



# 2022

# Global Religious Recognition Report

DEDICATED TO SETTING STANDARDS &  
IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR RoRB  
AROUND THE WORLD

## THE SRR

Outline of the Spectrum  
of Religious Recognition

## INTRODUCING RoRB

What is recognition of  
religion or belief?

## 2022 EDITION

What is the methodology  
and aim of the Report?

# 2022 Global Religious Recognition Report

## REPORT INFORMATION

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### Report Summary:

The Global Religious Recognition Report provides details to both academics in the field of religious freedom and human rights organisations on the structure and functions of each country and territory's recognition system, including both recognition and registration issues. Our report looks at FoRB through the lens of religious recognition by considering how states use or misuse recognition and registration procedures to control their citizens' religious activities. This report gives an overview of each country's RoRB conditions by summarising information from the First Edition of *Recognition of Religion or Belief*, a book also published by The Religious Recognition Project that covers the topic of religious recognition in even greater depth. The purpose of the Global Religious Recognition Report is to bring attention to religious freedom advocates and the broader public the scale at which recognition of religions and their communities as well as the registration of belief-based organisations are misused to the detriment of FoRB conditions overall.

### More information:

Please visit [www.cometan.org/rorb](http://www.cometan.org/rorb) for the official website page of The Religious Recognition Project. To learn more about the research works of Cometan on the matters of religious recognition, please click the link: <https://www.cometan.org/freedom-of-religion-specialist>

If you would like to contact Cometan directly regarding any matter with pertaining to religious recognition and religious freedom, please send an email to: [brtaylorian@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:brtaylorian@uclan.ac.uk).

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# INTRODUCING RoRB

**RoRB** is the acronym for "recognition of religion or belief" which itself refers to the conditions that national recognition systems are in when it comes to how they bestow both symbolic and legal forms of recognition to religious groups and their affiliate organisations. Each country possesses a recognition system; that is, legal and non-legal procedures for recognising and registering belief systems (e.g. religions, philosophies), the institutions that represent them and the communities that adhere to them. Countries vary widely on the degree to which they use their recognition systems fairly and reasonably; some have a long history of establishing a particular religion or denomination as the national religion, some, while having disestablished a previous state religion continue to provide it privileges not made available to all other groups, while other countries have chosen a strict separation of the nation state from the religious affairs of citizens.

What the research conducted as part of The Religious Recognition Project has found so far is that issues involving recognition and registration are coming to have a negative impact on people's rights to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). Further still, some countries look to be using their recognition systems and the apparatus of legal and symbolic mechanisms that they encompass to restrict or otherwise control what their citizens believe, how they express their beliefs and indeed, how they put them into practice. However, it is not purely individual rights of central concern to RoRB; in fact, what is called institutional religious freedom (IRF) is oftentimes at the forefront of erosion when recognition systems are misused which is in turn holding drastic effects on FoRB conditions as a whole. The development of RoRB seeks to bring a much needed focus to religious recognition issues as they pertain to religious freedom by identifying the scale at which recognition systems are misused, establishing a terminology to properly organise this recognition branch of FoRB and ultimately, to establish standards for what is and is not acceptable practice and policy of countries when it comes to dealing with the admittedly difficult area of how to legally register and appropriately recognise the religious and philosophical beliefs of all citizens.

## METHODOLOGY

Data produced as part the Global Religious Recognition Report is the culmination of The Religious Recognition Project's monitoring of national law and policy relevant to religious registration and recognition with a particular focus on institutional religious freedom (IRF). The Report has reproduced this data through a particular RoRB lens by providing opinion and assessment on the nature, severity and actual function of policies set down in countries to deal with the over 120 variables presently identified in The Religious Recognition Project's research relevant to the overall religious recognition topic. What this means is that the Global Religious Recognition Project not only provides data on religious recognition conditions around the world but extends interpretation, opinion and assessment of these conditions expressed through the RoRB terminology developed through The Religious Recognition Project. Please note: precise definitions of most terms relating to RoRB issues may be found in the First Edition of *The Institutional Dictionary of Freedom of Religion or Belief* (published July 2021; the Second Edition is expected 2022). **Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this report for definitions of key terms used.**

In addition to the Project's own monitoring capabilities, data on religious registration in particular is sourced from the United States Department of State's annual International Religious Freedom Report which is arguably the only credible religious freedom report to provide on-the-ground insight from ambassadors and embassy staff regarding the legal framework surrounding registration procedures for religious groups and organisations in each sovereign state. In addition to the State Department report, reports from Freedom House have helped to inform the Project's understanding of the impacts of RoRB on FoRB in terms of how different communities face systematic discrimination and persecution. Additional sources of information also relevant to RoRB have been GOV.UK Travel Advice to reconfirm what countries regard as illegal acts as they pertain to proselytising or religious freedom and the FedEx Cross Border Global Lists of Prohibited and Restricted Items when it comes to the topic of hieroncy (the importation of religious items into a country for both personal and distributive purposes).

# THE SRR

Classification	Overview (Descriptions are approximate to present, known conditions and relate to actions by the state or state-sponsored entities).	Features (Countries must exhibit at least one of these features to be part of the category).	Keywords (Keywords are only used in reference to the associated category).
<b>Dynamic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recognition system is adequately adaptive to recognise at multiple levels and is inclusive of both long-established groups and new religious movements; the system encompasses both a recognition capacity and a registration capacity; the tone of a dynamic system is that new movements are encouraged in their emergence which in turn supports multicultural and pluralistic principles; its recognition agency exhibits all the essential attributes of authority, autonomy, and accountability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An independent recognition agency is established.</li> <li>No undue regulations imposed on registration.</li> <li>Removal of subjective language from legislation, insertion of inclusive language and supportive services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptive, dynamism.</li> <li>No country is currently classified as dynamic. "Close-to-dynamic" countries include: Belgium, Croatia, Iceland,</li> </ul>
<b>Receptive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recognition system and its registration system are primarily accommodative to "traditional" religious groups rather than new religious movements; although such a system is responsive, minor issues persist and it lacks the dynamism and adaptability that is idealised in recognitionist theory.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedures both for recognition and registration yet discrimination against new groups.</li> <li>Some minor issues and restrictions but no mandatory registration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor issues persist.</li> <li>Country examples: Denmark, Peru,</li> </ul>
<b>Apathetic (Positive apathetic)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There exists a registration system but no recognition system yet freedom of religion or belief is widely upheld by the state; however, the absence of a receptive or dynamic recognition system limits the capacity for the state to fulfil its responsibilities in providing adequate services to groups and in building a culture welcoming of movements, both old and new; government intent is uphold citizens' freedoms yet any number of factors stop the establishment of a formal recognition system (e.g. lack of funds, parliamentary disagreement, suspicion).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freedom of religion and belief is upheld by the government in broad practice.</li> <li>Despite this, no procedures for existential recognition of belief systems and their derivatives.</li> <li>Recognition is therefore reduced to tax-exemption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate.</li> <li>Country examples: Australia, Canada, South Africa, Suriname, United States</li> </ul>
<b>Ambiguous (Negative apathetic)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There exists neither a recognition system nor a registration system while conditions for freedom of religion or belief range from upheld to terminal; as a result, ambiguity as to how groups gain recognition prevails, often to maintain the hegemony of one group; government intent is either restrictive, censorious or terminal; as a result, an ambiguous country can be labelled under the subcategory of ambiguous-restrictive, ambiguous-censorious, or ambiguous-terminal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government has established no formal procedures for either legal registration or existential recognition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambiguity, unclear.</li> </ul>
<b>Restrictive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recognition system possesses some undue stipulations and several internal issues yet these do not translate to persistent repression of freedoms in the society and seldom, if ever, results in the threat of violence; government intent is to control or limit aspects of organised religious and philosophical activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A rule of mandatory registration for religious groups, whether dormant or actively imposed.</li> <li>Administrative restrictions on the registration process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control/limit; undue/unjust/inappropriate, poor, intrusive.</li> <li>Country examples: Bangladesh, Romania, Zambia.</li> </ul>
<b>Censorious</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recognition system possesses critical internal issues that have significant repercussions on conditions of freedom of religion or belief that often involves the threat of violence and, on occasion, the application of violence; government intent is to suppress either all or certain religious and belief activity.</li> </ul>	<p>All "restrictive" category features in addition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermittent government use of violence to maintain restrictions.</li> <li>Nationwide ban on any non-terrorist religious group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive (regarding registration requirements), suppress; critical.</li> <li>Country examples: India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan.</li> </ul>
<b>Terminal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recognition system is continuously misused to facilitate severe repression of belief groups and organisations through the regular use of violence; government intent is to extinguish either all philosophical and religious activity, or the activities of certain groups; societal leaders and members of non-persecuted groups are often complicit in the perpetuation of these conditions.</li> </ul>	<p>All "restrictive" and "censorious" category features in addition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent use of violence to maintain restrictions placed on religious activity.</li> <li>The state orchestrates an apparatus of interlinked policies to restrict religion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extinguish; repressive, terminal, violent.</li> <li>Country examples: Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Russia, Vietnam, Yemen.</li> </ul>

# RoRB BY COUNTRY

## Afghanistan, Islamic Emirate of

Conditions of state RoRB



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **No claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Afghanistan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Afghanistan voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration and non-mandatory (for Islamic groups only)**

Registration policy: **non-registration** – there are no procedures established for non-Islamic religious groups to gain legal status.

Key restriction tools imposed: **religion by default, legal registration is made exclusive to Islamic groups, non-recognition for any non-Islamic religion or any non-Sunni or non-Shia Islamic denomination.**

### Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; conversion from Islam is illegal); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Islamic items prohibited); **monasticism** (not free; non-Islamic monastic activity is prohibited); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted to Islamic rites only); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted to Islamic pastoral services only); **proselytism** (not free; non-Islamic proselytism is illegal); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted to Islamic forms only); **religious literature** (not free; illegal to produce and distribute anti-Islamic literature which can include all non-Islamic religious literature); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

### Recommendations

Dismantlement of the abusive uses of recognition in the country; use recognition as a means to spread awareness of the acceptability of the diversity of belief; stop the use of systematic violence in order to achieve goals of restriction and censorship.

# Albania, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Albania is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Albania is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Albania did not vote on the UDHR; Albania is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups must register with the district court as “nonprofit associations” but only if they intend to open a bank account, own property and to become exempt from certain forms of tax; new religious buildings must obtain buildings permits and those built before 2014 must under a process called 'legislation'.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** bilateral cooperation agreements are used in the country as a form of existential recognition but are not made available to all religious groups, borderline excessive informational requirements, there are ongoing bureaucratic issues with the legislation of religious buildings.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish distinct procedures for existential recognition; establish a recognition agency to deal with matters of RoRB; reduce informational requirements; resolve administrative issues with property legislation and the restitution of religious buildings.

# Algeria, People's Democratic Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Algeria is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Algeria did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – all religious groups must register with the government before conducting any kind of activities, even those classified as “basic” in RoRB standards and therefore regarded to be exempt from registration and preapproval by the state; participating in unregistered religious groups or activities is illegal; conducting religious activities beyond buildings not specifically registered for such purposes is illegal.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, confinement, dual registration, excessive informational requirements used with nefarious intent, mandatory reregistration (for all groups registered before 2012), non-recognition for non-Islamic religions, non-response to applications, separate registration procedures for Muslim and non-Muslim groups, verticalism.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierarcy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted to Islamic pastoral services only); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; non-Islamic proselytism is illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; illegal to produce and distribute non-Islamic literature); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the abusive uses of recognition in the country and the body of laws that perpetuate this misuse; stop the policy of confinement, reduce informational requirements, and dismantle the vertical recognition system.



# Andorra, Principality of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Andorra is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: Andorra is party to the ICCPR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Andorra is not party to the ICESCR; Andorra did not vote on the UDHR; Andorra is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – optional registration for groups of all non-Catholic confessions under the secular designation 'nonprofit cultural organisation'; non-recognition for non-Catholic groups.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** borderline excessive informational requirements, non-registration, non-recognition for all non-Catholic religions and denominations.

Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

Recommendations

Either disestablish the privileges of the Catholic Church or extend these privileges to all religious groups that seek them; reduce borderline excessive informational requirements and establish registration procedures for non-Catholic religious groups.

# Angola, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Angola is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Angola is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Angola did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government requires that all religious groups register with it before conducting any kind of religious activity in the country, even those activities classified “basic” in RoRB standards which should not need prior registration or government approval in order to be conducted in accordance with international human rights law. Legal registration and existential recognition are amalgamated as registration results in “legal recognition”; unregistered groups may be closed by the government; malregistration – the ongoing Cabinda War undermines the central government's ability to apply registration law in that territory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, excessive informational requirements, excessive qualifications, low registration rate (no new registered groups since 2000), non-response, signature quota, signature-geographic quota, excessive notarisation fees to fulfil signatures quota, unregistered groups are banned from purchasing property and holding events at their own property.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Dismantle signature quotas of all kinds, begin to register new religious groups, mandatory registration must be abolished.



# Antigua and Barbuda



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Antigua and Barbuda is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Antigua and Barbuda is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Antigua and Barbuda did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – registration does not interfere with 'basic religious activities'; registration benefits include tax and duty-free concessions and the ability to own, build and renovate property in the group's name; registration is conducted online via a tax form in which the applicant must describe the group's activities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, unregistered religious groups are prohibited from owning, building, or renovating property.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish clearer differentiation between registration and recognition; establish a recognition system that is receptive to both established groups and to new religious movements.

# Argentine Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Argentina is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: **Argentina is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Argentina voted in favour of the UDHR.**

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – registration is required for a religious group to conduct "public activities" which is interpreted to include "basic religious activities" such as a public worship.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** dual registration (registration is required with both the Secretariat of Worship and the Inspector General of Justice), excessive monitorial requirements, excessive qualifications required for registration (a place of worship and an ordained clergy), non-recognition, vertical registration system (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (not free; possibly restricted if considered "public activities" if a group is unregistered); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish two distinct systems, one to deal with existential recognition and another for legal registration as per the ideals of recognitionism; dismantle excessive monitorial requirements and qualifications as well as the vertical registration system.

# Armenia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Armenia is a secular state; State privilege (Armenian Apostolic Church).**

Human rights instruments: Armenia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Armenia did not vote on the UDHR; Armenia is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not explicitly mandate that religious groups register with it, the fact that in order for religious groups to conduct many of the activities classified “basic” – activities that should be able to be conducted without prior registration or notification of the government – by RoRB standards, such as “ministering” and “perform religious liturgies”, hence causing registration to be in effect mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** excessive qualifications required for registration, membership quota, non-recognition, rights of unregistered groups remain ambiguous, some registration benefits are classified under “basic religious activities” meaning such activities should not be subject to a group's registered status.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (not free; restricted); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; restricted); pastoral services (not free; restricted); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; restricted); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (not free; restricted); religious and worship services (not free; restricted); religious trade (not free; restricted).**

## Recommendations

Establish differentiated systems for recognition and registration; establish clarity as to the rights provisions of unregistered groups; abolish excessive qualifications and the membership quota.

# Australia, Commonwealth of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Australia is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Australia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC; Australia rejected the UNDRIP; Australia voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require religious groups to register in order to conduct "basic religious activities" but if groups do register they will receive financial benefits.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, membership and longevity are factors taken into consideration when the government dispenses tax-exempt status.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a set of differentiated systems for both existential recognition and legal registration; more clarity required as to the membership and longevity qualifications required for tax-exempt status.

# Austria, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Austria is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Austria is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Austria did not vote on the UDHR; Austria is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – members of unregistered groups are confined to activities in private residences; vertical system of registration – the Austrian registration system is characteristically vertical and is marred by bureaucratic issues and onerous complexities; legal designations in descending order of privileges are religious societies, religious confessional communities, and associations.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, longevity quotas, membership quotas, vertical registration system (verticalism).

Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

Recommendations

Disestablish the three-pronged system that relies on vertical recognition and possesses inappropriate requirements; abolish longevity and membership quotas.

# Azerbaijan, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Azerbaijan is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Azerbaijan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Azerbaijan abstained on the UNDRIP; Azerbaijan did not vote on the UDHR; Azerbaijan is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – all religious groups must register with the government in order to conduct any activities in the country; leaders or members of unregistered religious groups will be charged with fines or imprisonment.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, baseless denials of registration, confinement, intentional stagnations, membership quota, reregistration, notarised signature quota, religious literature is reviewed by the government before importation and publication, significant leeway, weaponisation of terms, verticalism ('religious centres' occupy a higher status than 'associations').

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted; illegal for foreigners); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted with fines imposed); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Abolish the rule for mandatory registration; immediately stop retribution for unregistration; abolish restrictive reregistration, signature quota, membership quota, and confinement policies.



# Bahamas, Commonwealth of The

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **The Bahamas is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: The Bahamas is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; The Bahamas did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – in order for a religious group to purchase property or land, it must apply to become “incorporated.” This stipulation is acceptable to standards of RoRB as long as it is not misused with nefarious intention, meaning that the stipulation is not used to restrict religious activity or violate fundamental values of religious freedom or other connected rights such as freedom of speech or freedom of association. As The Bahamas does not have a history of violating religious freedoms, this stipulation is not presently a concern to RoRB standards but should remain monitored for reports of misuse.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** issue with the qualification that a religious group must maintain a building to become registrable, verticalism.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free);** however, the government's continued prohibition of Obeah limits these freedoms only to religions except Obeah.

## Recommendations

Dissolve dormant laws (namely those regarding blasphemy).; establish separate systems for recognition and registration tailored to religion or belief rather than following those which are used for secular entities; reverse the nationwide ban on Obeah; the language “incorporated” is recommended to be changed as part of a broader recommendation to tailor procedures to BBOs and GBoBs as distinct from secular organisations and groups.



# Bahrain, Kingdom of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Bahrain is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Bahrain did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad-discriminatory mandatory registration – there exists two separate procedures of mandatory registration for Islamic and non-Islamic groups; all religious groups must register to legally operate in Bahrain.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** confinement, different registration procedures exist for Islamic (Sunni and Shia groups register with different endowments), and non-Islamic groups, excessive informational requirements are requested as part of registration procedures that are likely to be used with nefarious intent, multi-registration is invoked, non-recognition, unregistration of any unlicensed branch of a group of foreign origin will result in the branch's closure.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierarcy** (not free; all non-Islamic religious materials are prohibited from importation); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; all non-Islamic religious literature is prohibited); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

A selection of minority groups have already received registration (though this should not be confused with the same recognition that Islam receives); abolish confinement, excessive informational requirements, and multi-registration policies; discontinue discriminatory registration procedures for Islamic and non-Islamic groups.

# Bangladesh, People's Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Bangladesh is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC; Bangladesh abstained from the UNDRIP; Bangladesh did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** conditional registration – the government allows groups operating only one religious building to conduct activities without needing to register; however, if a group operates or seeks to establish multiple places of worship, the government mandates that the group register with it. Registration requirements and procedures for religious groups are the same as for secular associations.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** an impermissible qualification of a local government representative recommendation, borderline excessive informational requirements, nominal restriction, non-recognition, registration involves a secondary procedure.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Create a separate system and distinct procedures for registration of religion or belief from secular entities; establish one agency to deal with religious recognition and registration in order to processes; abolish borderline excessive informational requirements, excessive qualifications, nominal restriction and the involvement of a secondary procedure as part of the registration process.

# Barbados

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Barbados is a secular state**



Human rights instruments: Barbados is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Barbados did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not required to register with the government to conduct religious activities classified as “basic” by RoRB standards; registration grants religious groups duty-free import privileges and tax benefits.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, excessive registration fee for the registration of a society (\$750) that exceeds the \$100 threshold set down by RoRB standards.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); proselytism (free); private expression and observance (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a distinct system for existential recognition apart from legal registration; provide broader provisions within the legal registration framework beyond that of tax-exemption such as opportunities for state grants; abolish excessive registration fee.

# Belarus, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Belarus is a secular state; State privilege (Belarusian Orthodox Church).**

Human rights instruments: **Belarus is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Belarus did not vote on the UDHR; Belarus is not partied to the ECHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

Registration policy: **broad mandatory registration – the government has made it a criminal offence for religious groups to fail or refuse to register with the government.**

Key restriction tools imposed: **amalgamation, baseless grounds of the denial of registration, confinement of registered groups, community quota, confinement, misuse of deregistration procedures, excessive informational requirements likely to be used with nefarious intent, geographic quota, membership quota, preapproval of basic religious activities, registration involves secondary procedures, unregistration fines, verticalism.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (not free; restricted); hieroncy (not free; restricted); monasticism (not free; restricted); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; restricted); pastoral services (not free; restricted); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (not free; restricted); receiving donations (not free; restricted); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (not free; restricted); religious and worship services (not free; restricted); religious trade (not free; restricted).**

## Recommendations

**Disestablish and dismantle the abusive recognition and registration system so that a new one that is more receptive may take its place in order for Belarus to climb the Spectrum of Religious Recognition; dissolve mandatory registration and excessive requirements; exchange vertical recognition for horizontal; provide genuine legal registration and provide existential recognition; abolish the policy of confinement, community quotas, excessive informational requirements, membership quota, geographic quota, and the preapproval of basic religious activities.**



# Belgium, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

ForB Claim: Explicit claim is made



**Secularity:** Belgium is a secular state; Anglicanism, Islam, Judaism, Orthodox Christianity, Protestantism, Roman Catholicism and secular humanism are officially recognised by the state.

**Human rights instruments:** Belgium is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UDHR; Belgium voted in favour of the UDHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups or individual congregations register with it or seek recognition from it in order to conduct basic religious activities although there financial and legal benefits intertwined into doing so; religious buildings (e.g. places of worship) may also apply for separate recognition.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** approval from at least two different government ministries is required for recognition (dual registration), inappropriately ambiguous qualifications (the law does not specify criteria for recognition), non-response to an application by the Belgian Hindu Forum made in 2013 to have Hinduism recognised as a religion, secondary procedures are involved in the registration process.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (not free; restrictions imposed on religious attire); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Establish an independent recognition agency to ensure that politicisation of decisions regarding registration and recognition does not occur; implement procedures that reduce reliance on legislative precedents and clarify any areas of policy that remain ambiguous; abolish secondary procedures of the registration process.

# Belize

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Belize is a secular state**



Human rights instruments: Belize is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Belize did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it in order to operate legally in the country and to conduct basic religious activities. There is little distinction made between registered religious groups and registered companies.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, excessive registration fee of \$150 (exceeding RoRB standards of \$100), administering property is a basic religious activity so to make it a registrable activity is impermissible to RoRB standards, unregistration may lead to a group's forced closure.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish an independent recognition agency and provide greater differentiation on existential recognition with an adaptive and welcoming approach to new religious movements in order for Belize to be dynamic; greater distinction needs to be made between registration processes for religious entities and secular entities; abolish excessive registration fee and the rule that administering a property is made subject to registration as well as the rules around unregistration leading to the forced closure of groups.

# Benin, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Benin is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Benin is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Benin did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it in order to conduct basic religious activities; failure to register may result in the forced closure of the group.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, borderline excessive informational requirements, unregistration may lead to the closure of groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Abolish borderline excessive informational requirements and the stringent rules around unregistration used as the basis for the forced closure of religious groups; establish separate procedures for the registration of belief-based organisations and the recognition of belief systems themselves.



# Bhutan, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Vajrayana Buddhism)**

Human rights instruments: Bhutan is partied to the UNCRC; Bhutan abstained from the UNDRIP; Bhutan is not partied to the ICCPR or the ICESCR; Bhutan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates all religious groups register with it in order to conduct even “basic religious activities” as classified by RoRB standards; broadly applicable bylaws exist for registered religious groups.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** confinement, lack of information about registered groups, non-recognition for any non-Buddhist religion, non-response to applications, preapproval, qualifications stipulated place limits on groups of foreign origin, religious buildings must conform to traditional architecture and be approved by the government prior to construction, the CRO has the authority to determine the legitimacy of a religion's teachings, the King must be a Buddhist, unregistered groups are prohibited from conducting some basic religious activities.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (not free; illegal for unregistered groups for propagational use); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Abolish the policy of confinement, government preapproval, excessive qualifications and the rules around unregistration; dissolve aspects of the recognition system that have been established to restrict registration; establish a more receptive approach towards non-Buddhist denominations.



# Bolivia, Plurinational State of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Bolivia is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: **Bolivia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Bolivia voted in favour of the UDHR.**

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – groups must register with the Office of Religion and Nongovernmental Organisations within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) under the category of NGO. A group that operates without registering is conducting an illegal offence which makes registration in Bolivia a mandatory requirement and is therefore key to why Bolivia has been categorised Restrictive when applied to the standards of the SRR.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broad reservations to deregister, deregistration procedures are stringent and their grounds ambiguous making groups vulnerable to baseless deregistrations, excessive informational requirements, excessive registration fees, mandatory notification of the state of all financial, legal, social and religious activities, reregistration, state definition of religion.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dissolve excessive requirements for registration and subjective legislation that could be used for purposes of restriction; lower fees for registration; Bolivia's fees are significantly higher than the majority of other country's registration fees for the same process; dismantle restrictive policies and procedures in order to become more receptive; develop procedures for existential recognition and abolish the practice of state definition of religion.

# Bosnia and Herzegovina



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Bosnia and Herzegovina is a secular state; State privilege (Serbian Orthodox Church) in the Republika Srpska**

**Human rights instruments: Bosnia and Herzegovina is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Bosnia and Herzegovina did not vote on the UDHR; Bosnia and Herzegovina is partied to the ECHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy: pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not explicitly mandate that religious groups register with, listing the basic religious activities of “charity work” and the occupation of religious buildings and places of worship as benefits of registration in effect makes registration mandatory; faith-based organisations, known as 'legal subjects', may register separately.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: ambiguous grounds for the denial of registration are vulnerable to misuse, membership quota, nominal restriction, non-recognition for untraditional or alternative belief systems, signature quota, verticalism.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (not free; restricted); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; restricted); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (not free; restricted).**

## Recommendations

**Dissolve intrusive registration requirements to reach receptivity; remove vertical recognition; establish an equitable recognition system; abolish the imposition of a membership quota, nominal restriction, signature and the policy of non-recognition for untraditional religious groups.**

# Botswana, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Botswana is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Botswana is party to the ICCPR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Botswana is not party to the ICESCR; Botswana did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory policy – the government mandates that all organisations, including religious groups, must register with it in order to conduct 'basic religious activities'; managing or being a member of an unregistered religious group can lead to fines and imprisonment.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, fines and imprisonment will be levied against unregistered groups, insufficient clarity on informational requirements for the registration process, membership quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dissolve the retribution of fines and imprisonments for unregistration in order to move towards greater receptivity; provide more sophisticated procedures for registration and recognition in differentiated capacities; provide greater support to encourage religious and belief-based organisations and communities to establish in order to move to the classification of dynamism; abolish the imposition of a membership quota.

