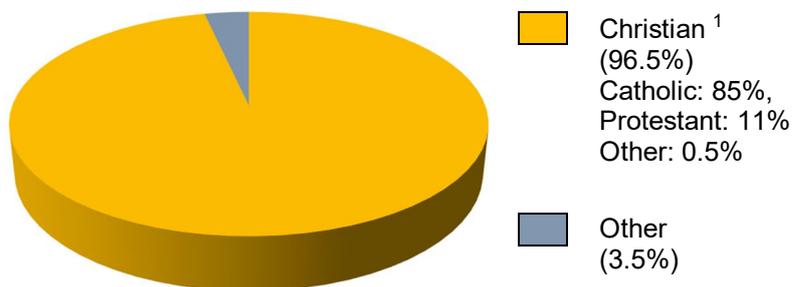


# PERU



**Area:**  
1.28 million km<sup>2</sup>

**Population<sup>2</sup>:**  
29.7 million

**Political system:**  
Democracy<sup>3</sup>

**Major Language(s):**  
Spanish, Quechua,  
Aymara<sup>4</sup>

## Legal framework on freedom of religion and actual application

In the preamble of the constitution, “Almighty God” is invoked as part of its enactment.

The constitution states that everyone has the right to equality before the law, and that no one can be discriminated on grounds of origin, race, sex, language, religion, opinion, economic status or any other feature. It also states that everyone has the right to freedom of conscience and religion, either individually or collectively. No one can be persecuted for their ideas or beliefs. All religions can be freely practised in public, provided they do not constitute an offence against morals, or a disturbance to public order. People also have the right to confidentiality with respect to their convictions, religious or otherwise.

Religious education is provided, respecting freedom of conscience. Extradition will not be granted if the request has been made in order to prosecute or punish someone on grounds of religion, nationality, opinion or race.

The State also recognises the Catholic Church as an important element in the historical, cultural and moral formation of the country. For this reason, it cooperates with it while respecting and cooperating with other denominations.<sup>5</sup>

Law 29.635 on Religious Freedom prohibits discrimination on religious grounds, and allows people to profess freely the religious beliefs of their choice, as well as renounce them at any time they choose.

People have the right to practise their religious precepts, individually or collectively, in private or in public.

The law also enshrines the right to take an oath in accordance with one’s own convictions, as well as to refrain from doing so by making an alternative pledge. It also allows burial according to one’s religious traditions and rituals.

Registered religious bodies are non-profit legal persons under private law. The goal of registration is to recognise their legal identity and facilitate their relations with the State.<sup>6</sup>

Under an agreement signed with the Catholic Church in July 1980, the latter receives stipends from the government, as do some members of the Catholic clergy and laity working for the Church. Also, the government provides each diocese with a monthly subsidy.<sup>7</sup>

## Incidents

In November 2015, after the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Peru (Conferencia Episcopal Peruana, CEP) collected 135,000 signatures to defend religion classes, the government announced that the subject would continue to be taught in the country's schools. The CEP reacted to the Marco Curricular Nacional propuesto para el diálogo (National Curriculum Framework proposed for dialogue), a document that presents eight basic learning areas in which pupils must show progress by the end of their school years. However, in none is the spiritual and religious dimension mentioned. For his part, the Education Minister noted that religion would continue to be taught in schools, and excluding it was out of the question.<sup>8</sup>

Also in November 2015, the Peruvian Congress (parliament) decided to shelve a bill decriminalising abortion in cases of rape after most members of the congressional commission rejected the draft legislation. In May 2015 a similar initiative had been rejected.<sup>9</sup>

## Prospects for freedom of religion

Between June 2014 and March 2016, there were no cases of intolerance, discrimination or religious persecution. Compared to the previous period, and given the absence of incidents, the situation regarding freedom of religion has improved.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country\\_177\\_1.asp](http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/countries/Country_177_1.asp) accessed on 16 March 2016

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19928905> accessed on 9 May 2016.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www4.congreso.gob.pe/ntley/Imagenes/Constitu/Cons1993.pdf> accessed on 9 May 2016.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.peru.gob.pe/> accessed on 16 March 2016.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www4.congreso.gob.pe/ntley/Imagenes/Constitu/Cons1993.pdf> accessed on 16 March 2016.

<sup>6</sup> <https://derechoperu.wordpress.com/2010/12/21/ley-29635-ley-de-libertad-religiosa/> accessed on 20 March 2016.

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/secretariat\\_state/archivio/documents/rc\\_seg-st\\_19800726\\_santa-sede-peru\\_sp.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/secretariat_state/archivio/documents/rc_seg-st_19800726_santa-sede-peru_sp.html) accessed on 20 March 2016.

<sup>8</sup> [http://infocatolica.com/?t=noticia&cod=22464&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=NoticiasTw&utm\\_source=infocatolicatw](http://infocatolica.com/?t=noticia&cod=22464&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=NoticiasTw&utm_source=infocatolicatw) accessed on 5 March 2016.

<sup>9</sup> [http://elcomercio.pe/politica/congreso/archivan-proyecto-ley-despenalizar-aborto-violacion-noticia-1858704?ref=flujo\\_tags\\_514141&ft=nota\\_11&e=titulo](http://elcomercio.pe/politica/congreso/archivan-proyecto-ley-despenalizar-aborto-violacion-noticia-1858704?ref=flujo_tags_514141&ft=nota_11&e=titulo) accessed on 5 March 2016.