

Faith for Rights and the Abrahamic Rule of Law Framework: Advancing Unity, Justice, and Inclusivity

Abstract

The Faith for Rights Framework represents a convergence of faith-based values and universal human rights principles, drawing on the shared ethical traditions of Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—and universal ideals. This paper presents a suggested project, by examining the framework’s philosophical foundations, practical applications, and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 10 and 16. By prioritising unity, dignity, and inclusivity, the framework offers a robust model for addressing contemporary global challenges such as inequality, polarisation, and exclusion.

1. Introduction

The Faith for Rights Framework seeks to harmonise the ethical values embedded in Abrahamic faiths with universal human rights principles, addressing modern challenges through an emphasis on oneness, justice, and dignity. This principle of oneness—understood as the unity of humanity, God, and creation—is a central tenet that underpins efforts to reduce inequalities and foster peace and justice, as outlined in SDGs 10 and 16.

The framework draws on philosophical perspectives that balance idealism and pragmatism. Thomas More’s *Utopia* envisions a harmonious society founded on equity and shared moral responsibility, while Niccolò Machiavelli’s *The Prince* offers a pragmatic lens, emphasising the realities of power and governance. Rabinder Singh’s *The Unity of Law* provides an additional dimension by asserting the centrality of human dignity in the rule of law. These intellectual foundations underscore the dual focus of the Faith for Rights Framework: aspirational ideals and practical implementation: creating a balance of ‘rights’ and ‘obligations’.

Through its holistic approach, the framework promotes interfaith collaboration, ethical governance, and inclusivity, particularly for neurodivergent individuals. It is designed to transcend religious and cultural divides, fostering a shared vision of justice and equality.

2. Core Principles

2.1 Human Dignity as a Foundational Value

Human dignity is a cornerstone of the Faith for Rights Framework, serving as the bedrock for its legal and ethical vision. This principle, deeply embedded in Abrahamic traditions, underscores the inherent worth of every individual as a creation of God. It also aligns seamlessly with universal human rights norms, offering a shared platform for global cooperation. Rabinder Singh's assertion that the rule of law must be underpinned by respect for human dignity highlights its essential role in fostering justice and equality. By embedding dignity into the framework's operational mechanisms, the Faith for Rights Framework ensures that policies and practices actively combat discrimination, protect the marginalised, and promote equal opportunities for all individuals.

2.2 Oneness and Interconnectedness

The concept of oneness reflects the unity and interconnectedness of humanity, creation, and the divine, forming the spiritual and ethical foundation of the Faith for Rights Framework. This principle inspires a collective sense of responsibility, urging individuals, communities, and institutions to prioritise the common good over divisive interests. It calls for collective action to address global challenges such as systemic inequalities, environmental crises, and social injustices. Resonating across not only Abrahamic traditions but also diverse spiritual and philosophical frameworks, oneness provides a universal language for interfaith dialogue and global solidarity, fostering collaboration and mutual respect among differing perspectives.

2.3 Inclusivity and Freedom of Expression

The framework champions inclusivity by prioritising the voices of those often marginalised, particularly neurodivergent individuals. Their active inclusion reflects the framework's commitment to enriching collective human experience through diversity. Drawing on Hegel's concept of mutual recognition, which emphasises reciprocal acknowledgment of others as equals, Levinas's ethical responsibility to the 'Other' highlights the moral imperative to respect and care for those whose differences enrich society. Lacan's redefinition of the symbolic order further advocates restructuring societal norms to embrace diverse expressions and experiences. By celebrating these perspectives, the framework not only advances inclusivity but also strengthens societal resilience, fostering innovation, empathy, and cultural richness.

3. Implementation and Activities

3.1 Educational Initiatives

Workshops and seminars under the Faith for Rights Framework provide dynamic and inclusive spaces for interfaith dialogue, fostering deeper understanding of the intersection of faith, neurodiversity, and human rights. These initiatives encourage participants from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds to engage with shared values such as compassion, justice, and inclusivity. By equipping attendees with tools for advocacy and action, these programmes empower individuals and communities to challenge systemic inequalities and stereotypes. Moreover, they focus on capacity-building, training leaders to integrate these principles into legal, social, and educational systems, ensuring the framework's principles resonate at grassroots and institutional levels.

