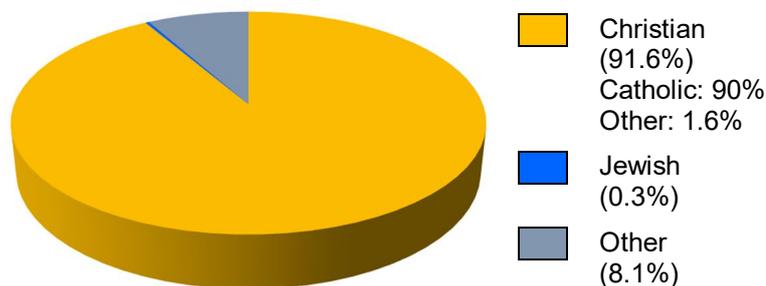
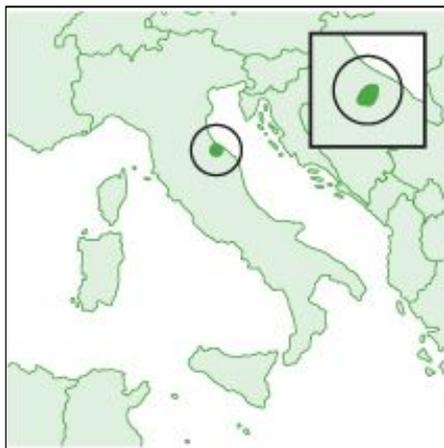


# SAN MARINO



Area:	Population:	Political system:	Major Language(s):
61 km <sup>2</sup>	33,020	Democracy	Italian

## Legal framework on Freedom of Religion and its actual application

Although the Republic of San Marino does not have an actual constitution, provisions ensuring religious freedom are contained in a number of legislative documents. The most important among them is the Declaration of Citizen Rights of 1974, which guarantees freedom of religion and prohibits discrimination based on religion. Article 4 of this law (which became Article 5 amendments in 2002) states: "Everyone is equal before the law, with no distinction of personal, economic, social, political and religious status."<sup>1</sup>

There is no state religion recognised by law, although Catholicism is the largest religion and it is not uncommon to see religious symbols such as crucifixes in courtrooms and other public offices. In 2009, following the ruling issued by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg stating that crucifixes should not be displayed in classrooms, the government rejected the left-wing party Sinistra Unita's request to remove crucifixes from schools.<sup>2</sup>

The state provides payments to the Catholic Church from income tax revenue. Taxpayers may request that 0.3 percent of their income tax payments be allocated to the Catholic Church or to "other charities", including other religious groups.<sup>3</sup>

With regard to religious education, there are no private religious schools and religious education is provided by law in public middle schools. Only Catholic religious instruction is offered, but the law guarantees that there will be no penalty for students who do not attend.<sup>4</sup>

## Incidents

There were no registered cases of abuses of religious freedom during the period considered in this report. In recent years there has been only one episode of intolerance; in 2013 a crucifix, almost six feet tall, was damaged in the city of Galazzano.<sup>5</sup>

## Prospects for Freedom of Religion

During the period under review, a meeting took place about inter-religious dialogue with Muslims, a small but growing community in San Marino. This event, entitled “Islam and us”, brought together representatives of different religions to discuss finding new ways of developing dialogue and mutual understanding.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Dichiarazione dei diritti dei cittadini e dei principi fondamentali dell'ordinamento sammarinese*, July 17, 1974  
[http://www.consigliograndeegenerale.sm/contents/instance18/files/document/19164leggi\\_2695.pdf](http://www.consigliograndeegenerale.sm/contents/instance18/files/document/19164leggi_2695.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *Giornale.sm, Sinistra Unita chiede la rimozione del crocifisso dalle scuole*, November 3, 2009, <http://archive.is/y1lq>

<sup>3</sup> US Department of State, *2014 Report on International Religious Freedom*, October 14, 2015,  
<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2014/eur/238428.htm>

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>5</sup> *Libertas, Atto Vandalico a Galazzano, danneggiato un crocifisso*, October 15, 2013,  
<http://www.libertas.sm/cont/news/san-marino-atto-vandalico-a-galazzano-danneggiato-un-crocifisso/84273/1.html#.VvfWceljVp>

<sup>6</sup> *San Marino Notizia, Successo per il Forum del Dialogo sul tema “Noi e l’Islam”*, March 1, 2016,  
<http://www.sanmarinonotizie.com/2016/03/01/successo-per-il-forum-del-dialogo-sul-tema-noi-e-lislam/>