

DRAFT
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A Proposal to Publish

ARTICLE 18

A Human Rights Report

on

Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion or Belief

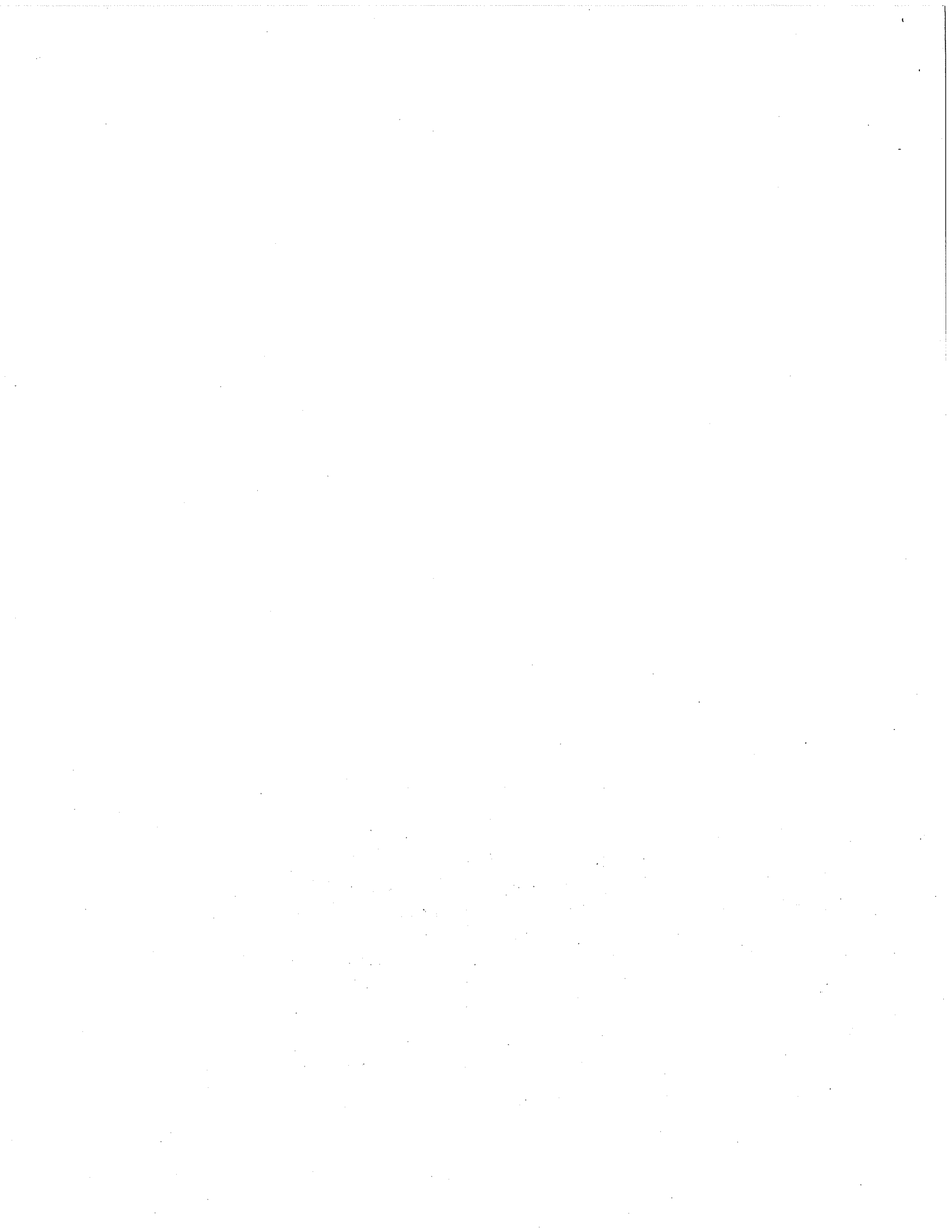
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ARTICLE 18: A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

Introduction

The thirty articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, define the standard by which we measure the humanity of our interactions with one another. It sets out those "human rights and fundamental freedoms" specified in the United Nations Charter of 1945.

"Article 18: of this historic document states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief."

The role of freedom of religion or belief in world affairs has often been acknowledged; however, its role in global human rights has rarely been examined. Violations of both individual and group human rights are commonplace, yet the complexity and sensitivity associated with judging compliance from a global perspective makes "Article 18" difficult to monitor fairly.

