Promoting Religious Freedom in an Age of Intolerance

Elgar Studies in Human Rights

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In an age of intolerance where religious persecution is widespread, Barbara Ann Rieff-Flanagan explores how societies can promote freedom of religion or belief as a fundamental right of citizens.

‘In calling for a “coherent multilayered approach” to promote religious freedom, this thoughtful and comprehensive book of keen insight details the messy process of progress, offering comparative perspectives, policies and practices from around the world that can teach us all. Promoting Religious Freedom in an Age of Intolerance is that rare read of ready reference relevant to academics and activists alike.’

– Chris Seiple, President Emeritus, Institute for Global Engagement, US

‘This innovative analysis of how to achieve religious tolerance focuses on four key actors: international organizations, US foreign policy, political leaders, and civil society. It includes fascinating sections on Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Sweden. A key insight is that enlightened autocrats sometimes protect religious tolerance.’

– Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

‘This is an original and substantive work based on much reading, interviewing, and reflection. For those interested in religious tolerance and religious freedom, which are not the same, Flanagan shows well the difficult challenges to be overcome as well as laying out multiple paths to progress. Religion and politics are at the center of national and international affairs. This book helps the reader understand that important and complex linkage.’

– David P. Forsythe, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, US