



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion supporting peaceful plural living together

Giles, J.

Citation

Giles, J. (2025, September 18). *Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion supporting peaceful plural living together*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4261287>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4261287>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE, AND RELIGION SUPPORTING PEACEFUL PLURAL LIVING TOGETHER

Jessica Giles



Propositions

Propositions relating to the dissertation Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion Supporting Peaceful Plural Living Together

by Jessica Giles

1. Despite high levels of infringement globally, there is an ongoing role for the fundamental right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion in a national and international context.
2. A multivalent approach to the underlying rationale of freedom of thought, conscience and religion in a global context could enhance its implementation.
3. Within the context of multivalent dialogue, the philosophical approach of Herman Dooyeweerd could be re-envisioned to support rights-based plural living together.
4. The dialogue necessary to build consensus from a multivalent approach could be supported through a reflection by civil society groups, including religious groups, on their core doctrine/ideas and their traditions, to understand how they have adapted and might continue to adapt over time.
5. Religious rationale/the religious voice is one of a multitude of voices necessary to build consensus in political/public dialogue in a plural rights-based society under the rule of law.
6. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion is key to a public discourse on the societal virtues underpinning the implementation of the rule of law.
7. The internationalisation of the rule of law, incorporating a tranche of human rights, needs to draw on a plural understanding of the rationale underpinning freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
8. A 'neutral' approach to public governance necessarily needs to locate itself in a philosophical or theoretical basis. In light of high levels of religious adherence globally, to exclude religion from this debate is to unjustifiably preference freedom of thought over freedom of religion at the highest levels of government.
9. The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion has implications for individual, communal and societal enjoyment of the right: protecting human flourishing through individual free choice; the flourishing of the individual in their chosen communities or civil society organisations; and peaceful plural living together within society.

10. The reformed theological concepts of sphere sovereignty and common grace provide theological approaches within a multivalent dialogue, for envisaging a rights-based approach to plural living together.
11. Herman Dooyeweerd's philosophical approach to analysing interactions between types of civil society interactions could provide a basis for resolving a clash of rights, including in respect of religion based and equality claims.
12. Taking a multivalent, dialogic approach to human rights necessarily involves fostering a discourse between seemingly entrenched and widely differing theoretical and theological perspectives, to move incrementally towards establishing common norms.