Article 18: A Human Rights Report on Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion or Belief, (hereinafter referred to as "Article 18") will accomplish the following:

ARTICLE 18 will be the first report to provide a global perspective on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief.

ARTICLE 18 will monitor compliance with the following United Nations instruments:

- * The United Nations Charter, 1945
- * The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- * The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966
- * The UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 1981

The 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief will provide its main reference point.

Aims of Article 18

ARTICLE 18 has three aims in focusing on freedom of belief as a human right:

- * To review progress around the world towards realization of the ideals of the UN standard on freedom of belief by:

- examining national constitutions to see that they have legal structures to protect these rights
 - examples of regional, national and local human rights systems for redress of grievances
 - analysis of underlying religious, philosophical and cultural causes that prevent freedom of belief
- * To draw world attention to;
- instances of discrimination and intolerance by beliefs, states and individuals
 - constructive efforts to promote acceptance and understanding through education
 - the impact of belief-state issues on social and economic development
- * To influence world opinion to;
- respect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief
 - acknowledge the duty to create and maintain an environment of tolerance for diverse beliefs
 - promote rights and responsibilities keeping the two balanced and in tandem with each other

Freedom of belief is a basic human right

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief is a fundamental--some consider to be THE fundamental--human right because beliefs, whether theistic, nontheistic or atheistic, gives meaning to existence by addressing questions of ultimate concern. But beliefs can be both targets for intolerance and warrants for discrimination. Prejudice, discrimination and intolerance diminish or destroy life. They damage human capacity to develop into the fully cooperating society needed to achieve lasting world peace.

The scope of the subject is at once massive and minute. Institutions on a global scale operate alongside the invisible individual conscience. Belief is powerful; whole peoples are mobilized through common beliefs to worship and to war. Beliefs give shape and meaning to time; prime significance attaches to particular places and dates in the calendar. Beliefs shape the future as well as interpret the past; they give a code for living in the present. Their principles limit or enlarge the scope of everyday living by stating what must or must not be done by believers and by setting standards for behaviour towards other people.

Beliefs are not static. Just as centuries-long struggles for autonomy and power have shaped the character of established belief systems and fused belief with culture, so the local context in which a new belief emerges also contributes to its character and direction. Though the foundations of belief are

regarded as immovable and frequently derive their authority from some higher source of power, belief systems and believers are in a dynamic relationship with their social, economic, legal and political environments. Religion, race and culture are intertwined.

Why this report is needed now

ARTICLE 18 will provide timely information, urgently needed.

Not only international instruments but many national constitutions, legal systems, national and regional human rights institutions contain safeguards protecting the basic human right to freedom of belief. Yet violations continue to occur. Age-old conflicts to which religion or belief has extensively contributed persist around the globe and instances of repression, intolerance and discrimination continue to draw world attention day after day.

The need for ARTICLE 18's information is urgent and the time is now. Attempts to resolve intransigent conflicts and to prevent others arising must be based on sound information combined with an appreciation of the complex issues involved.

ARTICLE 18 is relevant to current needs. In the last year, the Cold War has gone and Europe-- a ferment of new opportunities and population movements-- is experiencing the resurgence of old prejudices and conflicts about race, religion and ideology. Unitary political systems have given way to a jostling for place among majorities and minorities distinguished by language, culture and belief. New alliances are taking form. Wherever massive changes are taking place, freedom of belief arises as an issue. A morass of conflicts needs to be replaced by a climate of tolerance.

A positive focus

The 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief provides a positive statement of rights and responsibilities to show what is needed to exercise the fundamental human right of freedom of belief. Its extensive drafting history has resulted in a clear and detailed exposition of what the international community, by eventual consensus, understood to be the scope and parameters of this human right and its relation to other rights.

