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Concluding remarks

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Religion, law, and social stability

- “Social stability is about cohesion and integration. It is about welcoming the other in all his otherness as a brother and sister. For this to happen, religion and law are indispensable” (Stålsett)
- “I have argued that human rights, religious freedom, and peace are positively related” (Little)

The first reading

Law, religion, and social stability are a set of uncontested positive values. Religion provides the vision and moral strength, law provides the structural framework, and social stability is the final outcome of this happy meeting of religion and law.

The second reading

- Religion, law, and social stability are disputed, changing and ambivalent notions.
- Is yoga a religion? What to do with religions that preach violence?
- Is law dispensation of justice or enforcement of legal rules? Can law be the wrong tool when reconciliation is needed?
- Is social stability an imperative, is social change so bad? Isn't freedom of religion born out of social instability?

Stability, change, and plurality

- Some degree of social change is essential to social stability
- What makes meaningful change possible?
Plurality of life visions, experiences, experiments
- Where plurality does not exist, change is impossible and social stability becomes oppressive (Soviet Union)
- The counterintuitive conclusion: only a plural society can be a stable society

Social stability as a process of diversity management

- Thinking of stability as a dynamic process (not as a static condition) based on the interaction of three social spaces
- a space where different life visions and experiences can develop and flourish
- a space where they can dialogue and compare the solutions they give to concrete problems
- a space where decision are taken according to the democratic rules(majority + human rights)

Religion, religious freedom and social stability

- Religions (plural) are a central component of a plural society and
- freedom of religion is the right that grants religions the possibility to play their role in society
 - no need here to claim the “speciality” of religion and freedom of religion
 - solidarity between the right to freedom of religion and other rights, including equal treatment



Conclusion

**religions can contribute to social stability
provided they accept social plurality
through the recognition of freedom of
religion**