# Brazil, Federative Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Brazil is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Brazil is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Brazil voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government states that religious groups need only register with it for the purpose of receiving tax-exempt status. Religious groups can establish places of worship, train clergy, proselytise and other basic religious activities without needing to register; registration is conducted with the Department of Federal Revenue and the local municipality.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, localisation of tax-exempt status procedures.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Differentiation needs to be made between existential recognition and legal registration and there needs to be procedures set in place to ensure sufficient bestowal of these two separate forms of recognition; establish an independent recognition agency to handle dynamically the vast diversity of beliefs and practices found in the country so that sufficient degrees of existential recognition and legal registration are bestowed; rearrange segmented structure for registration.



# Brunei

## Darussalam



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Brunei is party to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; Brunei is not party to the ICCPR or the ICESCR; Brunei did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it in order to conduct any activities, encompassing activities considered “basic” by RoRB standards and that should not be subjected to registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** arbitrary requirements during registration procedures, baseless grounds of the denial of registration, excessive informational requirements, nominal restriction, non-recognition of all non-Sunni groups, state preapproval of religious activities, unregistration is illegal.

### Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted to Islamic religious materials only); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; illegal to distribute non-Islamic religious materials); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

### Recommendations

Abolish the mandatory registration law and arbitrary requirements for registered status; dismantlement of the current abusive recognition system; dissolve excessive informational requirements, nominal restrictions, non-recognition of all non-Sunni groups, state preapproval of activities and the criminalisation of unregistration.

# Bulgaria, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made



**Secularity:** Bulgaria is a secular state; State privilege (Bulgarian Orthodox Church); Constitutional recognition is granted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

**Human rights instruments:** Bulgaria is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Bulgaria did not vote on the UDHR; Bulgaria is party to the ECHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** mandatory

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – in its policy, the government seems to encourage national religious groups to register although policy is in part stipulatory. For example, local branches of registered groups do not need to register but it is implied that the headquarters or national branch of the group is mandated to register. As selling religious merchandise and performing religious services are classified as "basic religious activity", registration in Bulgaria is regarded as pseudo-mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, excessive informational requirements, mandatory notification imposed onto local branches, non-recognition of any denomination other than the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, unregistered groups may not conduct some "basic religious activities".

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Remove some of the cited excessive informational requirements; abolish the mandatory notification policy and the non-recognition policy of any denomination other than the BOC; establish procedures for existential recognition.

# Burkina Faso

2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Burkina Faso is a secular state**



Human rights instruments: Burkina Faso is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Burkina Faso did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require religious groups to register with it in order to conduct basic religious activities. Registration confers legal entity status, also referred to in the legislation as legal recognition; malregistration – the ongoing Islamist insurgency means the central government may not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, borderline excessive monitorial requirements, excessive authority granted to the MATD, possible use of impermissible basis for the denial of registration or deregistration by the government's use of "moral" grounds as the reason for such actions.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (unclear); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To achieve dynamic status, an independent recognition agency needs to be established to monitor and guide religious recognition activity and its meaningful impact; dissolve borderline excessive informational requirements and ensure that separate procedures exist for legal registration and existential recognition to resolve this issue of amalgamation.



# Burundi, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Burundi is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Burundi is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Burundi abstained from the UNDRIP; Burundi did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: mandatory

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it in order to conduct even 'basic religious activities'; leaders, administrator or members of groups that continue to practice after their registration application is denied or their group is dissolved by the government will face imprisonment.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, discrimination of new, independent and foreign religious groups through the imposition of separate regulations, excessive monitoring requirements, imprisonment of members, staff and leaders of religious groups who continue to practice after registration denial, membership quotas.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

End membership quotas and other unnecessary registration requirements; end the cited retributions; halt government involvement in the internal affairs of religious bodies and halt government monitoring of religious activity; reverse laws restricting on religious activity; revoke the mandatory registration policy; take a more receptive approach to non-traditional religious and belief groups.

# Cabo Verde, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Cabo Verde is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Cabo Verde is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Cabo Verde did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it although there are no stipulated repercussions for groups that do not register.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, issue with making registration a prerequisite for a religious group's access to broadcasting time, signature quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that has the capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration; remove subjective wording from the legislation in order to ensure that misuse of the legislation does not occur; revoke all restrictive policies and requirements that are inappropriate to standards of freedom of religion or belief; take a more receptive approach to minorities and NRMs as a means of moving up the Spectrum of Religious Recognition.



# Cambodia, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Buddhism)**



Human rights instruments: Cambodia is party to the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Cambodia filed an instrument of accession to the ICCPR but did not ratify; Cambodia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – all religious groups must register with the government even to conduct basic religious activities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, ambiguous qualifications for registered status, ambiguous usage requirements imposed on places of worship, arbitrary enforcement, capacity quota for places of worship, excessive informational requirements, mandatory and separate registration procedures for each place of worship of a group, membership quota imposed on places of worship, multi-registration, no stipulated penalties for an unregistered group although unregistered places of worship and religious school may be temporarily shut down until they register, zoning quota imposed onto places of worship.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hierarcy** (not free; prohibited to import religious materials); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; non-Buddhist proselytism is illegal); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dissolve aspects of legislation that are cumbersome and restrictive (e.g. multi-level authorisation, capacity and membership quotas, mandatory registration); end restrictions placed on non-Buddhist activities including proselytism and distribution of literatures; establish a system for existential recognition that possesses the provisions to protect non-Buddhist belief systems and groups.

# Cameroon, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Cameroon is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Cameroon is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Cameroon did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, the fact that to conduct some 'basic religious activities' requires registration in effect makes the policy mandatory; it is implied in the legislation that the registration procedure is localised rather than centralised; malregistration – the ongoing Anglophone Crisis means that the central Cameroonian government may not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broad grounds for the deregistration of religious groups, state definition of religion, the president has singular power to approve or deny a registration application of a religious group (authoritative decree).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (not free; restricted); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); receiving donations (free); public expression and observance (free); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (not free; restricted); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Reverse the use of broad grounds for the deregistration of groups unfavoured by the government; abolish state definition of religion and the imposition of an authoritative decree; establish an independent recognition agency to deal with recognition and registration rather than governmental departments.



# Canada

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Canada is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Canada is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Canada rejected the UNDRIP; Canada eventually voted in favour of the UDHR.



Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government only requests that religious groups register with if they seek tax-exempt status but not to conduct basic religious activities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free; some restrictions around the religious attire of government officials); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that caters for both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously; to make this system dynamic, it would need to cater to both traditional or established belief systems and their derivatives as well as minorities and NRMs; this system should be complemented by the establishment of an independent recognition agency to ensure the system functions sufficiently and that does not come restrictive.

# Central African Republic

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

ForB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Central African Republic is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Central African Republic is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Central African Republic eventually voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** broad-discriminatory mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups, except indigenous groups, register with it in order to conduct basic religious activities; grounds for deregistration are broad and possibly vulnerable to being baselessly applied; malregistration – the ongoing civil war results in the central government being unable to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broad grounds for the denial of registration which are vulnerable to misuse against unfavoured religious groups, broad grounds for the deregistration of religious groups, excessive qualifications and qualifications intertwined with a membership quota, membership quota, penalties for unregistration are unclear.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not subject; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Abolish excessive qualifications and membership quota; broad grounds for the denial of registration must no longer be used against religious groups unfavoured by the government; provide greater clarity on laws regarding unregistration; establish differentiation between legal registration for physical entities (e.g. organisations) and existential recognition for abstract entities (e.g. belief systems, denominations, communities).



# Chad, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForB Claim: **Implicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Chad is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Chad is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Chad was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Chad did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with its Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralised Territorial Collectivities; administrators of unregistered religious groups may be charged with fines or imprisonments of up to a year.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, excessive informational requirements, temporary recognition, unregistered groups may be subject to bans and their leaders levied with fines.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dissolve existent restrictions in the registration process such as rules surrounding unregistered groups, temporary recognition and excessive informational requirements; making the Office of the Director of Religious and Traditional Affairs independent from government would make the Chadian system more dynamic; revoke mandatory registration rule in order to move to Receptive status.

# Chile, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Chile is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Chile is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Chile voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require religious groups to register but offers tax benefits for those that do under the designation 'religious nonprofit organisation'. One registration per religious group is sufficient to extend nonprofit status to affiliates, such as additional places of worship or schools, clubs, or sports organisations, without registering them as separate entities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To make the Chilean system classify as dynamic, an independent recognition agency would need to be established; establish differentiation between recognition and registration in order to cater to belief systems, denominations and communities for the former and organisations and individual religious buildings for the latter.



# China, People's Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

**Secularity: China is a hypersecular state (state atheism); Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, and Taoism are the religions recognised by the state.**

**Human rights instruments: China is party to the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; China is a signatory to the ICCPR but has not ratified; China voted in favour of the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government requires religious organisations to register with it but qualifies this regulation by stating that only groups belonging to one of the five state-sanctioned religious associations. In effect, no new religions may exist in China – except those already self-identifying as either Christian (Catholic or Protestant), Muslim, Buddhist or Taoist – as only organisations part of the five religious associations may legally hold worship services.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** confinement, constriction, excessive informational requirements, registration is a precondition to a religious groups conducting what RoRB standards consider to be "basic religious activities", non-recognition of any religion other than the five already recognised, purposive localisation, state definition of religion, state theology, stringent monitorial requirements, stringent reregistration policy, unregistration is criminalised, widespread preapproval policy.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted and subject to criminal penalties); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

The full dismantlement of the present apparatus of restrictions on religious activity achieved via recognition and registration must take place; dismantlement must entail the abolition of all laws that restrict basic religious activity or otherwise perpetuate violations of freedom of religion or belief; reinstitution must take place so that laws regarding religious freedom can be rewritten in a way that is inclusive of all groups, namely discontinuing the practice of state definition of religion; abolish current policies of confinement, constriction, excessive informational requirements, mandatory registration order, preapproval, purposive localisation, state theology, and the other key restriction tools utilised by the Chinese Communist Party to maintain control of the religious lives of citizens of the PRC.

# Colombia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Colombia is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Colombia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Colombia abstained from the UNDRIP but has since endorsed it; Colombia voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the Colombian government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, the fact that unregistered religious groups are not allowed to engage in fundraising, which is classified as a “basic religious activity” in RoRB standards, means the registration policy in Colombia is classified pseudo-mandatory; 'extended public recognition' may be granted to affiliate organisations without having to complete separate registration applications.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** barring unregistered groups from collecting funds or receiving donations interferes with "basic religious activities", borderline excessive informational requirements depending on how the information is used regarding number of members so it does not turn into a membership quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free though not for all communities); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to recognition); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Reverse bans on unregistered religious groups be able to legally collect and receive donations due to this being classified as a basic religious activity. Resolve some of the minor issues with borderline excessive informational requirements. In order to be classified Dynamic, establish greater differentiations between existential recognition and legal registration and establish a recognition agency that works independently of the government.

# Comoros, Union of the

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Implicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Comoros is party to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; Comoros is a signatory to both the ICCPR and the ICESCR but has not ratified either; Comoros did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there are no registration procedures outlined by the government; Sunni Muslim groups may establish places of worship, train clergy and assemble freely.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** non-recognition of any denomination other than Sunni Islam, non-response to applications from non-Sunni groups; non-Sunni organisations are blocked from receiving registered status.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; prohibited to convert from Sunni Islam); **hierarcy** (not free; prohibited to import non-Sunni religious materials and items); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; prohibited for all non-Sunni religious groups; foreigners will face deportation); **public expression and observance** (not free; non-Sunni public expression or observance prohibited); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; non-Sunni literature prohibited); **religious and worship services** (not free; prohibited); **religious trade** (not free; illegal).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the terminal system and the entire body of restrictions imposed on all non-Sunni religious activity; this means the reinstatement of the penal code to decriminalise non-Sunni and non-Islamic forms of religious activity in the country; use of the tool of recognition as a means to educate about the importance of religious diversity and to spread awareness of the validity of minorities through the reaffirmation of their recognised, protected status.



# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**



Secularity: **Democratic Republic of the Congo is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Democratic Republic of the Congo is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Democratic Republic of the Congo did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it even in order to conduct those activities considered “basic” in RoRB standards. According to law, the government may legally recognize, suspend recognition of, or dissolve religious groups. Mandatory registration applies for both foreign and domestic religious groups. The status resulting from registration is called official recognition which demonstrates that existential recognition and legal registration are amalgamated in the DRC; malregistration – the ongoing civil war undermines the ability for the central government to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, no permanent registration permits dispensed since 2014, registration of GFOs is dependent upon presidential decree, subsidiaries organisations affiliated with a registered religious organisation are required to register separately, temporary registration, vague "public order" narrative tool is invoked that could lead to its misuse against groups unfavoured.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the retribution for unregistration; remove all instances of political involvement in the registration process, namely the requirement for the Presidency to approve religious groups of foreign origin; revoke the mandatory registration rule and other restrictive policies part of the registration process.

# Congo, Republic of the



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Republic of the Congo is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Republic of the Congo is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Republic of the Congo did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it to conduct any activities legally in the country and must be approved by the Ministry of Interior; operating without registering will lead to the fines, the confiscation of the group's goods, the invalidation of all contracts made by the group and the deportation of any foreign group members.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, informational requirements are likely to be misused against groups unfavoured by the government.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; restrictions imposed on religious attire); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dissolve all restrictive policies, particularly the mandatory registration rule and excessive informational requirements; reverse the ban on religious clothing that targets the Muslim community.

# Costa Rica, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Catholicism)**



Human rights instruments: Costa Rica is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Costa Rica voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register to worship or practice their beliefs, to conduct any kind of fundraising, elements of which are considered “basic religious activity” under RoRB standards, registration is mandated which creates a pseudo-mandatory policy; groups register with the public registry of the Ministry of Justice.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** membership quota, non-recognition for any non-Catholic religion or denomination, places of worship must be registered separately from the religious organisations to which they are affiliated, registration is made a prerequisite of a group's eligibility to legally engage in fundraising, verticalism.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a system that has the capacity to differentiate between existential recognition and legal registration and that can bestow these equitably; remove the stipulation of membership quota, that registration is a prerequisite for fundraising, that places of worship need to be registered independently from the organisations with which they are affiliated and the vertical recognition system that is in effect; resolve the issue of partial recognition being in effect by establishing provisions for all groups to saying recognition on a level playing field.

# Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Côte d'Ivoire is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Côte d'Ivoire is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Côte d'Ivoire was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Côte d'Ivoire did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government requires all religious groups to notify it of their existence (mandatory notification) and for all groups to undergo registration procedures in order to conduct basic religious activities. A religious group's designation as local or foreign is based on two factors: its funding sources and the members of its executive board (whether they are foreign nationals or not).

**Key restriction tools imposed:** arbitrary enforcement, different rules apply for local and foreign religious groups attempting registration, narrative tool of "politically subversive" may be misused as a grounds for deregistration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Revoke the laws surrounding mandatory registration, even if they are dormant; remove the rule that local and foreign religious organisations have different registration procedures; upon the revocation of such laws, Côte d'Ivoire should be able to move to Receptive classification; to move to dynamism, there would need to be an independent recognition agency established; also, greater differentiation would need to be made between existential recognition and legal registration with relevant and suitable provisions granted to facilitate recognition at different levels simultaneously.

# Croatia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Croatia is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: Croatia is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Croatia did not vote on the UDHR; Croatia is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government only requires religious groups to register with it if they seek tax benefits, hence groups are free to conduct basic religious activities without needing to register; bilateral cooperation agreements between the state and some religious groups provide further details on their relations.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** excessive informational requirements (namely requiring a list of members), longevity quota, membership quotas (500 members), reregistration (all groups registered before 2002).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish differentiation between existential recognition and legal registration and ensure appropriate provisions for the execution of each are put in place; remove membership quotas and other intrusive informational requirements from the registration process; solving these minor issues with the system will see Croatia ascend to the highest classification of dynamic.



# Cuba, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Cuba is a hypersecular state  
(state atheism)**



Human rights instruments: Cuba is party to the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Cuba is a signatory of both the ICCPR and the ICESCR but did not ratify either; Cuba voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the Law of Associations requires all religious groups to apply to the MOJ for official registration before conducting activities; unregistered religious activity of any kind is a criminal offence; denial of registration or non-response to an application effectively criminalised the group in question.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, criminalisation of leading or becoming a member of an unregistered religious group, non-response to some registration applications (as early as 1994), pseudo-registration, restrictions persist around the religious activities of foreigners, state supervision of religious gatherings, zoning quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted and subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted and the dissemination of religious information illegal); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (not free; private religious instruction is illegal); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted and subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; restricted and subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the restrictive policies and registration requirements, primarily the mandatory registration rule and excessive informational requirements as well as the other restriction tools identified; end all means of violence to maintain restrictions on religious activity.

# Cyprus, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Cyprus is a secular state; State privilege (Autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus); State recognition is granted to Maronite Catholicism, Armenian Orthodox Church, and Roman Catholicism.**

**Human rights instruments: Cyprus is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Cyprus did not vote on the UDHR; Cyprus is partied to the ECHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory**

**Registration policy: pseudo-mandatory registration – groups not recognised in the constitution must register with the government to conduct "financial transactions"; until the government can clarify whether or not this includes the 'basic religious activity' of collecting donations, the Cyprian registration system will be classified pseudo-mandatory. There is no legal distinction between religious organisations and secular organisations in the law.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: constitutional recognition.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Establish an independent recognition agency to manage religious recognition and registration in the country separate from government control in order to maintain the ectopolitical nature of freedom of religion or belief; resolve some of the minor issues in the system by making it more equitable; the lack of equitability is the primary reason why Cyprus cannot yet be classified Dynamic; remove constitutional recognition due to its inherent nature to cause discrimination and to cause communities left out to be remain unrecognised.**

# Czech Republic

2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Czech Republic is a secular state



Human rights instruments: Czech Republic is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UDHR; Czech Republic did not vote on the UDHR; Czech Republic is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct activities classified in RoRB standards as “basic”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, baseless or suspected baseless denials of registration, experts on religious affairs and other ministries are consulted on registration applications, open-ended registration, longevity quota, membership quota, signature quota, vertical registration system (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (not free; subject to registration as a second-tier group); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

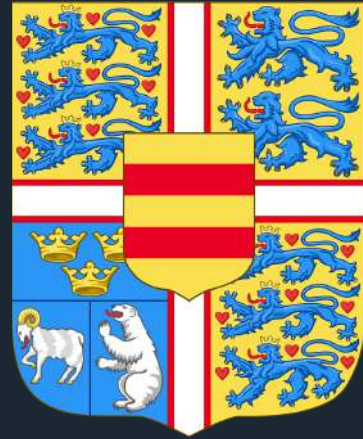
Establish a recognition agency independent of government that deals with and facilitates religious recognition and registration processes. Revoke the membership quotas and dismantle the elements of the system that correspond to vertical recognition in an effort to make the system fairer.

# Denmark, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Lutheranism)**



Human rights instruments: Denmark is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Denmark voted in favour of the UDHR; Denmark is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** excessive informational requirements, localisation of procedures for tax benefits, membership quotas (50 adult members in Denmark; lower quotas are imposed in Greenland and the Faroe Islands), privileges granted to the ELC include funding through state grants and voluntary tax-deductible contributions received through payroll and the monarch must be a member of the ELC, religious communities except the ELC are set to lose the privilege of issuing their own birth, baptismal and marriage certificates.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (not free; restrictions in religious attire particularly burqas and niqabs); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish sufficient provisions for existential recognition, not just legal registration; in order to receive dynamic classification, Denmark would need to establish a recognition agency to manage religious recognition and registration in the country that is independent of government; remove laws and stipulations that violate elements of the Durham principles; revoke membership quotas.

# Djibouti, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Djibouti is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Djibouti did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it in order to conduct activities legally; the Ministry of Interior deals with religious registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** broad grounds exist for the denial of registration, excessive background investigation into applicant group leaders, financial sources and group objectives in the country, excessive monitoring requirements (in the form of quarterly reports on activities), groups may not operate in the interim while their registration is being processed, limited agreement, non-recognition of any non-Islamic religion, religious groups are not permitted to conduct basic religious activities in the interim of their registration application being processed, separate procedures exist for Islamic and non-Islamic groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted to Islamic and registered Christian groups only); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; non-Islamic forms restricted to private property); **public expression and observance** (not free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (not free); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Allow for proselytism for all faiths to take place and for public practice of all religions; de-politicise religious activity; revoke the country's reservation to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights regarding proselytism in public spaces; revoke the mandatory registration rule.

# Dominica, Commonwealth of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Dominica is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Dominica is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Dominica did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: mandatory

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it except for if they wish to obtain non-profit status; however, the law does mandate that all buildings used to publish marriage banns or as places of worship register with the Attorney General's Office, making it a pseudo-mandatory policy; judicial review of registration denials granted as a right of registrants.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, a second procedure is imposed for the registration of religious buildings, signature quota (signatures by five group executives), subregistration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Differentiate between existential recognition from legal registration; establish an independent recognition agency that can manage an established recognition system ectopolitically; remove the elements of the stipulatory registration process which may be applied mandatorily.

# Dominican Republic

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Dominican Republic is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

**Human rights instruments: Dominican Republic is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Dominican Republic voted in favour of the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory**

**Registration policy: stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it except if groups wish to be exempt from customs duties. Catholics groups do not need to register even to be exempt from customs duties.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: excessive informational requirements (provision of a membership list), longevity quota, membership quota, second and third procedures as part of the overall registration process are imposed, separate mandatory registration procedure for religious groups that intend to officiate marriages.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Democratise the recognition and registration statuses in the country; revoke restrictions involved in the registration process (including excessive informational requirements, longevity quota, membership quota, mandatory registration order, and the second and third procedures).**



# Ecuador, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Ecuador is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Ecuador is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Ecuador voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it as the Human Rights Secretariat has the ability to dissolve any religious group that does not maintain legal status. The Human Rights Secretariat maintains national databases of legally recognised religious organisations and legally recognised CSOs, including religious groups that have registered as CSOs.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** mandatory registration policy.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; subject to registration); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Differentiate between existential recognition and legal registration; establish procedures for the former as well as the latter; expand the Secretariat into a recognition agency that is independent of government; remove instances of ambiguity within the legislation, set up procedures for multi-level recognition and revoke the mandatory registration order.



# Egypt, Arab Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam); State recognition is granted to Sunni Islam, Christianity and Judaism.**

Human rights instruments: Egypt is party to the ICCPR (but with a reservation), the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Egypt voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – registration is amalgamated with recognition in Egypt to the detriment of the former causing a situation of non-registration for religious organisations in the country as only groups the government deems as part of one of the three recognised religions are able to practice their religion and build places of worship.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation in favour of recognition rather than registration, prohibition of the Baha'i Faith and Jehovah's Witnesses, recognition is constricted to only Islamic, Christian and Jewish denominations approved by the government (this does not necessarily mean they will be accepted for recognition), there exists broad and ambiguous qualifications for state recognition of a denomination, unrecognised groups are prohibited from conducting some basic religious activities such as importing religious literature, establishing places of worship, practicing their rituals freely and openly.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to attempt to convert a Muslim to another religion or irreligion); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Allow for all types of groups to apply for recognition and registration; lift all nationwide religious prohibitions; remove all forms of politicisation of the recognition system.

# El Salvador, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **El Salvador is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: El Salvador is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; El Salvador voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it except if they wish to receive tax-exempt status or to build places of worship, hence registration and preapproval is not required for what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”. Catholic groups are exempt from registration procedures and financial oversight via their state privilege.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, Catholic organisations are exempt from registration which creates a discriminatory and vertical registration system (verticalism), many registration applications remain pending hence delaying some group's the ability to exercise the full range of activities granted through registration (administrative problems with religious groups not submitting sufficient documentation was cited as the primary cause of delays along with the impact of COVID-19).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish sufficient procedures for existential recognition; equalisation of recognition statuses and the revocation of state privilege; benefits should be available to all groups; dismantle the vertical registration system.

# Equatorial Guinea, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Equatorial Guinea is a secular state;  
State privilege (Catholicism and Calvinism).**

**Human rights instruments: Equatorial Guinea is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Equatorial Guinea was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Equatorial Guinea did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy: broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it. Religious groups register at the local (congregational) level. Permanent authorisation: Methodists, Muslims, and Baha'is, hold permanent authorisations and are not required to renew their registrations with the Ministry of Justice, Religious Affairs, and Penitentiary Institutions (MJRAPI).**

**Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, annual reregistration may be imposed onto newer groups, arbitrary enforcement, permanent authorisations create a vertical registration system (verticalism) as do registration exemptions, registration fee (\$860, up from \$170 the year before) exceeds \$100 threshold set by RoRB standards, registration is made a prerequisite to the legal officiation of marriages in ways customary to the religion, requalification (evangelical Christians, even those already approved, were ordered to submit their theological certificates for government review), unregistration may lead to fines and forced closures.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (not free; restricted); monasticism (not free; subject to registration); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (not free; subject to registration); private expression and observance (not free; some restrictions imposed); proselytism (not free; subject to a permit); public expression and observance (not free; restricted); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (not free; restricted); religious and worship services (not free; subject to registration); religious trade (not free; subject to registration).**

## Recommendations

**Remove all instances of politicisation from the recognition and its procedures; remove instances of partial recognition; revoke state privileges in order to equalise the procedures for recognition and registration; revoke the existent restrictions on religious activity.**

# Eritrea, State of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**



**Secularity: Eritrea is a secular state; Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Sunni Islam, Catholicism, and Lutheranism were officially recognised denominations.**

**Human rights instruments: Eritrea is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Eritrea was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Eritrea did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatory registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy: broad mandatory registration – based on a 2002 decree, the government mandates that religious groups register with it or else cease their activities.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: ambiguous laws on unregistration, detention for members of unregistered groups, excessive and restrictive informational requirements, low registration rate as no addition to the four recognised denominations have been made since 2002, prohibition of all non-Sunni forms of Islam, state control of appointing religious leaders, state preapproval for building places of worship, vertical system (verticalism).**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (not free; restricted); hieroncy (not free; restricted); monasticism (not free; restricted); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; restricted); pastoral services (not free; restricted); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (not free; restricted); receiving donations (not free; restricted); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (not free; restricted); religious and worship services (not free; restricted); religious trade (not free; restricted).**

## Recommendations

Reduce the informational requirements imposed on groups; revoke the mandatory registration law and other restrictions placed on the recognition system such as the ambiguous laws on unregistration, the government's refusal to recognise or register any new religious groups, vertical recognition system and state preapproval of religious buildings.

