

Individual Activities and Results Collection Form

Full Name *

Adelaide Madera

Research Unit *

 Dropdown

Messina

**Role in the Project ***

Principal Investigator

Associated Investigator

Researcher

Altro:

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2. Description of research activity undertaken

Research Activity *

During the reporting period the research activities carried out within the Unit of Messina focused on the status of the religious minorities in different geographical and legal contexts and the impact of the emergency generated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war on the legal treatment of the minority groups. The work was grounded in the key assumption that emergencies have an impact on the collective dimension of the freedom of religion, exacerbating a pre-existent fragile balance between majorities and religious minorities. The research aimed to investigate whether and to what extent the practices and the rituals of minorities have been affected and the reasons underlying the dilution of their protection during emergencies. The work aimed to analyze the various reasons that provoked the disparate impact of the emergency rules, such as lack of availability of alternative way of worship or lack of equal access to measures of public relief. Most of all the work aimed at providing evidence that certain religious communities enjoy a legal regime of disparate protection (e.g., in Italy religions without agreement with the State), resulting in a disparate impact of the emergency rules. In the European context, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and wars (Ukraine-Russia conflict, Israel-gaza conflict) gave rise to a new wave of Antisemitism and Islamophobia. In some non-European contexts (i.e. India, Sri Lanka, South Korea) discrimination of religious minorities during the pandemic was strictly linked to specific social, historical, economic and political factors, in others (United States) religion has undergone increasing politicization. The pandemic emergency exacerbated inner divisions and the need to prevent the spread of the infection justified forms of repression, persecution and discrimination against traditionally marginalized groups. Some of them were biased for contributing to the spread of Covid-19. as well of war fighters support. The Russia-Ukraine conflict gave rise to new challenges for religious minorities and to violations of human rights, in terms of destruction and expropriation of places of worship, persecution of minority groups, crimes against religious leaders and culminated in controversial legislative reaction from the Ukrainian State

The aim of the Unit of Messina was to analyze the management of religious pluralism and complex relationships between minorities and traditional religions through an inter-sectional approach, with a view to investigating the role played by religion in the process of integration of different cultural and religious identities in various legal systems. The intent was to analyze the complexity and the multidimensional character of religion, and its strict connection with social, economic and political factors, have been studied through an interdisciplinary approach and a multi-level analysis. The unit aimed to investigate whether and to what extent the pre-existent legal framework affected the impact of the extraordinary measures aimed to contain the spread of Covid-19, emphasizing inequalities, conflicts, and threatening anti-democratic and anti-pluralistic narratives. The goal of Messina unit was to provide an overview of the different models of management of religious diversity, to identify policies that can encourage the implementation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination. The survey focused on both legislative and jurisprudential choices and on documents that allowed to identify the strategies pursued in different legal contexts in terms of social cohesion and constructive dialogue among different systems of values. The aim was to suggest concrete operational regulatory and administrative solutions with a view to promoting of inclusive anti-discrimination public policies, which can balance the specific needs of minority groups with public health protection needs, security and stability.

The activities carried out by the research unit were structured into several distinct phases. In the initial phase,

From 2023 to march 2024, prof. Madera undertook an extensive review of existing research and engaged in a critical analysis and critical analysis of relevant scientific literature to identify key themes. This was complemented by a detailed examination of legislation and case law on the issue of the impact of emergencies on religious minorities.

During this stage, the core activities consisted of the systematic collection and in-depth study of relevant sources. This was complemented by ongoing discussion and exchange facilitated through meetings and calls among the unit members and additional meetings and calls between Prof. Madera and an external consultant, Dr. Roberta Medda-Windischer, who was recruited to support the research

work. At first, the data collected was circulated among the other members of the research unit. Subsequently they have been uploaded to the designated platform (DIRESOM website) for broader access and consultation from the scientific community and the public.

