

Unit 3: Language and Ethnicity

Lesson 1: Ethnic Minorities in the Arab World

Ethnic Minorities in the Arab World: Discussion Guide

Citizens of the Arab world are unified by a shared sense of identity:

- People of the Arab world share a common **language** (Arabic)
- People of the Arab world share a common **geographical location** (The Middle East and North Africa)
- People of the Arab world share an **ethnicity** (Arab)
- People of the Arab world share a common **religion** (Islam)

However, not all people in the Arab world share all four dimensions of membership. In your small groups, consider the following questions:

1. What if the Arab world was defined by just one of the four factors: language, geography, religion or ethnicity?
 - a. How would it change the Arab world?
 - b. How might that impact the ethnic minority groups you read about?
 - c. Are there areas or groups of people who would be added to or excluded from the “Arab World”?
2. Consider each minority group you read about and discuss how these groups fit into the various dimensions of Arab world-membership.
 - a. Are some of these shared features more important than others?
 - b. What does it mean to share some of these features with the majority Arab Muslims and not others (or have multiple geographies, ethnicities, languages etc)?
 - c. To whom might these questions of identity and inclusion be important?
 - d. How might they impact the lives of individuals
 - e. To whom might these questions of identity and inclusion be important?
 - f. How might they impact the lives of individuals?