# Estonia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Estonia is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Estonia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Estonia did not vote on the UDHR; Estonia is party to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct “basic religious activities” as outlined in RoRB standards; religious groups must have a 'management board' although it is unclear how and to what severity this is enforced as an organisational structure.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, membership quotas.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Ensure that both traditional religious groups and NRMs are given the appropriate support they require to establish themselves in the country, not in any way hinder by unnecessary government restrictions; established differentiation between recognition and registration; streamline the levels of recognition in order to ensure the equitability of the procedures and the status they grant; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency independent of government; revoke the membership quotas currently imposed.

# Eswatini, Kingdom of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Eswatini is a secular state; State privilege (Christianity).

Human rights instruments: Eswatini is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Eswatini did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory

**Registration policy:** broad-discriminatory mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it in order to conduct any activities legally in the country. Registration procedures are split between Christian and non-Christian groups with the procedures for the former based on a system of umbrella religious bodies. Apparently, rules mandating registration are not strictly enforced.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, registration procedures are different for Christian and non-Christian groups, registration procedures for Christian groups are oriented around a system of umbrella organisations meaning successful registration is dependent upon a recommendation from one such umbrella bodies, the necessity for a non-Christian registrant group to have a place of worship restricts the registration process because those seeking to build a new place of worship must either obtain permission from the government in urban areas or gain permission from a chief and their advisory council in rural areas (impedimentation).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; government permit required); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; subject to registration); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Differentiate between recognition and registration within the system and provide sufficient procedures for the provision of both; revoke the identified restrictive structures and policies in place on the registration process (e.g. impedimentation).

# Ethiopia, Federal Democratic Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Ethiopia is a secular state; State privilege (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church).**

**Human rights instruments: Ethiopia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Ethiopia was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Ethiopia voted in favour of the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy: broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it before being able to conduct any activities in the country legally. Registration confers legal entity status on a religious group; malregistration – the ongoing Tigray War means the central Ethiopian government may not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, a secondary procedure is mandated for those religious groups conducting humanitarian and development activities which is impermissible because these are included as part of "pastoral services" and are therefore a basic religious activity that should not be subject to registration, mandating that groups list new members as part of monitorial requirements is excessive, membership quotas, the government imposes the public objection restriction tool, the exemption of the EOC from registration creates a vertical system (verticalism), "the right to congregate" is listed as a registration benefit yet this is a basic religious activity that should not be subject to registration.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (not free; subject to registration); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (not free; subject to registration); proselytism (not free; subject to registration); public expression and observance (not free; subject to registration); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (not free; subject to registration); religious literature (not free; subject to registration); religious and worship services (not free; subject to registration); religious trade (not free; subject to registration).**

## Recommendations

Reduction of the systematic restrictions imposed on religious groups unless the classification of censorious is likely to be bestowed if the situation does not improve; revoke the mandatory registration rule and other types of restriction tools.

# Fiji, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Fiji is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Fiji is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Fiji was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Fiji did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it in order to operate in the country legally. Registration law is based on a system of trusteeship for religious groups that own land but there is no mention in the law of the registration of religious groups that do not own land or property.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, second procedures are established the registration of each building belonging to a religious group in addition to the procedures for registering the group itself.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; subject to registration); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Remove existent restrictions and clarify ambiguous policies in order to reach the classification Receptive; set up provisions to protect and recognise at multiple levels both traditional groups and NRMs including both existential recognition and legal registration; establish a recognition agency independent of government in order to be classified Dynamic; revoke secondary procedures involved in the registration process.





# Finland, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made



**Secularity:** Finland is a secular state; State privilege (Finnish Orthodox Church and Lutheranism).

**Human rights instruments:** Finland is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Finland did not vote on the UDHR; Finland is partied to the ECHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require religious groups to register in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** membership quota, non-recognition for any non-Eastern Orthodox or non-Lutheran religion due to their state privilege, the stipulated qualification that a group must have the "public practice of religion as its purpose" is fairly broad and vulnerable to misuse.

## Basic religious activities

Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).

## Recommendations

Differentiate between existential recognition and legal registration; remove some minor issues of inequality within the recognition system; revoke the membership quota and policy of non-recognition; to be classified Dynamic, a recognition agency independent of government would need to be established.

# French Republic

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

ForB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: France is a secular state (laïcité)

Human rights instruments: France is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; France voted in favour of the UDHR; France is party to the ECHR.



Mandatory registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require religious groups to register in order for them to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”. Existential recognition and legal registration are amalgamated in France as the result of registration is described as “official recognition”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, informational requirements could be subject to misuse against unfavoured groups, membership quota (applied in Paris only), provincialisation of registration procedures, state definition of religion established through the stipulation of ambiguous qualifications for registration, the MIVILUDES has excessive authority to designate religions as 'cults'.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; reported cases of government interference with some groups, primarily Jehovah's Witnesses); **public expression and observance** (free; however, restrictions on religious attire in certain industries and for government officials); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Ensure that the French government's approach is to facilitate developments and religion and philosophy; establish a recognition agency independent of government for the ensuring that existential recognition is provided for; this should allow France to be classified as dynamic; provisions need to be put in place to ensure existential recognition is bestowed.

# Gabonese Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Gabon is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Gabon is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Gabon did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all associations, including religious groups, register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, baseless and mass denials of registration, informational requirements are excessive and could be easily misused to discriminate against groups unfavoured by the state, broad grounds for group deregistration are vulnerable to misuse against those unfavoured groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; subject to registration); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish procedures so that existential recognition may be bestowed and then differentiated from legal registration; rectification of the unstructuredness and the ambiguity in the legislation; revoke the mandatory registration order, the excessive informational requirements and stop the misuse of deregistration against religious groups unfavoured by the government.

# Gambia, Republic of The

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: The Gambia a secular state

Human rights instruments: Gambia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Gambia was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Gambia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** conditional mandatory registration – although there are no formal procedures set out for the registration of religious groups (non-registration), the mandate that all organisations that provide social services – which is often a central function of religious institutions – must register with the government essentially institutes a conditional mandatory registration policy for religious groups. There is no distinction made between secular and faith-based NGOs.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, membership quota (possibly via a signature quota), the extensive monitorial requirements could be easily misused to the disadvantage of groups unfavoured by the state.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hierarcy** (not free; non-Sunni groups must obtain government approval); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; subject to registration); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that has capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration in differentiation; establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system; the more independent this agency is from the government the more dynamic the country will become because its system and agency for recognition will not suffer from politicisation; reduce discrimination by educating the public about the importance of religious and belief diversity and promote religious education in schools of all different kinds of communities of belief; revoke the imposed membership quota and signature quota as well as the extensive monitorial requirements.



# Georgia

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Georgia is a secular state; State privilege (Georgian Orthodox Church).**



Human rights instruments: Georgia is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Georgia abstained from voting on the UNDRIP; Georgia did not vote on the UDHR; Georgia is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards describe as “basic religious activities”; malregistration – the central government does not have the capacity to enforce its registration laws in the separatist republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, the stipulated qualifications for registered status are intentionally ambiguous to restrict LEPL status, the stipulated qualifications for registered status also invoke the international recognition restriction tool (or internationalism), vertical registration system (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Remove ambiguity from the legislation and also revoke subjective requirements; revoke instances of partial recognition to ensure equality within the recognition system; revoke the vertical structure of the registration system.

# Germany, Federal Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Germany is a secular state; State privilege (Calvinism, Catholicism and Lutheranism).**

**Human rights instruments: Germany is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Germany did not vote on the UDHR; Germany is partied to the ECHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory**

**Registration policy: stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards described as “basic religious activities”. Religious groups are only required to register if they seek tax-exempt status.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, excessive authority of the government to label a religion such as Scientology as dangerous, provincialisation (registration procedures are conducted at the provincial rather than federal level in Germany), qualifications for PLC status are vague and ambiguous making them vulnerable to misuse also meaning possible imposition of a membership quota, vertical registration system is instituted (verticalism).**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Establish provisions to bestow existential recognition in addition to the existent legal registration available; revoke the provincially segmented structure of the recognition system to ensure universal bestowal; clarification on this aspect of the system and alterations made to it will raise Germany to receptive status; revoke the provincialisation procedure in the registration system and its vertical structure; to achieve Dynamic status, a recognition agency would need to be established that is independent of government.**

# Ghana, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Ghana is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Ghana is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Ghana did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards describe as “basic religious activities.” Existential recognition and legal registration are amalgamated which is reflected in the fact that a completed registration is described as resulting in “formal government recognition.” Registration also results in a religious group obtaining legal entity status. There is no prescribed penalty for unregistration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, lack of distinction between the registration of secular and belief-based organisations, the registration fee is undisclosed.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for the existential recognition and legal registration of religious and belief distinct from procedures for secular entities; rid the system of any unstructured elements and make clarifications on elements of religious life that have not been specifically addressed in present legislation; publish the registration fee imposed by the state; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency independent of government.



# Hellenic Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Orthodox Church of Greece)**

Human rights instruments: Greece is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Greece voted in favour of the UDHR; Greece is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government doesn't explicitly mandate that religious groups register with it, the fact that a religious group's administration of religious buildings and conducting of charity work is contingent on registration demonstrates that registration is in effect mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** public order narrative tool is invoked, mandatory registration for religious leaders (leader registration), registration requirements disallow multiformism, signature quota, secondary procedure of registration is imposed, vertical recognition system is instituted (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; prohibited though this law is dormant); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to state supervision and possibly subject to registration); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Equalise all provisions by the registration system; establish provisions for existential recognition; revoke dormant laws on proselytism, signature quota, the secondary procedure involved in the registration system and the mandatory registration order.



# Grenada

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Grenada is a secular state**



Human rights instruments: Grenada is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Grenada was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Grenada did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, three different registration submissions have to be made (multi-registration).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish distinct provisions for religious entities in terms of both their existential recognition and their legal registration apart from secular entities; revoke the multi-registration structure of the present system; to become Dynamic, a recognition agency needs to be established that is independent of government.

# Guatemala, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Guatemala is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).

Human rights instruments: Guatemala is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Guatemala voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not explicitly mandate that religious groups register with it, the fact that a "basic religious activity" such as leasing property for conducting religious services is listed as contingent on registration makes the Guatemalan system pseudo-mandatory. Catholic religious groups are exempt from registration to receive benefits tied into registration. The registration process bestows legal entity status onto the group successfully registered.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** bilateral cooperation agreements are not made available to all religious groups, broad grounds for the denial of registration, informational requirements are excessive (namely pursuit of "religious objectives" and requirement to list "initial membership"), membership quota is imposed, multi-registration, registration fee (\$1,300) exceeds the amount of \$100 stipulated in RoRB standards, state definition of religion, the ability to rent property for religious purposes is a "basic religious activity" that should not be categorised as a benefit of registration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Disestablish partial recognition by equalising and streamlining all recognition statuses including that of the Catholic Church; continue to ensure that politicisation of the recognition system does not take place; re-evaluate the rules surrounding mandatory registration for activities other than worship and proselytism; remove any instances of unstructure by clarifying in legislation areas that remain ambiguous or unaddressed; to become dynamic, establish provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration; also, establish a recognition agency to manage the system independent of government.

# Guinea, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Guinea is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Guinea is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Guinea did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities” – those activities that should be exempt from preapproval from the state or prior registration with the government. Existential recognition and legal registration are amalgamated by the description in legislation that a group becomes “officially recognised” upon completion of registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, dual registration, imposing monitorial requirements every six months is impermissible to RoRB standards which stipulate that monitorial requirements should only be imposed on an annual basis, there is limited opportunity for legal appeal of penalties issued, the SRA retains control over sermon content, unregistration can lead to the forced closure of groups and the deportation of any foreign nationals involved in the group, especially foreign religious leaders.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; religious may not own radio or television stations); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantle existent policies that restrict religious activity or place barriers during the registration process; establish sufficient provisions for existential recognition not just legal registration; revoke the rule of mandatory registration; use recognition to promote diversity and to improve religious education.

# Guinea-Bissau, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Guinea-Bissau is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Guinea-Bissau is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Guinea-Bissau was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Guinea-Bissau did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it via their obtaining of licenses to conduct what RoRB describes as “basic religious activities”. Although there is a formal process of mandatory registration, it is often not followed by the state itself and groups operate without registration. The Ministry of Justice handles registration of groups. *It is important to note that a state’s irregular implementation of its mandatory registration policy does not negate the status of the country as automatically Restrictive in the SRR according to RoRB standards.*

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement of registration law, informational requirements requested could easily lead to the implementation of a membership quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; religious may not own radio or television stations); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition not just legal registration; establish a clear, authoritative system for religious recognition in order to reach the receptive classification; fix the unstructure present in the legislation by clarifying stances on topics not presently addressed; to become dynamic, establish a recognition agency to manage the system independent of government.

# Guyana, Co-operative Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Guyana is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Guyana is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Guyana did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** religious registration in Guyana is based on “indirect registration” – when registration procedures focus on registering places of worship than religious groups themselves. As such, there is no official procedures for the formal registration of a religious group outlined by the government. This type of registration policy creates a great deal of ambiguity as to whether a religious group may conduct other types of “basic religious activities” that do not involve a place of worship – such as proselytism – without prior registration with or notification of the government. The legislation suggests that all places of worship are mandated to register with the government. This registration process is described as resulting in “government recognition”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, indirect registration, unstructured registration procedures.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a distinct recognition system for different forms and levels of religion and belief; remove all forms of unstructured by clarifying unaddressed topics and issues; revoke the rule of mandatory registration of places of worship and disestablish the present system as being oriented on places of worship; to be classified as dynamic, a recognition agency would need to be established the manage the recognition system in a way that is independent of the government to ensure no politicisation or manipulation takes place.

# Haiti, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made



**Secularity:** Haiti is a secular state; **State privilege (Catholicism); Unofficial state religion (Vodou).**

**Human rights instruments:** Haiti is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Haiti voted in favour of the UDHR.

**Mandatory registration:** non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the Bureau of Worship handles the registration of religious organisations (GBoBs or BBOs) in the Republic of Haiti. The Bureau states that groups must register with it in order to receive certain benefits from the government and supports a "rigorous registration process". The stipulatory nature rather than the mandatory nature of these registration procedures is highlighted in the fact that there are no penalties for unregistration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** bilateral cooperation agreements are not made available to all religious and belief groups active in the country, informational requirements are excessive (the necessity for a religious leader to submit a religious studies diploma, a membership directory).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system in the country that is dynamic enough to provide both existential recognition and legal registration to both traditional and non-traditional belief groups and at multiple levels of their activity; remove all instances of unstructure and the country should be able to be moved up to receptive status; to become dynamic, the country would need to establish an independent recognition agency to manage with the recognition system and it would need to cater to both Christian and non-Christian groups simultaneously and equally.

# Honduras, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Honduras is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Honduras is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Honduras chose not to vote on the UDHR despite having the opportunity to.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not mandated to register to conduct what RoRB standards describe as “basic religious activities” but must register in order to conduct certain other activities or to receive some benefits from the state; registration is conducted with the Directorate of Regulation, Registration, and Monitoring of Civil Associations (DIRRSAC).

**Key restriction tools imposed:** bilateral cooperation agreements are not made accessible to all religious groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition in addition to the already existent procedures for legal registration; ensure that these provisions are bestowed universally and equally across traditional and non-traditional belief systems as well as to NRMs, and at multiple levels of activity; remove any remaining minor restrictive policies within the recognition system; to become dynamic, the Honduran government would need to allow for the establishment of a recognition agency to manage its recognition system and its activities independent of government involvement in order to ensure that freedom of religion or belief maintains its status of being ectopolitical.



# Hungary

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Hungary is a secular state; State privilege (Christianity).**

Human rights instruments: Hungary is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Hungary did not vote on the UDHR; Hungary is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** vertical registration – the Hungarian government has established a four-tier system for religious group registration in the country, in descending order of the level of recognition bestowed, “established (or incorporated) churches,” “registered churches” (also called “registered II”), “listed churches” (also called “registered I”), and “religious associations”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** bilateral cooperation agreements must be made accessible to all religious groups, limited agreements, longevity quota, mass deregistration in 2011, membership quota, onerous registration procedures for each legal category, parliamentary vote, reclassification, vertical registration system is instituted (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieronymy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition to be bestowed, not just legal registration; revoke the longevity quotas, mass deregistrations, membership quotas, reclassifications, parliamentary votes, vertical registration system, onerous registration procedures, and limited agreements; to become Dynamic, the Hungarian government would need to allow for the establishment of a recognition agency independent of its control that would be able to manage the recognition system without politicisation.





# Iceland

2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination  
(Lutheranism)**



Human rights instruments: Iceland is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Iceland voted in favour of the UDHR; Iceland is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not required to register to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** maturity quota and public position requirements, non-recognition for any denomination or religion other than the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (ELC), stipulated qualifications are ambiguous and lend to state definitions of religion or belief, successful registration in Iceland is dependent upon approval by a panel of scholars effecting hinging registration on the opinions of a four-member panel (an example of religious consultation restriction tool), vertical recognition system due to the state privilege bestowed to the ELC which possesses legal benefits (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition agency that is independent of the government in its actions and activities; this would secure Iceland's classification as dynamic; establish provisions for existential recognition; state religion can remain although no special privileges should be provided to the ELC if these same benefits are not also extended to all other groups.

# India, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: India is a secular state; state privilege (Hinduism); official minority status is granted to Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Muslims, Parsis, and Sikhs.**



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**Human rights instruments: India is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; India voted in favour of the UDHR.**

**Mandatory registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy: conditional mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that all religious groups register with it, it does state that religious groups receiving any kind of foreign funding must register in accordance with the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The federal government may also require that licensed organisations obtain prior permission before accepting or transferring foreign funds.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: broad grounds for the denial of registration leave this mechanism open to misuse against groups unfavoured by the state, misrecognition of Buddhists, Baha'is, Jains and Sikhs as Hindus or followers of Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism as part of Hinduism and thereby subject to Hindu laws, monitoring requirements on an annual basis is permissible but not "on request" of the state government, restrictions were recently imposed on what NGOs (including religious groups) can claim as funds for administrative purposes, vertical recognition system is created with the "minority-community status" (verticalism).**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (not free; restricted in 10 of the 28 states); hierarchy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration if donations originate from overseas); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Establish provisions for existential recognition and reverse issues with misrecognition; dismantle all forms of vertical recognition; remove all restrictive policies on conversion and proselytism; broad grounds for the denial of registration to be misuse against groups unfavoured by the state need to be applied responsibly.**

# Indonesia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Indonesia is a secular state; Pancasila is the official ideology; State privilege (Sunni Islam); Buddhism, Catholicism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam and Protestantism are the religions recognised by the state.**

**Human rights instruments: Indonesia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Indonesia did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy: discriminatory-mandatory registration** – the government only mandates that religious groups not part of the six official religions register with it or else they may not conduct activities classified “basic” in RoRB standards. There also separate registration procedures for indigenous religious groups. Organisations representing one of the six recognised religions listed in the blasphemy law are not required to obtain a legal charter if they are established under a notary act and obtain approval from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights; **malregistration** – the ongoing Papua conflict means that the central government may not have the ability to enforce registration laws at it prescribes in all its territory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** deregistration can lead to arrest of group members, imposition of state definitions of religion, qualifications for registered status impose the state ideology of Pancasila and are also ambiguous which lends to their misuse against groups unfavoured by the state, religious consultation restriction tool is imposed by the fact that the Ministry of Religious Affairs must approve registration despite the fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs deals with registration procedures and the dispensation of legal charters, signature quota for places of worship.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted and any materials considered anti-Muslim prohibited); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration if donations originate from overseas); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantle the misused recognition system and replace with one that is inclusive of all belief systems, both traditional and NRMs; halt government involvement in the internal affairs of religious organisations; revoke all policies that seek to restrict religious activity or the broader registration process.

# Iran, Islamic Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **No claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Twelver Ja'afari Shia Islam); Recognised religious minorities are Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians.**

Human rights instruments: Iran is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Iran voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all groups part of one of the recognised religious minorities register with it. As no other groups are legally valid to operate in the country, there are procedures for their registration. The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) monitor religious activity. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also monitors churches.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** conversion to Christianity is not recognised in law (including non-registration and denial of rights granted to those born as Christians), mandatory self-registration if one is a member of one of the "recognised religious minorities", misrecognition of the Sabean-Mandaean community as Christians and Yarsanis as Shia Muslims, pseudo-recognition of "recognised religious minorities", unregistration will result in the forced closure of the religious building and the arrest of leaders if either members do not register or unregistered members attend services, vertical recognition system (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal to convert from Islam); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Shia materials prohibited); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **proselytism** (not free; illegal for non-Muslims); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted and illegal in some forms); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present system established by the regime must first occur before any further recommendations can be made; reinstatement of the penal code to reflect principles of international human rights on matters of FoRB; abolish the vertical elements of the recognition system, pseudo-recognition of religious minorities, and misrecognition of unrecognised groups.

# Iraq, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Iraq is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Iraq voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – outside Iraqi Kurdistan, there is no mechanism for new religious groups or groups not already recognised to receive existential recognition nor legal registration; stipulatory registration – within Iraqi Kurdistan, religious groups can register with the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs (KRG MERA); the KRF MERA recognises Baha'i Faith, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sabean-Mandaeism, Yarsanism, and Yezidism; malregistration – the ongoing ISIS insurgency means that the government may not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** pseudo-recognition is extended to Christians and other minorities in that although they are recognised under personal status law they still cannot practice freely and certainly not to the full extent as prescribed in ForB, vertical recognition system (verticalism); Iraqi Kurdistan has its own registration procedures and imposes both a membership quota onto registrant religious groups and value informational requirements such as presenting documentation showing the group is not "anti-Islam", eight religious communities receive pseudo-recognition, prohibition of the Baha'i Faith by the Iraqi central government.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal for a Muslim to convert to another religion); **hieroncy** (not free; restricted and any materials considered offensive to Muslim culture prohibited); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (not free; restricted, especially for practitioners of the Baha'i Faith due to it being a prohibited religion); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the abuse of recognition is essential to making any further headway to attaining genuine religious freedom in Iraq; this means halting the persecution of minorities, establishing a recognition system that has provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration and the disestablishment of Islam.

# Ireland, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Ireland is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism)**

Human rights instruments: Ireland is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Ireland did not vote on the UDHR; Ireland is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require religious groups to register to conduct basic religious activities but registering as a charity does provide groups with exemptions from tax; there are no formal mechanisms for the registration of religious groups.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, qualification that a religious group must provide "public benefit" are vulnerable to misuse against unfavoured groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that can provide both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously and at different levels of activity; to become Dynamic, established a recognition agency that is independent of government to manage the newly established recognition system.

# Israel, State of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForB Claim: **Partial claim is made**



**Secularity: Israel is a secular state; State privilege (Judaism); Baha'i Faith, Christianity, Druze faith, Islam, and Judaism are the state-recognised religions.**

**Human rights instruments: Israel is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Israel is not party to the UNDRIP; Israel did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatory registration: non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct activities classified by RoRB standards as “basic” and therefore reasonable to conduct without registration. The language of the legislation amalgamates existential recognition with that of legal registration. There are two pathways for registration of a religious group in Israel as adopted from the British Mandate period, each of which result in the same degree of recognition for the group.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** non-recognition for Protestant groups and other minorities, secondary procedures are imposed as part of the registration process, vertical recognition is in place due to different religions and their communities being recognised under different laws from both the modern Israeli law to the Ottoman millet to the British Mandate era (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; individuals may only legally convert to one of the recognised religions); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that has sufficient provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously and at different levels of activity; remove existent abuses of the recognition system that have amounted to stagnation of recognition processes and overall caused violations of citizens' religious freedoms.

# Italian Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Italy is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism)**

Human rights instruments: Italy is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Italy did not vote on the UDHR; Italy is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – the registration procedures in the Italian Republic are handled by the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and have been identified as pseudo-mandatory meaning they are not explicitly stated as mandatory by the government but some basic religious activities are not fully exercisable by all groups without undergoing registration. It is important to note that legal registration is a prerequisite for a group to establish a bilateral cooperation agreement (called an accord) with the state.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** informational requirements requested are excessive (namely mandating that the group's head must be an Italian national or have achieved local residency as well as credit status certification from a bank), it must be assured that bilateral cooperation agreements are made available to all religious groups, vertical recognition system is in place due to the state privilege extended to the Catholic Church.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (not free; subject to registration); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition agency to manage religious recognition independent of government; revoke excessive informational requirements.



# Jamaica

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Jamaica is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Jamaica is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UDHR; Jamaica did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups need only register with the government if they seek to gain certain legal and financial benefits. The Jamaican registration system uses a process of incorporation; incorporated status is therefore equivalent legal entity status in other countries. The Companies Office of Jamaica, an executive agency, deals with this incorporation process.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, parliamentary acts are provided as an alternative procedure for registration and although benefits received as the same as the groups having undergone the main registration procedure the monitoring requirements are less stringent (parliamentarianism), registration fee of \$1,600 significantly exceeds the RoRB standards threshold of \$100, vertical registration system based on the fact that some groups are less monitored than others; prohibition of Obeah and Myalim is the principal reason for the country's classification as Censorious.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).** However, the prohibition of the Obeah and Myalim religions means that the freedoms listed above do not apply to their members which undermines RoRB and ForRB conditions in Jamaica.

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that has sufficient provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously and at different levels of activity; reduce excessive registration fee and revoke vertical registration system.



# Japan

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Japan is a secular state; State privilege (Shinto)**

Human rights instruments: Japan is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Japan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups do not need to register with the government except if they wish to receive certain benefits.

