

8 questions

Relating to the issue of just
relationships between followers of
different religions

Alternative HR formulation:

How to treat followers of other religions according to Dhamma

Question 1.

Buddhist perspectives on the UDHR. Can the concept of Human Rights be rooted in the Dhamma?

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Question 2.

Freedom and self-determination of the individual. Implications in relation to the “freedom to change his religion or belief” and “the right to marry and to found a family without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion”.

Question 3.

- **Equality of human beings.** Equal treatment / non-discrimination of all irrespective of religion.

19. February 13, 2014 - Colombo National Hospital Muslims' prayer room forcibly shut down:

The prayer room in Ward No. 41 of the National Hospital was forcibly shut down by a Buddhist monk and his supporters attached to the Buddhist temple of the same hospital. This prayer hall was renovated by a senior consultant (Prof. Rizvi Sharif) and declared open by Minister Fowzi on February 19, 2014. According to Ashraff Hussain, a member of the hospital development committee, the Buddhist Monk has instructed the Director of the hospital to close the prayer hall immediately. With the permission of the hospital administration Prof. Rizvi Sharif inaugurated this prayer room in 1994. This hospital has seven Buddhist temples and Christian worship places. Over 350 Muslims are working in this hospital.

Navamani pg13 - 23 February 2014, Thinakkural pg6 - 14 February 2014, Virakesari pg21 - 15February 2014

Christians compelled to sign form with Buddhist Sabbath observance

၃။ ကျောင်းသား/ကျောင်းသူနှင့်မိဘအုပ်ထိန်းသူများ၏ ကတိဝန်ခံချက်

(၁) ပညာရေးဌာနနှင့်ကျောင်းအုပ်ဆရာကြီးမှအခါအားလျော်စွာထုတ်ပြန်ထားသောကျောင်းစည်းကမ်းများကိုလိုက်နာမည်ဖြစ်ပြီးစည်းကမ်းမောက်ဖျက်ကျူးလွန်ပါကအရေးယူအပြစ်ပေးခြင်းကိုခံယူပါမည်။

(၂) ကျောင်းခေါ်ကြိမ်(၇၅)ရာခိုင်နှုန်းမပြည့်မီပါကအတန်းတင်စာမေးပွဲကြီးဖြေဆိုခွင့်မပြုသည်ကိုလက်ခံပါမည်။

(၃) သရုပ်ဖျက်ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်ပြုမူနေထိုင်ခြင်းပြုလုပ်ပါကအရေးယူအပြစ်ပေးခြင်းကိုခံယူပါမည်။

(၄) မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ်စီးနင်းမောင်းနှင်၍ကျောင်းတက်ခြင်းမပြုပါ။

(၅) နိုင်ငံရေး(ပါတီ/အဖွဲ့အစည်း)များနှင့်ဆက်သွယ်မှုမရှိစေရန်တာဝန်ယူပါသည်။

(၆) ဝါတွင်းကာလကျောင်းပိတ်ရက်သည်အမိတ်နေ့နှင့်ဥပုသ်နေ့ဖြစ်ပြီး၊ဝါပကာလကျောင်းပိတ်ရက်သည်စနေနှင့်တနင်္ဂနွေဖြစ်သည်ကိုသိရှိလိုက်နာပါမည်။

ကျောင်းသား/သူ ၏ လက်မှတ် ----- မိဘအုပ်ထိန်းသူ၏လက်မှတ်-----
 အမည် ----- အမည် -----

သို့/
 အတန်းပိုင်ဆရာ/မ
 မောင်/မ ----- အား ----- တန်း() တွင်-----
 နေ့မှစ၍ဝင်ခွင့်ပြုလိုက်သည်။

ကျောင်းအုပ်ဆရာကြီး

15 July 2014 - Chin Christian families in Kyaukhtu Sub-township, Magwe Region complain about a high school children admission form containing a commitment to observe Buddhist 'Sabbath' days.

Part of the form for the 2014-15 academic year requires both students and parents or guardians to sign that they will follow the rules related to Uposatha, the Buddhist day of observance.