Prof. Madera specifically investigated the definition of the notion of religious minority, its fluid nature due to the lack of a shared definition in international law and how the status of minority is strictly linked with how a group is framed in a specific context, and is affected by political, legal, cultural, social and economic constructs. Moreover, she investigated the complex relationship between the notion of minority and that of "religion" and the challenging interplay with the notion of "emergency".

During April, May, June and July 2024, Prof's Madera work was mainly devoted to the organization of an International Conference on "The Impact of Emergency Rules on Religious Freedom, with Special Regard to Religious Minorities", which took place at the Department of Law of the University of Messina on 24-25 July 2024. The conference represented a key event for the Messina Unit of research. The aim of the conference was to analyze the interaction between emergency and religious freedom, focusing on the impact of the emergency generated by the spread of the COVID-19 infection and Russia-Ukraine conflict on religious minorities. The issue was broadly explored through the involvement of influential scholars from different field of expertise (Law, Political Sciences, Sociology, Theology), who gave a significant contribution to the academic debate. Prof. Madera responsibilities included providing the final paper, where she offered concluding remarks summarizing the key findings and implications.

On the basis of the collected data, and the analysis of scientific literature on the issue of religious minorities and emergency rules, prof. Madera led the writing of a multi-author article concerning the impact that the COVID-19 restrictions of religious freedom had on minority religious groups and wrote the introduction and the concluding section, which were aimed to provide coherence and reinforce the internal consistency to the multiple perspectives addressed by single authors. The preparation of this scientific contribution occurred during the second period of research dedicated to the project by Prof. Madera, from January to September 2024.

Moreover, Prof. Madera participated in the following international conferences, where she presented the preliminary outcomes of the research:

EUARE Conference, May 20, 2024, Palermo, on "Paradigm Shifts", where she presented the paper: "The impact of emergency rules on religious minorities".

INIRE Conference, May 22, 2024, Palermo, on "Never Again? The Return of Antisemitism", where she presented the paper: "Religious Minorities in various Western European contexts and the impact of October 7".

University of Cambridge, The Cambridge Interfaith Group, workshop on: "Entangled Otherings: Islamophobia, Antisemitism and Philosemitism after October 7", 4-5 July 2024, Cambridge, where she presented the paper "Addressing the threat of a new wave of Anti-Semitism in Western Europe: future scenarios for the protection of religious minorities" (via zoom).

On September 27, 2024, during Mednight – La Notte Mediterranea delle Ricercatrici (Mednight – Mediterranean Night of Women Researchers), which took at the Rectorate of the University of Messina, Prof. Madera administered a questionnaire to people attending the event, on the topic of "Religion and Emergency Rules.", with a view to collecting data.

On October 21 -24, 2024, Prof. Madera participated in the ICLARS Conference, held in South Bend, Indiana where she co-presented the paper "Religious Minorities under Emergency Rules: A Comparative Analysis and Some Lessons from The COVID-19 Pandemic". The presentation was included in the DIRESOM panel on "Religious rules and emergency. Lessons from a pandemic emergency in Europe and in a global perspective", which was aimed at disseminating the preliminary outcomes of the research. Prof. Madera (via zoom), along with Roberta Medda-Windischer and Alexandra Budabin (in presence) from EURAC, presented the preliminary research results of the research of the Unit of Messina, with special regard to the topic "Religious minorities and COVID-19". The paper has been accepted for publication in the proceedings of the conference.

On 27-29 November 2024 Prof. Madera participated in the CUREDI ANNUAL Conference, held in Halle, Max Plank Institute for Social Anthropology, on "Personal identities and the question of their protection under state law" where she served as discussant, critically engaging with a paper on "Consulting

Religious Groups when Restricting Religious Ceremonies: COVID-19 and Jewish Marriages" (case Council of State, no 249.177, 8 December 2020), presented by Jonathan Bernaerts (University of Antwerp) and Adriaan Overbeeke (University of Amsterdam).