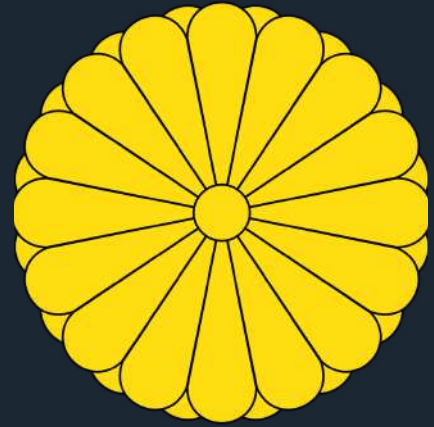
**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, informational requirements are excessive (three year record of activities, list of members and leaders), longevity quota, prefecturalisation (as form of provincialisation), the stipulated qualification of a "physical space for worship" is narrow and could be misuse against unfavoured groups or those that do not necessarily engage in worship practices.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish procedures for existential recognition and for legal registration, particularly so that the latter process is made distinct from similar processes for secular entities; to become dynamic, establish an independent recognition agency to deal with religious recognition; Revoke the longevity quota, excessive informational requirements and the registration procedure of prefecturalisation.



# Jordan, Hashemite Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam); 11 Christian churches are granted recognition by the state.**

Human rights instruments: Jordan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Jordan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** discriminatory mandatory registration – Islamic religious groups are granted recognition through the constitution and do not need to register with the government, however, the mandates that all non-Islamic religious groups register with it in order to operate legally. Registration and recognition are amalgamated in Jordan meaning that official recognition is the outcome of legal registration although this “official recognition” does not equate to the same degree of recognition bestowed to Islam and Islamic groups. The legislation for registering non-Islamic groups focuses on Christian groups but does not give details for non-Christian groups to register.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** endorsement from the Council of Church Leaders (CCL) is a *de facto* prerequisite to successful registration, excessive informational requirements and qualifications for registered status, Islamic groups are exemption from mandatory registration requirements, preapproval, state funding is reserved for Islamic groups, vertical recognition is in effect as there is the state religion of Islam and various recognised Christian groups (11 with their own ecclesiastical courts and 5 without) (verticalism); Jehovah's Witnesses continued to be denied official recognition.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; converts from Islam not recognised by the state); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; all non-Islamic forms illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantle the present restrictive system by removing all instances of partial and vertical recognition; establish procedures for equal existential recognition and legal registration for all groups; revoke the rule of mandatory registration for non-Islamic groups; utilise recognition as a means to promote diversity of belief as a positive component of society and to reaffirm the valid rights of minorities.



# Kazakhstan, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Implicit claim is made**

**Secularity:** Kazakhstan is a secular state; Greek Catholicism, Hanafi Sunni Islam, Judaism, Lutheranism, Roman Catholicism, and Russian Orthodoxy are recognised as the "traditional" religions of the country.

**Human rights instruments:** Kazakhstan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Kazakhstan did not vote on the UDHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates all religious groups to register with it before they conduct any activities in the country, even activities classified as “basic” by RoRB standards.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** broad grounds for the denial of registration makes unfavoured groups vulnerable to baseless denials, confinement, geographic quota, membership quota, registration procedures are split between national, regional and local levels (localisation and provincialisation), state definition of religion, vertical recognition is in effect with FoRB being limited to "traditional" religions, weaponisation of the term "traditional" to exclude religions unfavoured by the state.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantle the entire system that misuses recognition as a means to restrict religious activity; this dismantlement must take place before any further efforts can be made; revoke membership quota, broad grounds for the denial of registration, state definition of religion, term weaponisation, geographic quota, the policy of confinement among others.



# Kenya, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Kenya is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Kenya is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC; Kenya abstained from the UNDRIP; Kenya did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** discriminatory mandatory registration – all religious groups, their individual places of worship and affiliated faith-based organisations, except those belonging to indigenous or traditional religious groups, must register with the government in order to conduct “basic religious activities”. The law also requires that organisations dedicated to advocacy, public benefit, the promotion of charity, or research register with the NGO Coordination Board.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, indigenous and traditional groups are not required to register, informational requirements such as valid national identification documents imply that group registrants and leaders must be Kenyan nationals, registration fee is undisclosed, there have been no new registered religious groups since 2014 causing a backlog of thousands of applications.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Ensure that the recognition system is equalised; that no discrimination exists between new, indigenous and traditional religions; establish provisions for existential recognition and legal registration; establish a recognition agency independent of government; revoke the mandatory registration order.



# Kiribati, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Kiribati is a secular state; the constitution asserts theism.**

Human rights instruments: Kiribati is party to the UNCRC; Kiribati is not a signatory nor a party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR or the UDHR; Kiribati did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** conditional registration – although the government does not mandate that all religious groups register to operate and to conduct basic religious activities, it does mandate that any group that exceeds the prescribed membership threshold must register with it. It remains unclear whether groups below this threshold are able to register (if not, this would be a violation of RoRB standards).

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, informational requirements are excessive (including proof of number of adherents), membership quota (no less than 2%), signature quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish distinct provisions for existential recognition and legal registration within a recognition system that caters to all groups and at different levels of activity as is described in the dynamic level of the Spectrum of Religious Recognition; revoke the rule of mandatory registration for religious organisations and groups representing more than 2% of the population; the apathetic approach of the government means that some aspects of religious life are left vague in the legislation which may be the cause for some islands dominated by one group to violate religious freedoms (as reported by Freedom House).



# Korea, Democratic People's Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **North Korea is a hypersecular state (state atheism); Juche is the official state ideology.**

Human rights instruments: North Korea is party to the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; North Korea has attempted to revoke its ratification of the ICCPR; North Korea did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there are currently no procedures for the existential recognition of any other belief system, denomination or community other than state atheism and Juche ideology in North Korea.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** non-recognition for any religion and no procedures exist for the genuine registration of religious organisations, state ownership of religion, there are state-sanctioned religious organisations representing Buddhism, Catholicism, Cheondoism, Orthodox Christianity, and Protestantism which receive pseudo-recognition, token churches are constructed and run by the government, weaponisation of the term "superstitious".

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal); **hierony** (not free; all religious materials are illegal); **monasticism** (not free; highly restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; illegal); **pastoral services** (not free; highly restricted); **private expression and observance** (not free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; illegal); **receiving donations** (not free; illegal); **religious buildings** (not free; illegal); **religious instruction** (not free; illegal); **religious literature** (not free; illegal); **religious and worship services** (not free; state-sanctioned churches); **religious trade** (not free; illegal).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the country's repressive system for inhibiting all forms of religious activity would need to be conducted before any further recommendations could be made to improve the situation further; although North Korea is provided with the classification of terminal in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition, the country should ideally be given its own even lower classification as no other country can compare to how North Korea violates freedom of religion or belief.

# Korea, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **South Korea is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: South Korea is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; South Korea did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct “basic religious activities” as defined in RoRB standards.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, financial quota, localisation of procedures and the necessity to own property to gain tax-exempt status.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Remove restrictive financial quotas and excessive informational requirements from the registration process as well as revoke the localisation of those procedures.



# Kosovo, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Kosovo is a secular state; Catholicism, Eastern Protestantism, Islam, Judaism, and the Serbian Orthodox Church are the state-recognised religions and denominations.**

**Human rights instruments: Kosovo is not party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Kosovo did not vote on the UDHR; Kosovo is not party to the ECHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-registration**

**Registration policy: non-registration** – there are no procedures for legal registration provided by the government yet neither does the government require that religious groups register with it in order to conduct “basic religious activities” as identified in RoRB standards. The government does not provide a mechanism nor any specific guidance on how to obtain legal entity status through registration or other means; indirect registration via places of worship is most often used.

**Key restriction tools imposed: barring unrecognised religious communities from obtaining legal registered status, indirect registration, vertical recognition system is in effect as some religious communities are recognised and others not (verticalism), weaponisation of the term "traditional".**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that in the country that has the capacity to both existentially recognise and legally register all religious and belief groups simultaneously and at multiple levels of activity (from belief systems, to denominations, to single religious buildings); tighten up or remove subjective language from the legislation that is vulnerable to misuse by authorities as a means of inhibiting religious activity, especially by non-traditional groups; revoke indirect registration, stop barring unrecognised religious communities from obtaining legal status, revoke the weaponisation of terms as well as the vertical nature of the recognition system.

# Kuwait, State of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Kuwait is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Kuwait did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – the government does not provide any official mechanism for the registration of religious groups; however, indirect registration is offered for places of worship; however, the government does not provide guidance or support to groups seeking legal registration this way and there is no fixed criteria for an application to be approved; the local municipality, the MAIA and the MOSA are all involved in the approval process.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** multi-registration is imposed for places of worship, pseudo-recognition is granted to eight Christian groups, state definition of religion, the government of Kuwait has a non-recognition policy for any non-Abrahamic religion or religions it views as non-Abrahamic, vertical recognition is in effect (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierarcy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal for non-Muslims); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present system that inhibits the vast majority of religious activities; this process must take place first before Kuwait can be reclassified as restrictive; revoke the vertical orientation of the recognition system and multi-registration.

# Kyrgyz Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Kyrgyzstan is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Kyrgyzstan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC; Kyrgyzstan is not party to the UNDRIP nor did it vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups must register with it before conducting any activities, even those classified as “basic religious activities” in RoRB standards that are regarded to be reasonably exempt from registration. The law prohibits activity by unregistered religious groups, non-compliance with which could lead to being fined.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, annual reregistration is made mandatory for GFOs, broad grounds are given for the denial of registration which are likely to be misused against religious groups unfavoured by the state, dual registration, each new place of worship continues to have to register with a local council to operate legally despite the 2016 nullification of this law, informational requirements are excessive (namely a list of founding members) due to the likelihood of their misuse, localisation of registration procedures down to each congregation, membership and signature quotas, unregistration is prohibited, excessive authority is granted to the SCRA to ban religious groups it does not approve of.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierony** (not free; subject to preapproval by the government); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the system to restrict religious activity and of the abusive system of registration that purely exists to stop groups the government does not approve of from congregating; revoke all identified restriction tools in the registration system.

# Lao People's Democratic Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity:** Laos is a secular state; **State privilege (Theravada Buddhism); Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam are the state-recognised religions.**

**Human rights instruments:** Laos is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Laos did not vote on the UDHR.

**Mandatory of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it in order for them to legally conduct religious activities regarded as “basic” by RoRB and thereby should not require registration with the government in order to freely conduct.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** capacity quota, confinement, broad grounds for deregistration are likely to see their misuse against religious groups unfavoured by the state, excessive informational requirements regarding elected religious leaders, excessive monitorial requirements, mandatory registration of places of worship, preapproval, pseudo-recognition is also extended to Christianity, Islam and the Baha'i Faith who despite being recognised members continue to face undue restrictions violating ForB, separate excessive monitorial requirements are imposed onto places of worship, vertical recognition is in effect (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierony** (not free; subject to preapproval by the government); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present system that abuses recognition and registration to censor the religious aspects of the lives of citizens and the internal affairs of religious organisations; the current provisions for existential recognition are appreciated but should not be misused to exclude non-recognised religions; existential recognition should be extended to all belief systems; revoke the restriction tools identified in the registration system.

# Latvia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity:** Latvia is a secular state; the state recognises Baptists, Catholics, Latvian Orthodox Christians, Lutherans, Methodists, Old Believers, and Seventh-day Adventists as "traditional" religious groups.

**Human rights instruments:** Latvia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Latvia did not vote on the UDHR; Latvia is party to the ECHR.

**Mandatory of registration:** **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, conducting pastoral services and hosting worship services in public are considered “basic religious activities” so subjecting them to registration makes the registration policy pseudo-mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** broad grounds for the denial of registration could easily be misused against religious groups the government does not favour, informational requirements are excessive (namely stipulating a list of all group members and their personal details among other excessive requirements), membership quota, nominal restriction, the establishment of pastoral services and marriage officiation as registration benefits makes registration procedures pseudo-mandatory, vertical recognition is in effect as some "traditional religions" are recognised while others are not (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Re-establish the recognition system so that it is inclusive of all belief systems; revoke all restriction tools within the system identified in the above analysis; to become Dynamic, the government would need to establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system, after which it would relinquish its control to ensure the autonomy of the agency.

# Lebanese Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity:** Lebanon is a secular state; 5 Muslim denominations, 12 Christians denominations and Judaism are the religions recognised by the state.

**Human rights instruments:** Lebanon is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Lebanon voted in favour of the UDHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** **non-registration and mandatory**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there are no formal procedures for legal registration in the country that are prescribed and outlined by the government; mandatory registration for Protestant groups with the Evangelical Synod.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation in favour recognition rather than legal registration as is the general form of amalgamation, informational requirements set out for recognition procedures are ambiguous and vulnerable to misuse against groups unfavoured by the state, there are several religious groups that the government does not or has refused to recognise; the issue of quasi-registration is ongoing.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (free; a broad interpretation of the prohibition on "items offensive to Muslim culture" could see non-Islamic religious materials being prohibited); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to recognition); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free; however, could be subject to prohibition if challenged by one of the recognised religious groups); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Re-establish the recognition system so that it becomes inclusive of all belief systems and is able to recognise in a multi-level capacity; revoke all the main restriction tools identified.

# Lesotho, Kingdom of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Lesotho is a secular state; State privilege (Christianity).**

Human rights instruments: Lesotho is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Lesotho did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards describe as “basic religious activities” that should not require prior registration to be conducted. There are no outlined mechanisms specific to religious groups for registration or recognition, hence the procedures set out in law may be used by both secular and religious organisations.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, restricting access to non-Christian groups broadcasting as a means of propagation.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency independent of government that acts to manage the established recognition system, to ensure its inclusivity, and to encourage the diversity of belief.

# Liberia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Liberia is a secular state; State privilege (Christianity).

Human rights instruments: Liberia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Liberia voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: mandatory

**Registration policy:** discriminatory-mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it except for indigenous religious groups; broad application of mandatory registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, imposition of a fee system for different kinds of religious organisations (local, foreign, "local and foreign") some of which exceed RoRB threshold, multiple charges of registration fee such as being charged for individual locations.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish distinct procedures for existential recognition and legal registration and at multiple levels of activity; reduce financial requirements for registration to more appropriate prices in line with RoRB standards; to become dynamic, the government would need to establish a recognition agency to manage the religious recognition system and then relinquish its control over the agency in order to ensure its independence from government involvement.



# Libya, State of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **No claim is made**

**Secularity: State religion (Islam); Christians and Jews are recognised by the state as religious minorities.**

**Human rights instruments: Libya is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Libya did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-registration**

**Registration policy: non-registration – there are no mechanisms outlined by the government for the registration of non-Islamic religious groups as all non-Islamic groups are either restricted or prohibited.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, Islamic practice is constricted to state-approved norms.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Islamic materials either entirely prohibited or heavily restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; illegal); **religious literature** (not free; illegal); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the current apparatus for terminally restricting religious activity is essential before for improvements can be made to Libya's approach to religious freedom; dismantlement entails the fundamental reshaping of the government and whole society's approach to religion and belief in accepting one fundamental principle, that human beings have the valid right to choose and change their belief identity, to have no none, or to be open to exploring different belief systems.

# Liechtenstein, Principality of



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: State denomination (Catholicism)

Human rights instruments: Liechtenstein is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Liechtenstein did not vote on the UDHR; Liechtenstein is party to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards describe as “basic religious activities”; state funding and foreign missionary activity were administratively restricted.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, non-recognition for any non-Catholic religion or denomination, some informational requirements (such as a memorandum of association based on local law and a trademark certification) are excessive, restrictions and requirements of foreign missionaries are impermissible.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish procedures for religious registration distinct from those established to register secular entities; establish a recognition system that has the capacity to both existentially recognise and legally register religious entities at multiple levels of activity; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government to manage the newly established recognition system and works to promote and sustain religious and belief freedom through spreading the message that diversity of belief identity is positive.

# Lithuania, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made



**Secularity:** Lithuania is a secular state; Evangelical Lutherans, Evangelical Reformed, Greek Catholics, Jews, Karaite Jews, Old Believers, Roman Catholics, Russian Orthodox Christians, and Sunni Muslims are recognised as "traditional" religious groups.

**Human rights instruments:** Lithuania is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Lithuania did not vote on the UDHR; Lithuania is party to the ECHR.

**Mandatory registration:** non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct “basic religious activities” as outlined in RoRB standards.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broad grounds are provided for the denial of registration, dual registration, membership quota, longevity quotas, misuse of the dichotomic terms "traditional" and "non-traditional" to create a vertical recognition system (verticalism), nominal restriction, parliamentary vote (parliamentarianism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present restrictive recognition system involving the revocation of the restriction tools identified.

# Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Luxembourg is a secular state; Recognised religions include Anglicanism, Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, Orthodox Christianity, and Protestantism.**

**Human rights instruments: Luxembourg is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Luxembourg voted in favour of the UDHR; Luxembourg is partied to the ECHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-registration**

**Registration policy: non-registration – there are no formal registration mechanisms prescribed the state although this non-registration is not regarded in RoRB standards to present nefarious intent due to the positive human rights record of Luxembourg.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: grounds for the revocation of a bilateral cooperation agreement are broad and vulnerable to misuse, qualifications for establishing a bilateral cooperation agreement such as the group must be a "recognised world religion" are ambiguous and exclude new religious movements, unstructure is a problem which is epitomised by the lack of registration procedures.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Dismantle the misuse of existential recognition to exclude non-recognised groups; revoke subjective legislation; minor issues within the system persist that require resolutions; to become dynamic, the government would need to establish a recognition agency that would manage the recognition system and also take over the responsibility of funding groups; the government would need to relinquish its control over the recognition agency to ensure its independence.**

# Madagascar, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Madagascar is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Madagascar is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Madagascar did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

Registration policy: broad mandatory registration – religious groups are required to register with the Ministry of the Interior by law.

Key restriction tools imposed: all leaders of a registrant religious group must be Madagascan citizens to succeed in applying through the main registration procedure as a religious group, amalgamation of recognition and registration procedures in favour of legal registration, broad grounds for deregistration are likely to be misused to the detriment of groups unfavoured by the state, GFOs are given separate registration procedures and only "temporary authorisations" to operate in the country, membership quota of 100.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition; revoke existent restrictive policies in the recognition system and remove all forms of discrimination in registration process as well as all restriction tools identified; to be classified Dynamic, the government would need to establish a recognition agency to manage its recognition system; following its establishment and the appointment of a board of directors, the government would need to relinquish its involvement in the agency.



# Malawi, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Malawi is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Malawi is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Malawi did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: mandatory

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate religious groups register with it, the fact that registration is a necessary prerequisite for a religious group to rent property (a “basic religious activity”) under its own name in the country makes the registration procedures in Malawi pseudo-mandatory. According to the government, registration does not constitute endorsement of religious beliefs, nor is it a prerequisite for religious activities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation of recognition and registration procedures in favour of legal registration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (not free; renting property is subject to registration); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition and fix instances of unstructure within the present system; to be classified Dynamic, the government would need to establish a recognition agency to manage its recognition system; following its establishment and the appointment of a board of directors, the government would need to relinquish its involvement in the agency.



# Malaysia

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**



Human rights instruments: Malaysia is party to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; Malaysia is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Malaysia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there is no distinct mechanism for the legal registration of non-Islamic religious groups except to register under the same legal category as secular charities. According to the government, registration does not constitute endorsement of religious beliefs, nor is it a prerequisite for religious activities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation of recognition and registration procedures in favour of legal registration, grounds for group investigation are ambiguous and are vulnerable to being misused against groups unfavoured by the state, non-recognition for any non-Islamic group, registration fee is undisclosed, the state allocates land for building places of worship but this policy could easily be misused against groups unfavoured by the state.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Islamic religious materials are restricted from importation); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to proselytise Muslims); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the powers of the JAKIM to control the practice of Islam in the country is paramount; this should be combined with a dismantlement of the present censorious apparatus of legislation and procedures restricting religious activity and the process of registration.

# Maldives, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **No claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Maldives is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Maldives did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – as no other religions are able to exist legally in the Maldives other than Islam, this in effect creates a situation of non-registration whereby no procedures legal registration of non-Islamic religions are offered.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** Islamic preaching and proselytising that is unapproved by the state is prohibited as is all non-Islamic proselytism, non-recognition and non-registration for any religion or denomination other than Sunni Islam, obtaining a licence for an imam necessitates receiving a degree in religious studies from the government-approved university, state definition of religion, state supervision of sermons delivered by imams.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal and loss of citizenship for those who attempt to convert away from Islam); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Islamic religious materials are prohibited from importation); **monasticism** (not free; non-Islamic monasticism illegal); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to proselytise Muslims); **public expression and observance** (not free; non-Islamic expression illegal); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; non-Islamic literature illegal); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present recognition system must take place in order to resume any semblance of religious freedom in the country; this would involve the revocation of all legislation restricting religious activity and the disestablishment of Sunni Islam as the state religion if freedom of religion or belief according to international law is not securable without intervention from sharia law; a new recognition system should be established in order to ensure the provision of both existential recognition and legal registration for all belief systems and across all levels of activity.



# Mali, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Mali is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Mali is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Mali did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** discriminatory quasi-mandatory registration – although the law states that all public associations, including all religious groups, except for groups practicing indigenous beliefs (such as animism), must register with the government, no penalties are prescribed for unregistration; reforms are set to streamline the process to rid it of the need for dual registration with both MARCC and MATD; malregistration – the ongoing war in Mali means the central government does not have the full capacity to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, non-beneficial registration, signature quota (three leaders of the registrant group).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that possesses provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration for all belief systems and at multiple levels of activity; revoke signature quota and non-beneficial registration policy; to become Dynamic, the Malian government would need to establish a recognition agency to manage the aforementioned recognition system but should relinquish its control of such an agency upon its establishment in order to ensure the agency's independence from government.

# Malta, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Catholicism)**



Human rights instruments: Malta is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Malta did not vote on the UDHR; Malta is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, the fact that for use of a building as a place of worship requires a permit means that indirect registration is required to conduct certain "basic religious activities".

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation of recognition and registration procedures in favour of the latter, mandatory indirect registration, non-response and delay to applications (one such application has been pending since 2017).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish distinct provisions for existential recognition in the country and multi-level recognition is advisable; to become Dynamic, the Maltese government would need to establish a recognition agency to manage the aforementioned recognition system but should relinquish its control of such an agency upon its establishment in order to ensure the agency's independence from government; existential recognition provided to all belief systems and at multiple levels along with fixing some of the minor issues in the present system identified herein should see Malta ascend to dynamic classification.

# Marshall Islands, Republic of the



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Marshall Islands is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Marshall Islands is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Marshall Islands was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Marshall Islands did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups need only register with the government to receive tax exemption; in other words, there is no law requiring religious groups to register.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation of recognition and registration procedures in favour of the latter.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition distinct from that of legal registration in order to become receptive; in order to become Dynamic, the Marshallese government would need to establish a recognition agency to manage the aforementioned recognition system but should relinquish its control of such an agency upon its establishment in order to ensure the agency's independence from government.

# Mauritania, Islamic Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: No claim is made

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Mauritania is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Mauritania was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Mauritania did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** discriminatory-mandatory registration – the Mauritanian government registers non-Islamic religious as NGOs rather than as religious organisations; a new 2021 law made it easier for non-Islamic religious groups to register. Islamic groups do not need to register; NGOs are automatically able to operate for 60 days after they have submitted their registration application.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** all public gatherings, including those for religious purposes, must be authorised in advance by the Ministry of Interior (MOI), it remains illegal for non-Islamic religious groups to proselytise or convert citizens and to express their religion publicly, non-recognition for any non-Sunni religion or denomination, illegal to print and distribute non-Islamic religious materials.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal and loss of citizenship for those who attempt to convert away from Islam); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Islamic religious materials are prohibited from importation); **monasticism** (not free; non-Islamic monasticism illegal); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to proselytise Muslims and citizens that engage in non-Islamic proselytism will lose their citizenship); **public expression and observance** (not free; non-Islamic expression illegal); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; non-Islamic literature illegal); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the current system is the necessary precursor to attaining any kind of semblance of religious freedom; repeal laws criminalising conversion from Islam and proselytism by non-Muslims, as well as terminally restrictive laws that abuse citizenship.



# Mauritius, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive



FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

**Secularity:** Mauritius is a secular state; Anglicanism, Catholicism, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hinduism, Islam, Presbyterianism, Seventh-day Adventism are state-recognised.

**Human rights instruments:** Mauritius is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Mauritius did not vote on the UDHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** mandatory

**Registration policy:** quasi-mandatory registration – although Mauritian law states that the registration of religious groups is mandatory, unregistered groups operate without penalties.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** hypervertical recognition is in effect, leadership quota, non-recognition for any religion not already recognised by the 1968 parliamentary decree which thereby excludes all new religious movements and other minorities, non-response to the application for recognition made by the Assemblies of God 20 years ago.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Extend procedures for existential recognition to all belief systems, denominations and communities in the country; to become Dynamic, Mauritius will need to establish a recognition agency to manage its recognition system; revoke the hypervertical recognition system, the imposed leadership quota and the policy of non-recognition.

# United Mexican States



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Mexico is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Mexico is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Mexico voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – religious groups are not required to register with the government “to operate” although the legislation also states that to convert an existing building into a place of worship requires prior registration. As operating a place of worship by at least renting is regarded in RoRB standards to constitute a basic religious activity, registration becomes in effect mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, confinement, financial quota, in-person registration, longevity quota, nationality quota, stipulated qualifications for registered are ambiguous leading to their misuse against unfavoured groups (possible state definition of religion).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hierarcy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition in addition to the provisions for legal registration; revoke all restriction tools identified such as longevity quotas and in-person registration as well as the policy of confinement; establish a nationwide recognition agency; resolve the issue of pseudo-mandatory registration.

# Micronesia, Federated States of



2022 RoRB Classification: Apathetic

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Micronesia is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Micronesia is partied to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; Micronesia is neither partied to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Micronesia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory

Registration policy: stipulatory registration – religious groups only need to register with the government if they seek exemption from taxation.

Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, the registration procedures are unstructured.

Basic religious activities

Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).

Recommendations

Establish distinct provisions for existential recognition; to become Dynamic, establish an independent recognition agency to manage the system.