Chin Christian father P. H said: "We have no choice but to sign the form because we want our children to go to school." **"Our children will have to go to school on Saturdays and Sundays again during the Uposatha. We, Christian parents, are not happy about this,"** added the father, who asks not to be named.

Question 4.

“Freedom of expression and opinion”. Right speech, wrong speech, hate speech and freedom of speech,



USING THE LAW WHEN ETHICS FAILS?

CAA has also learned that Pastor Liu Huiwen was sentenced to 18 months of prison by Gansu Dongxiang Nationality Autonomous County People's Court on October 25, 2007. Liu was detained on April 28, 2007 after distributing flyers at a funeral and was arrested on May 31, 2007. The bill of indictment from Dongxiang County Procuratorate charges that defendant Liu Huiwen committed the crime of publishing a discriminating work and insulting people of ethnic minorities when he distributed a flyer called "A Letter to Our Muslim Friends."

He preached Christianity in Daban Township, Wangji and other places in Dongxiang County. On April 26, 2007, the defendant Liu Huiwen came to Manping Group, Ketuo Village in the town. On that day, over a thousand people attended a funeral for an old man who had just passed away. At a time when there were many people at the funeral, the defendant Liu Huiwen distributed to the local people “A Letter to Our Muslim Friends” that he had printed beforehand and that contained words that discriminate against and insult people of ethnic minorities.

Question 5.

Disseminating religion ethically. Is there a way to do that?



Volunteers from the Bangkok Baptist Clinic teach Mogen children about Jesus while medical workers hold an open-air clinic nearby.



“Wave of hope sweeps Thailand in months after tsunami”

On a recent visit, a team of missionaries and Thais from the Bangkla Baptist Clinic--joined by Tennessee Baptist volunteers--arrived in boats packed with medical supplies. The team treated the sick, vaccinated children against diseases, installed a pump to give the village running water and helped Sian's church members share the gospel. Twenty-eight villagers became followers of Christ.

USING AN ORPHANAGE TO BRING UP BUDDHISTS IN AFRICA?

This case concerns exposing children to religious influence at an orphanage in Malawi. Is this a case where a religious organisation is taking advantage of the dire circumstances of these children to propagate to them its religion, in this case Buddhism?

Malawi's Human Rights Commission has ordered a Taiwanese-funded orphanage to remove statues of Buddha from all dormitories, saying their presence amounts to brainwashing children into joining Buddhism against their will.

Master Hui Li, said that while the centre was a Buddhist organization, no child was ever forced into becoming a follower of Buddhism. He said, however, that the centre emphasises to children the importance of respecting the religion which he said, preaches peace. He also called for the understanding of the government regarding the statues in the dormitories saying they were icons of peace and children should be guided and learn from them.