A document to work from

ARTICLE 18 will be a working document. It will contain:

- * reliable country reports of compliance with the UN standard
- * accounts of violations of the standard
- * information about perceived justification for

conflicts

- * discussion of major issues to add depth to reporting
- * examples of constructive action towards overcoming intolerance and discrimination through interfaith dialogue, cooperation between beliefs, education, law reform, and social and economic policy
- * the impact of the UN standard on women, children, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples as monitored through other human rights instruments
- * a model for data collection from diverse sources
- * texts of UN standards on freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief
- * a bibliography

ARTICLE 18 will cover 50 countries broadly representative of the geographic regions of the world. ARTICLE 18 will not attempt to compare or rank countries but rather to monitor changes in level of compliance with the UN standard which will be the common reference point for each country. The global regions and the countries to be covered are:

- * Africa (6 countries)
 - Nigeria - Zaire - Ethiopia
 - South Africa - Kenya - Mozambique
- * Asia/Pacific (11 countries)
 - Vietnam - Indonesia - Malaysia
 - Pakistan - India - Japan
 - Sri Lanka - Myanmar - China and
 - Philippines - South Korea Tibet Region
- * Australasia (1 country)
 - Australia
- * Americas (8 countries)
 - United States - Mexico - El Salvador
 - Brazil - Peru - Paraguay
 - Chile - Guatemala
- * Europe/Eurasia (12 countries)
 - Ireland - Poland - Albania
 - Spain - Greece - Russia
 - Ukraine - Turkey - Czechoslovakia
 - Former Yugo - Former USSR - United Kingdom
 - slavian Rep. Asian Rep. and N. Ireland
 - now States now IC States
- * Middle East (7 countries)
 - Iran - Iraq - Israel and W.Bank
 - Syria - Lebanon - Saudi Arabia
 - Jordan

- * North Africa (5 countries)
 - Egypt - Sudan - Algeria
 - Morocco - Tunisia

ARTICLE 18's global review provides an informed basis for understanding the issues and identifying opportunities for change. Readers will be able to:

- * ascertain the status of freedom of conscience or belief in particular locations and in different legal and socio-economic contexts
- * pinpoint specific belief-state issues for action
- * analyse world-wide trends
- * bring to public attention specific situations needing resolution
- * promote awareness of the need for positive change
- * promote the interconnected nature of rights and duties
- * plan action strategies to repair community relations and stop escalating conflict
- * act quickly and in an informed way in response to particular situations
- * spot opportunities to use particular strategies for resolution
- * grow in understanding about the complex issues involved
- * identify needs for further research, and
- * build an environment of tolerance to prevent conflict and promote peace

Given the difficult and complex task of gathering and reporting the above information in a reliable and unbiased manner, the selection of people to write the reports for each of the fifty countries will be crucial to the accuracy and validity of ARTICLE 18. The Editorial Board is now in the process of determining which experts on "Article 18" issues have experience and qualifications sufficient to write country reports fairly.

A market for the report

ARTICLE 18's action reports and analysis of the issues will provide invaluable background to help these people and others in their work:

- * commentators on public affairs
- * radio and television journalists
- * feature writers for print media
- * documentary film makers
- * diplomats and international affairs specialists
- * political analysts
- * government policy makers and strategists
- * human rights advocates in state, regional and international jurisdictions
- * law reform bodies and specialists in constitutional law

- * agencies administering human rights law
- * social policy advisers in economic and welfare organizations
- * social and political scientists
- * universities, research institutes and teacher training institutions
- * law schools and university human rights centres
- * centres and networks for conflict resolution
- * teachers and students in schools
- * non-government organizations
- * institutions promoting world peace
- * religious organizations
- * organizations associated with various philosophical and secular beliefs
- * general public interested in international and religious affairs

An established track record

ARTICLE 18 will be produced by Michael Roan, director of Project Tandem, Inc. at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA and edited by Kevin Boyle, Professor of Law, and the director of the University of Essex Human Rights Centre, Colchester, England. Both have extensive knowledge and experience in promoting the 1981 UN Declaration and have mobilized global expertise of other individuals and organizations to support it.

Project Tandem, Inc. is a non-sectarian, non-profit, international human rights organization based in Minnesota and formed in 1985 in response to the UN call for assistance in implementing the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. Project Tandem has a nine member board of directors half of whom are human rights activists and half professors at the University of Minnesota.

Project Tandem, in association with the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), has consultative status as a NGO with the United Nations. Michael Roan served as the WFUNA representative to a two week seminar called by the United Nations in 1984, in Geneva, Switzerland, on "encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to religion or belief". The idea for Project Tandem originated as a result of this seminar. His degrees are in political science and philosophy from the University of Minnesota. He has a master's degree in theology.