# Moldova, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Moldova is a secular state; State privilege (Moldovan Orthodox Church).**

Human rights instruments: **Moldova is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Moldova did not vote on the UDHR; Moldova is party to the ECHR.**

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the law states that groups do not need to register to operate, this principle is undermined by the fact that unregistered groups cannot conduct the following: build places of worship, own land for cemeteries or other property, publish or import religious literature, open bank accounts, or employ staff. Of particular concern is the inability for unregistered groups to publish or import religious literature as well as to build place of worship (it is unsure whether this includes operating such places of worship). As these two actions are seen in RoRB standards as fundamental religious activities that should not need registration, the procedure is labelled pseudo-mandatory. The PSA has registered all groups that have applied for registration over past two years (2020 and 2021). Registration requirements include the need for the religious group to be renting a property; malregistration – the ongoing separatist movement of Transnistria means the central Moldovan government does not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the entire territory its claims.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, grounds for deregistration and dissolutions of religious groups are so broad that they are vulnerable to being misused against groups unfavoured by the state, membership quota, nationality quota, proof of premises.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (not free; subject to registration); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free; however, ambiguous legislation could be used against proselytising groups that are unfavoured by the state); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (not free; subject to registration); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Provide means for existential recognition that are extended to all belief systems, denominations and communities; revoke all identified restriction tools such as membership quotas; establish a recognition agency that is independent of government for the management of the recognition system and the promotion of both religious education and the diversity of religious belief and practice.



# Monaco, Principality of



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

**Secularity: State denomination (Catholicism); Judaism, Protestantism and Russian Orthodoxy are recognised by the state.**

**Human rights instruments:** Monaco is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UDHR; Monaco did not vote on the UDHR; Monaco is party to the ECHR.

**Mandatory of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not demand that religious groups register, the fact that to open a place of worship or office requires approval from the government in effect makes registration mandatory due to the fundamental role that a place of worship plays in religious activities without which a religion could not truly exist. What has to be taken into account with the particular case of the Principality of Monaco as a microstate is the relatively sparse amount of space which doesn't negate the pseudo-mandatory designation but it does mean that the government has to perhaps manage the type of buildings constructed and also what they are used for.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation of registration procedures with language regarding recognition, secondary procedures exist each time a religious group seeks to build (or possibly convert) a place of worship, vertical recognition is in effect (verticalism), ongoing, baseless registration denials for the Jehovah's Witnesses.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Remove instances of partial recognition (which would mean the disestablishment of Catholicism as the state religion if the same degree of recognition cannot be bestowed to groups than Catholics); establish a recognition system that provides existential recognition and legal registration to all applicant groups regardless of their beliefs and practices; establish a recognition agency to deal with this recognition system independently of the state; resolve minor issues identified within the recognition system.

# Mongolia

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Mongolia is a secular state; State privilege (Vajrayana Buddhism).**

Human rights instruments: **Mongolia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Mongolia did not vote on the UDHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – to legally operate, religious groups must register with both the local, provincial and national authorities (the General Authority for State Registration), making registration mandatory for all religious groups; lack of transparency of registration procedures and registry duration, allowing for arbitrary enforcement of registration laws.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation in favour of registration, annual mandatory reregistration (including a recertification process and a safety inspection which could be an opportunity to misuse procedures against unfavoured groups to deregister), arbitrary enforcement, each religious building including places of worship must register with the government, excessive informational requirements are requested as part of registration procedures, localisation and provincialisation of registration procedures as well as the necessity to register at the national level, non-recognition of any non-Buddhist religion (with the possible exception of Mongolian shamanism or Tengrism), onerous registration procedures (including the requirement to gain certification from the General Authority).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present restrictive apparatus that misuses recognition to the advantage of the government to control religious belief and practice of citizens; repeal laws that call for mandatory registration and at local, provincial and national levels (segmentation); remove all forms of subjective language in the legislation that is misused to restrict religious activity.



# Montenegro

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Montenegro is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Montenegro is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Montenegro was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Montenegro did not vote on the UDHR; Montenegro is party to the ECHR.



Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the 2020 religious freedom law stated that religious groups no longer had to register with the government and only had to register to attain or maintain legal entity status, the fact that registration is a necessary prerequisite to a religious group renting property to conduct religious services (as it is listed as a registration benefit) which is a basic religious activity, the Montenegrin therefore becomes pseudo-mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** introduction of new property laws in 2020 that could see some religious buildings constructed or acquired prior to 1918 confiscated by the state if a religious community cannot prove their ownership of such buildings, membership quota of 3 adult members, nominal restriction, the government must ensure that bilateral cooperation agreements are offered to all religious groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system independent of government control in order to qualify for Dynamic classification; there are some minor existent issues within the present recognition that also need to be resolved before Montenegro is designated Receptive; these involve the removal of membership quotas and other restriction tools imposed as identified above.

# Morocco, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**



Human rights instruments: Morocco is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC; Morocco was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Morocco did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not demand registration for religious groups, unregistered groups may only worship or conduct services privately. As public services are a key element of the activities of a religious group, this rule in effect makes registration mandatory despite the fact that mandatory registration is not explicitly referred to.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** broad stipulations could allow the government to prohibit religious groups it simply does not favour, excessive informational requirements (biographical information requested of founders), individual liability for the actions of the whole religious group to which they belong, localisation of registration procedures, state definition of religion (as seen in state certification of imams), vertical recognition is in effect (Islam receives the highest recognition as the state religion while Judaism receives a lesser degree of recognition perhaps pseudo-recognition from the state; some Protestant churches, the Catholic Church as well as Russian and Greek Orthodox Churches maintain special recognised status; Sunni Muslims and Jews are the only religious communities recognised by the state).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish procedures for legal registration of religious entities that are separate from secular ones; establish provisions for existential recognition for all belief systems and their derivatives; repeal any laws that restricts basic religious activities and curb misuses of the registration system that seek the same goal.

# Mozambique, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Mozambique is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Mozambique is party to the ICCPR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Mozambique is not party to the ICESCR; Mozambique did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government requires all NGOs to register with the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional, and Religious Affairs and because of the legal designations of religions in the country, this means that registration is mandatory; malregistration – the ongoing Insurgency in Cabo Delgado means that the central government may not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** excessive informational requirements, the government must ensure that all religious groups have access to bilateral cooperation agreements.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; possibly subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a new recognition system whose procedures are exclusive to religious entities and which provides for both existential recognition and legal registration for all belief systems and their derivatives and at multiple levels of activity; revoke excessive informational requirements and the mandatory registration order.



# Myanmar, Republic of the Union of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

**Secularity: Myanmar is a secular state; State privilege (Buddhism); Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and animism also receive constitutional recognition as religions in the country.**

**Human rights instruments: Myanmar is party to the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Myanmar is not party to the ICCPR; Myanmar voted in favour of the UDHR as Burma.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy: broad mandatory registration – all religious organisations must register with the government to conduct any religious services or other fundamental religious activities making registration mandatory; malregistration – due to the ongoing internal conflict, the government may not be able to administer registration law throughout the country.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: state-sanctioned monasticism, unstructured registration procedures, vertical recognition is in effect (although Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and animism receive recognition in the Constitution, they do not receive the same degree of recognition or state privilege as that of Buddhism), national identity cards display a person's religion.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; only nine Buddhist monastic orders are considered legal); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present order that systemically controls religion and belief and uses brutal force to maintain this control including the discontinuation of the genocide against the Rohingya people; establish a new recognition system that is inclusive of all belief systems and their derivatives, has provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration, and is able to conduct such recognition and registration at multiple levels of operation; revoke and repeal current laws that terminally restrict religious activity and procedures for recognition.

# Namibia, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Namibia is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Namibia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Namibia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not obligated to register with the government to operate although the laws do remain ambiguous.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, ambiguous laws regarding registration laws.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish distinct provisions for existential recognition which would establish a recognition system; the degree to which such a system is inclusive of “traditional religions” and NRMs will determine the country’s classification as either receptive or dynamic; establish a recognition agency to manage this recognition system that acts and makes decisions independent of government.



# Nauru, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Nauru is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Nauru is party to the UNCRC; Nauru signed the ICCPR but has not ratified it; Nauru is not party to the ICESCR; Nauru was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Nauru did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – religious groups are required to register with the government to legally engage in proselytism, to build places of worship, to hold religious services and to officiate marriages which are basic religious activities, making registration mandatory as proselytising is a "basic religious activity"; requirements make it difficult for new groups to register; arbitrary enforcement of proselytism being subject to registration has been reported.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, membership quota, nationality quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free; renting property is not subject to registration but building places of worship is); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Establish structured provisions for existential recognition distinct from legal registration; establish a recognition agency that is independent of government to manage the recognition system; revoke the membership quota and nationality quota imposed.



# Nepal, Federal Democratic Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **Nepal is a secular state; State privilege (Hinduism and to a lesser degree Buddhism).**

Human rights instruments: **Nepal is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Nepal did not vote on the UDHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration**

Registration policy: **exclusionary registration – the law does not provide for registration or official recognition of religious organisations as religious institutions, except for Buddhist monasteries.**

Key restriction tools imposed: **amalgamation, annual reregistration, excessive informational requirements, exclusionary registration, non-recognition of any religions except Buddhism and Hinduism.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal); **hieroncy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal since 2017); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (free; renting property is not subject to registration but building places of worship is); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that possesses within its capacities means to existentially recognise and legally register all religious entities simultaneously and a different levels of operation and activity; to become receptive, this system would need to be inclusive of all belief systems and would need to treat all applicants and entities equally regardless of their affiliations; repeal laws restricting proselytism and any policies of reregistration.

# Netherlands, Kingdom of the

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **The Netherlands is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: the Netherlands is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; the Netherlands voted in favour of the UDHR; the Netherlands is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the law does not require religious groups to register with the government. Under the law, if the tax authorities determine a group is “of a philosophical or religious nature,” contributes to the general welfare of society, and is nonprofit and nonviolent, they grant it exemptions from all taxes, including income, value-added, and property taxes.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, ambiguous qualifications for tax-exempt status.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To become Receptive, establish a recognition system that has the capacity to bestow existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously for all belief systems and their derivatives and at different levels of activity and operation; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that manages the established recognition system and acts and makes decisions independent of the government.



# New Zealand

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **New Zealand is a secular state**



Human rights instruments: New Zealand is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; New Zealand rejected the UNDRIP; New Zealand voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not require religious groups to register, the fact that registration is a prerequisite for collecting donations, which is classified in RoRB standards as a basic religious activity, demonstrates that the New Zealand registration policy is essentially mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Revoke the issue of pseudo-mandatory registration; to become Receptive, establish a recognition system that has the capacity to bestow existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously for all belief systems and their derivatives and at different levels of activity and operation; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that manages the established recognition system and acts and makes decisions independent of the government.

# Nicaragua, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Nicaragua is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: Nicaragua is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Nicaragua voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – registration in Nicaragua is based on a system of annually renewable certificates that authorise a religious group or a religiously-affiliated NGO to operate legally in the country; the Catholic Church is exempt from some aspects of the registration requirements.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, annual reregistration, reports continued of the government restricting Catholic clergy from performing pastoral services in prisons, new legislation on residence permits increase restrictions, the state's closure of a Protestant television channel.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To become Receptive, establish a recognition system that has the capacity to bestow existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously for all belief systems and their derivatives and at different levels of activity and operation; remove all instances of politicisation in the registration system.

# Niger, Republic of the



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Niger is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Niger is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Niger did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government requires religious groups to register with the Customary and Religious Affairs Office within the Ministry of Interior; little distinction is made between religious groups and NGOs; the government reportedly does not enforce registration laws in remote regions of the country; registration is based on a system of probationary to permanent statuses hinging on a three-year review period.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, government regulation of places of worship, increased state restrictions on public religious activity since 2019, probationary legal status (temporary registration), religious conversion are only legal if the religious group receiving the convert is registered with the government, large religious gatherings require a government permit, open-air proselytising events are prohibited.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; subject to registration); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

To become Receptive, establish a recognition system that is able to recognise and register simultaneously and at multiple levels; revoke mandatory registration; revoke government regulation of places of worship and temporary registration in the form of probationary legal status.

# Nigeria, Federal Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Nigerian federal government is secular but Islam is the *de facto* state religion of Kano state.**

**Human rights instruments: Nigeria is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Nigeria abstained from voting on the UNDRIP; Nigeria did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy: stipulatory registration – religious groups needs only register to receive certain benefits; malregistration – the recent insurgency in the southeast of the country means the federal Nigerian government may not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, the new Companies and Allied Matters Act has the potential to place some smaller religious organisations under the control of the government.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (not free; subject to registration); hieroncy (not free; states run according to Sharia law prohibited non-Islamic items from importation); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (not free; restricted); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; subject to licensing; restricted); public expression and observance (not free; restricted); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; subject to licensing); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (not free; subject to licensing); religious and worship services (not free; restricted); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Dismantlement of the present apparatus of restrictions and policies put in place to inhibit certain forms of religious activity; establishment of a recognition system whose decisions about recognition and registration permeate nationally in order to resolve inconsistencies between states that continue to plague the country's unity; establish a recognition agency that is able to act independent of government to manage recognition.**

# North Macedonia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity:** North Macedonia is a secular state; **State privilege** (Macedonian Orthodox Church; and to a lesser degree Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, and Methodism).

**Human rights instruments:** North Macedonia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; North Macedonia did not vote on the UDHR; North Macedonia is party to the ECHR.

**Mandatory registration:** **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the law does not require religious groups to register with the government in order to conduct “basic religious activities”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, government interference in the internal affairs of religious groups is reported, nationality quota, nominal restriction, some informational requirements such as “an explanation of [the group's] beliefs and practices that distinguishes it from other religious organisations” is ambiguous and could be easily misused against groups unfavoured by the state, vertical registration system is in effect.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that is able to provide existential recognition and legal registration to entities simultaneously and at different levels of activity; establish a recognition agency to manage and deal with this recognition system in a way that is autonomous from state control in order to avoid corruption and politicisation of the recognition and registration procedures; revoke the restriction tools identified such as nationality quota and nominal restriction.

# Norway, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Lutheranism)**

Human rights instruments: Norway is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Norway voted in favour of the UDHR; Norway is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are only required to register with the government if they wish to receive state financial support. However, stipulatory registration is only a fairly recent amendment to the registration laws in Norway.

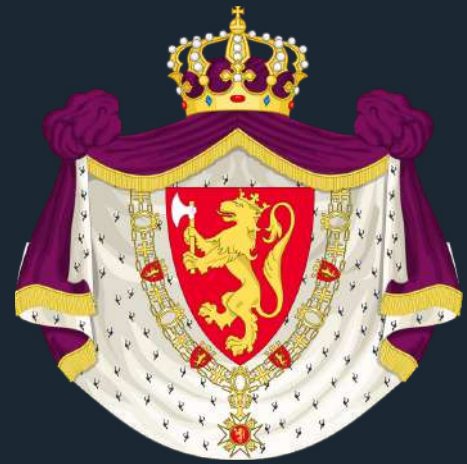
**Key restriction tools imposed:** membership quota (but this is imposed as part of a mandatory registration order and is only used for groups that seek state funding so is permissible), non-recognition of all religions and denominations except the Church of Norway (hypervertical system).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Norway is fairly close to Dynamic status except for the imbalance between the support it provides to the Church of Norway and other organisations in addition to restrictive policies such as membership quotas; establish a recognition system that is able to provide existential recognition and legal registration to entities simultaneously and at different levels of activity and is inclusive of all belief systems; establish a recognition agency to manage and deal with this recognition system in a way that is autonomous from state control in order to avoid corruption and politicisation of the recognition and registration procedures.





# Oman, Sultanate of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Caveated claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Oman is partied to the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Oman is not partied to the ICCPR; Oman did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** mandatory registration – all religious organisations must register with the government. The law does not specify rules, regulations, or criteria for gaining ministerial approval.

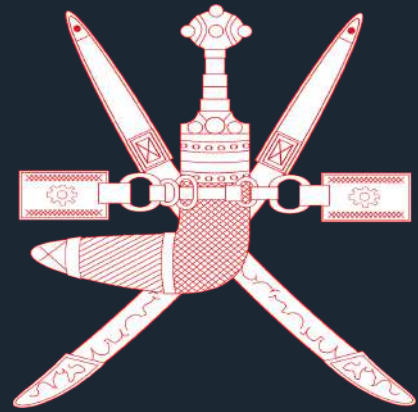
**Key restriction tools imposed:** an operating licence must be obtained for those wishing to provide sermons in registered religious groups (including for imams) and for which there are ambiguous qualifications, registration procedures are based on a restrictive sponsorship system which sometimes precedes registration itself (e.g. new non-Muslim groups must receive sponsorship before they can begin registration procedures), non-recognition for any non-Islamic religion, state definition of religion, there are different procedures of sponsorship for Muslim and non-Muslim religious groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierony** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal except for certain Islamic propagation centres); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present apparatus that misuses recognition as a means to censor religion; repeal restrictive laws that seek to censor all forms of religious activity, both Islamic and non-Islamic; to become Receptive, the Omani government would need to establish a recognition system inclusive of all belief systems with the capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously; the disestablishment of Islam would have to take place to ensure the recognition system was enshrined with equality if the government could not prove in practice that it would not treat Islam any different from other belief systems.



# Pakistan, Islamic Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Caveated claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Pakistan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Pakistan voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there are no established procedures for religious groups to register in the country. A semblance of registration is achieved in the registration of marriages of minority faiths and the successful construction of individual places of worship.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** non-recognition for any religion or denomination other than Islam or traditional forms of Islam (excluding Islamic new religious movements), prohibition of the Ahmadi Muslim community, both passports and national identity cards display a person's religious affiliation.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierony** (not free; illegal); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present abuse of recognition and the vast apparatus that the government wields to perpetuate terminal restrictions on religious activity; establishment of a new recognition system that treats all belief systems equally and bestows both existential recognition and legal registration through distinct procedures and across multiple levels of activity; the disestablishment of Islam may need to occur in order to ensure the system's equality if the government cannot prove in practice its equal treatment to religions; ongoing issues of normativism and societal intolerance of alternative belief identities should be resolved through more sophisticated means of religious education and the use of mutual recognition as a message spread by government on the importance of religious pluralism.

# Palau, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Palau is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Palau is party to the UNCRC; Palau signed the ICCPR and the ICESCR but has not ratified either of these instruments; Palau was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Palau did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

Registration policy: mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups, including foreign missionaries, register with it.

Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, completion of registration is dependent upon presidential signature (a form of authoritative decree restriction tool), the registration fee charged (\$250) exceeds the \$100 threshold set by RoRB standards.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (free); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that has the capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously without discrimination of belief systems and has the capacity to bestow these forms of recognition at multiple levels of operation and activity; remove all forms of politicisation in the registration process and remove any ambiguity existent in the legislation; revoke the mandatory registration rule.

# Panama, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Partial claim is made

Secularity: Panama is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).

Human rights instruments: Panama is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Panama voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration (tapered application) – although the government does not explicitly require religious groups to register, the fact that one of the benefits of registration is listed as "the freedom to manage and administer [the group's] property" implies that registration is a necessary prerequisite for a religious group to either run or lease their own properties for conducting religious services which is classified as a "basic religious activity" and should therefore not be subject to registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, non-recognition for all non-Catholic religions and denominations.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that has the capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives sufficiently and appropriately and at multiple levels of operation and activity; remove any instances of politicisation of registration; revoke the policy of non-recognition for all non-Catholic groups; to become Dynamic, the Panamanian government would need to establish a recognition agency that would manage the newly established recognition system independently from government.



# Papua New Guinea, Independent State of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Papua New Guinea is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Papua New Guinea is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC; Papua New Guinea was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Papua New Guinea did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not required to register with the government in order to conduct basic religious activities such as worship services, propagation of their beliefs and hosting events and gatherings.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, the registration benefit of "limited individual liability" implies that individual members or leader of unregistered groups do have individual liability for the actions of their group, unstructured recognition system.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that has the capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives sufficiently and appropriately and at multiple levels of operation and activity; to become Dynamic, the Papua New Guinean government would need to establish a recognition agency that would manage the newly established recognition system independently from government.

# Paraguay, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Paraguay is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).

Human rights instruments: Paraguay is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Paraguay voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government requests that all groups religious or philosophical register with its Vice Ministry of Worship.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, annual reregistration (fees are \$9 which is half the original fee which is in alignment with RoRB standards on registration fees), excessive informational requirements, in-person completion of registration remains a major obstacle (e.g. having to travel to Asunción to pay registration fees and pick up a registration certificate), mandatory reregistration (through a process called recertification), monitoring requirements (including an annual report), nominal restrictions (e.g. new groups may not call themselves 'Catholic' due to a lack of distinction from Catholic Church), non-recognition for all non-Catholic religions and denominations.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Revoke the rule of mandatory registration, reregistration and annualisation as restriction tools; establish a revitalised recognition system that has the capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives sufficiently and appropriately and at multiple levels of operation and activity; to become dynamic, the Paraguayan government would need to establish a recognition agency that would manage the newly established recognition system independently from government.

# Peru, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Peru is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).

Human rights instruments: Peru is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UDHR; Peru voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** unconditional registration – the government does not require religious groups to register with it in order to conduct basic religious activities and religious groups do not have to register to obtain institutional benefits. The regulations allow all religious groups, registered or not, to apply for tax exemptions and worker or resident visas directly with the pertinent government institutions. This policy of unconditional registration demonstrates Peru's near-dynamic status in the SRR. The registration procedure is conducted with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

**Key restriction tools imposed:** Catholic buildings and offices are exempt from taxation while even registered non-Catholic groups must still pay property taxes, different government offices deal with Catholic and non-Catholic registration procedures which implies procedures are different for whether a group identifies as part of the Catholic Church or not, it is essential that all groups are given the opportunity to establish bilateral cooperation agreements with the state, non-recognition for all non-Catholic religions and denominations at the present time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Establish distinct provisions for existential recognition separate from legal registration; establish a recognition agency that manages the established recognition system independently of government; revoke state privilege or apply it to all religious groups.



# Philippines, Republic of the

2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

ForRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: The Philippines is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).

Human rights instruments: the Philippines is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; the Philippines favoured in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”; the principal benefit of registration is for the religious group to receive tax-exempt status; registered religious groups may be fined if they are late at filing financial statements and data sheets; tax-exempt status is reviewed every three years.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, dual registration (both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bureau of Internal Revenue are involved in registration, excessive informational requirements (e.g. a list of members), fines imposed for non-compliance of stringent registration procedures, monitorial requirements (annual financial statements), secondary procedure, reregistration every three years.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish separate procedures for religious entity registration and then for existential recognition and legal registration, all distinguished from the procedures established for secular and corporate entities; revoke the triennial reregistration policy and the other identified restriction tools such as secondary procedures, dual registration and excessive informational requirements; to become Dynamic, the Filipino government would need to establish a recognition agency that would manage the newly established recognition system independently from government.





# Poland, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Poland is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: Poland is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Poland abstained from voting on the UDHR; Poland is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”; unregistration meant that a group could not own property nor hold a bank account in its name.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** excessive informational requirements are requested as part of registration procedures (including personal information of at least 100 citizen members), it is essential that all religious groups are given access to bilateral cooperation agreements, membership quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Revoke state privilege for the Catholic Church except if such privileges are also equally bestowed to all religious denominations; establish a revitalised recognition system that has the capacity to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives sufficiently and appropriately and at multiple levels of operation and activity; to become Dynamic, the Polish government would need to establish a recognition agency that would manage the newly established recognition system independently from government; revoke the excessive informational requirements and the membership quota.

# Portuguese Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Portugal is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: **Portugal is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Portugal did not vote on the UDHR; Portugal is partied to the ECHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although religious groups are not mandated by the government to register, groups that do not register or fail to achieve the criteria for registration are not able to engage in activities classified as “basic religious activities” including the freedom to perform pastoral services for those in prisons, hospitals or the military.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** excessive informational requirements, it is essential that bilateral cooperation agreements with the Portuguese state are made available to all religious groups, religion settled in the country (including ambiguous qualifications and longevity quotas), subsidiary and affiliated organisations with a religious groups must undergo separate registration procedures if they are not registered when their parent organisation is registered.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (not free; subject to registration); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; broadcasting subject to registration); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Reorganise the CLR as a recognition agency independent of government control yet retaining the authority of government in matters of religious freedom and religious recognition; revoke the existence of vertical recognition and longevity quotas.

# Qatar, State of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Qatar is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Qatar did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – all non-Islamic religious groups are required to register with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to legally conduct "basic religious activities" in the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** criminalisation of unregistration (illegal for unregistered groups to hold religious services and to import their literature), religion by default, state definition of religion, restrictive system of patronage in which groups must belong to a patron organisation to operate legally, state-sanctioned religious organisations, strict state regulation of religious activity (e.g. the state oversees construction of mosques, hiring of imams, and provides guidance for sermons), unofficial prohibition of the Baha'i Faith, vertical recognition (Islam state religion, recognised groups and unrecognised groups; a form of verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal to convert from Islam); **hierarcy** (not free; preapproval required); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; both public and private non-Islamic forms are illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; the only religions allowed places of worship are Islam and Christianity); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted; preapproval required); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present apparatus that censoriously restricts religious activity; repeal the series of laws that censor non-Islamic religion and belief; revoke the rule of mandatory registration for non-Islamic groups; to become Receptive, establish a recognition system that is inclusive of at least all established or traditional belief systems and be able to bestow existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously and at different levels of activity; to become dynamic, this system would need to also be inclusive of NRMs or non-traditional belief systems.



# Romania

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Romania is a secular state; State privilege (Romanian Orthodox Church).**



Human rights instruments: Romania is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Romania was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Romania did not vote on the UDHR; Romania is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although religious groups are not mandated by the government to register, groups that do not register or fail to achieve the criteria for registration are not able to engage in activities classified as basic religious activities such as importing and publishing religious literature and proselytising. It is claimed that unregistered groups may still practice their beliefs in both private and public settings although the logistics and limitations of this without resulting in proselytism or propagation remain unclear. Registration is conducted with the Registry of Religious Associations.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** different registration procedures exist for different categories of religious groups each of which also possess different benefits of registration, excessive informational requirements (including having to submit the personal data of members), longevity quota, membership quota (300 citizens), onerous registration procedures, vertical recognition (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration for propagational use); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (free); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Establish a reorganised recognition system that is based on horizontal recognition rather than vertical; establish a recognition agency that would manage the reorganised recognition system in a way that is independent of the government; ongoing discrimination and harassment against religious minorities should be resolved through more sophisticated means of religious education, mutual recognition of religion and belief, and government campaigns supporting diversity and religious pluralism; revoke the restriction tools identified in the current registration system.

