

**Strategies for Consideration
concerning
Freedom of Religion and Belief**

Based upon needs identified in the Special Rapporteur's reports and the recommendations considered by the OSCE Human Dimensions Implementation meeting, the Roundtable participants might want to consider the following recommendations to DFAIT for its consideration or to be forwarded to other responsible federal government departments:

1. to offer to host a high-level intergovernmental meeting called for by Professor Amor to consider and arrive at a collective approach to sects and religions that respects human rights (Amor Jan. 1998 - para. 117);
2. to promote linkages with UNECSO and OSCE and other regional bodies in order to share findings and resources dedicated to Freedom of Religion and Belief, including the development of educational materials and methodologies promoting religious tolerance;
3. to expand the scope of the proposed broad based international civil society coalition to advocate for freedom of religion pursued by the governments of Canada and Norway to include the mandate to promote religious tolerance through education and to expand potential members to include other faith communities, human rights NGOs, academics, and development agencies and NGOs;
4. to offer financial support to the establishment of a UN sponsored comprehensive, multidisciplinary, international coalition of government and non-governmental representatives to monitor and make accessible the results of research on the root causes of and remedies for religious intolerance to be provided to the UN as a basis for sound analysis of the next steps to take in the protection of freedom of religion and belief;
5. to offer research grants to Canadian academics willing to study areas identified by the Special Rapporteur for Religious Intolerance and the OSCE Round table on Religious Freedom such as sects, religious extremism, state/church relationships; discrimination against women by virtue of their status within a religious community ...
6. to include education on human rights, including religious tolerance, in peacebuilding and development projects and refugee situations and to draw on the NGO community for its development and delivery;
7. through federal provincial consultations and the allocation of adequate resources, to remove obstacles that prevent Canada from responding in a timely manner to requests for information from the Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance. (Canada was not listed amongst the countries responding in the following reports of the Special Rapporteur: January 1998 Paragraphs 17 and 34; August 1998, para 6);
8. to review the President's Advisory Committee recommendations produced in the United States in order to identify any that are relevant to the Canadian context; and,
9. to establish an advisory body to continue the consultative process begun today.

Note: These suggestions are not formal recommendations but rather are intended to stimulate discussion amongst the participants at the seminar.