
IV – Respect for Religious Values

Kindness and consideration are the roots of world peace. Most religious institutions play a major role toward teaching and training the people of the world to respect one another. Government institutions should respect the religious values of parents and children in their home, their school, and their community.

Religious values which **contribute toward world peace:**

- “practice tolerance and live together in peace”
- “love and understanding”
- “honest, just and equitable”
- “moral well-being”

Words which express **respect for religion and safeguard religious beliefs:**

- “fully respects various religions and ethical values”
- “respecting their cultural values and religious beliefs”
- “within a framework of ethical values”
- “recognize the central role that religion, spirituality and belief play”
- “abstinence”
- “fidelity”
- “ensure the religious and moral education of their children”
- “freedom of thought, conscience and religion and belief”
- “the right to profess and practise their own religion”
- “moral, ethical, spiritual”
- “in harmony with spiritual and cultural values”

Words which could be interpreted as **opposing religious values:**

- “abortion”
- “pornography” (*when only “child pornography” is used, it implies that “pornography” is OK*)
- “prostitution” (*all prostitution – not limited to “forced prostitution”*)
- “substance abuse”
- “sexual responsibility” (*population control and condom use for HIV/AIDS*)
- “safe sex” (*referring to the use of condoms as being “safe”*)
- “obscene materials”
- “incitement to violence”
- “trafficking in women and children”
- “sexual exploitation”
- “domestic violence”

The following paragraph includes most of the ills of an immoral society:

“ . . . Gender based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, and international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women, resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography, ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated.”
(Beijing +5, 59 – page 388)

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

U.N. Charter, Article 1-331
 U.N. Charter, Article 13. 1-b32
 U.N. Charter, Article 76-c37
 “. . . fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or **religion**,”
 Universal Declaration, Article 241
 “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, **religion**, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. . . .”
 Universal Declaration, Article 1842
 “Everyone has the **right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion**; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to **manifest his religion or belief** in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”
 ICCPR, Article 18-151
 “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and **religion**. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a **religion or belief** of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”
 ICCPR, Article 2752
 “In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right . . . to enjoy their own culture, **to profess and practise their own religion**, or to use their own language.”
 2030 Agenda, target 10.2584
 “By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, **religion** or economic or other status”
 CRC, Article 1459
 “States Parties shall respect the right of the child to **freedom of thought, conscience and religion**.”
 Beijing, 24217
 “. . . The **right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is inalienable** and must be universally enjoyed.”

RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL VALUES

World Summit 2005, 130531
 “. . . promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, **religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace** and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society.”
 Agenda 21, 6.387
 “. . . **with respect for cultural, religious** and social aspects, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations . . .”
 ICPD, 1.11128
 “. . . **with full respect for the various religious and ethical values**, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of its people, . . .”
 ICPD, 1.15129
 ICPD, Chapter II, Principles129
 “. . . The Programme of Action will require the establishment of common ground, with full respect for the various **religious and ethical values** and cultural backgrounds.”
 ICPD, 14.3-f167
 ICPD, 15.13169
 “. . . with **full respect for the various religious and ethical values** and cultural backgrounds of each country's people, . . .”
 Social Summit Declaration, 25177
 “. . . **full respect for the various religious and ethical values** and cultural backgrounds of people. . . .”
 Social Summit, 3185
 “. . .with **full respect for the various religious and ethical values** and cultural backgrounds of its people . . .”
 Beijing, 9215
 “. . . in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the significance of and **full respect for various religious and ethical values**, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities . . .”
 Habitat II, 24277
 “Implementation of the Habitat Agenda, . . . with **full respect for various religious and ethical values**, cultural backgrounds, and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities . . .”