3.2 Advocacy for Systemic Change

Advocacy efforts under the framework go beyond addressing visible barriers to tackle underlying structures that perpetuate inequality and exclusion. Campaigns focus on amplifying the voices of marginalised groups, including neurodivergent

individuals, religious minorities, and those affected by social or economic inequities. These efforts encourage policy reforms that align with universal human rights principles while also respecting cultural and religious contexts. Through collaboration with policymakers, civil society organisations, and faith leaders, the framework bridges gaps between communities, fostering solidarity and driving systemic change. By prioritising freedom of expression, advocacy initiatives ensure that all individuals can actively participate in societal dialogue.

3.3 Ethical Governance and Accountability

The framework emphasises the adoption of governance practices that are transparent, ethical, and reflective of its core principles. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are integral, ensuring that policies are not only well-intentioned but also effectively implemented and impactful. Regular feedback from diverse stakeholders, including underrepresented groups, is incorporated to refine and strengthen these policies. The framework's commitment to accountability helps build trust within communities, demonstrating that ethical governance is achievable. By aligning aspirations with practical implementation, the Faith for Rights Framework creates a sustainable model for inclusive, equitable governance that prioritises human dignity and social justice.

4. Case Study: The Pegasus Scholarship Programme

The Pegasus Scholarship Programme embodies the practical application of the Faith for Rights Framework, integrating faith-based values with universal human rights principles to address pressing challenges such as inequality and polarisation. By fostering multicultural competence, the programme equips legal professionals with the skills and perspectives needed to navigate complex cultural and religious landscapes while upholding justice and equality. Through its multifaceted initiatives, the programme bridges gaps between communities, promoting dialogue, inclusivity, and mutual respect.

4.1 Abrahamic Justice Seminars

These seminars provide a platform for exploring shared ethical principles rooted in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, with an emphasis on their relevance to contemporary justice systems. They foster cross-cultural dialogue and encourage participants to reflect on how these principles can address systemic inequalities. By promoting ethical leadership and a commitment to justice, the seminars prepare legal professionals to apply faith-based values within diverse legal contexts.

4.2 Interfaith Legal Aid Clinics

These clinics provide essential legal assistance to marginalised groups, including neurodivergent individuals, within an interfaith framework. A key feature of this initiative is its collaborative approach, partnering with already existing legal clinics to extend their reach and bring services directly to underserved communities. This model ensures that the clinics are embedded in the communities they serve, fostering trust and accessibility. By transcending cultural and religious boundaries, the clinics exemplify how faith-based values and universal human rights can work in tandem to promote inclusivity and equity. Additionally, the partnership model leverages existing resources and expertise, ensuring sustainable operations while amplifying their impact. This approach not only enhances equitable access to justice but also reinforces the commitment to dignity and equality at the heart of the Faith for Rights Framework. By actively engaging communities, these clinics empower individuals to seek justice in a supportive and inclusive environment.

4.3 Collaborative Research Projects

The research initiatives investigate critical intersections of faith traditions, legal systems, and global human rights norms. By identifying conflicts and proposing solutions, these projects contribute to the broader discourse on justice, equality, and cultural preservation. They also inform public policy, judicial practices, and legal education, ensuring that insights are applied practically to foster harmony and inclusivity. The starting focus is that of neurodivergence.

4.4 Visits to the Supreme Court of Israel

Participants gain unique insights through visits to the Supreme Court of Israel, an institution renowned for navigating the delicate balance between religious values and human rights in a multicultural setting. Observing the Court's decisions and practices offers practical lessons for addressing similar challenges in other jurisdictions. These visits also deepen participants' understanding of legal pluralism and its role in fostering an equitable society, enriching their capacity to approach complex legal and cultural issues with sensitivity and skill.

5. Conclusion

The Faith for Rights Framework demonstrates how faith-based values and universal human rights can coexist, offering a unified vision of justice and equality. By aligning with SDGs 10 and 16, the framework contributes to reducing inequalities, fostering inclusive societies, and promoting sustainable peace. Its initiatives, such as the Pegasus Scholarship Programme, exemplify the transformative potential of interfaith collaboration, ethical governance, and innovative problem-solving. Through its emphasis on inclusivity, particularly for neurodivergent individuals and other marginalised groups, the framework not only fosters a compassionate and sustainable future but also strengthens societal resilience. It serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring impact of unity, shared values, and collective action in addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

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