

# Freedom of Belief is Good for Business



## 4 Drama

At a fashion import company, Layla waits to speak to her boss, Cynthia, who paces the office as she argues with a client on her cell. After Cynthia ends her call, she shares with Layla her frustration at not being able to find the product her client is asking for. On her iPad, Layla shows Cynthia fashionable scarves from a North African artisan website. Cynthia is thrilled! When the scarf arrives, Cynthia and Layla admire it. Later at home, Layla wears the scarf as she works on her laptop. Her brother, Amir, playfully pulls the scarf from around her neck and beckons her to follow him. Layla closes her laptop and joins Amir, her parents, and Nate and Mia around the dinner table.

## Discussion Questions:

Ed Brown states, "In today's increasingly competitive business environment, companies need to draw on the talent and experience of every employee. With religious freedom comes the opportunity to make choices. And those who are used to making choices tend to make better business decisions. It encourages innovation and entrepreneurship."



**Have you worked in an environment with mixed cultures and faiths? How did the experience impact you?**

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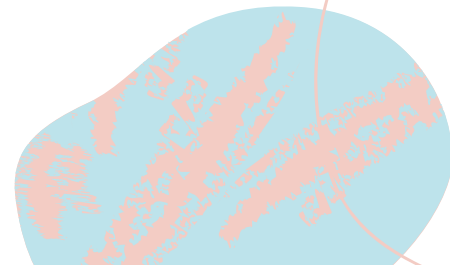


**Do you believe having people from diverse backgrounds in the workplace can be beneficial? Why or why not?**

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The film explores the **FREEDOM** acrostic.

Freedom of Religion or Belief:

- F**osters respect for differing faiths and beliefs.
- R**educes corruption by allowing faith-based ethics to be voiced.
- E**ngenders peace by defusing religious tensions.
- E**ncourages human rights and freedoms.
- D**evelops the economy as multi-faith groups contribute to the social development of countries.
- O**vercomes over-regulation associated with coercive religious laws.
- M**ultiplies trust when faith and beliefs are respected.

*Dr. Brian Grim, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation*

 **How do you feel about each of the statements above? Which one(s) raise questions? Which would you like to explore further?**

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 **Have you seen or experienced any of these benefits of freedom of belief?**

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"Cultivating freedom of belief and conscience unleashes creativity and innovation which is needed more than ever in our increasingly global world."

**- Nada Higuera**

"It's time for diverse people from around the world to come together to uphold those laws and values that foster diversity, equality, and freedom of belief. To create a safe environment so all people can fulfill their potential and ultimately secure a better future together."

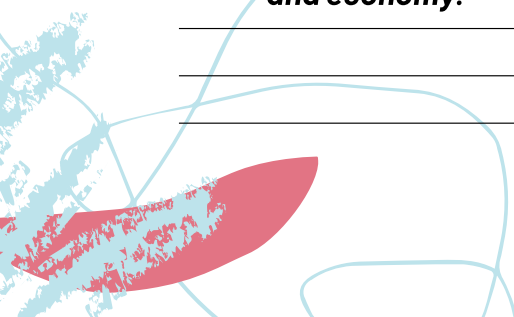
**- Jacqueline Isaac**

 **Express in your own words the effect religious freedom can have on the workplace and economy.**

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 ***In what ways have you experienced or witnessed religious tolerance and multi-faith living?***

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 ***What are some religious texts or scripture that encourage you to show respect to people regardless of their creed, gender, or beliefs?***

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 ***What are some practical steps you can take to encourage freedom in your community and workplace to "unleash creativity and innovation"? To create a place where all people can fulfill their potential?***

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## Reflection Time:

What is one big idea you received from this film?

On a scale of 1 - 10, how comfortable do you feel about extending religious freedom to those of a different faith or no faith in your community or workplace?

Choose one or two statements from the FREEDOM acrostic and spend some time journaling about them.

## Call to Action:

Who is someone you know who would benefit from this training series? Would you be open to sharing this series with your friends or co-workers? Consider hosting a small group or webinar this year.

Make a list people you would like to invite to watch and discuss this teaching series with you. If you would like help hosting the teaching series, contact a representative from Empower Women Media at [www.empowerwomen.media](http://www.empowerwomen.media).

For more information, contact [www.empowerwomen.media](http://www.empowerwomen.media) or [shirin@visualstory.org](mailto:shirin@visualstory.org)