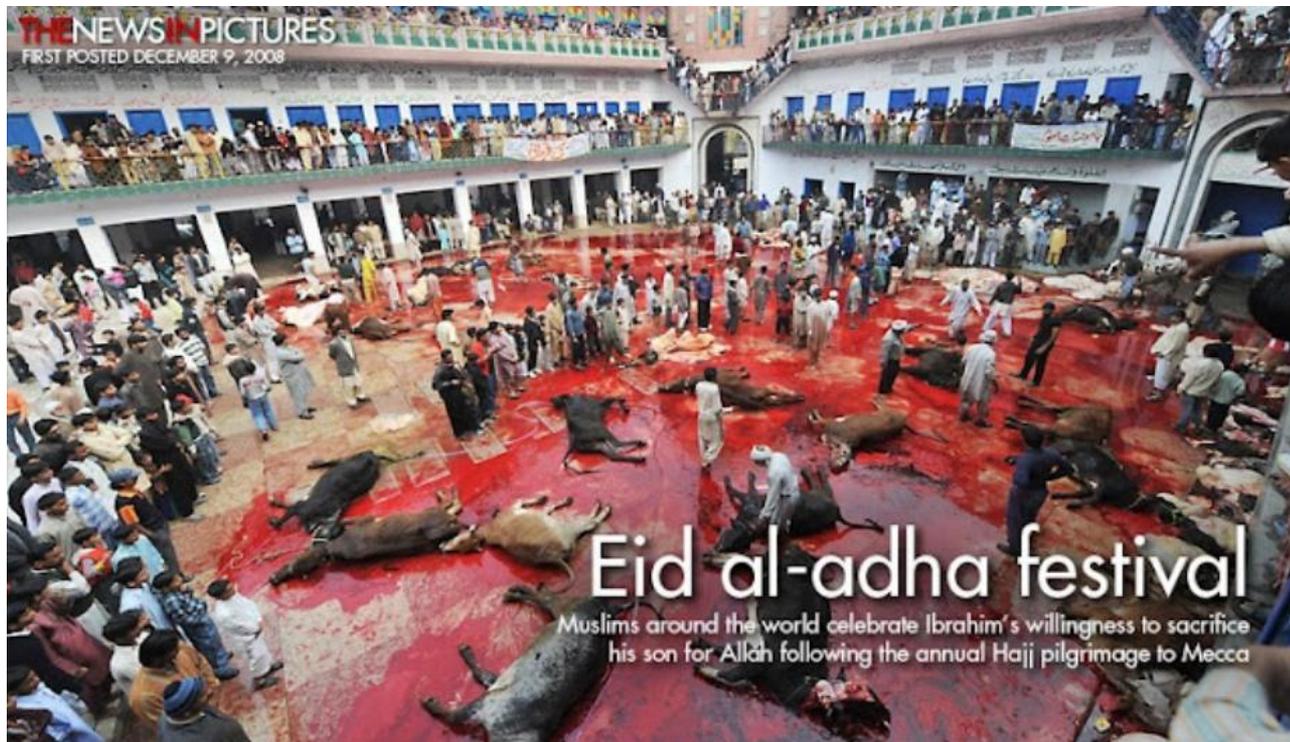
"We will introduce the orphans to Buddhism but they will make their own choices on which religion they want to join when they grow up,"

Master Hui Li: “It is essential that at least a fair proportion of children who reach adulthood are educated and certainly literate and most important is that they have a strong moral foundation. If good values are not instilled into them, together with a sense of moral responsibility for each other, their future will be bleak indeed. Who will then be able to shoulder the social responsibilities of these countries in the future?”

But with the word “**Amitofo**” springing from their lips, Africa may still become peaceful and productive in the years to come.”

Question 6.

Human Rights versus Animal Welfare. What to do when they conflict with each other?



Hindu festival in Nepal



Hindu festival in Nepal



Hindu festival in Nepal



Question 7.

Religion occupying public space. Rules for coexistence.

“Ban Mosque Loudspeakers harassing devotees at Buddhagaya’s Mahabodhi Temple”

Posted on May 14th, 2014 by *Shenali D. Waduge*



“The continuous daily disturbance of the solemn proceedings at the **Mahabodhi Temple at Buddhagaya** and the harassment of the Buddhist devotees gathered there through the screeching sound of **the call to prayer (Azan) by loudspeakers at a newly established Mosque close to the Mahabodhi Temple**, is the most striking example of the abuse of religious freedom. This is highly uncalled for especially when it is morally incorrect and unethical **to disturb the place of worship of another religion.**”

Italian crucifixes case

European Court of Human rights: Crucifixes are not allowed in school classrooms.

Italian Government ministers: «No one, not even some ideologically motivated European court, will succeed in rubbing out our identity.»
– «The European court has trodden on our rights, our culture, our traditions and our values»

(Times / Guardian: November 2009)

January 19, 2014 – Mawathagama, Kurunegala District:

“Silence” notice board an irritant to BBS:

Two “Be Silent” sign boards belonging to two mosques on the Kandy – Kurunegala road in Mawathagama town were set on fire using tyres. Unidentified individuals have done this on 19th at 1.30 a.m. Since the fire caused damage to the nearby electricity transformer as well the surrounding people gathered and saved the transformer. BBS demanded the Mawathagama police to remove these boards last year. When the police attempted to remove them on 12.08.2013 the people of the area opposed it, thus creating tension between the police and Muslims. Following this incident the trustees of the two mosques filed cases in the Mawathagama Magistrate court and the Kurunegala High court and the cases are still pending.

Question 8.

The issue of diversity. The right of “ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, ... to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language”



Thank you

(With Sikhs in Amritsar, India)