

# LOOR Living With Our and Others' Religions Together in Diversity

## Questionnaire Situation of religious minorities

Country:	Sweden
Name of religious minority	Catholicism; The Catholic church of St. Nikolai in the town of Linköping, Sweden
Number of believers:	There are 150 000 members of the Catholic church in Sweden, whereof app. 90 000 are registered. Most members are non-Swedish. They have their origin in Croatia, Rumania and mostly Iraq.
Regional, national distribution within the country (e.g. are believers dispersed or concentrated in one or more places?):	All over. There are only 42 congregations in all of Sweden
Are believers organized in communities or similar structures?	There is a big universal organization. Every country has its own bishop. Congregation – diocese – episcopate
Legal position/ status (e.g. is the religious minority recognized and is there equal status with the religion of the majority?):	Nowadays the Catholic church is generally accepted but a hundred years ago it was not.
Are there reasons which stop the religious minority enjoying freedom of worship in the country? <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, what are the reasons... <input type="checkbox"/> - legal reasons <input type="checkbox"/> -social reasons <input type="checkbox"/> -other reasons <input type="checkbox"/> -	There are economic aspects because there is no State church. The registered members each pay 1% of their taxes to the Catholic church. The church has to pay the Swedish authorities for this service. There are no limits when it comes to freedom to practice
Is the religious minority visible to others? When yes, how?	Sometimes, especially at Christmas time, the Catholic church makes itself more visible to non-members. They have for instance a ceremony each year in the town square when they place baby Jesus in the crib
What influence does the majority culture of the country have on the religious minority?	Many ways. Sweden's culture does not contain religion at the moment. Secularized society. Different matters in school and in church
What influence does the culture of the religious minority have on the majority culture of the country?	The Catholic church has no strong influence on society. It has strong opinions about abortion and infidelity.
What influence does the majority culture of the country have on the architecture of the religious minority's places of worship?	Not that much. We can choose the style we like. We have to think economically – because of that not a very high ceiling for heating reasons.
What's it like to be a young catholic person today?	There are some limitations when you compare with what their friends are allowed to do. For a catholic there are certain values, virginity for example. It's important not to have sex before marriage. Also, Sundays are for church visits.