

SITUATION OF HATE SPEECH AND FoRB VIOLATIONS

Introduction

As of 2025, Myanmar's population is estimated at around 55 million people. Myanmar's Constitution does not designate a state religion, but Buddhism is followed by the large majority, with 87.9% identifying as Buddhist, 6.2% as Christian, and 4.3% as Muslim. Small percentages follow Hinduism (0.5%), animist or tribal religions (0.8%), other religions (0.2%) or identify with no religion (0.1%).

Hate Speech Incidents

Accusations Against Religious Leaders

Buddhist monks, Christian pastors and minority religious leaders have been accused of supporting ethnic armed groups or plotting against the military, fuelling targeted harassment, arrests and public vilification.

Targeting Women Human Rights Defenders with Religion-Based Hate Speech

Women human rights defenders, especially those advocating for Rohingya, Kachin, or Chin communities, have been vilified online and in local media with religiously charged language, portraying them as impure, immoral, or disloyal to Buddhism or local faith traditions.

FoRB Violations

Destruction of Religious Properties

Mosques, churches and temples in urban areas across the country have been bombed, burned, or forcibly occupied during military operations, preventing communities from practising their faith.

Restrictions on Religious and Ethnic Minorities

Rohingyas, Kachin Christians, Hindus and other religious minorities face arbitrary detention, denial of citizenship, forced displacement, restricted movement and limits on worship, effectively curtailing their freedom of religion and belief.