

## **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT**

### **2025 FACT SHEET**

1. **Period covered:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024
2. **Countries covered:** 196
3. **Publications:** The full Religious Freedom Report (RFR) is available online and only in hard copy (print form) in selected countries. The Executive Summary is available online, and in hard copy in at least 6 languages (English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Italian).
4. **Frequency:** Published approximately every two years.
5. **Publication Date:** The international launch of the RFR takes place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025.
6. **Embargo:** The text of the RFR country reports, Executive Summary, Press release and Infographics are embargoed until 21<sup>st</sup> October at 11:00 Central European Time.
7. **Country Report Authors:** 32 authors of 21 nationalities and 2 university teams. Authors include academics, journalists, human rights activists, and missionaries.
8. **Sources of Information:** Reported incidents and the widest possible range of reputable published materials in relevant languages, including Aid to the Church in Need's in-house information. Footnotes indicate sources used.
9. **Copyright:** The copyright of all texts is owned by Aid to the Church in Need. The images are also owned by Aid to the Church in Need unless otherwise stated.

10. **The Editorial Committee:** The team was led by Marta Petrosillo, Editor-in-Chief, and Mark von Riedemann, Chairman of the Editorial Committee and Senior Editor, and include: Amélie Berthelin, José Luis Bazán, Maria Lozano, Raquel Martín, Dennis Peters, John Pontifex, Marcela Szymanski, Andre Stiefenhofer, Vanessa Bartelt, Roger Kiska, Irmina Nockiewicz.
11. **Form of each country report:** Each country report has 4 sections: Country Data; a review of the legal and constitutional positions affecting religious freedom; a list of incidents affecting the exercise of religious freedom and developments useful to understand the situation; and a section where authors briefly assess the prospects for religious freedom in the coming 2 years.
12. **Checking:** The texts have been subject to extensive fact checking and cross-referencing. If necessary, the individual authors were required to rewrite the texts to ensure conformity with the editorial guidelines. They have also been checked, in some cases, by the relevant project specialist in ACN Headquarters.
13. **Categorisation:** The assessment of whether a country fell into the Persecution or Discrimination category was made by the Editorial Committee in consultation with the Regional Editors and the authors, using a grid developed by the Committee, which is updated with each edition.
14. **Case Studies and Backgrounders:** The case studies and backgrounders were chosen by the Editorial Committee to reflect main themes in the report and were written by experts on the topic to which they refer.
15. **Translators and Other Staff:** There were teams of translators who worked to and from English into the other five languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese). In total, including authors, translators, proof-readers, fact-checkers, graphic designers, the Editorial Committee, and the communication production team, around 75 people were involved in the RFR.
16. **Population, Religious affiliation, GDP and Gini Index statistics:** The figures we publish are drawn from the World Religions Database, hosted by Boston

University and published by Brill's. Their methodology appears the most reliable to us.

17. **Website Address:** For the full text of the Report, go to:

[www.acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport](http://www.acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport).