

# ATHRI GUIDE

## Guide for using the Attitudes toward Human Rights Inventory (ATHRI)

---

© 2006, Darcia Narvaez, Steve Thoma, Irene Getz  
Center for Ethical Education  
University of Notre Dame  
154 IEI Building  
Notre Dame IN 46556  
dnarvaez@nd.edu  
574-631-7835

## **Purpose**

The ATHRI includes a total of 40 human rights issues that are related to civil libertarian issues stemming from the Bill of Rights. The set of human rights issues on which it is based are similar to those studied by McClosky and Brill (1983) in their large-scale studies of American attitudes about civil liberties. Similar to McClosky and Brill (1983), this set of issues was inspired by the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights.

## **Scores**

The 40 items are keyed on civil liberties. Items are specific applications of human rights, for example: "Teenagers should be allowed to receive medical treatment without parental consent" and "It is fair to put to death a person who has willfully taken the life of another."

A high score means the respondent is interested in granting civil liberties. A low score means the respondent is not interested in granting civil liberties. Scores range from 40 to 200.

## **Validity and Reliability**

During initial validation, a pro-rights group (from an organization that had a reputation for backing civil liberties) and a selective-about-rights group (from a group with a reputation for backing civil liberties selectively) were enrolled for a pilot study (n=101) with 112 controversial items. Thirty of the items that showed the strongest divergence between groups were selected for the final version of the questionnaire along with 10 items which expressed platitudes with which everyone agreed (see Getz, 1985, for further details on pilot study).

Narvaez, Getz, Rest, & Thoma (1999) provide evidence of criterion group validity. A more conservative religious group scored higher than a more liberal church group (Conservative  $M=128.42$ ,  $SD=20.71$ , Liberal  $M=149.72$ ,  $SD=19.70$ ) while students at a liberal arts university scored highest ( $M=159.16$ ,  $SD=17.26$ ). Construct validity was supported by the high correlation with moral judgment and ideology. Similar findings were obtained in Rest, Narvaez, Thoma, & Bebeau (1999).

Internal Reliability. Cronbach's alpha was .85 in the pilot study for (Getz 1985), .93 for the entire group of participants in Narvaez, Getz, Rest, & Thoma, (1999).

## **Copyright**

We provide you with one copy of the instrument (see the Appendix). Although we retain copyright, you are permitted to make copies for your research.

**Make sure the copyright information is on each copy you use.**

**No third party copies are permitted** (e.g., your making copies for someone else to use).

## How to Proceed

1. Make the number of copies you need for your study.
2. Collect the data.
3. Score the instrument. In order to get a score: (a) Reverse the following negatively-keyed items: 2, 4, 8, 14, 16, 17, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 39. (b) Sum all the items **except for** 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 20, 23, 26, 33, 38 (platitudinous items everyone tends to agree with).
4. Send us a copy of your study so we can cite it here.

## Permission and Publishing

A permission letter from us is necessary for publishing test items. Send us a copy of your work and we will provide such a letter. We do not allow the publication of the test key.

## References

- Getz, I. (1985). *Moral reasoning, religion, and attitudes toward human rights*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Minnesota.
- Narvaez, D., Getz, I., Rest, J. R., & Thoma, S. (1999). Individual moral judgment and cultural ideologies. *Developmental Psychology, 35*, 478-488.
- Rest, J., Narvaez, D., Thoma, S. J., Bebeau, M. J. (1999). DIT2: Devising and testing a new instrument of moral judgment. *Journal of Educational Psychology, 91* (4), 644-659.
- Rest, J. R., Narvaez, D., Bebeau, M., & Thoma, S. (1999). *Postconventional moral thinking: A neo-Kohlbergian approach*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

## Attitudes Toward Human Rights Inventory (ATHRI)

### **Directions:**

**Read each item and determine how strongly you agree or disagree with it.  
Circle the response that most closely matches your own from among these choices:  
Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.**

1. Counselors should encourage girls to consider training to become pilots, carpenters, military officers, truck drivers and other usually male occupations.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

2. Laws should be passed to regulate the activities of religious cults that have come here from Asia.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

3. Citizens should be allowed to voice their opinions if they disagree with their government.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

4. Welfare assistance should be limited to those who are really needy and not given to unemployed counter-culture drop-outs.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

5. Freedom of speech should be a basic human right.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

6. The government should find ways to insure a good food supply for the children in our large cities' black neighborhoods.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

7. Teenagers should be allowed to receive medical treatment without parental consent.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

8. Occasionally it is reasonable to deny the right to vote to some groups; for instance to persons involved in un-American activities or to members of the Communist party.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

9. Our nation should work toward liberty and justice for all.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

10. If some of its students don't speak English, a school should add bilingual teachers even if doing so is expensive.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

11. All people should have food, clothing, and shelter.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

12. Professors in state-run universities should be granted academic freedom in their teaching, even if they teach Marxist ideas.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

13. Churches should not change American Indians' beliefs.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

14. It is fair to put to death a person who has willfully taken the life of another.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

15. In a democratic country, the press should be free from government censorship.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

16. If the Equal Rights Amendment were adopted, it would disrupt society with its emphasis on treating women and girls like men and boys.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

17. If unemployed people cannot find work, they just are not looking hard enough, and therefore should not be supported by the state.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

18. Teachers who are homosexuals can be good role models for our children, just like anyone else.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

19. Publishers of school books should use inclusive language like person or people, and avoid man or men when appropriate.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

20. The basic rights in the constitution (the right to vote, to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, etc.) should be upheld for all citizens.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

21. Birth control information should be made available to the public at large.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

22. People from Communist countries should not be allowed to come here and spread their propaganda.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

23. People should have freedom of religion (worship as they choose) and freedom of belief (believe as they choose).

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

24. Homosexuals probably shouldn't be hired for jobs requiring considerable contact with the public since they could carry AIDS.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

25. We should not waste time having costly trials for people we are 100% sure are guilty.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

26. People should not be discriminated against because of their race, sex, religion, or handicap in a democratic country like ours.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

27. People who oppose the government's military policies should not be allowed to organize demonstrations.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

28. A terminally ill and suffering patient should be able to have the doctor "pull the plug".

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

29. Police should not have to get search warrants when they are pursuing suspects with know criminal records.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

30. Books should be banned if they are written by people who have been involved in un-American activities.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

31. If they are quiet and well-behaved, students should be allowed to wear black armbands in school to protest a governmental policy or action with which they disagree.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

32. Abortion is any woman's right.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

33. People in a free country should not have to worry about unwarranted intrusions by the government into their private lives.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------



34. Loyal citizens should be given full constitutional rights but disloyal citizens should not expect to be given all those rights.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

35. It is legitimate for authorities to curtail the activities of groups protesting a governmental policy or action.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

36. If we let atheists teach in our schools they will try to indoctrinate our children.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

37. The Roman Catholic Church should work toward allowing women to enter the priesthood.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

38. People should be able to have a voice in how they deal with their own physical well-being, with their health and their illnesses.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

39. Wire-tapping and surveillance are necessary even if they violate the law when danger to the public is suspected.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------

40. If busing is the best way to ensure that black students have the same educational opportunities as white students, it should be encouraged.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
-------------------	-------	---------	----------	----------------------