Cairo +5: 5.....	343
“...with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people . . .”	
Social Summit +5: III-2.....	365
“... should take into account the diverse economic, social and environmental conditions in each country, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values , cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of its people . . .”	
Beijing +5: 3.....	379
“... full respect for various religious and ethical values , cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities.”	
Ageing, 115.....	468
“... political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development of older persons based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people.”	
Children Summit +10, 37, 59.....	475 and 482
“... consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people . . .”	
Racism, 34.....	487
“We recognize that people of African descent have for centuries been victims of racism, . . . Recognition should therefore be given to their rights to . . . traditions and religious expressions ;”	

PEACE, LOVE, HONESTY

U.N. Charter, Preamble.....	31
“... to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors ,”	
CRC, Preamble, 6th paragraph.....	57
Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding ,”	
Social Summit, 71-f.....	203
“Requiring accountability for the honest, just and equitable delivery of public services to the people from all public officials;”	

ABSTINENCE AND FIDELITY

HIV/AIDS, 52.....	446
“By 2005, ensure: that a wide range of prevention programmes which take account of local circumstances, . . . aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity ; . . .”	
HIV/AIDS 2006, 22.....	538
Reaffirm that the prevention of HIV infection must be the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic, . . . aimed at reducing risk taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity ; . . .”	
ICPD, 7.44-a.....	146
“To address adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues, . . . promotion of responsible and healthy reproductive and sexual behaviour, including voluntary abstinence , and the provision of appropriate services and counselling specifically suitable for that age group;”	
ICPD, 8.31.....	150
“... Health providers, including family-planning providers, need training in . . . the promotion of safe and responsible sexual behaviour, including voluntary abstinence , . . .”	
ICPD, 8.35.....	151
“Responsible sexual behaviour, including voluntary sexual abstinence , for the prevention of HIV infection should be promoted and included in education and information programmes. . . .”	
ICPD, 13.14-c.....	165
“... In the sexually transmitted diseases / HIV/AIDS prevention programme component – mass media and in-school education programmes, promotion of voluntary abstinence and responsible sexual behaviour . . .”	
Beijing, 108-1.....	232
“Design specific programmes for men of all ages and male adolescents, recognizing the parental roles referred to in paragraph 107 (e) above . . . through, inter alia, abstinence and condom use;”	
Beijing +5, 103-b.....	400
“... the promotion of responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and condom use; development of vaccines, simple low-cost diagnosis and single dose treatments for sexually transmitted infections;”	

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF PARENTS

ICESCR, Article 13-347
“The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the **religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.**”

ICCPR, Article 18-451
“The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to **ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.**”

CRC, Article 14-1 and 259
“1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to **freedom of thought, conscience and religion.**
2. States Parties shall **respect the rights and duties of the parents** and, when applicable, legal guardians, to **provide direction to the child** in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.”

Cairo +5, 73-e355
“**With due respect for the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents . . . and respecting their cultural values and religious beliefs,** ensure that adolescents, both in and out of school, receive the necessary information, including information on prevention, education, counselling and health services . . .”

HIV/AIDS, 63447
“ . . . develop and/or strengthen strategies, policies and programmes, which **recognize the importance of the family** in reducing vulnerability, inter alia, in **educating and guiding children and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors,** . . . and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible;”

ICPD, 10.9154
“ . . . It is also important to protect documented migrants and their families from racism, ethnocentrism and xenophobia, and to **respect their physical integrity, dignity, religious beliefs and cultural values.**”

MORALITY

Universal Declaration, 29-243
“In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of **meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare** in a democratic society.”

Racism, 8485
“ . . . **Religion, spirituality and belief may and can contribute to the promotion of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person** and to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;”

CRC, Article 1759
“States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media . . . especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, **spiritual and moral well-being** and physical and mental health.”

Beijing, 282-a264
“ . . . protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be . . . harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, **spiritual, moral** or social development;”

Habitat II, 190310
“ . . . This improved information technology should be appropriately and optimally utilized to preserve and share cultural and **moral values . . .**”

Information Summit, 57515
“We acknowledge the **importance of ethics** for the Information Society, which should foster **justice, and the dignity and worth of the human person. . . .**”

ICCPR, Article 14-151
“ . . . The press and the public may be excluded from all or part of a trial **for reasons of morals,** public order (ordre public) or national security in a democratic society . . .”

Information Summit, 5511
“ . . . due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of **meeting the just requirements of morality,** public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. . . .”

