



Field Guide Set & Trainings for Engaging Faith Communities

In March 2014, NDIN and the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture published two new national tools, a *Field Guide* and a *Religious Literacy Primer* for crises, disasters and public health emergencies. The *Field Guide* is a how-to resource for engagement and partnerships, while its companion *Religious Literacy Primer* is an at-a-glance quick reference on twenty-four of the largest faith traditions in the United States. Using these tools, NDIN offers trainings to government and non-profit organizations seeking to enhance their religious literacy, competency and ability to engage faith communities as partners.

Reviewer Comments:

"... a must read for first responders who are serious about cultural competence and religious/spiritual diversity. This...will help you not only learn about different faiths, but will help you better engage faith communities affected by crises, disasters, and public health emergencies."

Jamie D. Aten, Ph.D., Co-Director, Humanitarian Disaster Institute Wheaton College

"Faith communities are the critical disaster preparedness, response and recovery partners...The degree to which government builds partnerships...will spell the difference between failure and success in disaster recovery... [E]ssential guides for emergency managers to strengthen partnerships with faith organizations."

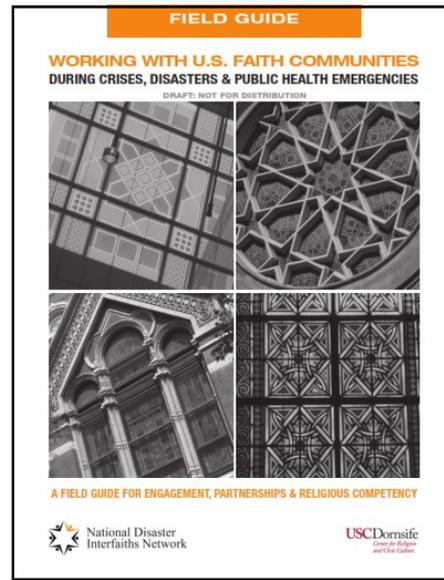
Ken Curtin Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator FEMA Region II

"This well-organized and easy-to-read Field Guide set is a gem of a resource that many in the emergency management field will find helpful in opening doors to faith communities throughout the country and building stronger relationships based on a better sense of mutual respect and understanding...it demonstrates effectively how to cross-pollinate theory and practice for building resilient whole communities...a must read for all...in decision-making capacities."

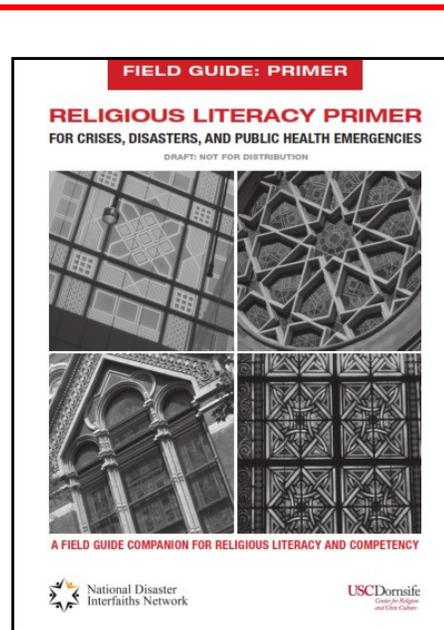
Professor Ali. M. Gheith, Director MPA, Emergency & Disaster Management Metropolitan College of NY

"...a unique and sorely needed addition to the field...As we come to rely more and more on faith congregations...we should heed the recommendations in the Guide so that we get it right and learn now, how to work side by side with faith communities and with faith based literacy from beginning to end."

Dr. April Naturale, Ph.D., Senior Advisor SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center



Working with U.S. Faith Communities During Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies: A Field Guide for Engagement, Partnerships, and Religious Competency is a guide for engaging and building sustainable and competent partnerships with faith communities throughout the entire disaster lifecycle. The American religious landscape of 2014 is more complex and diverse than it has ever been in the past. The *Field Guide* provides guidance and best practices on how to approach religious leaders, congregations and faith-based organizations that make up this landscape to build durable, institutional relationships, and develop sustainable, faith-based emergency preparedness and response programs.



