**Areas of Religious Liberty Concern[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. ***The right to freedom of conscience.***  Everyone should have the right to choose, change, declare and act upon his or her faith.
2. ***The right to worship*.** Everyone should have the right to “exercise” or practice his or her religion without interference by government, subject to government’s responsibility to protect the health and safety of all in a pluralistic society.
3. ***The right to meet together*.** Members of religious confessions should have the right to meet together in public and in private in adequate facilities and without government scrutiny. The right to assembly is basic to religious freedom.
4. ***The right to self*-*government* (*church autonomy*).**  Religious confessions claim the right to non-interference by government in their internal affairs. Doctrines and practices should be free from government regulation. Religious confessions have the right to determine who will serve as their officers, how long they will serve, how the affairs of the religious confessions will be conducted, and who may become or remain a member. Religious organizations should have the right in furtherance of their religious missions to determine who they will serve or employ.
5. ***The right to communicate with members of religious confessions.*** Members of religious confessions should have the right to regular communication with their leaders and other members, whether in person, in writing, or electronically. Such communications should not be prohibited, impeded, monitored, or otherwise interfered with.
6. ***The right to legal entity status and action.***  While religious confessions should respect the right of government to establish reasonable requirements for a religious group to become recognized as a legal entity, religious confessions exist independent of temporal law and have a right to legal recognition upon reasonable conditions. Thus recognized, religious confessions should be able to acquire, hold and dispose of property, to open bank accounts, and to transact business necessary to their operations.
7. ***The right to declare religious beliefs publicly.*** Religious confessions, and their members and missionaries, should have the right to proclaim the gospel individually or before assemblies of people. This should include the right to import, print and distribute literature explaining the teachings and doctrines of the religious confession, the right to display videos, audio recordings, and other electronic or graphic presentations concerning the religious confession and its beliefs, and the right of reasonable access to the public press, radio, television, the Internet, and any other means to disseminate messages and information concerning the religious confession and its teachings.
8. ***The right to travel freely*.** Members of religious confessions should have the right to travel freely to attend religious meetings and activities and to visit with other members. Similarly, missionaries and other religious confession representatives, even if citizens of another nation, should have the right, consistent with reasonable government regulations, to enter the government’s jurisdiction and to proclaim the gospel and participate in religious meetings and activities.
9. ***The right to full participation in society.***  Religious confessions and their members should have the right to speak on political issues and the right to non-discrimination in employment or work conditions. There should be no religious test for political office.
10. ***The right to freedom from retaliation*.**  States have an affirmative obligation to protect citizens against religious-based violence. Governments should not elevate other rights over religious rights. Neither religious confessions nor their members should fear retaliation for expressing unpopular religious viewpoints.

1. These areas of religious liberty concern, while probably shared by most religious confessions, are covered from an LDS Church perspective in Dallin H. Oaks and Lance B. Wickman, “The Missionary Work of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” in John Witte, Jr. and Richard C. Martin, eds. *Sharing the Book: Religious Perspectives on the Rights and Wrongs of Mission* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999); and Dallin H. Oaks, “Religious Freedom,” a talk presented at BYU-Idaho, 13 October 2009, <http://newsroom.lds.org.ldsnewsroom/eng/news-releases-stories/religious-freedom> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)