

## ABSTRACT

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Title: Atrocity Prevention Inquiry: A Study Examining Whether Constitutional Religious Clauses Affect Religious Violence

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Religious violence and the persecution of minority religious groups is on the rise. There are many atrocity prevention initiatives, but little investigation has sought to understand the potential impacts of constitutional religious clauses on religious violence. Often, many of the clauses and words within constitutions are not upheld and the amount of variance within individual countries' constitutions seems like a differentiation worth investigating. This thesis endeavors to determine whether religious symbolic language and religious constitutional clauses have any relationship with the levels of religious violence in individual countries. Using the Social Hostilities Index from the Pew Research Center and the Religion and State Constitutions dataset from The Association of Religion Data Archives, this study explores 175 countries and measures whether different indexes that represent various types of constitutional clauses or language affect the social hostility and violence levels in countries. The study found that separation of religion and state clauses, general constitutional status of religion clauses, and constitutional protections of religious freedom clauses have no significant relationship with social hostility and acts of violence. Meanwhile, discrimination protections, types of laws subject to religious law or associated with religion, and symbolic and other (miscellaneous) references to religion all have positive relationships with social hostility. The latter also has a positive relationship with specific acts of violence (recorded instances of assaults, displacements, detentions, and deaths of religious groups). These findings require further investigation into which specific references and symbolic language are most related to instances of religious violence.