year intervals. Operating out of Geneva, the Council is tasked with championing and safeguarding human rights across the globe. Its operations are rooted in the values of objectivity, universality, and impartiality.

To execute its mission, the UNHRC utilizes specialized tools such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which evaluates the human rights performance of all UN member nations, and "Special Procedures"—independent specialists who investigate specific themes or regional crises. Additionally, the Council initiates fact-finding missions during major humanitarian emergencies. A central pillar of the Council's mandate is the protection of minors. By partnering with organizations like UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UNHRC works to establish international benchmarks to shield children from exploitation, forced labor, and abuse, ensuring their access to essential rights and safety.

Topic Background:

Freedom of religion and belief (FoRB) is a right declared on article 18 the universal declaration of human rights and the International Convent on Civil and Political Rights International. Both declare the right to have and manifest any religion or none at all according to the individual's preference. There have been major efforts on the matter, with diverse countries adding new plans to their agendas.

Though FoRB is a general and basic right, it is still seen wrongfully in various countries, where people are shamed for not following rituals, ceremonies and the general religion. Therefore each country applies it differently according to the values in their societies.

The United States prohibits the government from establishing a singular "correct" religion. In Indonesia, freedom of religion is legal but can be limited in certain local laws. China exercises high control in religious organizations prohibiting extreme religious activities. As seen, each country applies this right differently.

Though several countries follow general human rights, some still find loopholes or even disobey the right or law as a whole. Blasphemy laws had been applied in some nations to penalize the lack of support or the hate speech of the state religion. In others registration for religious buildings and organizations has been applied to penalize those faiths who are not acknowledged by the state.

Current Situation:

The state of Freedom of Religion or Belief is really bad. As of 2026 there is a gap between what the world thinks is right and what countries are actually doing. Big organizations like the USCIRF and the United Nations are saying that restrictions on Freedom of Religion or Belief are the worst they have ever seen. The law is supposed to say that people are free to believe whatever they want.. Many countries are making it very hard for people to do that.

They are using rules and technology like computers that can recognize faces to watch and hurt groups that are not allowed to exist. In some places like East Asia and South Asia the government is taking control of religion. Even destroying buildings that belong to minority groups. They are also making laws that make it very hard for people to change their religion.

In some parts of Africa the government is not in control and bad groups are making their rules and hurting people who do not believe what they believe. In countries that say they allow many religions they are still using laws to punish people who are different. For example they will not let some groups bury their dead in the way they want to. This shows that countries are using tricks to hurt people who do not believe what the country says they should believe. The Freedom of Religion or Belief is really not being. That is a big problem, for the Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Chair/Moderator Conclusion:

Religion is a very delicate topic in most nations, yet people may face torture and even death due to it. This issue has been ongoing for centuries, still life threatening rites of passage, child marriage and many other rituals are affecting lives even now. Not following the Freedom of Religion and Belief right is also violating various other human rights: right of freedom, freedom of speech, freedom from torture and slavery, right to education, and sadly various more.

Delegates it is imperative that you solve this issue with the delicacy yet urgency it requires.

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