Project Tandem has convened international conferences in Minnesota (1986), Warsaw (1989) and New Delhi (1991) to focus attention on ways to promote and implement Article 18 and the 1981 UN Declaration. Through this process, it has built a strong network of people and organizations actively involved with educative, legal, cultural and developmental projects associated with the Declaration. Project Tandem convened a seminar at the

United Nations in Geneva on this subject (1987) and organized a two week international work/study camp for youth from diverse beliefs in a village for "untouchables" in Southern India (1991), on the relationship of freedom of belief to social and economic development at the grassroots level.

In 1989, Professor Fred Lukermann, member of the Project Tandem Board of Directors and then dean of the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts, hosted a Project Tandem international "writer's conference" with Professor Leonard Swidler of Temple University and nineteen international authors from diverse traditions and cultures on how believers account for others' beliefs.

This conference resulted in the publication of the book, Attitudes of Religions and Ideologies Toward The Outsider: The Other by The Edward Mellen Press. In 1990, Project Tandem along with other NGO's commissioned Dr. John Salzburg, Washington, D.C. to write A Feasibility Study: the Question of a United Nations Convention on Religious Intolerance. From the Warsaw conference and this study, recommendations have been made that has led to the publication of this human rights report.

A distinguished editorial board

The editorial board for the ARTICLE 18 human rights report is made up of international activists and legal experts who have worked with Project Tandem in the past. The editor-in-chief is Kevin Boyle, professor of law and director, University of Essex Human Rights Centre. Professor Boyle is a former dean of the Law School of the University of Galway and represented Ireland at the 1984 Geneva Seminar on the 1981 UN Declaration and was elected Rapporteur of the seminar. Professor Boyle is the founding and former director of Article 19, an international human rights organization founded in 1986 to promote the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

The editor is Juliet Sheen. Dr. Sheen is Senior Policy Officer in the Anti-Discrimination Board, Sydney, NSW, Australia, and has had 15 years experience in developing and implementing human rights policy and law. She was responsible for designing and writing Discrimination and Religious Conviction, a government human rights report which gained international recognition as a model for country reporting on the subject. Dr. Sheen represented Australia at the 1984 Geneva Seminar on the 1981 UN Declaration. The Editorial Board includes;

- * Kevin Boyle, Editor-in-Chief
Professor of Law and director, University
of Essex Human Rights Centre, Colchester,
England
- * Juliet Sheen, Editor,
PhD., Senior Policy Officer, Anti-Discrim-

ination Board, Sydney, NSW,
Australia

- * Theo van Boven, Professor of Law, University of Limburg, representative to the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
Maastricht, The Netherlands
- * Sonia Picado, Judge, Inter-American Court of Human Rights and director, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights
San Jose, Costa Rica
- * Soli Sorabjee, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and former Attorney General of India
New Delhi, India
- * John Taylor, PhD., Islamic Studies, Cambridge Secretary General, World Conference on Religion and Peace
Geneva, Switzerland

A global network

ARTICLE 18 will have an advisory network called "Activists & Academics on Diversity of Belief" (ADOBE) to assist with research and data collection for the report. ADOBE, a Spanish word for mud brick, while taking liberties as an acronym, is used as a symbol of building a solid foundation for understanding, tolerance and respect between people of diverse beliefs.

ADOBE will be both activist and academic. The network will draw people from all regions of the globe and be balanced by race, gender, culture and diversity of belief. ADOBE will be the research eyes and ears of the editorial board. By drawing on many sources, ARTICLE 18 aims to present a credible and unbiased picture of the state of freedom of belief world-wide. Research and data collection will come from sources as diverse as:

- * United Nations
- * UN Human Rights Committee reports
- * reports of the Special Rapporteur to the UN Commission on Human Rights
- * UN Sub-Commission on Minorities reports
- * member-states
- * US State Department human rights country reports
- * reports of other governmental human rights agencies
- * intergovernmental regional human rights institutions
- * non-aligned organizations
- * non-governmental organizations
- * Project Tandem's international advisory network
- * university research and human rights institutes
- * associations promoting freedom of belief

- * religions, religious organizations and interreligious associations, and

- * associations for philosophical and secular humanism

Information gathered from the global advisory network will be accurate, up to date, and sensitive to the complex issues involved.

Committees on freedom of religion or belief

Project Tandem and the University of Essex Human Rights Centre are collaborating with two recently formed committees of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations in Geneva and New York. Meeting monthly, they discuss ways of working with each other and the UN on matters of compliance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1981 UN Declaration. These committees comprise many of the world's religions and secular organizations that Project Tandem has worked with in the past.