# Russian Federation

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity:** Russia is a secular state; **State privilege (Russian Orthodox Church); Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Judaism are recognised in law as the country's "traditional" religions.**

**Human rights instruments:** Russia is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Russia abstained from the UNDRIP; Russia did not vote on the UDHR; Russia is not partied to the ECHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – all religious groups must notify the regional Ministry of Justice of details of its activities concurrently as the necessary precursor to mandatory registration. Vertical registration system – there exists three categories for religious associations with varying degrees of legal status and privileges. These designations are “religious groups”, “local religious organisations” (LROs), and “centralised religious organisations” (CROs). A 1997 law on religion gives the state extensive control and makes it difficult for new or independent groups to operate.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broad grounds for deregistration and dissolution of groups is likely to be misused against groups unfavoured by the state, broad grounds for the denial of registration are also likely to be misused against unfavoured groups, excessive informational requirements, many "basic religious activities" require registration to be conducted legally, membership quota, non-recognition for any religion or denomination other than the Russian Orthodox Church, preapproval, state definition of religion, state supervision, vertical registration is in effect (verticalism) in which there exists three separate categories of registered religious groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (not free; subject to registration; prohibited for unfavoured groups); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present abuse of recognition and registration that are used roundly to restrict religious activity; establish a reorganised recognition system that is inclusive of all belief systems and their derivatives; remove state privilege for the Russian Orthodox Church, especially to disable its political power and its power to influence laws on religious groups; revoke restriction tools and related policies identified as part of this report that unjustly control religious activity.



# Rwanda, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Rwanda is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Rwanda is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Rwanda was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Rwanda did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups and their affiliate non-profit organisations and individual congregations register with it in order to conduct any operations in the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, excessive informational requirements are requested as part of registration procedures, fines and imprisonment for unauthorised public gatherings, restrictive qualifications are required for preachers and religious leaders.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Repeal laws and policies unduly and inappropriately restricting reasonable religious activity; revoke the rule of mandatory registration; establish a revitalised recognition system that has capacities for both legal registration and existential recognition, provisions which should be extended to all belief systems, and offered at multiple levels of activity; to become dynamic, the Rwandan government would need to establish a recognition agency that would manage the newly established recognition system independently from government (achieved by the government's relinquishment of its control of the agency following its establishment and its bestowal of state authority).



# Saint Christopher and Nevis, Federation of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Saint Kitts and Nevis is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Saint Kitts and Nevis is party to the UNCRC; Saint Kitts and Nevis is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Saint Kitts and Nevis was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Saint Kitts and Nevis did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require religious groups to register with it. Religious groups that do register will become part of a database of contacts through which the government disseminates information on policies relevant to religious affairs.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

**Basic religious activities**

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

**Recommendations**

Establish procedures for existential recognition distinguished from those legal registration; develop all unstructured areas of the registration system.

# Saint Lucia

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Saint Lucia is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Saint Lucia is party to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; Saint Lucia signed both the ICCPR and the ICESCR but has not ratified either; Saint Lucia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** conditional-stipulatory registration – although registration is not mandatory for all groups, groups can register to receive certain legal and financial benefits. However, registration becomes mandatory when the group's membership size exceeds that of 250 citizens.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, excessive informational requirements are vulnerable to being misused against groups unfavoured by the state, registration costs \$190 which exceeds the \$100 threshold set by RoRB standards, the registration benefit of "legal marriage officiation" is impermissible to RoRB standards, foreign missionaries must pay a \$74-a-week fee to perform proselytising activities, according to some registered groups registration is not a guarantee of freedom to perform functions or to receive benefits promised by registration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to registration); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To become Receptive, establish a revitalised recognition system that can provide both existential recognition in addition to legal registration simultaneously, to all belief systems and their derivatives, and at different levels of recognition; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that has the capacity to manage the re-established recognition system in a way that is independent of the government; ongoing discrimination levied towards Rastafarians and Muslims are issues that should be resolved through greater religious education and mutual recognition; revoke excessive informational requirements and abolish the conditional mandatory registration order.





# Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

2022 RoRB Classification: Apathetic

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a secular state



Human rights instruments: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct “basic religious activities”; registration so does come with financial benefits.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that bestows both existential recognition and legal registration, to all belief systems, and at multiple levels of operation; establish a recognition agency independent of government to manage the recognition system in order to be classified Dynamic.

# Samoa, Independent State of



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Samoa is a secular state; State religion (Christianity).

Human rights instruments: Samoa is party to the ICCPR and the UNCRC; Samoa is not party to the ICESCR; Samoa abstained from voting on the UNDRIP but has since endorsed it; Samoa did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify to be “basic religious activities” and are therefore exempt from having to submit to registration in order to conduct.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, non-recognition for any religion other than Christianity.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that has the capacity for both existential recognition and legal registration bestowed nationwide, is offered to all belief systems and their derivatives and is bestowed at multiple levels of activity; revoke laws providing undue powers to village councils and the policy of the non-recognition of any religion other than Christianity; establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system independent of government to become dynamic.

# San Marino, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **San Marino is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: San Marino is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; San Marino did not vote on the UDHR; San Marino is party to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct what RoRB standards from the RFSRB classify as “basic religious activities.” Existential recognition and legal registration are amalgamated in the legislation as the term “official recognition” is used in reference to the outcome of registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, monitorial requirements are conducted "periodically" but RoRB standards state that such requirements should only be conducted at the highest frequency "annually".

## Basic religious activities

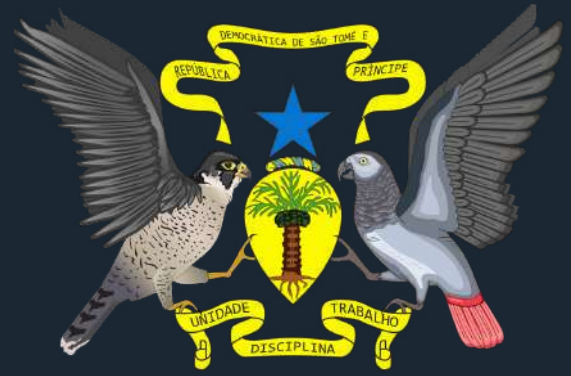
**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that is able to bestow existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously as well as to all belief systems equally and at multiple levels of activity; establish a recognition agency that is independent of government to deal with the revitalised recognition system.



# São Tomé and Príncipe, Democratic Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **São Tomé and Príncipe is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: São Tomé and Príncipe is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; São Tomé and Príncipe did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

Registration policy: **broad mandatory registration – all religious groups are mandated to register with the government to exist legally in the country.**

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, deportation of foreign nationals engaged in unregistered religious activities, excessive informational requirements (the national identity cards of at least 500 members), fines for those participation in activities organised by unregistered religious groups, membership and signature quota (at least 500 members who attended the group's launch meeting), nominal restriction, public objection restriction tool, secondary procedure is required to complete registration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

To become Receptive, revoke present restrictive policies in the registration process such as retributions for unregistration, authorisation in preregistration, mandatory registration and membership quotas; also to achieve Receptive status, establish a revitalised recognition system that is able to bestow existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously as well as to all belief systems equally and at multiple levels of activity; to achieve Dynamic status, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government to deal with the revitalised recognition system.

# Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

ForB Claim: **Caveated claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Saudi Arabia is party to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; Saudi Arabia is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Saudi Arabia abstained from voting on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – because no religions other than Islam are allowed to formally operate in Saudi Arabia, there are currently no mechanisms proscribed by the government for the registration of religious groups in the Kingdom.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** any non-Islamic religious public expressions or activities are strictly prohibited, hypervertical recognition system is in place, Islamic new religious movements are also likely to face prohibitions of their activities, non-recognition for any non-Sunni religion or denomination, the missionary work of clerics must be approved and supervised by the MOIA, non-citizen legal residents are required to carry an identity card that displays either their religious affiliation or simply the designations "Muslim" or "non-Muslim".

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal to convert from Islam; being Muslim is intertwined with citizenship); **hierarcy** (not free; non-Islamic materials are illegal for propagational use); **monasticism** (not free; illegal); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; illegal); **pastoral services** (not free; illegal); **private expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **proselytism** (not free; non-Islamic forms are illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; non-Islamic expression is illegal); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; non-Islamic instruction illegal); **religious literature** (not free; distribution of non-Islamic literature illegal); **religious and worship services** (not free; non-Islamic services highly restricted); **religious trade** (not free; non-Islamic forms illegal).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present apparatus of laws persecuting non-Muslims and non-Islamic religious activity; establish a recognition system that is inclusive of all belief systems and is able to provide both existential recognition and legal registration; revoke the present hegemony of the Wahhabi interpretation of Islam that not only subjugates non-Wahhabi forms of Islam as well as all non-Islamic belief systems.

# Senegal, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Senegal is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Senegal is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Senegal did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration (tapered application) – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, to receive “financial contributions from private sources” including donations requires registration as does the ability to “conduct business” which in turn makes registration procedures pseudo-mandatory. There are no stated penalties for unregistered groups which makes punishment subject to arbitrary enforcement.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, dual registration (with both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection; for foreign groups, there is a third registration procedure with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs required), excessive informational requirements (proof of funding) are intertwined with a longevity quota (at least two years), secondary and tertiary procedures, there is an ad hoc system for state funding, monitorial.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To attain Receptive status, revoke two-step and three-step authorisations for religious groups and foreign religious groups; also, dissolve the implementation of any longevity quotas; also to attain Receptive status, establish a revitalised recognition system that has within provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration, is inclusive of all belief systems, and can be apply recognition and registration at multiple levels of activity and operation; to attain Dynamic status, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government to manage the recognition system.

# Serbia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity:** Serbia is a secular state; **State privilege (Serbian Orthodox Church); Catholicism, Evangelical Christian Church, Islam, Judaism, Reformed Christian Church, Serbian Orthodox Church, and Slovak Evangelical Church are state-recognised as "traditional" religions.**

**Human rights instruments:** Serbia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Serbia did not vote on the UDHR; Serbia is party to the ECHR.

**Mandatory registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, in order for a religious group to conduct the “basic religious activity” of operating property for religious services, registration is required makes the procedures pseudo-mandatory in nature. The seven "traditional" religions are automatically registered in the Register of Churches and Religious Communities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** automatic registration for groups belonging to recognised religions, excessive informational requirements, legislation implies that unregistered religious groups are mandated to provide the government with annual financial reports to remain legal, nominal restriction, signature quota, weaponisation of the term "traditional" to exclude new religious movements and minority religions.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Dismantle the present system that adopts partial recognition; establish a revitalised recognition system that bestows existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives; establish a recognition agency that manages this recognition system in a way that is independent of the government's control; reduce the intrusiveness of informational requirements.

# Seychelles, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Seychelles is a secular state; Anglicanism, Baha'i Faith, Catholicism, Islam, and Seventh-day Adventism are recognised.**

**Human rights instruments: Seychelles is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Seychelles was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Seychelles did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy: quasi-mandatory registration – all religious groups are required to register with the government as a matter of principle although there are no prescribed penalties for unregistration; pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, to conduct pastoral services i.e. provide spiritual counsel in prisons (which is considered a basic religious activity in RoRB standards), registration is required although from reports, this rule seems arbitrarily enforced.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: broadcasting is made a registration benefit despite being a basic religious activity whose free conduct should not need be dependent upon a group having gained registered status, excessive informational requirements, membership quota (7 members), preapproval, secondary procedure as part of the registration process.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (not free; subject to registration); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; broadcasting is subject to government preapproval); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; subject to registration); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Opportunities to gain existential recognition must be expanded to all belief systems and religions and their respective communities; resolve some of the identified persistent issues within the present system; to become classified Receptive, establish a reorganised recognition system that bestows existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives; to become classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that manages this recognition system in a way that is independent of the government's control.



# Sierra Leone, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Sierra Leone is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Sierra Leone is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Sierra Leone did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order for groups to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, annual reregistration to maintain registered status and its benefits, a secondary procedure is part of the registration process.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To be classified Receptive, establish differentiated provisions for existential recognition and legal registration by reorganising the present recognition system so that it has the capacity to make such provisions; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government control to manage the recognition system; revoke the secondary procedure in the registration process and the annual reregistration order.

# Singapore, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

**Secularity:** Singapore is a secular state; Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, Taoism and Zoroastrianism are granted recognition by the state.

**Human rights instruments:** Singapore is party to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; Singapore is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Singapore did not vote on the UDHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** conditional registration – the government requires all religious groups that have exceeded ten members to register with it; pseudo-mandatory registration – a registration benefit is listed as to "hold public meetings" and to conduct pastoral services in prisons which are classified 'basic religious activities' and should therefore not be subject to registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broads grounds for which deregistration may occur could easily be misused against religious groups unfavoured by the state, fines (up to \$3,800) and imprisonment (up to 3 years) for those attending or leading unregistered groups, possibly inverted membership quota, prohibition of Jehovah's Witnesses and the Unification Church, state definition of religion, stringent restrictions on religious literature.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; conversion to prohibited religions is illegal); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration; also restricted by law); **public expression and observance** (not free; subject to registration); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present apparatus of laws restricting religious activity must take place for Singapore to rise to Restrictive status; also, crucially, reverse of all religious prohibitions (e.g. those imposed against Jehovah's Witnesses); restrictions and the use of subjective language in the legislation as a means for restriction would need to be revoked in order for the country to rise to Receptive status; restrictions on religious literature and the fines and imprisonment imposed for unregistered groups must also be abolished; establish a reorganised recognition system that extends both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives equally.



# Slovak Republic

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Slovakia is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Slovakia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Slovakia did not vote on the UDHR; Slovakia is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – the government does not mandate that all religious groups register with it but because unregistered groups cannot conduct some 'basic religious activities' such as the ability to employ "spiritual leaders to perform officially recognised functions" and to perform pastoral services in prisons and hospitals makes registration pseudo-mandatory.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** alternative procedures to register as a civic association are provided but still with membership quota imposed and with a lesser degree of registered status bestowed, amalgamation, membership quota, nationality quota, nominal restriction, no new religious groups have successfully completed registration since the enactment of the 2017 law on religious groups, preferential treatment of preregistered groups, signature quota, unregistered religious groups are not able to conduct some pastoral activities which are classified as "basic religious activities", vertical registration system due to there existing registered religious groups, registered civic associations, and unregistered groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free; laws on importation for propagational use remain unclear); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the apparatus of laws restricting religious activity, including all the above identified restriction tools; to be classified Receptive, establish differentiated provisions for existential recognition and legal registration by reorganising the present recognition system so that it has the capacity to make such provisions; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government to manage the recognition system.



# Slovenia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Slovenia is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Slovenia is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Slovenia did not vote on the UDHR; Slovenia is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register it, it does subject a religious group's performance of pastoral services in prisons, hospitals and in the military to registration which makes registration pseudo-mandatory as these are considered 'basic religious activities'; there is a separate registration procedure for NGOs affiliated with religious groups.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broad grounds for the denial of registration are vulnerable to being misused against religious groups unfavoured by the state, excessive informational requirements, membership quota (two different kinds are imposed for different aspects of the registration process; the lower status demands 10 adult members while the higher status demands 1,000), nationality quota, onerous registration procedure.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish separate procedures for existential recognition and legal registration; resolve identified restriction tools such as excessive informational requirements, membership quota among others; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system and its provisions for recognition and registration; this recognition agency should operate independently of the government.

# Solomon Islands

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Solomon Islands is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Solomon Islands is party to the ICESCR and the UNCRC; Solomon Islands is not party to the ICCPR; Solomon Islands was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Solomon Islands did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it; according to the government, there are no pending registrations for religious groups; religious groups were also able to register as NGOs without the need to reveal religious affiliation although they would need to pay the \$160 fee in this case, a fee that is usually waived for religious groups.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

**Basic religious activities**

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

**Recommendations**

Establish provisions for existential recognition distinct from legal registration by reorganising the recognition system; revoke the rule of mandatory registration; to be classified Receptive, establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system independently of the government.



# Somalia, Federal Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Implicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Sunni Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Somalia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Somalia was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Somalia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **malregistration**

**Registration policy:** malregistration – guidance on how to register or what is required is inconsistent and the government has no ability to implement its registration procedures outside Mogadishu; non-registration – no mechanism provide for the registration of religious groups.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** criminalisation of blasphemy and religious conversion away from Islam, informational about registration procedures is inconsistent and the government does not have the authority to provide genuine registered status, non-recognition of any religion or denomination other than Sunni Islam.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal to convert from Islam); **hierarcy** (not free; restricted or illegal); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to propagate any religion other than Islam); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present apparatus of terminally restrictive laws on religious activity including the repressive penal code that criminalises blasphemy and conversion from Islam; establish provisions for recognition and registration and make these available to all belief systems and their derivatives; establish this recognition system in a way that does not place Islam above all other belief systems and groups.

# South Africa, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **South Africa is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: South Africa is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; South Africa abstained from voting on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require that religious groups register with it in order for them to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”; a 2016 CRL legislative proposal continues to threaten the non-mandatory nature of registration (the proposal includes making registration with the government a mandatory requirement and would establish a peer review council consisting of religious leaders to determine whether other religious groups would be given permission to operate in the country).

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

A lack of distinction between procedures for registering religious and secular entities needs to be resolved through the differentiation of procedures for these two types of entities.

# South Sudan, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: South Sudan is a secular state

Human rights instruments: South Sudan is partied to the UNCRC; South Sudan is neither partied to the ICCPR nor to the ICESCR; South Sudan was absent during voting on UNDRIP; South Sudan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it order to conduct “basic religious activities” as defined by RoRB standards; religious groups must register with the state government in which they operate (it is unclear whether this involves multi-registration or whether one registration with a state-level governing body covers the entire country); registration rates are law as the government either chooses not enforce or cannot enforce its registration policy.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, secondary procedure, registration fees (\$3,500) greatly exceeds the \$100 threshold set down in RoRB standards, more qualifications required for GFOs than domestic groups which creates a discriminatory system (GFOs are required to provide proof of their successful registration with another government and a commissioning letter from the group's international headquarters), unregistered groups often go without registration despite registration being mandatory.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a reorganised recognition system that can bestow both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously and one that offers these to all belief systems equally; reduce the excessive registration fee presently imposed; revoke secondary procedures in the registration process and halt the request for more qualifications for GFOs in comparison to domestic groups.





# Spain, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Spain is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: Spain is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Spain did not vote on the UDHR; Spain is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that all religious groups register it, unregistered groups cannot conduct some 'basic religious activities' including the ability to rent property for religious services.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** bilateral cooperation agreements are dependent on authoritative decree from the president, excessive informational requirements, geographic quota, longevity quota, membership quota, onerous registration procedures, registration is a precondition for recognition (bilateral cooperation agreements), second procedure, vertical recognition system (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Make bilateral cooperation agreements available to all groups so that they may then comprise a positive and characteristically dynamic element of the Spanish system; revoke the imposition of geographic quota, longevity quota, excessive informational requirements, membership quota, and all the other restriction tools identified; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that works to manage the recognition system in a way that is independent of government control.



# Sri Lanka, Democratic Socialist Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

**Secularity: State religion (Theravada Buddhism); the state recognises Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.**

**Human rights instruments: Sri Lanka is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Sri Lanka did not vote on the UDHR.**

**Mandatory of registration: non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require either religious groups belonging to the four recognised religions or new religious groups to register in order to conduct what RoRB standards classify as “basic religious activities”. However, registration is required to conduct some activities which are classified as reasonably registrable under RoRB standards set out in the RFSRB (these are outlined under the below category of “registration benefits”); the local Buddhist temple reportedly exerts influence over the construction of new places of worship (institutional bias).

**Key restriction tools imposed:** limitations exist on proselytism, non-recognition of any religion other than Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam, successful registration is dependent upon parliamentary vote (parliamentarianism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (not free; restricted); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (not free; religious attire covering the face are banned); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish provisions for existential recognition that give equal opportunity for all belief systems to access this form of recognition; this equality may not be able to be achieved without Theravada's disestablishment as the state denomination; revoke involvement of the parliament or prime minister from the registration process in order to halt politicisation; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system independent of government influence or intervention.

# Sudan, Republic of the

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Sudan is a secular state.**

Human rights instruments: Sudan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Sudan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** part-mandatory registration – although registration of a religious group is not mandated in law, unregistration comes with stigma and governmental pressure; malregistration – the ongoing war in Darfur and political instability undermine the ability of the government to successfully apply its registration law throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, secondary procedure specific to religious groups with humanitarian arms or affiliated organisations that conduct humanitarian or development activities, constructing places of worship is based on a system of land allocation performed at the state level which takes into consideration zoning concerns, some agreements made in support for religious freedom in 2020 have yet to be implemented (e.g. the creation of an independent commission on religious freedom issues).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; importation of non-Islamic religious materials and devotional items is restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that can provide both existential recognition and legal registration for all belief systems and groups regardless of their affiliation; establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system autonomously from state authorities.



# Suriname, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Suriname is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Suriname is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Suriname did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups need only register with the government if they seek financial support from the government.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, as long as informational requirements are not misused against unfavoured group by the state they are permissible.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a set of provisions for existential recognition, not just legal registration, and extend this to all belief systems; establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system autonomously from state authorities.



# Sweden, Kingdom of



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Sweden is a secular state; State privilege (Lutheranism).

Human rights instruments: Sweden is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Sweden voted in favour of the UDHR; Sweden is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct basic religious activities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** ambiguous qualifications for registered status (e.g. "has a clear and stable structure", "is able to function independently"), geographic quota (must have "several locations in the country"), longevity quota, membership quota (at least 3,000 people), non-recognition for any religion or denomination other than the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Revoke the geographic quota, longevity quota and membership quota as well as reverse the policy of non-recognition for all non-Lutheran denominations; to be classified Receptive, establish a recognition system that can set out provisions for both existential recognition and legal registration, provisions which should be extended to all belief systems and also be provided at multiple levels of activity; establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system autonomously from government interference.

# Swiss Confederation



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Switzerland is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism and Calvinism).**

Human rights instruments: Switzerland is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Switzerland did not vote on the UDHR; Switzerland is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – there is no overall mandate for religious groups to register with the government but certain types of religious organisations are required to register with their respective commercial registries for example religious foundations must register while religious communities do not need to; a draft law that would have granted equal recognition to Free Churches, Muslims and Jews was rejected after 10 years of deliberation.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** provincialisation of both recognition and registration procedures, subjecting recognition to democratic vote (against RoRB standards), vertical recognition system in effect (verticalism).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (not free; religious attire covering the face is illegal in two cantons); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Remove all forms of segmentation in the system; this should in turn resolve inconsistencies in the legislation and laws regarding recognition and registration should in turn become national rather than cantonal; revoke identified restriction tools and all part-mandatory registration procedures; to become Receptive, establish a recognition system to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration across all belief systems and their derivatives and across multiple levels of activity and operation.

# Syrian Arab Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Syria is a secular state; State privilege (Islam).**

Human rights instruments: Syria is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Syria voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it although registration procedures remain ambiguous; malregistration – the ongoing Syrian Civil War means that the central government does not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, ambiguous and inconsistent information over registration procedures, unapproved Islamic and all non-Islamic proselytism is illegal, preapproval of religious activities by the government (including all gatherings for religious purposes), presidential religion (president of Syria must be a Muslim), prohibition of the Jehovah's Witnesses, restrictions on the publication of religious materials, state definition of religion.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Islamic literature requires government approval); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to proselytise Muslims); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the apparatus of laws the government has set in place to restrict religious activity outside what the government deems as appropriate; repeal all laws that impose nationwide bans on reasonable, non-violent groups whose activities do not contravene the basic tenets of religious freedom; repeal laws restricting both conversion from Islam and proselytism to Muslims; revoke the rule of mandatory registration and removal from the registration of all state definitions and interpretations of religion used for the imposition of restrictions and the removal of subjective language in the legislation which is again broadly misused to restrict rather than protect religious freedoms.

# Taiwan (Republic of China)



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **Taiwan is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Taiwan is party to the UNCRC; Taiwan is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Taiwan did not vote on either the UDHR or the UNDRIP.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it or that they obtain establishment permits which is one step of a two step process of registration used in Taiwan.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, financial quota (have real estate valued in total at over \$902,000; and, possess at least \$180,000 in cash), geographic quota (have "real estate in at least 7 administrative regions), localisation of procedures offer an alternative procedure with lower requirements, secondary procedure for nationwide registration procedures.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present segmented structure of the registration; revoke laws surrounding the establishment permit in preregistration including the dissolution of financial quotas; establish a revitalised recognition system that can provide both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and at multiple levels of activity without creating a situation of vertical recognition; to classified Dynamic, set up an independent recognition agency to manage the system.



# Tajikistan, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Tajikistan is a secular state; State privilege (Islam).**

Human rights instruments: Tajikistan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Tajikistan was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Tajikistan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups, whether classified as organisations or simply as communities, follow the procedures to register with it.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, child participation in "public religious activities" are prohibited, excessive informational requirements, fines on unauthorised religious literature and on unregistered religious groups, government preapproval of places of worship, membership quota, registration is a necessary precursor to a religious group legally being able to produce and propagate religious materials, restriction of Islamic prayer to four location types (mosques, cemeteries, homes, shrines), state approval of religious preachers and leaders, state approval of religious publications is required before they may be imported, state definition of religion, the stipulation that monitorial requirements may be conducted upon request (ad hoc) by the government is impermissible to RoRB standards, zoning quotas.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; all religious materials require government preapproval); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present status quo of laws terminally restricting the religious lives of Tajiks; repeal the mandatory registration law along with similar policies that allow for undue government involvement in the affairs of religious groups; halt the state's vilification of religious groups it does not agree with on matters of belief; make a clearer distinction between recognition and registration.



# Tanzania, United Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Tanzania is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Tanzania is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Tanzania did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – registration is required by law on both the mainland and in Zanzibar for religious groups to conduct one or more 'basic religious activities' legally including; from August 2021, registration for religious groups is now time-based (temporary) rather than permanent; registration is often dependent upon the arbitrary decision of a single registrar.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, excessive informational requirements (biographical information on group members and leaders as well as a letter of recommendation from the district commissioner), Islamic groups are offered different procedures and have the additional requirement of retrieving a "letter of approval" from the mufti, membership quota (at least 10 members), reregistration every five years (failure to reregister will result in deregistration and the subsequent inability to operate legally in the country due to the mandatory registration).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; subject to registration for propagational use); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Repeal laws demanding mandatory registration and revoke policies allowing the government to intervene in the internal affairs of religious organisations; revoke membership quotas and retributions for unregistration; establish a revitalised recognition that can provide both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems equally.



