

seems that any solution should include both efforts from the political level (above) and from society (below). As a coincidence, the last essay of the book by Vogel and Richmond seems to provide the way forward based also on the recently emerging discussions on peacebuilding: a hybridization that

would enable local infrastructures for peace, moving beyond the 'elite transcript' (p. 274). This would help transcend old dysfunctional divisions and enable Cyprus to move forward to peaceful coexistence between the two communities, either as part of the same society or as 'good neighbors.'

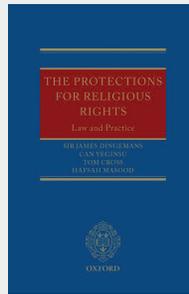
## The Protections for Religious Rights: Law and Practice

By Sir James Dingemans, Can Yeginsu, Tom Cross *and* Hafsah Masood  
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013, 555 pages, £132.50, ISBN: 9780199660964

Reviewed by Şerif Onur Bahçecik, Middle East Technical University

In the last decade, discussions around religious rights, particularly the rights of Muslim migrant populations in the West, have occupied considerable space in the media, academia and political life. These discussions often revolve around the notion of 'Islamophobia' and only very recently has the matter been approached from a rights and human rights angle. This volume represents an important example in this direction. It presents a fairly comprehensive assessment of the legal protection of religious rights and has an international perspective, although it is mainly written with England and Wales in mind.

One can analytically divide the volume into three parts. The first part provides an overview of international and European standards and protections available for religious rights. The second part, which is not written by the book's authors themselves, looks at the protection of religious rights in Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Af-



rica, Turkey, and the United States. The third part deals with 'domestic protections' for religious rights in the United Kingdom. As such, the book brings together in a single volume a monograph dealing with the protection of religious rights at the domestic and international levels and an edited book dealing with different legal systems from around the world.

Readers should not expect to find much argumentative material in the volume. The topics are considered in a quite matter-of-fact style. While this improves the authoritative status of the book it may make it somewhat unattractive for those who are looking to understand the broader European and global tendencies that give rise to the enhanced significance of religious rights. The authors point out that the problem of religious rights is due to two main developments, both of which are legal: "new laws promoting self-determination," and "new equality laws" (p. 2). As they put it, as the laws become more

'permissive' they create situations where religiously observant people 'become party' to other's conduct. For instance, as same-sex marriages are legalized, public officers who are required to register them may find themselves torn between their professional duties and their religious identities. In the second case, new equality laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion and this may create problems for the internal organization of religions. A typical example would be the exclusion of women from the position of 'priest, rabbi or imam.' As the authors admit in the preface, this is a textbook. So rather than engaging in a long legal argument, they prefer to provide an analysis of the facts, legal principles and landmark cases. This approach helps them put together an impressive collection of very interesting cases which are incisively and carefully analyzed. The authors do not forget to direct the reader to key discussions in the socio-legal literature in the footnotes. This greatly informs the reader and allows her to pursue the debates with further research.

The overall approach of the volume to the protection of religious rights is a message of toleration and plurality. The jurisprudence and the principles of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) is compared with the UN conventions and the work of the monitoring bodies, and the former is found wanting. The ECtHR approach is found too rigid and at times not very consistent. Especially with regard to the right to manifest religion, the Strasbourg Court is found to be restrictive. Another significant point that the authors make is that secularism is not neutrality. Both religiosity and secularism are worldviews on their own and they are equally worthy of protection. While the authors do not develop and discuss this significant point too much, it is a central message in the text.

Finally, the authors also point out that the protection of religious rights is a developing legal field and that legal institutions should be flexible and pragmatic in finding balance between the avoidance of discrimination and the maintenance of state neutrality.

The comparative cases in the second part of the book are written by experts in the field and are in line with the broader approach of the authors. These chapters also provide an interesting perspective on the protection of religious rights in different parts of the world. Although the chapters dealing with specific countries are not organized symmetrically, almost all of them deal with the significant issues of education, employment and dress. These three issues comprise the most significant areas of concern when it comes to the protection of religious rights and where the need for striking a balance between pluralism and neutrality is evident. One problem with this part of the book is that authors neglect to adequately justify the selection criteria of countries. While Northern Ireland and Ireland are understandably included due to their proximity to England and Wales, the reason for including Canada, South Africa, India and Turkey is not very clear. While membership in the Commonwealth seems to be an implicit criterion, this does not explain why Turkey is included. One can infer that the latter is included due to the landmark cases of the ECtHR. However, the fact that the authors hardly make any reference to this part of the book in the rest of the text indicates a missed opportunity to use comparative legal analysis.

The final part of the book goes back to the legal landscape in the UK, and especially dwells upon questions of public services, employment, education, religious expression, family, and rituals. The authors continue their inci-

sive approach to these subjects and inform the reader in great detail. As the ECtHR cases were already reviewed in the first part of the book, this section contains some repetition. But it also provides a lot of new analysis and information about the UK and in certain sections provides cases from other countries for comparison.

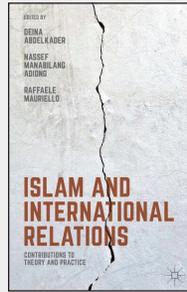
Although the book is written especially for the UK situation, it provides an expansive international perspective. This is a very comprehensive and informative volume for anyone working on the newly developing field of religious rights. It would be immensely useful not only for researchers but also for use in advanced courses on human rights.

## Islam and International Relations: Contributions to Theory and Practice

*Edited by* Deina Abdelkader, Nassef Manabilang Adiong *and* Raffaele Mauriello  
New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, 232 pages, \$105.00, ISBN: 9781137499318

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The discipline of International relations (IR) is deeply rooted in the history, intellectual traditions, and agency claims of the west, thus obscuring the contributions of the non-western world. There is a pressing need for a departure from IR's historical complicity with the marginalization and silencing of alternative epistemologies, thereby opening the possibility of making its process of knowledge production truly global and democratic. IR scholars have conventionally turned a blind eye to analyzing religion as a variable in international politics. Over the past two decades, the study of religion within International Relations has gained credence from its origins in sparse, scattered works, into a vibrant body of scholarship. An outcome of the Co-IRIS team (International Relations and Islamic Studies Research Cohort), which was established to advance comparative research between International Relations and Islamic Studies, this edited volume highlights Islamic contributions in expanding the explanatory heuristics



of International Relations. Its contributors question the dominance of secular logic in International Relations and provide a nuanced, comprehensive appraisal of the role of Islam in global politics. They point out that the positivist approaches of IR, focusing on empirical and material corroborations, fail to acknowledge the epistemological and ontological limitations of their analyses and the need to move beyond theoretical confines to engage with the perplexing realities of international politics.

The book is divided into three sections; part one lays the foundational framework in analyzing the contributions of Islam to the study of International Relations. The chapters delve into questioning the hegemonic status accorded to Western IRT and the resurgence and revival of interest in classical sources of Islam with the expansion of globalization. In the first chapter, Alikhani delineates the fundamental epistemic and cognitive principles drawn from the Quran pertaining to the es-