SPIRITUALITY

Social Summit Declaration, 25.....	177	Social Summit, 4	185
“We heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation, and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people. . . . ”		“Social development is inseparable from the cultural, ecological, economic, political and spiritual environment in which it takes place. . . .”	
Beijing, 24	217	Beijing Declaration, 12.....	213
“ Religion, spirituality and belief play a central role in the lives of millions of women and men, in the way they live and in the aspirations they have for the future. . . . Religion, thought, conscience and belief may, and can, contribute to fulfilling women's and men's moral, ethical and spiritual needs and to realizing their full potential in society. . . .”		“ . . . right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief , thus contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others and thereby guaranteeing them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations.”	
Racism, 8	485	Beijing, 39	219
“We recognize that . . . Religion, spirituality and belief may and can contribute to the promotion of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person and to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;”		“ . . . For the girl child to develop her full potential she needs to be nurtured in an enabling environment, where her spiritual , intellectual and material needs for survival, protection and development are met and her equal rights safeguarded. . . .”	
Children Summit +10: 32-7	474	Habitat II, 4.....	275
“ Religious, spiritual , cultural and indigenous leaders, with their tremendous outreach, have a key role...”		“ . . . respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and offers a means of achieving a world of greater stability and peace, built on ethical and spiritual vision. . . . ”	
CRC, Article 23-3	60	Habitat II Agenda, 25	277
“Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, . . . including his or her cultural and spiritual development”		“We . . . are committed to a political, economic, environmental, ethical and spiritual vision of human settlements based on the principles of equality, solidarity, partnership, human dignity, respect and cooperation. . . .”	
Agenda 21, 6.3.....	87	Habitat II, 152.....	302
“Health ultimately depends on the ability to manage successfully the interaction between the physical, spiritual , biological and economic/social environment. . . .”		“Historical places, objects and manifestations of cultural, scientific, symbolic, spiritual and religious value are important expressions of the culture, identity and religious beliefs of societies. . . .”	
Social Summit Declaration, 3.....	175	Beijing +5, 95-e	397
“We acknowledge that our societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families and the communities in which they live throughout our diverse countries and regions. . . .”		“ . . . develop and implement educational and training programmes that respect their history, culture, spirituality , languages and aspirations”	
Beijing +5, 98-c	398	Children Summit +10: 14	472
“Promote respect for the right of women and men to the freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Recognize the central role that religion, spirituality and belief play in the lives of millions of women and men;”		“ . . . We will promote the physical, psychological, spiritual , social, emotional, cognitive and cultural development of children as a matter of national and global priority.”	

**PORNOGRAPHY, PROSTITUTION
AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

2030 Agenda, target 5.2.....582
“**Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation**”

Social Summit +5: 58370
“While recognizing the positive role of the media and information technology, including the Internet, identify and take measures to counter the increasing dissemination of **child pornography and other obscene materials**, intolerance, including religious intolerance, hatred, racism, discrimination based on sex and age and the incitement to violence through the media and information technology, including the Internet.”

Beijing +5: 14382
“ . . . in some countries problems have arisen from the use of new information and communication technologies for **trafficking in women and children** and for the purposes of all forms of economic and **sexual exploitation**.”

Beijing +5: 29384
“Obstacles: **Negative, violent and/or degrading images of women, including pornography**, stereotyped portrayals, have increased in different forms using new communication technologies in some instances, and bias against women remains in the media. . . .”

Beijing +5: 59388
“ . . . **Gender based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, and international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women, resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography, ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism** are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated.”

Children Summit +10: 30474
“We welcome the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the **sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**, and urge States Parties to fully implement them.

Children Summit +10: 44-40.....479
“Take concerted national and international action as a matter of urgency to end the sale of children and their organs, **sexual exploitation and abuse**, including the use of children for **pornography**, prostitution and paedophilia, and to combat existing markets.”

Children Summit +10: 44-45.....480
“Take necessary action, at all levels, as appropriate, to criminalize and penalize effectively, in conformity with all relevant and applicable international instruments, all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, child prostitution, paedophilia, child **pornography, child sex tourism, trafficking . . .**”

Children Summit +10: 44-47.....480
“ . . . to combat the criminal use of information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of the sale of children, for child prostitution, child **pornography**, child sex tourism, paedophilia and other forms of violence and abuse against children and adolescents.”

Information Summit: 59515
“All actors in the Information Society should take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of ICTs, such as illegal and other acts motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, hatred, violence, **all forms of child abuse, including paedophilia and child pornography, and trafficking in, and exploitation of, human beings.**”

ICPD: 4.9134
“Countries should take full measures to eliminate all forms of **exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence against women, adolescents and children**. This implies both preventive actions and rehabilitation of victims. . . .”

