Resources and Tools for Religious Literacy and Competency

Building religious literacy and competency is an ongoing process, with a wealth of self-directed study resources as well as classroom training available. A good starting point is taking a religious literacy self-assessment quiz and then proceeding to self-study with a focus on the religious traditions you work with. Smartphone apps are available for use in the field when scheduling meetings and for locating culturally-appropriate food vendors.

Starting Points:

- Religious Holiday Calendar
- General Religion Info
- Religion-Specific
- Find Gurdwara
- Kosher Restaurants
- Kosher Near Me
- Zabihah: Halal Restaurants & Mosques
- Veg Travel Guide for Vegans & Vegetarians by HappyCow

Assess Your Own Level of Religious Literacy

U.S. 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

NATIONAL DISASTER INTERFAITHS NETWORK AND USC CRCC RESOURCES

Available for download from:
http://www.n-din.org and http://crcc.usc.edu/resources/publications

Tip Sheets

The Disaster Tip Sheets for U.S. Religious Leaders have been developed to assist religious leaders in any community. Appropriate for any faith tradition, they address all-hazards planning and cover topics from across the entire disaster lifecycle, such as how they and/or their house of worship 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.

The Disaster Tip Sheets for Faith Community 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 several major religious groups during sheltering.

Field Guide

Working with U.S. Faith Communities During Crises, Disasters and Public Health Emergencies. A Field Guide for Engagement, Partnership and Religious Competency is a detailed guide for engaging and building sustainable and competent partnerships with faith communities throughout the entire disaster lifecycle. The Field Guide provides suggestions, best practices, and guidance on how to approach the faith communities, religious leaders, and faith-based non-profits that make up this landscape to build durable, institutional relationships, and develop sustainable, faith-based emergency preparedness and response programs.

Primer

Religious Literacy Primer: For Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies is a quick-reference document which provides 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, volunteers, voluntary agencies, and anyone involved in disaster response and recovery to understand how faith communities and emergency management intersect. The Primer provides guidance for physical interaction/etiquette, drawings of religious symbols, information on holidays, dietary restrictions, and provision of post-disaster mass care including shelter, medical treatment, and mental health care.

Adapted with permission from materials created by the National Disaster Interfaiths Network and the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture. Supported by DHS award 2010-ST-061-RE001 to the National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at USC.
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 including etiquette guides for addressing religious leaders and entering houses of worship.
http://www.tanenbaum.org

University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture
Research / publications on religious trends in the U.S.
http://crcc.usc.edu

REPORTS


Guide to Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship
www.fema.gov/faith-resources


Bridges, Dr. Diane. Culturally Sensitive Religious & Spiritual Care: Creating Resources (2004)

BOOKS

Harper San Francisco; 2002

SkyLight Paths; 5th edition, 2010

HarperOne; 1995

HarperOne; 50th anniversary edition, 2009

HarperOne; 2008