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) is important to the organization of this effort. Ms. Sue Nichols, Unitarian-Universalist and IARF member serves as chair of the New York Committee. Mr. Frank Field, Unitarian-Universalist and IARF member serves as chair of the Geneva Committee. Rev. Robert Traer, Secretary-General, IARF, Frankfurt, Germany and Dr. Homer Jack, former Secretary-General of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) provided the early energy to bring the committees together. Dr. John Salzberg, Washington, D.C. is a consultant to the New York Committee.

They all are international experts on issues of freedom of religion or belief and their advice is important. Project Tandem and the University of Essex Human Rights Centre will work through Sue Nichols in New York and Frank Field in Geneva to coordinate the involvement of the committees in the human right report. Specifically, they will be asked to:

- * consult with the editorial board on the format of country reports
- * encourage committee members to assist with data collection and research
- * advise the editorial board on experts to write country reports
- * assist in pre-sales of the human rights report to their memberships.

A partial list of the New York Committee includes:

- * Caritas Internationalis
- * World Christian Life Communities
- * Baha'i International Community
- * Int'l Assn for Volunteer Effort
- * World Conference on Religion and Peace

- * Catholic Int'l Education Office
- * Lutheran World Federation
- * Congregations of St. Joseph
- * Temple of Understanding
- * Anglican UN Observer Office
- * Pax Romana
- * World Union for Progressive Judaism
- * Baptist World Alliance
- * Universal Esperanto Assn
- * Franciscans
- * U.N.A. United Kingdom
- * Int'l Association for Religious Freedom
- * Rissho Kosei-kai
- * Seventh-Day Adventists
- * Nat'l Fed of Temple Sisterhoods

The University of Essex Human Rights Centre and Project Tandem have been in contact with the International Humanist and Ethical Union in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Efforts are underway to invite them to participate in the global advisory network.

A design and format for the report

ARTICLE 18 will be produced and published by Project Tandem, Inc. in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Press and the University of Minnesota Graphic Arts and Printing Department. The contents of the report will have:

- * a preface listing the editorial board, adobe advisory network, contributors and acknowledgements
- * an introduction including ancient and recent history
- * a chapter on the past year's work of UN bodies including, Special Rapporteur, Human Rights Committee, Human Rights Commission, Sub-Commission, UNESCO, etc.
- * a chapter on the past year's work of regional bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights, Organization of American States, etc.
- * a chapter (the main body of the book) reporting on the fifty countries by region, four pages per country
- * bibliography

The 1991 Amnesty International report is a good comparison of the physical description of the ARTICLE 18 report. Quality, stock, composition, design, art and print production of the report will include:

- * 3,000 books @ 256 pages, 6x9, double columns
- * softcover, two color, varnish with artwork
- * black ink, 80# paper, accent opaque

This important and exciting venture is seeking pre-sales pledges and grants funding.

ARTICLE 18 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT BUDGET**A. EXPENSES**

1. <u>Publishing</u> : 3,000 books, 256 pages, 6x9, softcover, two color varnish; includes composition, art, design and print production	\$ 9,685
2. <u>Mailing</u> : 3,000 books, 2,000 mailed international @ \$4 (4 weeks delivery) and 1,000 mailed USA @ \$1.50 (4 weeks delivery); includes addressing, labeling, sorting and postage	\$ 9,500
3. <u>Country Reports</u> : 50 countries @ \$250 a country report for current and unedited draft	\$12,500
4. <u>UN & Regional Reports</u> : two reports each one chapter in length on current activities by the UN and by regional bodies @ \$1,000 a report	\$ 2,000
5. <u>Editing</u> : Salaries and related expenses for Editor-in Chief and for Editor each @ 300 hours	\$15,000
6. <u>Project Director</u> : Salary and related expenses for Project Director @ 400 hours	\$10,000
7. <u>Administrative</u> : Expenses for the telephone, fax and related materials	\$ 1,315 =====
TOTAL	\$60,000

B. INCOME *

1. <u>Grants</u> : grants from a foundation, several foundations or individuals	\$40,000
2. <u>Pre-Sales</u> : 1000 reports to persons, govts, non-govt organizations @ \$20 a report including postage	\$20,000 =====
TOTAL	\$60,000

* Does not include in-kind research from student interns, operating or travel expenses from Project Tandem and the University of Minnesota or in-kind expenses from the University of Essex