*Note: In lists of immoral behavior, including pornography, when the word “child” is put in front of pornography it implies that pornography is OK, as long as it isn’t “child” pornography. **All pornography is potentially harmful to families – especially children – not just child pornography.***

GENDER WORDS IN UN DOCUMENTS

Throughout the United Nations Treaties and Conference Documents the word “gender” is used in many different contexts. There has been considerable discussion of the definition of the word. Some of the usages of the word in UN documents include:

- gender access to education
- gender analysis
- gender awareness
- gender balance
- gender based barriers
- gender-based discrimination
- gender-based division of parental functions
- gender-based methodologies
- gender-based stereotypes
- gender-based violence
- gender bias
- gender biased curricula
- gender biased teaching
- gender concerns
- gender considerations
- gender differences
- gender differentials
- gender dimensions
- gender disparities
- gender division of labor
- gender equality
- gender equity
- gender gap
- gender goals
- gender impact
- gender implications
- gender inequality
- gender inequities
- gender insensitive laws
- gender paradigm
- gender perspectives
- gender related persecution
- gender relations
- gender-relevant knowledge
- gender research planning
- gender roles
- gender sensitive databases
- gender-specific
- gender-specific abuses
- gender specific information
- gender studies
- negative gender implications
- respect between genders
- statistics disaggregated by gender

GENDER DEFINITION: MALE AND FEMALE

Rome ICC, Article 7 (3).....408
 “For the purposes of this Statute, it is understood that **the term "gender" refers to the two sexes, male and female**, within the context of society. The term ‘gender’ does not indicate any meaning different from the above.”

Racism: Notes-1510
 “For the purpose of this Declaration and Programme of Action, it was understood that **the term "gender" refers to the two sexes, male and female**, within the context of society. The term ‘gender’ does not indicate any meaning different from the above.”

Beijing: 5215
 “. . . For the commonly understood **meaning of the term ‘gender’**, see annex IV to the present report.”

*Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women
 Annex IV*

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE
 COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD MEANING OF
 THE TERM “GENDER”***

“1. During the 19th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, an issue arose concerning the meaning of the word "gender" in the context of the Platform for Action of the Conference. In order to examine the matter, the Commission decided to form a contact group in New York, with the Commission's Rapporteur, Ms. Selma Ashipala (Namibia), as Chairperson. The Commission mandated the informal contact group to seek agreement on the commonly understood meaning of "gender" in the context of the Platform for Action and to report directly to the Conference in Beijing.

“2. Having considered the issue thoroughly, the contact group noted that: (1) the word "gender" had been commonly used and understood in its ordinary, generally accepted usage in numerous other United Nations forums and conferences; (2) **there was no indication that any new meaning or connotation of the term, different from accepted prior usage**, was intended in the Platform for Action.

“3. Accordingly, the contact group reaffirmed that **the word "gender" as used in the Platform for Action was intended to be interpreted and understood as it**

was in **ordinary, generally accepted usage**. The contact group also agreed that the present report should be read by the President of the Conference as a president's statement and that the statement should be part of the final report of the Conference.

“* The statement was presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women by the President of the Conference.”

*Report of the United Nations Conference on
Human Settlements (Habitat II)
Annex V*

**STATEMENT ON THE COMMONLY
UNDERSTOOD MEANING OF
THE TERM “GENDER”***

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Author's Notes:

GENDER IMBALANCE

There is a considerable gender imbalance in the UN treaties and documents that are listed **in the Third Edition** of the Negotiating Guide. The number of times the words “man” and “men” appear in the documents, compared to the number of times the words “woman” or “women” appear, is considerably different. Consider the following:

The totals are:

woman or women: 2,642 times
man or men: 267 times.

As you can see, women are considered 10 times more than men. A similar imbalance is shown in the numbers for “boy” and “girl”:

girl: 423 times
boy: 76 times

These numbers clearly show a gender imbalance – favoring women and girls.

Some feminists will claim the “imbalance” is necessary – to overcome the male domination of the past. But it could bode trouble in the future, as boys and men are given less consideration.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The words “sexual orientation” do not appear in any of the treaties or conference documents contained in this book. While there have been repeated attempts by special interest groups – at almost every conference – to insert these words, and confer new “rights” on people who choose this lifestyle, this has been repeatedly defeated by the official delegates, and these words are not included in the consensus language contained in the treaties and documents in this book.