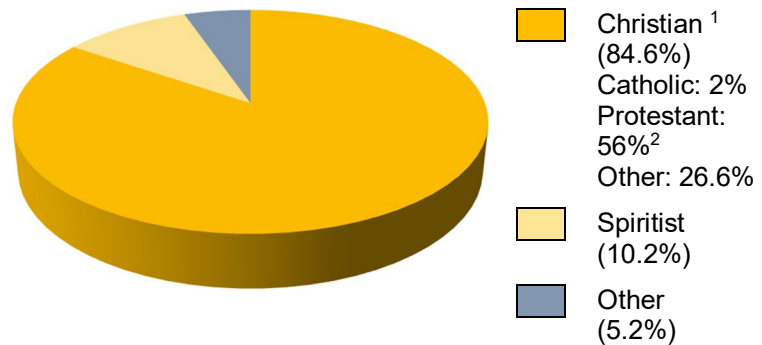


JAMAICA



Area: 10,991 km ²	Population ³ : 2.8 million	Political system: Monarchy ⁴	Major Language(s): English, Jamaican creole ⁵
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Legal framework on freedom of religion and actual application

The Jamaican constitution guarantees fundamental rights regardless of an individual's race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, sex or creed. It also recognises freedom of conscience. No one can be prevented from exercising their freedom of conscience, which includes freedom of thought and religion, the freedom to change religion or belief, and the freedom to manifest and propagate one's religion through teaching, practice, worship and observance.⁶

Incidents

In January 2015, Jamaica approved the use of marijuana for therapeutic. It was also approved for ritual purposes as practised by the Rastafarian movement, for whom it is a sacred herb. The decision to amend the drug law was based on the fundamental right to religious freedom.⁷

Prospects for freedom of religion

Research showed that during the period under review, there were no incidents of intolerance or discrimination as took place in the previous period. Therefore, the situation has improved with respect to religious freedom and the outlook looks positive.

¹ http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country_116_1.asp accessed on 16 March 2016.

² Church of God: 24%, Adventists: 11%, Pentecostals: 10%, Baptists: 7%, Anglicans: 4%

³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18784061> accessed on 7 May 2016.

⁴ <http://jis.gov.jm/information/this-is-jamaica/> accessed on 16 March 2016.

⁵ <http://jamaicans.com/speak-jamaican/> accessed on 16 March 2016.

⁶ http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/es/text.jsp?file_id=214629 accessed on 3 March 2016.

⁷ <http://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/jamaica-marihuana-legalizacion-rastafari.html> accessed on 3 March 2016.