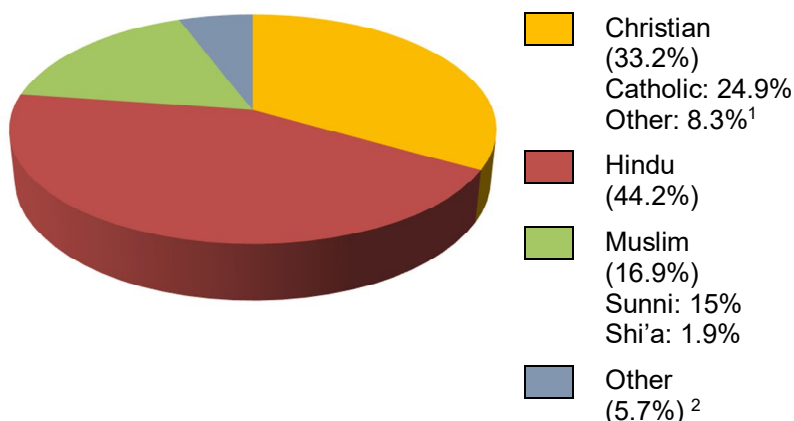
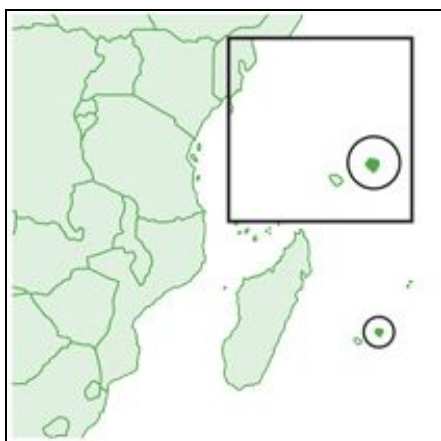


MAURITIUS



Area: 2,030 km ²	Population: 1,291,167	Political system: Democracy	Major Language(s): English, French, Mauritian Creole.
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Legal framework on Religious Freedom and its application.

In articles 3 and 11 of the 1968 constitution (amended in 2001) religious freedom is protected as a fundamental right. Other laws provide details on the protection of religious freedom and the necessary absence of discrimination on religious grounds. The government is reported to enforce such civic rights. Furthermore it regularly grants subsidies to religious groups according to the number of their followers as they appear in the national census.³

Incidents

There is a certain tension in the country between Christians and Muslims and the Hindu majority because of claims of under-representation in higher levels of government, particularly within the civil service structure. According to such claims, Christians and Muslims would thus be prevented by well-positioned Hindus from accessing higher posts within government. So far there are no reliable statistics and facts to substantiate such claims.⁴

On 16th June 2014 a Hindu woman was sentenced by a court to pay 25,000 rupees (US\$371.69) for having posted anti-Muslim comments on a social network.⁵

Prospects for freedom of religion

In the present context no relevant changes are foreseen for the near future.

¹ Seventh-day Adventist, Assembly of God, Christian Tamil, Church of England, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Mormons

² http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country_147_1.asp

³ Cf. *2014 Report on International Religious Freedom - Mauritius*, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, (14 October 2015), <http://www.refworld.org/docid/56210576c.html>

⁴ Cf. *2014 Report on International Religious Freedom - Mauritius*, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, (14 October 2015), <http://www.refworld.org/docid/56210576c.html>

⁵ Cf. *2014 Report on International Religious Freedom - Mauritius*, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, (14 October 2015), <http://www.refworld.org/docid/56210576c.html>