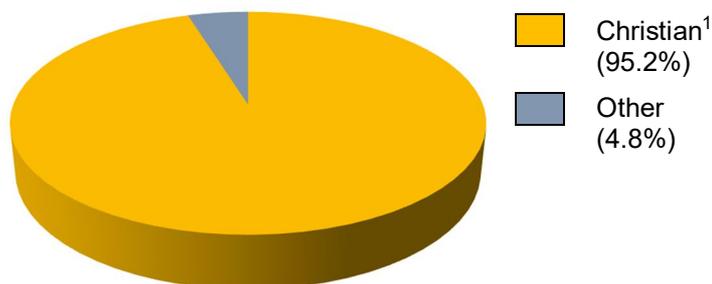
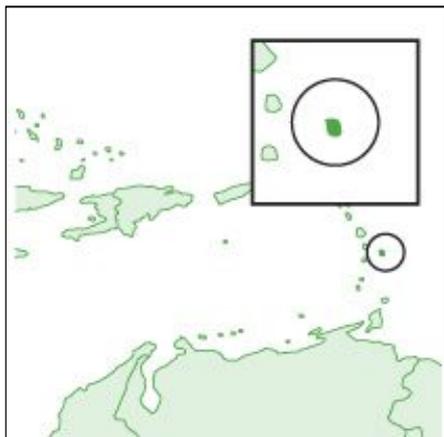


# BARBADOS



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<b>Area<sup>2</sup>:</b> 430 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Population<sup>3</sup>:</b> 275,000	<b>Political system:</b> Monarchy <sup>4</sup>	<b>Major Language(s):</b> English, Barbadian.
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## Legal framework on Freedom of Religion and actual application

The constitution guarantees the protection of “the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual”, regardless of “race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest”. It also guarantees freedom of conscience (article 11).

No person may have their freedom of conscience limited, including “freedom of thought, and of religion, freedom to change one’s religion or belief, freedom to “manifest and propagate one’s religion or belief in worship, through teaching, practice and observance” individually or collectively, in public or in private. “Each religious community shall be entitled, at its own expense, to establish and maintain places of education.”

Moreover, and related to freedom of conscience and religion, the constitution defines discrimination as treating people differently on the basis of race, place of origin, political opinions, colour and creed. The constitution also states that no person shall be forced to receive a religious education, without his or her consent, or that of their guardian if under 21, whether in a school, in the military or in prison.<sup>5</sup>

## Incidents

Questions have been raised with respect to a Muslim-only housing project at Clermont, St James, which includes a mosque and community centre. Responding to questions about the project, Abdulsamad Pandor said that it would be governed by the same rules as nearby residential districts.<sup>6</sup>

## Prospects for freedom of religion

No acts of intolerance have been observed during the period under consideration, except for some positive discrimination. Compared to the period covered by the 2014 report, prospects for freedom of religion have seen an improvement.

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<sup>1</sup>[www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country\\_20\\_1](http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country_20_1).  
<sup>2</sup><http://www.barstats.gov.bb/census/asp> accessed on 7 March 2016.

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18723928s> accessed on 6 May 2016.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18723928s> accessed on 6 May 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Barbados is an independent Commonwealth realm, consisting of a parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.gov.bb/government-main/constitution-of-barbados/> accessed on 1 March 2016.

<sup>6</sup> <https://barbadosfreepress.wordpress.com/2014/09/21/muslim-only-housing-development-in-barbados-no-christians-or-jews-allowed-to-purchase-homes-in-new-community/> and original story

<http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/56635/muslim-project> accessed on 4 March 2016.