The Religious Literacy Primer for Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies is a quick-reference tool providing at-a-glance information on basic religious literacy for 24 of the largest religious communities in the United States. It is geared toward enabling emergency managers, public health officials, first responders, voluntary agencies, and others involved in disaster response and recovery to understand how faith communities and emergency management intersect. The *Primer* can guide practitioners in their interactions within disaster-affected communities by moving beyond simplistic understandings of religious beliefs and practices to provide guidance for physical interaction/etiquette, religious symbols, information on holidays, dietary restrictions, and provision of post-disaster mass care including feeding, shelter, medical treatment, and mental health care and spiritual care.

To View or Download: http://www.n-din.org/ndin_resources/FieldGuideSet.php

Additional Resources for RELIGIOUS LITERACY

ASSESS YOUR OWN LEVEL OF RELIGIOUS LITERACY

Religious Knowledge Quiz
<http://www.pewforum.org/quiz/u-s-religious-knowledge/>

15 Question Quiz (Appendix) in Stephen Prothero's Book *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't*
<http://www.pewforum.org/>

WEB RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS LITERACY AND COMPETENCY

Pew Research, Religion and Public Life Project
Research and extensive U.S. religious landscape survey data.
<http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>

Religious Congregations & Membership Study
Data files on hundreds of religion surveys and provides the ability to map U.S. congregation data for individual cities, states, and zipcodes.
<http://www.thearda.com/rcms2010/>

Gallup Poll Topics and Trends
Provides survey data and reports on a number of religion trends in the United States.
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/1690/Religion.aspx>

Hartford Institute for Religion Research
Comprehensive list of online religion data resources .
http://hirr.hartsem.edu/sociology/research_datasets.html

The Tanenbaum Center
Resources and etiquette guides for addressing religious leaders and entering houses of worship.
<http://www.tanenbaum.org>

USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture
Research / publications on religious trends in the U.S.
<http://crcc.usc.edu>

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING COURSES

NDIN (and the USC Center for Religious & Civic Culture) offer both an orientation workshop called Principles of Religious Literacy & Competency and a Religious Literacy & Faith Community Engagement Training course. These courses are designed for emergency management and public health/disaster mental health practitioners—as well as VOAD agencies and partners. They provide an orientation to basic religious literacy and competency as well as a basic or intermediate practical training in disaster management specific religious literacy and competency as well as faith community engagement.

1) Principles of RELIGIOUS LITERACY & COMPETENCY (Workshop or 60-90 Minutes)

This workshop training provides an overview of religious literacy and competency and its importance in crises, disasters, and public health emergencies. Participants will not only receive an overview of these terms but also walk away with practical tips and resources to improve their own levels of religious literacy.

Orientation Topics:

- What is religious literacy and competency
- Why are religious literacy and competency necessary?
- The current state—where we are today
- The evolving American religious landscape ecology and its sectors
- Introduction to religious terminology, acronyms, symbols, clothing, and guidelines
- Where to go for further resources

2) RELIGIOUS LITERACY & FAITH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Training (3-6 Hours)

This training provides an introduction to Religious Literacy as well as a strategic framework for successfully engaging faith communities during crises, disasters, and public health emergencies—including how to develop a faith community engagement plan.

Training Topics:

- The role of government and faith communities in disaster
- Ways that government and faith community partnerships can create new possibilities leading to faster, more effective, and more sustainable recovery
- The evolving American religious landscape ecology and its sectors
- A step-by-step framework and guide for faith community engagement
- Best practices and considerations for more effective engagement
- Further resources and tools for faith community engagement

3) CUSTOMIZED COURSES in Religious Literacy & Faith Community Engagement

NDIN and the USC Center for Religion & Civic Culture will customize materials upon request.

For more information, or to arrange a training, contact us at info@n-din.org.

Other READY CONGREGATION Resources

26 Disaster Tip Sheets for U.S. Religious Leaders

Developed to assist religious leaders from any faith traditions, these tools address all-hazards preparedness and planning and cover topics from across the entire disaster lifecycle, such as how commissioned or lay leaders and/or their congregations can respond to crises, including how to coordinate volunteers, manage donations, provide mass care, attend to spiritual and mental health needs, and continue their many services post-disaster.

5 Disaster Tip Sheets for Faith Community Partners

This set of tip sheets for government and private sector partners are provided to inform religious literacy, cultural competency and reasonable religious accommodation mandates for U.S. Mass Care providers, and to assist staff and volunteers in competently meeting the needs of the five largest religious minorities during sheltering.

Download Free: www.n-din.org