# Thailand, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

ForRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

**Secularity: Thailand is a secular state; State privilege (Theravada Buddhism); Buddhists Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs are state-recognised religious communities.**

**Human rights instruments: Thailand is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Thailand voted in favour of the UDHR as Siam.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups must register with it, only groups affiliating with one of the five recognised religious may register for state benefits. Despite this, religious groups are known to be able to operate without government interference whether they are part of one of the recognised religions, registered or unregistered or unrecognised.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** criticism of Buddhism may lead to fines or imprisonment, membership quota (in the form of a census quota), registered status will not be bestowed to any groups that belongs to a religion beyond the five already recognised by the government, registration procedures are split between Buddhist and non-Buddhist groups and organisations, state definition of religion, the government does not recognise religions or religious communities beyond the five already recognised, the prime minister directly supervises the registration of Buddhist groups.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the apparatus of laws and restrictive policies that have been put in place to restrict religious activity; establish a revitalised recognition system that crucially provides existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives without discrimination; remove all forms of undue involvement of the government in the internal affairs of religious organisations.



# Timor-Leste, Democratic Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Timor-Leste is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism).**

Human rights instruments: Timor-Leste is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Timor-Leste did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, its stipulation that religious groups must register with it if they seek to provide “other community services” is concerning. Offering services to the community is often a central component of a religious institution’s activities and is therefore be classified as one of the “basic religious activities” in RoRB standards. Until the government can provide greater clarity on what “other community services” entails, it will be interpreted as constituting a 'basic religious activities' such as providing pastoral services in hospitals, hence moving Timor-Leste moved down the SRR to Restrictive status.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, multi-registration, secondary procedure, tertiary procedure.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish differentiation between existential recognition and legal registration; forms of discriminations and harassment reported should be resolved through means of recognition; remove some of the administrative hurdles; to achieve Dynamic status, establish an independent recognition agency to manage the recognition system.

# Togolese Republic

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Togo is a secular state; State privilege (Catholicism, Islam, and Protestantism).**

Human rights instruments: Togo is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Togo was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Togo did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad-discriminatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it except for Catholic, Protestant and Islamic groups. Legal registration is amalgamated with what is called official recognition. Official recognition as a religious association provides other groups the same rights as those afforded to Catholics, Protestants, and Muslims. There is some ambiguity as to the mandatoriness of registration.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, ambiguous qualifications are stipulated for registered status which could be easily misused against religious groups the status does not favour, delay of receipt of registered status goes far beyond what is permissible to RoRB standards (up to several years), excessive informational requirements, registration fee (\$260) far exceeds the \$100 threshold set down by RoRB standards (but has been reduced from \$280 from the year prior), there are approximately 900 pending registration applications that the government has not progressed.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hierarcy** (not free; rules on items for propagational use remain unclear); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Re-establish the recognition system in such a way that it extends existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives equally; dismantlement of the present body of policies restricting registration such as the relatively high fee; revoke the mandatory registration order and ensure that informational requirements are not excessive.



# Tonga, Kingdom of

2022 RoRB Classification: Apathetic

FoRB Claim: Partial claim is made

Secularity: Tonga is a secular state; state privilege (Christianity).

Human rights instruments: Tonga is partied to the UNCRC; Tonga is neither partied to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Tonga was absent during voting on UNDRIP; Tonga did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not require that religious groups register with it in order to conduct basic religious activities according to RoRB standards. Religious groups only need to register to receive certain financial benefits and to perform certain acts.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, dual registration, possible nominal restriction ("protection of a denomination's name" is listed as a benefit of registration), signature quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that crucially provides existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives without discrimination; revoke borderline mandatory registration requirements and the imposed signature quota; to become classified as dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is autonomous of government control that is responsible for managing the recognition system.



# Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Trinidad and Tobago is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Trinidad and Tobago is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Trinidad and Tobago did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government doesn't mandate that religious groups register with it, listing the officiation of marriages as a benefit of registration in turn makes registration pseudo-mandatory. Religious groups have the same rights and obligations as most legal entities, regardless of their registration status. They may, for example, own land and hire employees, and they are liable for property taxes and government-mandated employee benefits.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, delayed registration, longevity quota (1 year), non-response to the Orisha religious group's application in 2018.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free); **monasticism** (free); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (free); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (free); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (free); **religious buildings** (free); **religious instruction** (free); **religious literature** (free); **religious and worship services** (free); **religious trade** (free).

## Recommendations

To reach Receptive status, establish a revitalised recognition system that provides both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives and at multiple levels of activity; to become classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is autonomous of government control that is responsible for managing the recognition system; revoke the imposition of a longevity quota.

# Tunisia, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Tunisia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UDHR; Tunisia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it, however, many “basic religious activities” such as organising meetings and public events as well as publishing leaflets are all dependent upon a group’s completion of registration procedures.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** bilateral cooperation agreements are extended only to the Catholic Church meaning that any non-Catholic or non-Islamic religion are non-recognised, broad grounds exist for the denial of registration of GFOs, excessive informational requirements are requested as part of registration procedures, nominal restriction.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; preapproval required for non-Islamic religious materials and items); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted; the law criminalises forced conversions which may be viewed broadly and applied arbitrarily in favour of the religion from which the person is converting such as a Muslim converting from Islam); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present apparatus of laws restricting non-Islamic religious activity; establish a reorganised recognition that provides recognition and registration to all belief systems and their derivatives; remove all forms of subjective language from the legislation on religion and belief.





# Türkiye, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Turkey is a secular state; State privilege (Sunni Islam).**

Human rights instruments: Turkey is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Turkey voted in favour of the UDHR; Turkey is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although registration is not explicitly mandatory, it is considered mandatory by the government's assertion that registration is a necessary prerequisite for operating and putting in a request for the legal recognition of a place of worship; running religious services at a place of worship unregistered by the central government is a criminal offence; the practice of Islam is 'regulated' throughout the country by the Diyanet.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, criminalisation of unregistered places of worship, group dissolution procedures are structured in such a way that they could be easily misused to force the closure of religious groups unfavoured by the state, prohibition of Sufi and "other religious-social orders (tarikats) and lodges (cemaats), restrictive laws exist around the organisation of a religious group and what actions it may or may not legally conduct.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (not free; restricted); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; restricted); pastoral services (not free; subject to registration); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (not free; restricted); receiving donations (not free; restricted); religious buildings (not free; subject to registration); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (not free; restricted); religious and worship services (not free; subject to registration); religious trade (not free; restricted).**

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present apparatus of laws restricting religious registration; provide recognition to all belief systems without discrimination; revoke all religious prohibitions and the criminalisation of unregistered places of worship.

# Turkmenistan

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Turkmenistan is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Turkmenistan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Turkmenistan was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Turkmenistan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that all religious groups register with it before conducting any operations or activities, including most 'basic religious activities'; all religious activity, both public and private, is highly restricted by the government through its maintenance of a sophisticated registration apparatus.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** all aspects of religious activity must be preapproved by the SCROEERIR before they take place including the appointment of religious leaders, amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, broad grounds for the deregistration of a group and the suspension of its activities leave groups unfavoured by the state vulnerable to having this grounds misused against them, criminalisation of unregistration, dual registration between the SCROEERIR and the MOJ, registration fee system some categories of which exceed the \$100 threshold set down in RoRB standards, excessive informational requirements will more than likely be misused by the state against groups is does not favour, lack of information is provided by the government over what criteria a religious group must fulfil to complete the necessary "endorsement" process as part of registration procedures, membership quota, nationality quota, permission to exist, preapproval, state definition of religion, state supervision, triennial reregistration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; preapproval required for all religious materials and items); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (not free; although private worship is protected in law it is restricted in practice); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present terminally restrictive apparatus that restricts all aspects of religious life in the society; reorganise the recognition system so it extends authentic recognition to all belief systems and groups; revoke all the restriction tools identified in the above analysis.



# Tuvalu

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Calvinism)**

Human rights instruments: Tuvalu is party to the UNCRC; Tuvalu is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Tuvalu was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Tuvalu did not vote on the UDHR.



Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** conditional registration with the central government – religious groups are not required register with the government unless their adult membership exceeds at least 2% of the country's total population according to the latest census making registration stipulatory in general terms but mandatory under certain conditions; broad mandatory registration with local councils – all religious groups must register with and obtain approval from the falekaupule councils before conducting any activities; failure to comply with registration law will result in prosecution.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement, grounds for the denial of registration are ambiguous and could easily be misused against religious groups that are unfavoured by the state membership quota, possibility for the prosecution of groups registered that fit criteria for registration, possible inverted membership quota, registered status is left up to the elder councils (falekaupule) to decide, signature quota.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieroncy** (not free; subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present series of laws and policies restricting religious activity, especially the laws that give prime authority to falekaupule to make decisions on religious activity and the internal affairs of religious organisations; if this cannot be achieved without the disestablishment of Calvinism, then this may need to take place; become party to and ratify the ICCPR; revoke the rule of mandatory registration and any retributions associated with unregistration; re-establish the recognition system so that its provisions are extended to all belief systems and their derivatives; to become classified as dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is independent of the government to manage this re-established recognition system with the assurance that politicisation of the registration procedures does not take place and that such procedures are no longer restrictive.

# Uganda, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Uganda is a secular state

Human rights instruments: Uganda is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Uganda was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Uganda did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government requires religious groups to register but only if they wish to obtain legal entity status.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, broad grounds on which religious groups may be deregistered or denied registration in the first instance are based on the use of the securitisation of religion against groups the state does not favour, excessive informational requirements, fixed-term registration on a five-year basis (temporary registration).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; broadcasters are restricted from publishing materials that proselytise); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Revoke mandatory registration and resolve the various internal issues of the recognition system; establish a revitalised recognition system that provides both existential and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives; this should also resolve the issue of there being a lack of distinction between religious and secular entity registration.



# Ukraine

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Ukraine is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Ukraine is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Ukraine abstained from voting on the UNDRIP but has since endorsed it; Ukraine did not vote on the UDHR; Ukraine is party to the ECHR.



Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration: although the government does not mandate that religious groups with it, there are some activities listed as registration benefits that are classified as “basic religious activities” by RoRB standards including the ability to establish periodicals or companies for manufacturing religious items or publishing arms of the religious group; malregistration – the ongoing conflict over Crimea and the Donbas and the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine have crippled the Ukrainian central government's ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, localisation of registration procedures, membership quota, secondary procedure for non-profit status, some benefits of registration are "basic religious activities" and should not be dependent on registration such as establishing a publishing company or a company for the manufacture of religious items.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; subject to registration); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (not free; subject to registration); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (not free; subject to registration).**

## Recommendations

Dissolve membership quotas and the segmented structure of the recognition system; establish more definitive procedures for existential recognition; reduce the convolution within the present procedures for registration as minor issues within the present system; procedures for registration and recognition should be inclusive of all belief systems; also to be classified dynamic, a recognition agency would need to be established that is independent of government control.

# United Arab Emirates



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Partial claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: UAE is party to the UNCRC and the UNDRIP; UAE is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; UAE did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** pseudo-mandatory registration – although the government does not mandate that religious groups with it, there are some activities listed as registration benefits that are classified as “basic religious activities” by RoRB standards including the ability for a religious group to rent property for religious services; the process of registration differs from emirate to emirate (a form of provincialisation) which makes achieving the nationwide ability to conduct religious services far more difficult.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** blasphemy laws, criminalisation of proselytising to Muslims, non-recognition for any religion other than Islam, permits are required by the government to conduct certain "basic religious activities" such as holding public events or worshipping in rented spaces, provincialisation of registration procedures, restrictions on hieroncy (importation of religious items), the government does not provide registration procedures (crypto-registration).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted for converts from Islam); **hieroncy** (not free; preapproval; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to proselytise Muslims; preaching restricted); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Establish a reorganised recognition system that has jurisdiction nationwide in order to resolve issues of segmentation; also, this recognition system would be able to extend existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives without discrimination; revoke present laws on blasphemy, conversion and proselytism that restrict expression and declarations of belief; dismantlement of the present apparatus that terminally restricts the ability of non-Islamic and especially non-Abrahamic groups from practicing.

# United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **United Kingdom is a secular state; State denomination in England (Anglicanism).**

Human rights instruments: **United Kingdom (excluding Guernsey, Jersey and Gibraltar) is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; United Kingdom is party to the ECHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration for places of worship – by law, the General Register Office for England and Wales governs the registration and legal recognition of places of worship in England and Wales. Registration is not compulsory, but it provides certain financial advantages and is also required before a place of worship may be registered as a venue for marriages; Humanist marriages continue to be unrecognised in England and Wales.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** non-recognition for any religion or denomination other than Anglicanism, registration procedures are conducted by each place of worship while registration of religious organisation as a non-profit organisation or charity may be conducted with the Charity Commission.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to the registration of a place of worship); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a formal recognition system to set out provisions for both existential recognition for belief systems, denominations, communities based on a shared belief identity and legal registration for parishes to add to the existent provisions for individual religious buildings; restructure the restrictive laws on nuptial rites, namely making registration of places of worship a prerequisite for a marriage to be legal; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government control but nonetheless reports to government and possesses the same authority as government in its area of speciality, namely the management of the religious recognition system.

# United States of America



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **United States is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: United States is party to the ICCPR; United States signed the ICESCR but has not ratified it; United States signed the UNCRC but has not ratified it; United States rejected the UNDRIP; United States voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not required to register with the state or federal government in order to conduct 'basic religious activities'.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, non-recognition for any religion or denomination.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; subject to registration); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a formal recognition system to set out provisions for both existential recognition for belief systems, denominations, communities based on a shared belief identity and legal registration for parishes to add to the existent provisions for individual religious buildings already in place; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government control but nonetheless reports to government and possesses the same authority as government in its area of speciality, namely the management of the religious recognition system.



# Uruguay, Oriental Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Uruguay is a secular state; State privilege (Christianity).**

Human rights instruments: **Uruguay is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Uruguay voted in favour of the UDHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government does not mandate that religious groups register with it in order to conduct basic religious activities. The registration process is amalgamated with recognition in Uruguay.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

To become Receptive, establish a reorganised recognition system that has the capacity to provide both existential recognition as well as legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives and at multiple levels of activity; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that works independently of the government to manage the reorganised recognition system; to vest its authority within the agency, the government can establish it but then the government must relinquish its control of the agency afterwards to ensure the agency's autonomy from government and thereby from politicisation.

# Uzbekistan, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Uzbekistan is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Uzbekistan is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNCRC; Uzbekistan was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Uzbekistan did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the Uzbek government mandates that all religious groups register with its Ministry of Justice online; a religious group may not carry out any kind of activity without first undergoing the registration process; the law limits the operations of a registered group to those areas where it is registered.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, central registration is limited by a geographic quota, criminalisation of unregistration, excessive informational requirements intertwined with a membership quota, localisation of registration procedures, membership quota, multi-registration, nationality quota, non-issuance, preapproval, reregistration is required each time the group wishes to expand to different regions of the country, restrictive procedure of notarisation is a necessary precursor to receiving registered status, the registration benefit "to train clergy" is classified a basic religious activity and so should not be subject to registration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (not free; religious materials illegal); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; preapproval from the government required; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the terminally restrictive and repressive regime of laws and policies that restrict all aspects of religious life for citizens and all operations of religious organisations throughout the country; such a dismantlement would first need to take place in entirety in order for any type of new recognition system to be established or reorganised.

# Vanuatu, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Vanuatu is a secular state; State privilege (Christianity).**

Human rights instruments: Vanuatu is party to the ICCPR and the UNCRC; Vanuatu is not party to the ICESCR; Vanuatu was absent during voting on the UNDRIP; Vanuatu did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

Registration policy: broad mandatory registration: the government mandates that all religious groups apply for registration in order to operate legally.

Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation, arbitrary enforcement of the mandatory registration order, dual registration, fines for unregistered religious group can reach \$470 although this is apparently not widely enforced, government interactions with Christian churches were conducted through the coordinated body of the VVC.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (free; laws on importation of religious materials remain unclear); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that provides opportunities for both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives in order to be classified as receptive in the Spectrum of Religious Recognition; abolish fines for unregistration, the mandatory registration order and the imposition of dual registration; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that works independently of government control that has the responsibility to manage the recognition system whilst also maintaining the authority that it requires to ensure that decisions of recognition and registration are respected nationwide.



# Vatican City State

2022 RoRB Classification: **Ambiguous**

FoRB Claim: **No claim is made**

Secularity: **Catholic theocracy**

Human rights instruments: Vatican City is partied to the UNCRC; Vatican City is neither partied to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Vatican City did not vote on either the UDHR or the UNDRIP; Vatican City is not partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** there is no procedure for the registration of any non-Catholic organisation in Vatican City.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** non-recognition of any religion or denomination except Catholicism.



# Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Venezuela is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Venezuela is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Venezuela voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** part-mandatory registration – although the government does explicitly state that registration mandatory for religious groups to legally operate without intervention, unregistration is known to bring about stigma and other institutional hurdles that should not be applied.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, dual registration due to the fact that Ministry of Interior, Justice and Peace is involved in registration as are community councils specific to where the group intends to establish its activities, excessive informational requirements (including a letter of acceptance from the regime-controlled community council), localisation of qualifications required for registered status, possibility for indefinite delay as no regulatory interval for the government's review of applications is put in place, reregistration is required whenever the religious group adds any new statutes (such as new objectives), the proposal of new legislation to provide personal details of those to whom a religious group ministers raises concerns over the government's intentions to restrict such activity or to intimidate group members.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a revitalised recognition system that provides opportunities for both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives in order to be classified as receptive in the SRR; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that works independently of government control that has the responsibility to manage the recognition system whilst also maintaining the authority that it requires to ensure that decisions of recognition and registration are respected nationwide.

# Vietnam, Socialist Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Vietnam is a hypersecular state (state atheism); State privilege to a lesser degree (Buddhism).**

Human rights instruments: Vietnam is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Vietnam did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – two-stage process of institutionalisation for citizens to gather a specific location to “practice worship rituals, pray, or express their religious faith.” Under the law, a religious organisation is defined as “a religious group that has received legal recognition” by authorities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** confinement, excessive informational requirements for both recognised and registered statuses, non-specific financial quota for recognised status, preapproval or notification, provincialisation of registration procedures, registered status does not grant a religious group to publish its own literature as this is an activity that may only be conducted by groups that have undergone recognition procedures, “registration for religious operation” is the necessary precursor to applying for existential recognition but is restricted by a five year longevity quota, some of the benefits of registration outlined are classified as “basic religious activities” and so should not be subject to registration.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hierarcy** (not free; restricted, especially for propagational use); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present terminally restrictive registration procedure and the body of laws and policies perpetuating the terminal conditions for RoRB in the country; establish a reorganised recognition system that extends both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems.

# Yemen, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Yemen is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Yemen did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there is no provision for the registration of religious groups; malregistration – the ongoing civil war results in the central Yemeni government not having the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the country.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** apostasy laws, criminalisation of the criticism of religion, non-recognition for any non-Islamic religion or denomination as well as some Islamic new religious movements, proselytising Muslims is prohibited, the importation of religious materials (hieroncy) for propagational purposes is prohibited, the state must authorise the construction of any new buildings in the country (which is presumed to include places of worship and other kinds of religious buildings).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal to convert from Islam); **hieroncy** (not free; non-Islamic religious materials illegal); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal to proselytise Muslims); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present apparatus of laws restricting all forms of non-Islamic religious practice and belief; blasphemy, conversion and proselytism are all terminally restricted and normativism perpetuates these restrictions which means that more sophisticated means of religious recognition and religious education should be established to resolve issues of normativism; establish a recognition system for the country in order to provide existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives.

# Zambia, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Christianity)**

Human rights instruments: Zambia is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Zambia did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the government mandates that religious groups register with it to operate legally in close coordination with the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs (MNGRA).

**Key restriction tools imposed:** criminalisation of unregistration leading to possible fines and imprisonment for up to seven years for both group leaders and group members, grounds for deregistration are ambiguous and could easily be misused against religious groups unfavoured by the state, multi-registration, nominal restriction, recognition is granted through a restrictive system of umbrella "mother bodies", registration fee of \$210 exceeds the \$100 threshold set down by RoRB standards, restrictive qualifications are demanded for registered status.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (free); **hieronymy** (not free; possibly subject to registration); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; subject to registration); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Dismantlement of the present apparatus of laws restricting the registration of religious groups; establish a recognition agency to manage the recognition system in a capacity independent of government; this in order for the country to qualify for being dynamic; the "mother body" structure can remain in place but clear and non-onerous procedures must be put in place for alternative belief systems to establish their own mother bodies.





# Zimbabwe, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Zimbabwe is a secular state; State privilege (Christianity).**

Human rights instruments: **Zimbabwe is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Zimbabwe did not vote on the UDHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – the government only mandates that religious groups register with it if religious groups operate or intend to operate schools or medical facilities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, baseless denials of registration (e.g. Humanist Society of Zimbabwe), dual registration, GFOs must follow a different registration procedure to local groups, grounds for deregistration are ambiguous enough to be misused by the state against groups it does not favour, registration procedures are based on a restrictive umbrella body system in which religious groups must achieve a letter of approval from one of the government-approved umbrella bodies and present this letter as part of their registration application to the government.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; subject to registration); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

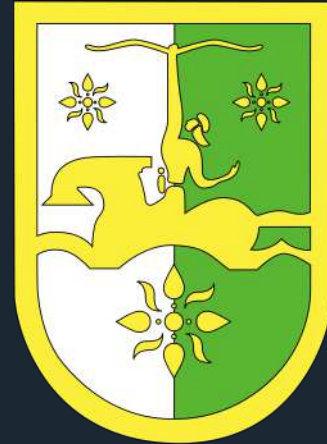
## Recommendations

Establish a reorganised recognition system that has the capacity to provide both existential recognition and legal registration; the umbrella body structure can remain as long as it is no longer used as a means of restriction and therefore only on the stipulation that it is expanded to include all belief systems to ensure that more diversity is allowed in the country; revoke the dual registration policy and the misuse of broad grounds for deregistration against unfavoured religious groups; to become Dynamic, establish a recognition agency independent of the government that manages the established recognition system.

# RoRB BY DEPENDENT OR DISPUTED TERRITORY

## Abkhazia, Republic of

Conditions of state RoRB



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Abkhazia is a secular territory; State privilege (Abkhazian Orthodox Church).**

Human rights instruments: **Abkhazia is partied to the UNCRC; Abkhazia is neither partied to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Abkhazia did not vote on the UDHR or the UNDRIP; Abkhazia is not partied to the ECHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Abkhazia as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** prohibition of Jehovah's Witnesses since 1995 although this is not strictly enforced by the territory.

### Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

### Recommendations

Revoke the prohibition of Jehovah's Witnesses and any other form of religious prohibition.

# American Samoa



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **American Samoa is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: American Samoa is party to the UNCRIC; American Samoa is neither party to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; American Samoa did not vote on the UDHR or the UNDRIP.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in American Samoa as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in American Samoa at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Anguilla



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Anguilla is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Anguilla is partied to the UNCRC; Anguilla is neither partied to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Anguilla did not vote on the UDHR or the UNDRIP; Anguilla is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Anguilla as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Anguilla at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Artsakh, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: Censorious

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made



**Secularity:** Artsakh is a secular territory; State privilege (Armenian Apostolic Church).

**Human rights instruments:** Artsakh is partied to the UNCRC; Artsakh is neither partied to the ICCPR nor the ICESCR; Artsakh did not vote on the UDHR or the UNDRIP; Artsakh is not partied to the ECHR.

**Mandatoriness of registration:** mandatory

**Registration policy:** the government mandates that all religious groups register with it in order to conduct even basic religious activities.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** membership quota, non-recognition for any religion or denomination other than the Armenian Apostolic Church, proselytism by minorities has been banned since 2009, unregistration and unregistered religious activity have been prohibited since 2008.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Revoke the imposition of a membership quota and the criminalisation of unregistration and unregistered religious activity.

# Aruba, Country of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Aruba is a secular territory**



Human rights instruments: Aruba is partied to the UNCRC; Aruba is also partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR and the UNDRIP via the Netherlands; Aruba did not vote on the UDHR; Aruba is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Aruba as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Aruba at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

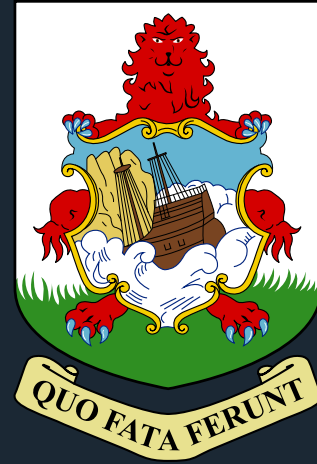
# Bermuda

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Bermuda is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Bermuda is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP either by its own ratification or via the United Kingdom; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; Bermuda is party to the ECHR.



Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Bermuda as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Bermuda at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# British Virgin Islands

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **British Virgin Islands is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: British Virgin Islands is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP either by its own ratification or via the United Kingdom; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; British Virgin Islands is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in the British Virgin Islands as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in the British Virgin Islands at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**





# Cayman Islands

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Cayman Islands is a secular state**



Human rights instruments: Cayman Islands is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP either by its own ratification or via the United Kingdom; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; Cayman Islands is party to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

Registration policy: registration is not mandatory for religious groups in the Cayman Islands in order for them to conduct "basic religious activities".

Key restriction tools imposed: insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in the Cayman Islands at this time.

## Basic religious activities

Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).

# Cook Islands

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Cook Islands is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Cook Islands is party to the UNCRC; Cook Islands is not party to the ICCPR or the ICESCR; Cook Islands did not vote on the UDHR or the UNDRIP.

Mandatory of registration: **mandatory**

**Registration policy:** registration is directly controlled by the prime minister.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** authoritative decree (by way of the prime minister's direct approval of a religious group).

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Revoke the president's exercise of an authoritative decree.



# Crimea, Republic of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**



**Secularity: Crimea is a secular territory; State privilege (Russian Orthodox Church).**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy:** mandatory registration – the Russian occupying focuses have instituted a mandatory registration policy for religious groups in Crimea that much reflects the mandatory registration order enforced throughout Russia.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** forced reregistration under new rules which sharply reduced the number of registered groups in the territory, mass deregistration of religious groups, Russia's exportation of worst practice regarding religious recognition and registration procedures.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Denounce the forced reregistration and deregistration orders; denounce the Russian Federation's exportation of worst practice in Crimea on matters regarding religious activity.

# Curaçao, Country of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Curaçao is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Curaçao is partied to the UNCRC; Curaçao is partied to the ICCPR and the ICESCR via the Netherlands; Curaçao did not vote on either the UDHR or the UNDRIP; Curaçao is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** registration is not mandatory for religious groups to conduct "basic religious activities".