On December 14-16 2024 prof Madera participated in a multi-disciplinary workshop, held at the University of Cambridge, organized by Marietta van der Tol, on "Governing religion in the context of socio-political transformation: Germany, N-Ireland, the Baltic States and Ukraine" where she presented the paper "Regulating religion in times of emergency: a return of regressive legislation on religious freedom in Europe"

In the third period, from January to May 2025, Prof. Madera, with the support of the other members of the Research Unit, collected, edited and revised the proceedings of the 2024 conference. Some of the papers have already been published in the online journal *Stato, Chiese e pluralismo confessionale* (State, Churches, and Religious Pluralism); other papers are still under review in the above-mentioned journal.

She also organized (with the support of the other members of the unit of Messina) a second international conference on "Religious Freedom of Minority Groups in Times of Ongoing Crisis." The conference took place at the Department of Law of the University of Messina, on May 22-23 2025. The conference represented a second key event for the Messina Unit of research. The conference aimed to explore how the emergency regulations affect religious freedom, with special regard to the implications provoked by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict on the realities of religious minority communities. The issue was broadly examined through the contributions of experts from multiple fields (Law, International Relations, Sociology, Theology), who offered valuable contributions to the discussion. Prof. Madera provided concluding remarks, aimed at synthesizing the key findings and their significance for the research of the Messina Unit. Here, prof. Madera emphasized the need for policymakers to develop involvement, dialogue and cooperation between religious and public actors into the emergency regulation.

On the basis of the collected data and the analysis of scientific literature on the issue of religious minorities and emergency rules, with the support of the external consultant Roberta Medda Windischer (and with the cooperation of Alexandra Budabin from EURAC), prof. Madera co-authored (with Roberta Medda-Windischer and Alexandra Budabin) a multi-author article concerning the impact that the COVID-19 restrictions of religious freedom had on minority religious groups where she wrote the introduction and the concluding section. The preparation of this scientific contribution occurred during the third period of research dedicated to the project by Prof. Madera, from January to September 2025.

During the same period Prof. Madera co-edited and co-revised (With Prof. Montserrat Gas-Aixendri) a multi-author volume on "Gender, Law and Religion during the COVID-19 Health Crisis", Vernon Press, Wilmington (Delaware), 2025. The contributions of the volume are selected papers from the proceedings of a panel within the EASR 2021 Conference, co-organized by Prof. Madera with Kerstin Wonisch (earlier EURAC researcher) and additional contributions from other experts from various fields of expertise. Prof. Madera authored the final chapter of the volume, aimed at giving the various contributions coherence and internal consistency and at providing final insights on the issue.

In 2025: Prof. Madera participated in the following conferences, where she presented mid-term results of the research:

FORB and Vulnerability - Fifth International ISFORB Conference - ETF LEUVEN, 8-9 May 2025 where she presented the paper "Religious Minorities in times of emergency: Religion at the Crossroads of resilience and vulnerability". The paper has been accepted for publication in the proceedings of the conference, in a Routledge volume edited by the organizers of the conference.

University of Cambridge, The Cambridge Interfaith Group, "Entangled Otherings 2025", Cambridge, June 16-17, 2025, where she presented the paper "Dealing with a new rise of antisemitism and islamophobia in Western Europe: religious diversity at the crossroads between new tensions and transitions" (via zoom). The paper will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

On July 2, 2025 she organized and chaired a webinar on "Religious Freedom in Ukraine", where she led a discussion between academics (Prof. Elizabeth A. Clark, Dr. Kiriaki Topidi, Prof. Pasquale Annicchino and Mr. Viktor Yelenskyi (Head of the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience - DESS), on the securitization of religious freedom in Ukraine, due to the Russia-Ukraine

conflict and the implications in terms of religious freedom arising from the enforcement of the controversial 2024 law, which bans religious organizations with ties to the Russian Orthodox Church. The event was part of the 2025 ICLARS webinar series and was hosted by the University of Messina via Microsoft Teams.

