

# SITUATION OF HATE SPEECH AND FORB VIOLATIONS

## Introduction

Southeast Asia exhibits a persistent pattern of religious intolerance, with minority communities frequently facing harassment, discrimination and systemic barriers to practising their faith. Across the region, hate speech both online and offline targets religious and ethnic groups, while legal, social and political structures often restrict their rights and by extension, their identities. This overview highlights recurring regional patterns of hate speech and violations of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) across Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

### Hate Speech Incidents

#### Targeting Religious Minorities

Religious minorities in respective countries are frequently verbally harassed, ridiculed or stereotyped by authorities as well as citizens from dominant religious groups in ways that delegitimise their faith.

#### Amplification Through Social Media

Narratives through social media, especially with the use of AI and disinformation, amplify hate, spreading threats, derogatory narratives and inflammatory content that heighten inter-community tension.

#### Politicisation of Religion

Religious leaders and human rights defenders are often accused of political plotting, extremism or disloyalty, using religion as a pretext to target individuals and generate public hostility.

#### Ritualised Hostility

Ritualised or symbolic acts, or attacks on minority spiritual practices, are used to publicly signal hostility, enforce conformity and delegitimise minority communities.