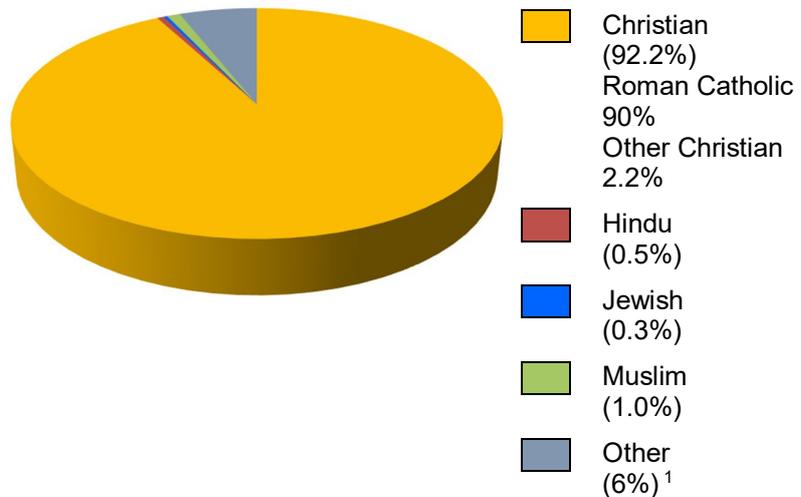
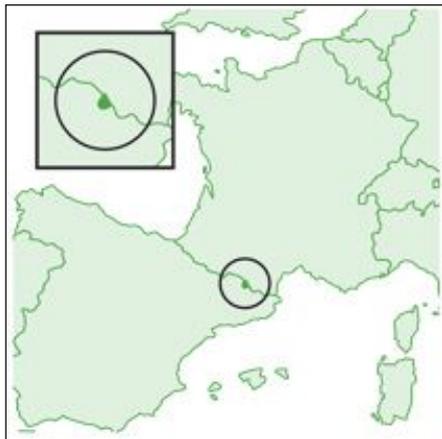


ANDORRA



Area: 468 km ²	Population: 85,580 ²	Political system: Democracy ³	Major Language(s): Catalan, Spanish, Portuguese, French ⁴
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Legal framework on Freedom of Religion and actual application

The Constitution of the Principality of Andorra guarantees freedom of religion, and that the “freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in the interests of public safety, order, health or morals, or for the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.”⁵

The constitution acknowledges a special relationship with the Catholic Church, “in accordance with Andorran tradition” and “recognises the full legal capacity of the bodies of the Roman Catholic Church which have legal status in accordance with their own rules”.⁶ The Concordat of 2008 regulates relations with the Catholic Church.

The constitution provides that all persons are equal before the law and discrimination on the grounds of religion is prohibited.⁷ There is no specific legislation on the treatment and recognition of religious groups, and religious communities must register with the government as “cultural organizations” under the law of associations. They do not receive a special status as a recognised religion.⁸

The Catholic Church, as a result of its religious status, received some privileges not available to other religious groups, for instance, the government paid the salaries of foreign Catholic priests serving in local churches and granted them citizenship as long as they exercised their functions in the country, where immigrants performing religious functions for non-Catholic groups were unable to obtain religious working permits (as the term “religious worker” was not defined) and had to enter Andorra with a different status.⁹

In a report published on 22nd May, 2012 the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe made the following recommendations relating to minority religious communities: address the lack of cemeteries for Jewish and Muslim communities; create a special status for minority religions as religions (and not merely ‘cultural organisations’); improve public information about minority religions in Andorra; and authorise the building of a mosque for the Muslim community.¹⁰

In a follow-up report on its recommendations published on June 9, 2015, the ECRI did not address the status of any of the above areas as either having been addressed or still pending.¹¹ On 14th September, 2015, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe published its periodic review of Andorra. It did not note any specific concerns regarding religious minorities.¹²

Ten religious communities made up the Interfaith Dialogue Group. The Andorran National Commission for UNESCO collaborated with the group, which met periodically to discuss issues of common interest regarding religious traditions, beliefs, and tolerance.¹³

Incidents

On 18th April, 2014 a Jewish man was assaulted by two individuals outside of a discotheque in the city of La Massana. The Jewish community voiced concern about the incident.¹⁴

Prospects for Freedom of Religion

In the period analysed there have been no other reported incidents or negative developments with regard to religious freedom in this country.

¹ http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country_6_2.asp

² <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/an.html>

³ Parliamentary democracy, with heads of state in the form of a co-principality; the two princes are the President of France and Bishop of Urgell, whose diocese is located in Spain,
<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>

⁴ http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country_6_1.asp

⁵ Constitution of the Principality of Andorra, Article 11

⁶ Id.

⁷ Constitution of the Principality of Andorra, Article 6

⁸ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>

⁹ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>

¹⁰ <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/country-by-country/andorra/AND-CBC-IV-2012-024-ENG.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/country-by-country/andorra/AND-IFU-IV-2015-21-ENG.pdf>

¹² <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewPDF.asp?FileID=22023&lang=en>

¹³ www.state.gov/documents/organization/171680.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>