2025 EUARE Conference, Vienna, July 8-12, 2025, on "Religion and Socio-Cultural Transformation: European Perspectives and Beyond" where, on July 9, she was co-proponent (with Roberta Medda-Windischer, from EURAC, Bolzano) and co-chair (with Professor Jocelyne Cesari, from Georgetown University, and Roberta Medda-Windischer) of a panel on "Conflicts, Emergency Rules and Religious Minorities". Within the panel, she co-presented (with Roberta Medda-Windischer) the paper "Religious minorities and the War in Ukraine: Between Conflict and Prospects for Peace". The paper presented was co-authored by Prof. Madera, Roberta Medda-Windischer and Alexandra Budabin from EURAC, Bolzano. Within the 2025 EUARE Conference, on July 11, Prof. Madera also participated in the DIRESON Panel on "Emergencies and Religious Laws", where she presented the paper "Religious minorities in times of emergency: is religion a factor of resilience or of vulnerability?"

On July 23-24, 2025, she participated in the conference on "Religion, Religious Freedom, and Polarization: A Comparative Perspective", which was held at the University of Oxford, Christ Church, where she presented the paper: "Religious freedom and social polarization before, during and after an emergency: an analysis of the European approach". The paper will be published in the proceedings of the conference, in *Journal of Law and Religion* (Cambridge).

SISP Conference 2025, Naples, September 4-6, 2025, where she presented the paper: "Litigating religious freedom in time of emergency: a close look at the ECtHR's case law"

Prof. Madera organized and led various research coordination meetings with the members of the Messina Unit Research (31 October 2023, 29 April 2024).

Moreover, she attended and participated in the general meetings organized by the Unit of Pisa: 24 October 2023 (meeting of the PI and the coordinators of the units of research)

27 October 2023: First general meeting (online)

Genova November 21 2024 Conference organized by the Unit of research of Genova "Religion and Emergency Rules. Esplorare l'impatto delle regole dell'emergenza sulla libertà di culto" where she presented the preliminary outcomes of the research of the Unit of Messina (Via teams).

University of Pisa January 10, 2025: "Religioni e regole della ricerca: primo punto di una ricerca where she presented the intermediate outcomes of the research of the Unit of Messina .

University of Pisa, November 19, 2025: "Religioni e regole della ricerca: l'ultima tappa di una ricerca e le prospettive future". This event was aimed at disseminating the outcomes achieved by the various units of research and outlining future research perspectives, to be shared with the academic community.

During the Unit of Messina slot, after a brief introduction of Prof. Madera, who summarized all findings of the Messina Unit of Research, there was the presentation of some recently released papers, which are an outcome of the work of research of the Unit of Messina, with the support of the external consultant Roberta Medda Windischer from EURAC. The discussants were Prof. Rossella Bottoni and Prof. Alessandro Tira.

3. Research Outputs and Outcomes

A. Scientific Publications

Published Works

"Minoranze religiose ed emergenze sanitarie: approcci globali e lezioni apprese dalla pandemia di COVID-19"

R. Medda-Windischer (EURAC, Bolzano), A.C. Budabin (EURAC, Bolzano) A. Madera (Università Di Messina)

"Le minoranze religiose durante la crisi sanitaria dovuta al COVID-19"

E. D'Agostino (Università di Messina), M. Distefano (Università di Messina), A. Licastro (Università di Messina), M. Tigano (Università di Messina), A. Madera (Università di Messina)

Publications Accepted for press/In press

R. Medda-Windischer (EURAC, Bolzano), A.C. Budabin (EURAC, Bolzano) A. Madera (Università Di Messina)

"Religions minorities under emergency rules: a comparative analysis and some lessons" Editorial project linked to the 2024 ICLARS Notre Dame conference

Articles/Essays in Preparation

Prof. Madera is currently revising the Closing Remarks to the 2024 Messina Conference, for publication in *Stato, Chiese e Pluralismo Confessionale*

Furthermore, Prof. Madera is currently revising the papers she presented in various conferences she participated in, for publication in the proceedings.

The proceedings of the 2025 EUARE Panel will also include an editorial and a chapter co-authored by prof. Madera, Roberta Medda-Windischer and Alexandra Budabin.

B. Conferences and Seminars

Organization of conferences and seminars related to the project themes

Conference on “The Impact of Emergency Rules on Religious Freedom, with Special Regard to Religious Minorities”, Department of Law University of Messina, July 24-25. 2024

List of Speakers:

R. BOTTONI

F. DE VARENNES

M. VAN DER TOL

J. BIRDSALL

E.A. CLARK

D. VOVK

P. ANNICHINO

M. VASIN

K. TOPIDI

J. MARTÍNEZ-TORRÓN

R. MEDDA WINDISCHER

B. SCHARFFS

G. C. UPTON

Jonathan FOX - Moira DEITCH

T. METREVELI

A. MADERA

Conference on “Religious Freedom of Minority Groups in Times of Ongoing Crisis.” May 22-23, 2025, Department of Law University of Messina.

List of speakers:

J. MARTÍNEZ TORRÓN

J. HAYNES

T. ALVES PINTO

M. L. MOVSESIAN

P. PETKOFF

A. ARTAUD DE LA FERRIERE

A. PORTARU

A. PIN

R. ELSNER

July 2, 2025: webinar on "Religious Freedom in Ukraine", where Prof. Madera led a discussion between academics (Prof. E. A. Clark - BYU University, Dr. K. Topidi - European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg, Prof. P. Annicchino, University of Foggia, and Mr. V. Yelenskyi (Head of the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience - DESS), on the securitization of religious freedom in Ukraine, due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the implications in terms of religious freedom arising from the enforcement of the controversial 2024 law, which bans religious organizations with ties to the Russian Orthodox Church. The event was part of the 2025 ICLARS webinar series and was hosted by the University of Messina via Microsoft Teams.

EUARE 2025, July 9, 2025, Panel on "Conflicts, Emergency Rules and Religious Minorities".

D. Vovk

D. Brylov

A. Maoz

A. Madera and R. Medda-Windischer

M. Kiviorg

R. Elsner

Andrew Bunnell

A. Marer

Participation in conferences and seminars related to the project themes

Prof. Madera participated in the following international conferences, where she presented the preliminary outcomes of the research:

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C. Other Outputs and Outcomes

Other Outputs *

From January to July 2025, Prof. Madera co-edited and co-revised (With Prof. Montserrat Gas-Aixendri) a multi-author volume on "Gender, Law and Religion during the COVID-19 Health Crisis", Vernon Press, Wilmington (Delaware), 2025. The contributions of the volume are selected papers from the proceedings of a panel within the EASR 2021 Conference, co-organized by Prof. Madera with Kerstin Wonisch (earlier EURAC researcher) and additional contributions from other experts from various fields of expertise. Prof. Madera authored the final chapter of the volume, aimed at giving the various contributions coherence and internal consistency and at providing final insights on the issue.

Other Outcomes *

Prof. Madera is currently revising the Closing Remarks to the 2024 Messina Conference, for publication in Stato, Chiese e Pluralismo Confessionale.

She is also collecting the proceedings of the 2025 Messina conference and of the 2025 EUARE Panel (together with Roberta Medda-Windischer and Alexandra Budabin, from EURAC, Bolzano) with a view to publication in a relevant scientific journal or in a volume. The proceedings of the 2025 Messina conference will also include a chapter authored by prof. Madera. The proceedings of the EUARE Panel will also include an editorial and a chapter co-authored by prof. Madera, Roberta Medda-Windischer and Alexandra Budabin.

Furthermore, Prof. Madera is currently revising the papers she presented in various conferences she participated in, for publication in the proceedings.

Additional Notes or Comments

Questo modulo è stato creato all'interno di Università di Pisa.

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