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Curaçao at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**



# Eastern Donbas

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made in the draft constitutions of both Republics**

Secularity: **Donetsk and Luhansk are both secular territories; State privilege (Russian Orthodox Church).**

Mandatoriness of registration: **mandatory**

Registration policy: **mandatory registration – the Russian Federation applies its own registration laws in the territory its occupies in Eastern Donbas.**

Key restriction tools imposed: **mass deregistration, police raids, prohibition of Jehovah's Witnesses since 2018, Russia's exportation of worst practice regarding religious recognition and registration procedures.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Denounce the deregistration order; denounce the Russian Federation's exportation of worst practice into the Donbas on matters regarding religious activity; revoke the prohibition of Jehovah's Witnesses and reinstate their right to legally operate in the region.



Donetsk People's Republic



Luhansk People's Republic

# Gibraltar

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Gibraltar is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Gibraltar is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNDRIP via the United Kingdom; Gibraltar is not party to the UNCRC; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; Gibraltar is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** registration is not mandatory for religious groups to conduct "basic religious activities".

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Gibraltar at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hierarchy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**



# Guernsey, Bailiwick of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Anglicanism)**

Human rights instruments: Guernsey is not party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, and the UNDRIP; Guernsey is also not party to the UNCRC; Guernsey did not vote on the UDHR; Guernsey is not party to the ECHR.

Mandatory of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Guernsey as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Guernsey at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hierarchy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Hong Kong is a secular state**

Human rights instruments: Hong Kong is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Hong Kong did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not required to register to conduct religious services but must register to receive certain financial and legal benefits. There are two legal designations for religious groups in Hong Kong: a society or tax-exempt organisation. Groups may also apply for both designations. The registration process normally takes approximately 12 working days.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, membership quota, nationality quota, qualifications for registered status are ambiguous.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Due to the ongoing encroachment of the CCP into life in Hong Kong, it is doubtful that the Special Administrative Region will maintain its status of receptive if CCP successfully imposes anything like its own policies on religion in Hong Kong; on this basis, protection of the Basic Law of Hong Kong regarding religious freedom and religious recognition against CCP encroachment is essential as is bringing attention to the ongoing increase of restrictions on civil life in Hong Kong; to maintain its receptivity and to become Dynamic, Hong Kong would need to establish distinct procedures for recognising and registering religious entities and would need to establish a recognition agency to manage its recognition system independent of the government.



# Isle of Man

2022 RoRB Classification: **Restrictive**

ForRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Anglicanism)**

Human rights instruments: Isle of Man is not partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC or the UNDRIP; Isle of Man did not vote on the UDHR; Isle of Man is not partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in the Isle of Man as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in the Isle of Man at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**



# Jersey, Bailiwick of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **State denomination (Anglicanism)**



Human rights instruments: Jersey is partied to the UNCRC; Jersey is not partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, or the UNDRIP; Jersey did not vote on the UDHR; Jersey is not partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Jersey as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Jersey at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Macao Special Administrative Region



2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Macao is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Macau is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP; Macau did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** stipulatory registration – religious groups are not mandated to register in order to conduct religious activities but registration does come with certain benefits through the bestowal of legal entity status.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** amalgamation, nationality quota, nominal restriction, secondary procedure.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

Establish a recognition system that is able to bestow both existential recognition and legal registration simultaneously and at various levels of activity; revoke the imposed nationality quota, the nominal restriction policy and the secondary procedure within the registration process; to be classified Dynamic, establish a recognition agency that is independent of government to manage the recognition system.

# Montserrat

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Montserrat is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: **Montserrat is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via the United Kingdom; United Kingdom favoured in favour of the UDHR; Montserrat is party to the ECHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Montserrat as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Montserrat at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**



# New Caledonia

2022 RoRB Classification: **Receptive**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **New Caledonia is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: **New Caledonia is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via France; France voted in favour of the UDHR; New Caledonia is partied to the ECHR.**

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in New Caledonia as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in New Caledonia at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**



# Niue

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Niue is a secular territory**



Human rights instruments: Niue is partied to the UNCRC; Niue is not partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, or the UNDRIP; Niue did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Niue as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Niue at this time.

## Basic religious activities

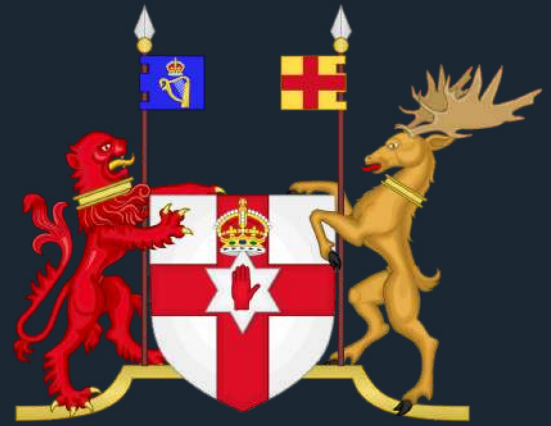
**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Northern Ireland

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Northern Ireland is a secular territory**



Human rights instruments: Northern Ireland is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via the United Kingdom; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; Northern Ireland is partied to the ECHR via the United Kingdom.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** registration of religious groups is not mandated by the authorities in Northern Ireland.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Northern Ireland at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Palestine, State of

2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: State religion (Islam); State recognition is also granted to the Armenian Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Ethiopian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Maronite, Melkite Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Syrian Catholic, and Syrian Orthodox denominations.**



**Human rights instruments: Palestine is party to the ICCPR, and the ICESCR; Palestine is not party to the UNCRC; Palestine did not vote on the UDHR or the UNDRIP.**

**Mandatory of registration: non-registration**

**Registration policy: non-registration – there is no specified process by which religious organisations gain official recognition.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: proselytism is prohibited from all unrecognised religious groups, vertical recognition is in effect (verticalism) due to Islam being the state religion and then some Christian churches receiving bilateral cooperation agreements (with various categories among them) and other groups remaining unrecognised.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (not free; non-Islamic materials intended for propagational use requires preapproval); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; subject to registration); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Dismantlement of the current apparatus of laws restricting reasonable religious activity; establish a recognition system for the country that has jurisdiction over both West Bank and the Gaza Strip to provide both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems and their derivatives and at multiple levels of activity; repeal laws on proselytism, conversion and blasphemy and deconstruct the system of partial recognition that is currently in place even if this requires the disestablishment of Islam as the state religion; remove all subjective language from the law to help reduce arbitrary enforcement.**



# Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic



2022 RoRB Classification: Restrictive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Transnistria is a secular state; State privilege (Moldovan Orthodox Church).

Human rights instruments: Transnistria is party to the UNCRC; Transnistria is not party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, or the UDHR; Transnistria did not vote on the UDHR; Transnistria is not party to the ECHR.

Mandatory registration: mandatory

**Registration policy:** mandatory registration – the government requires religious groups to register with them to conduct their activities legally.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** denial of registration based on religion or belief, Jehovah's Witnesses have faced registration hurdles in the past, limitations on GFO and the religious activities of foreigners, non-recognition for any religion or denomination other than the MOC.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieronymy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; subject to registration); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; subject to registration); **pastoral services** (not free; subject to registration); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal); **public expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **receiving donations** (not free; subject to registration); **religious buildings** (not free; subject to registration); **religious instruction** (not free; subject to registration); **religious literature** (not free; subject to registration); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to registration); **religious trade** (not free; subject to registration).

## Recommendations

Revoke the mandatory registration order and the discriminatory denial of registration; revoke discrimination between GFOs and domestic groups as well as the policy of non-recognition for all denominations except the MOC.

# Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of

2022 RoRB Classification: Apathetic

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Puerto Rico is a secular territory

Human rights instruments: Puerto Rico is partied to the ICCPR; Puerto Rico is a signatory of the ICESCR (via the United States) but this has not been ratified; Puerto Rico is neither partied to the UNCRC nor the UNDRIP; Puerto Rico did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory

Registration policy: registration of religious groups is not mandated by the authorities in Puerto Rico.

Key restriction tools imposed: amalgamation.

Basic religious activities

Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).



# Saint Barthélemy

2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

ForB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Saint Barthélemy is a secular territory



Human rights instruments: Saint Barthélemy is party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via France; France voted in favour of the UDHR; Saint Barthélemy is party to the ECHR.

Mandatory registration: unknown (insufficient data)

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Saint Barthélemy as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Saint Barthélemy at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Saint Martin, Collectivity of



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Saint Martin is a secular territory

Human rights instruments: Saint Martin is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via France; France voted in favour of the UDHR; Saint Martin is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: unknown (insufficient data)

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Saint Martin as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in the Collectivity of Saint Martin at this time.

## Basic religious activities

Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).

# Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, Territorial Collectivity of



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is a secular territory

Human rights instruments: Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via France; France voted in favour of the UDHR; Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: non-mandatory

Registration policy: insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon as of the 2022 GRR Report.

Key restriction tools imposed: insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon at this time.

Basic religious activities

Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).

# Scotland

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Scotland is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Scotland is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via the United Kingdom; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; Scotland is partied to the ECHR.



Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

Registration policy: **registration of religious groups is not mandated by the authorities in Scotland.**

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Scotland at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Establish distinct provisions for legal registration and existential recognition of religious entities.**

# Sint Maarten

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Sint Maarten is a secular territory**



Human rights instruments: Sint Maarten is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via the Netherlands; the Netherlands voted in favour of the UDHR; Sint Maarten is partied to the ECHR via the Netherlands.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

Registration policy: registration of religious groups is not mandated by the authorities in Sint Maarten.

Key restriction tools imposed: insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Sint Maarten at this time.

## Basic religious activities

Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).

# Somaliland, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

FoRB Claim: **Caveated claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Somaliland is not party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, nor the UNDRIP; Somaliland did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatory of registration: **non-registration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there is no mechanism for religious groups and organisations to register with the government.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** criminalisation of conversion from Islam, Islamic places of worship must obtain government permission to operate, non-Islamic proselytism is prohibited by the Constitution, and the prohibition of the importation of non-Islamic religious materials.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal to convert from Islam); **hieronymy** (not free; illegal); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal for all non-Muslim groups); **public expression and observance** (not free; non-Islamic expression and observance illegal); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; subject to government preapproval); **religious trade** (not free; illegal).

## Recommendations

Abolish the criminalisation of conversion from Islam and other fundamental exercises of freedom of religion or belief such as the repressive laws on non-Islamic proselytism; establish provisions for the existential recognition of religions other than Islam; establish provisions for the legal registration of belief-based organisations other than those of Islamic affiliation.



# South Ossetia, Republic of



2022 RoRB Classification: Censorious

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: South Ossetia is a secular territory; State privilege (South Ossetian Orthodox Church).

Human rights instruments: South Ossetia is partied to the UNCRC; South Ossetia is not partied to the ICCPR or the ICESCR; South Ossetia did not vote on the UDHR or the UNDRIP; South Ossetia is not partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: unknown (insufficient data)

Registration policy: insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in South Ossetia as of the 2022 GRR Report.

Key restriction tools imposed: prohibition of Jehovah's Witnesses since 2017.

## Basic religious activities

Conversion (not free; restricted); hieroncy (not free; restricted); monasticism (not free; restricted); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; restricted); pastoral services (not free; restricted); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (not free; restricted); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (not free; restricted); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (not free; restricted); religious and worship services (not free; restricted); religious trade (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Revoke the prohibition of Jehovah's Witnesses and any other form of religious prohibition; ensure that the Russian Federation's exportation of worst practice does not continue to take place in the territory to the detriment of RoRB and FoRB conditions.

# Tibet Autonomous Region

2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Tibet is a hypersecular territory (state atheism); the CCP recognises Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism and Taoism.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: mandatory**

**Registration policy:** broad mandatory registration – the central government's Regulations on Religious Affairs require religious groups to register with the government, impose fines on landlords who provide facilities for unauthorised religious activities, and restrict contact with overseas religious institutions.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** fines on landlords who provide facilities for unapproved religious activities, preapproval by the state of the online activities of a religious group, pseudo-recognition of five religions, restriction of contact with foreign affiliates or the foreign headquarters of a religious institution, the CCP controls the selection of Tibetan Buddhist lamas.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; restricted); **hieroncy** (not free; restricted); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (not free; restricted); **proselytism** (not free; restricted); **public expression and observance** (free); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; restricted); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; restricted).

## Recommendations

Complete dismantlement of the present terminally restrictive apparatus of laws and policies for religion and belief; however, realistically, such a dismantlement could only take place if a similar reversal in attitudes, policy and legislation was made for China as a whole.



# Tokelau Islands

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Tokelau Islands is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Tokelau is not partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, or the UNDRIP; Tokelau did not vote on the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in the Tokelau Islands as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in the Tokelau Islands at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**



# Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Northern Cyprus is a secular territory; State privilege (Islam).**

**Human rights instruments: Northern Cyprus is partied to the UNCRC; Northern Cyprus is not partied to the ICCPR or the ICESCR; Northern Cyprus did not vote on the UDHR nor on the UNDRIP; Northern Cyprus is not partied to the ECHR.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy: insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Northern Cyprus as of the 2022 GRR Report.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: Government intervention in the internal affairs of religious organisations; state privilege.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

## Recommendations

**Establish a recognition system that is able to provide procedures for existential recognition and legal registration, procedures which should remain distinct from each other; remove restrictions that are currently imposed on minority religious groups.**

# Wales

2022 RoRB Classification: **Apathetic**

FoRB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

Secularity: **Wales is a secular territory**

Human rights instruments: Wales is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via the United Kingdom; United Kingdom voted in favour of the UDHR; Wales is partied to the ECHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-mandatory**

**Registration policy:** registration of religious groups is not mandated by the authorities in Wales.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Wales at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; subject to the registration of a place of worship); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**



# Wallis and Futuna Islands, Territory of the



2022 RoRB Classification: Receptive

FoRB Claim: Explicit claim is made

Secularity: Wallis and Futuna is a secular territory

Human rights instruments: Wallis and Futuna is partied to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC, and the UNDRIP via France; France voted in favour of the UDHR.

Mandatoriness of registration: **unknown (insufficient data)**

**Registration policy:** insufficient reliable information exists for registration procedures for religious groups in Wallis and Futuna as of the 2022 GRR Report.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** insufficient data exists on restriction tools imposed in Wallis and Futuna at this time.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (free); hieroncy (free); monasticism (free); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (free); pastoral services (free); private expression and observance (free); proselytism (free); public expression and observance (free); receiving donations (free); religious buildings (free); religious instruction (free); religious literature (free); religious and worship services (free); religious trade (free).**

# Western Sahara (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic)



2022 RoRB Classification: **Censorious**

FoRB Claim: **No claim is made**

Secularity: **State religion (Islam)**

Human rights instruments: Western Sahara is not party to the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the UNCRC; Western Sahara did not vote on either the UDHR or the UNDRIP.

Mandatoriness of registration: **non-registration and malregistration**

**Registration policy:** non-registration – there are no official procedure for legal registration of groups in Western Sahara. Malregistration – any registration procedures conducted by the Sahrawi government would not have jurisdiction across the entire Western Sahara.

**Key restriction tools imposed:** criminalisation of the criticism of Islam, non-recognition for any religion or denomination other than Islam, prohibition on non-Islamic proselytism and the importation of non-Islamic religious materials with the intention to propagate.

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion** (not free; illegal); **hieronymy** (not free; non-Islamic materials illegal); **monasticism** (not free; restricted); **nuptial, initiatory and burial rites** (not free; restricted); **pastoral services** (not free; restricted); **private expression and observance** (free); **proselytism** (not free; illegal for all non-Muslims); **public expression and observance** (not free; non-Islamic expression and observance illegal); **receiving donations** (not free; restricted); **religious buildings** (not free; restricted); **religious instruction** (not free; restricted); **religious literature** (not free; illegal for non-Muslims); **religious and worship services** (not free; restricted); **religious trade** (not free; illegal).

## Recommendations

Revoke the censorial Moroccan laws that have been imposed such as bans on proselytism, public expression of belief and conversion from Islam; establish a system that extends opportunities for both existential recognition and legal registration to all belief systems; remove all instances of the politicisation of religion and belief and of the registration procedures.

# Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



2022 RoRB Classification: **Terminal**

ForB Claim: **Explicit claim is made**

**Secularity: Xinjiang is a hypersecular territory (state atheism); the CCP recognises Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism and Taoism.**

**Mandatoriness of registration: non-registration**

**Registration policy: non-registration – there are no separate registration procedures for religious groups in Xinjiang.**

**Key restriction tools imposed: restrictions on religious attire, state preapproval of all religious activities (such as proselytising, religious instruction, publishing and distributing religious literature) is mandatory.**

## Basic religious activities

**Conversion (not free; restricted); hieroncy (not free; highly restricted; preapproval required); monasticism (not free; restricted); nuptial, initiatory and burial rites (not free; restricted); pastoral services (not free; restricted); private expression and observance (not free; restricted); proselytism (not free; preapproval required); public expression and observance (not free; restricted); receiving donations (not free; restricted); religious buildings (not free; restricted); religious instruction (not free; restricted); religious literature (not free; restricted); religious and worship services (not free; restricted); religious trade (not free; illegal).**

## Recommendations

Not without changes first made in the Chinese heartland will a reversal in these restrictive laws imposed in Xinjiang be practical but the consequences of what the CCP has done in interning innocent citizens into “re-education facilities” and in turning the Uighur society into a police state will likely be irreversible.



# GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

**Amalgamation:** the lack of distinction between registration and recognition, usually in favour of one, in some national recognition systems, causing either a lack of symbolic recognition for religions and denominations or a lack of provisions for the legal registration of belief-based organisations (BBOs).

**Basic religious activities:** activities performed with religious purpose or based on philosophical belief that are considered central to the practice of religion or belief that their subjection to registration by the state before they can be performed is regarded impermissible; the category of 'basic religious activities' currently includes conversion, importation of religious materials (called hieroncy), monasticism, nuptial, initiatory and burial rites, pastoral services, private expression and observance, proselytism, public expression and observance, receiving donations, renting property for religious services, religious instruction, religious literature, religious and worship services, and religious trade.

**Malregistration:** the situation in which a government does not have the ability to enforce its registration laws throughout the territory it claims, typically due to an ongoing conflict or civil war; malregistration is problematic because it allows for non-state actors to impose their own registration law and undermines the authenticity of a religious group's receipt of registered status.

**Mandatoriness:** the degree to which state registration is mandatory for religious groups ranging from stipulatory (non-mandatory) to pseudo-mandatory to broad mandatory; conditional and discriminatory forms of registration also exist which are mostly categorised as mandatory.

**Non-registration:** a government has established no procedures for the legal registration of religious groups, especially as a means of constraining religious activity to state-approved forms.

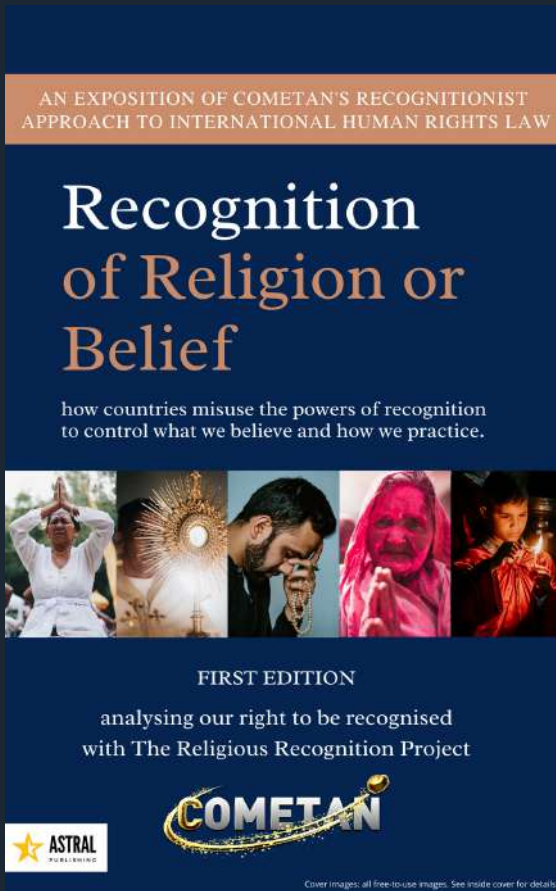
**Pseudo-mandatory:** denoting the instance in which a government claims that a religious group's registration with it is not mandatory but in fact stipulates that one or more benefits of registration is a 'basic religious activity' that, according to RoRB standards, should not be subject to registration; therefore, the registration in question is pseudo-mandatory.

**Registrable religious activities:** activities performed with religious purpose or related to the administration of a religious group whose subjection to state registration is considered permissible due to such activities being less intrinsic to religious practice; the category of 'registrable religious activities' currently includes constructing and owning a religious building, tax-exemption, receiving non-monetary donations, the ability to receive state funding, the ability to sign contracts, the ability to open bank accounts, the ability to perform a legal nuptial, funerary and baptismal ceremonies (without a civil representative), and international missionary activity.

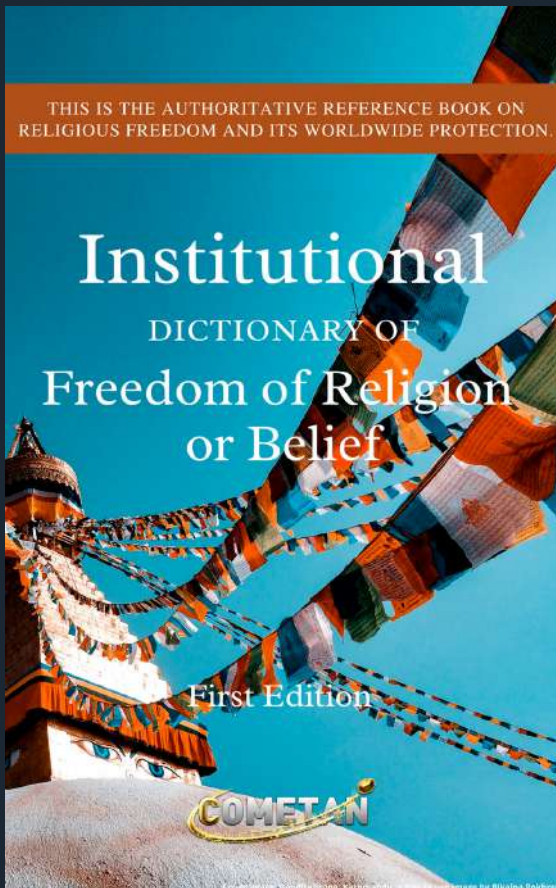
**State privilege:** a specific denomination or whole religion is not established as the state religion but nonetheless receive preferential treatment by the state, especially in the form of exclusive benefits granted that no other denomination receives.

**Stipulatory:** the instance in which a government only states that registration with it is necessary for a religious group to conduct 'registrable religious activities', activities regarded permissible to subject to registration.

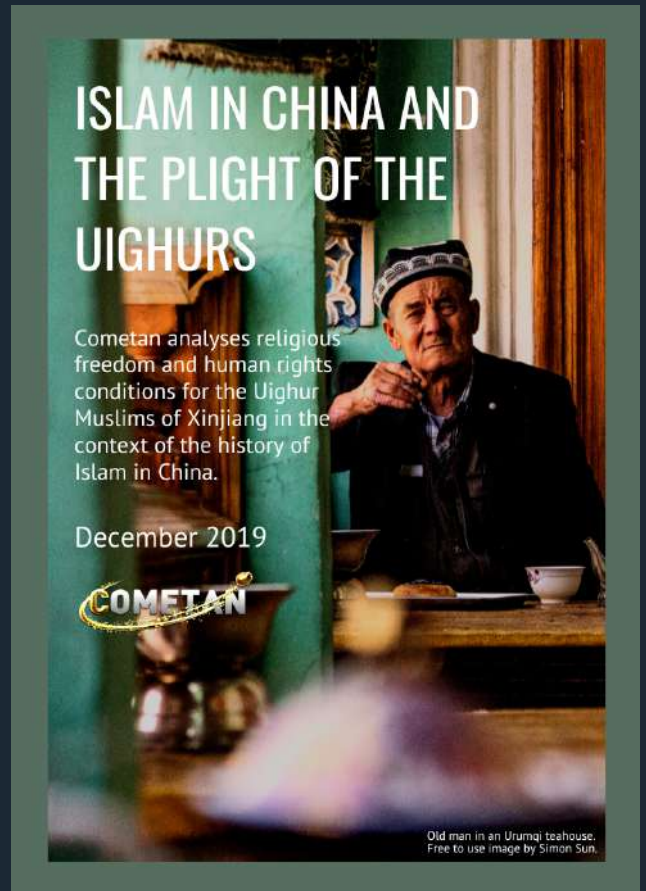
# OTHER WORKS



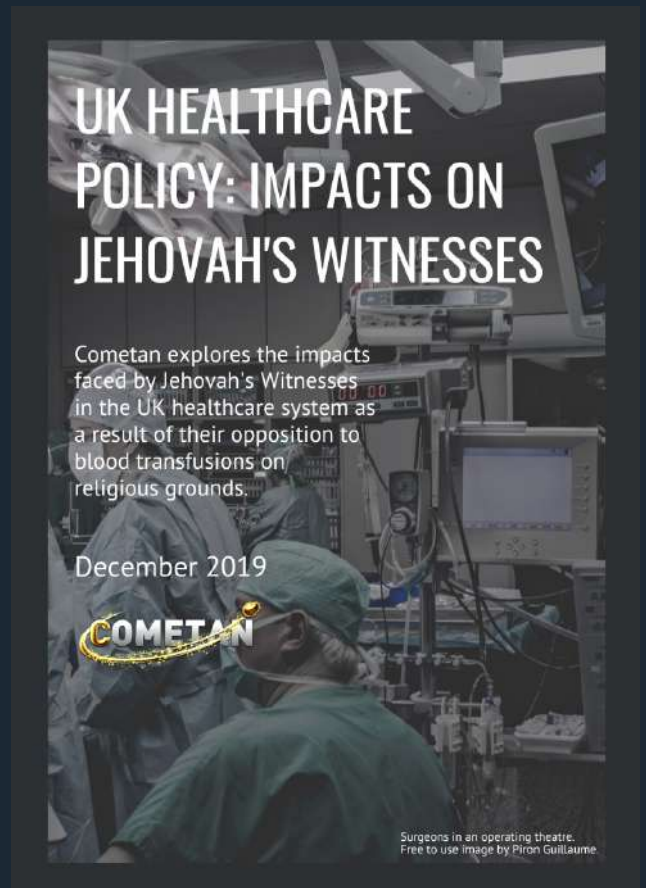
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Released in July 2021



Released in December 2019



Released in December 2019.