

Global Connections - TCK Forum
Raising children in restricted societies
12 June 2018

Family/Agency Discussion Questions for families going to or working in restrictive/conservative countries

Set aside a time to go through these questions together with the agency support person AND parents (and children, if they are old enough) before going.

Try to find out as much as possible beforehand from those who live there, or live in similar places. Note: their ways of dealing with restrictions will not match yours exactly- every family is a little different- but hearing their experiences and wisdom will help.

1. Preparation before going abroad
2. Ask when come home on home leave- **important to process disadvantages and advantages of family life in their country regularly**

- What are the restrictions on children in your home country?
Clothes/movement/choices/behaviour/relationships
- What are the restrictions on children in the country you are going to?
Clothes/movement/choices/behaviour/relationships

Note: foreign children are often subject to different restrictions from local children.

- Which restrictions apply to foreign children?
Clothes/movement/choices/behaviour/relationships
- What are the underlying values that cause these restrictions?
- What is the Biblical view of these restrictions?
- What is your personal response - as parents, as children (if old enough) to these views?
- Are there any experiences or wounds from the past that are triggered off by these restrictions? If so, what are they? What steps have you taken to seek healing from the past? Which truths from the Bible apply to these hurts?
- What damage do you fear to your child/ren because of these restrictions?
- What truths in the Bible apply to these fears and concerns?
- What are some possible positive effects of these restrictions or of learning to live within these restrictions?
- How have other families in that place (or a similar place) chosen to live within/ not live within the local restrictions? What have they done to minimise any negative effect of these restrictions and maximise any positives?

Note: it is very hard to KNOW beforehand what you will do and it is not advisable to make hard and fast rules before you go to a place but it is important to think about the issues involved before you get there, even if you need to change them later: it is crucial to process this aspect of your life there.

- What do you think you may do, in order to live as a family in that place? Which restrictions do you think you may choose live within and which might you not live within?

- How do you plan to minimise any negative effect of these restrictions and maximise any positives?

NB1. How you deal with restrictions etc when you get there will change as your family changes, your understanding changes and the situation changes.

NB2. Be aware that there is huge potential for 'm's to judge each other on these choices, but it is NOT helpful or Biblical to do so! Leave other families the freedom to decide before God what they do.