

SITUATION OF HATE SPEECH AND FORB VIOLATIONS

Introduction

As of 2025, Thailand's population is estimated at around 71 million people. Though Buddhism is not constitutionally the state religion, it remains the dominant faith, practised by an estimated 90-94% of the population. Muslims make up around 5-6%, Christians about 1.2%, while other religions like Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism together account for less than 1%. Indigenous Peoples, often following animist and ancestral beliefs, represent a small portion of the population.

Hate Speech Incidents

Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Rhetoric

Public discourse and social media in Thailand frequently target Muslim communities with derogatory language, stereotypes linking Muslims to extremism, fostering a climate of fear and exclusion.

Religion-Based Backlash After Disasters

Certain religious groups have blamed natural disasters, such as earthquakes, on "immoral Thai people," as god's revenge against LGBTQI individuals; while others mocked spiritual rites performed by minority religions intended to boost community morale during relief efforts, spreading ridicule and intolerance.

FoRB Violations

Forced Repatriation of Asylum Seekers

Chinese Uyghurs and asylum seekers from Vietnam fleeing religious persecution were forcibly returned to their countries of origin despite serious risks of being persecuted, violating their right to seek protection and freely practise their faith.

Discrimination Against Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous communities faced discrimination and questioning of their traditional beliefs and practices during parliamentary debates on the Indigenous Peoples Bill, undermining their right to religious expression and cultural identity.