



GLOBAL PLURALISM INDEX

Measuring Inclusion and Exclusion in Diverse Societies

Living with diversity is a shared global challenge, faced by developed and developing countries alike. As the world becomes more interconnected and levels of inequalities rise, the task of building peaceful and inclusive societies has become ever more urgent.

Vulnerable groups, including religious and ethno-cultural minorities, indigenous groups, women and girls are subject to various forms of exclusion in political, economic and social domains. Fostering more just, peaceful and prosperous societies requires that these exclusions be addressed.

The *Global Centre for Pluralism* is developing a new *Global Pluralism Index* to provide a holistic picture of the state of inclusion in diverse country contexts and illuminate pathways for policymakers and practitioners to address underlying drivers of exclusion. Using an innovative and holistic approach, the Index will contribute valuable data to global efforts to measure and track inclusion as part of Agenda 2030, as well as add value to ongoing efforts in the fields of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The Global Pluralism Index will enable:

- **Gap analysis:** to assess the state of pluralism in societies and identify areas in which intervention is needed to address exclusion;
- **Trends analysis:** to track a country's trajectory over time, either towards greater inclusion or exclusion;
- **Conflict prevention:** to identify signs of exclusion, marginalization and discrimination before crisis becomes imminent.

Pluralism is an ethic of respect for diversity.

In a pluralistic society, the dignity of each person is recognized, and everyone feels like they belong.

PLURALISM INDEX FRAMEWORK

The Centre’s approach to pluralism places a twin focus on institutions (hardware) and cultural processes (software) and the complex interactions between the two. Institutional arrangements—such as constitutions, legislatures, courts and systems of government, provide a framework for the governance of diversity. The software of pluralism represents the cultural habits or public mindsets that shape our perceptions of who belongs and who contributes, and influence how we interact with each other on an everyday basis.

The Index assessment framework is rooted in the interplay between these ‘hardware’ and ‘software’ responses, and measures inclusions and exclusions across political, economic and social dimensions. It is comprised of 15 indicators over the following five dimensions:

1. Legal commitments in support of pluralism;
2. Implementation of legal commitments and practices of actors across society;
3. Levels of group-based inequalities;
4. State of inter-group relations;
5. Levels of belonging

The Index uses a methodology based on expert-assessments. Each country is assessed by local experts with deep knowledge of context and relevant issues, drawing on a range of quantitative and qualitative data. Results are presented in the form of a “report card” including concrete recommendations for policymakers and practitioners regarding how to advance pluralism.

The Index is guided by an international **Technical Advisory Group** composed of leading experts on indices and diversity issues, including Will Kymlicka (Queen’s University), Frances Stewart (Oxford University), Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham), Edem Selormey (Ghana Centre for Democratic Development), Kai Unzicker (Bertelsmann Stiftung), Allison Harrell (Université du Québec à Montréal), Gina Cosentino (World Bank) and Corrine Lennox (University of London).

Project Trajectory

In 2019, the Index Framework and methodology were successfully piloted in Canada, Germany, and Kenya. By 2023, the Centre aims to have country assessment reports for at least 25-30 countries and the partnerships and infrastructure required to support scaling up at an accelerated pace thereafter. To realize this important and ambitious project, the Global Centre for Pluralism is seeking a wide range of partners. We welcome the opportunity to discuss partnerships for implementation at the country, regional and global levels.

We invite expressions of interest to join this effort.

For more information, please contact Poorvi.Chitalkar@pluralism.ca

or visit www.pluralism.ca/global-index

Founded in Ottawa by His Highness the Aga Khan in partnership with the Government of Canada, the **Global Centre for Pluralism** is an independent, charitable organization. Inspired by Canada’s experience as a diverse and inclusive country, the Centre was created to advance positive responses to the challenge of living peacefully and productively together in diverse societies.

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