

YOR – Youth on Religion – Central Research Questions

The following research questions will act as a general focus of the inquiry, as a foundation for the detailed questionnaire items currently being developed through the drafting and piloting process and also for more in-depth follow-up questions in the qualitative study.

Aspects of Religious Identity

- 1) How do young people describe their identities in terms of religious categories, ethnic and national categories, and the relationships between these categories?
- 2) Do young people see themselves as belonging to a religious community?
- 3) What role do public and private religious practices play in young people's lives?
- 4) What is the nature and the extent of young people's religious beliefs and values?
- 5) How do these four aspects of religious identity (categories, belonging, practices, beliefs) relate to each other?

Religious and Spiritual Experiences

- 6) What is the significance of religious or spiritual experiences in young people's lives, such as births, deaths, 'moving worship', experiences of nature?

Influences on Religious Identity

- 7) How is religious identity related to individual, social and spatial characteristics including age, gender, socio-economic class, location and school?
- 8) What are the perceptions of young people on the effect of gender and age on religious identity?
- 9) How are young people's religious identities affected by friendships, family, teachers, religious leaders, religious communities, media, religious books and magazines, the internet?

Influences of Religious Identity

- 10) How does religious identity influence different aspects of young people's everyday lives, such as food, dress, leisure, relationships with others, use of space?

Perceptions of Religious Identity

- 11) What do young people feel are the positive and less positive aspects of religion (both their own religion and religion in a wider sense), and the way it is interpreted or enacted by others?
- 12) What are young people's perceptions of other religious identities and how are these affected by friendships, family, teachers, religious leaders, religious communities, media, religious books and magazines, the internet?
- 13) What are young people's attitudes towards the role of religion in school, including faith schools, collective worship and RE?
- 14) What are young people's attitudes towards the following social cohesion issues:
 - a) What are young people's current perceptions of inter-religious community relations?
 - b) What could they themselves and society do to improve matters further?