

Noteworthy

The noteworthy items are structured in three groups: annual reports and global surveys, regional and country reports, and specific issues. Though we apply serious criteria in the selection of items noted, it is beyond our capacity to scrutinize the accuracy of every statement made. We therefore disclaim responsibility for the contents of the items noted. The compilation was produced by Janet Epp Buckingham.

Annual reports and global surveys

Indigenous peoples and the right to freedom of religion or belief

UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom, 10 October 2022

<http://bit.ly/3YvASmv>

The outgoing UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom, Ahmed Shaheed, issued a final thematic report to the UN General Assembly on barriers to religious freedom for Indigenous peoples around the world.

Persecution trends 2023

Release International, 28 December 2022

<http://bit.ly/3lJCcur>

Release International's annual Persecution Trends report highlights Nigeria, India, China and Iran as countries of growing concern in 2023.

World Watch List 2023

Open Doors Analytical, 20 January 2023

<https://www.opendoorsanalytical.org/> (password: freedom)

North Korea, Somalia and Yemen topped the list of countries that persecute Christians.

Regional and country reports

Afghanistan: Inside Afghanistan after the fall

Charles M. Ramsay, Religious Freedom Institute, July 2022

<http://bit.ly/3Xd3LZ>

This is Ramsay's report from a field research trip in May 2022 to assess the political, religious, and social conditions affecting governance and security in Afghanistan.

China: State-controlled religion and religious freedom violations in China

USCIRF, 29 December 2022

<http://bit.ly/4owIoPT>

This fact sheet provides an overview of the state-controlled religious organizations and their role and function within China's institutional control of religion, demonstrating their complicity in the government's systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom.

Cuba: Annual report 2022

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 6 February 2023

<https://www.csw.org.uk/2023/02/06/report/5929/article.htm>

In this report, CSW documented 657 violations of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in 2022, a staggering jump from 272 in the previous year.

India: FIACONA annual report 2023

Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America, 5 February 2023

<http://bit.ly/3JUJlvz>

This report focuses on civil unrest in India on the basis of religion. Its purpose is to encourage American policy makers and business leaders to take action to address the problem.

India: India country update

USCIRF, 22 Nov 2022

<http://bit.ly/3YACyv5>

This report provides a broad overview of religious freedom conditions in India in 2021 and 2022. It examines how various policies adopted and implemented by the Indian government have cultivated an environment that is increasingly hostile toward religious minority communities.

Iraq: Factsheet: Religious freedom in Iraq

USCIRF, 3 January 2023

<http://bit.ly/3YeRAGT>

This fact sheet examines how the political instability in Iraq since 2019 has fomented intra-Shi'a and intra-Sunni sectarianism and has prevented the government from protecting religious minorities such as Yazidis and Christians.

Latin America: Bi-Annual Report, June-December 2022

Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America, 15 February 2023

<http://bit.ly/3EfkvCG>

This report documents violent incidents on the basis of religion in the Latin American region.

Myanmar: Violations of freedom of religion or belief since the coup d'etat in Myanmar: A briefing paper

International Commission of Jurists, October 2022

<http://bit.ly/4oAXt2T>

This report presents an overview of the violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief that have taken place from the coup in February 2021 until 31 May 2022.

Pakistan: Conversion without consent

Jubilee Campaign, November 2022

<http://bit.ly/3lhaRsH>

This is a report on the abductions, forced conversions, and forced marriages of Christian girls and women in Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia: Religious freedom conditions in Saudi Arabia

USCIRE, 28 December 2022

<http://bit.ly/3HJR1xI>

This updated report documents ongoing and severe violations of religious freedom in Saudi Arabia.

Specific issues

COVID: Implications for development cooperation with religious communities

PaRD: Southern Africa Regional Forum on Religion and COVID-19, 26 October 2022

<http://bit.ly/3lhiocu>

This report of a regional consultation on COVID and religious communities highlights the issues and concerns of how governments addressed COVID-19.

COVID: How COVID-19 restrictions affected religious groups around the world in 2020

Pew Research Center, 29 November 2022

<https://pewrsr.ch/3jKaHtl>

This report – Pew Research Center's 13th annual study of restrictions on religion around the world – focuses on how the lockdowns and other public health measures affected religious groups, and how they responded.

Refugees: The Church on the Run: IDP and Refugee Report 2022

Open Doors, June 2022

<http://bit.ly/3RDw509>

This preliminary report finds that in many contexts, Christians are likely to be forced out of their homes and countries and to experience psychological and physical violence once displaced on account of their religious identity and activity.

Guidance for Graduate Students

International Institute for Religious Freedom

The International Institute for Religious Freedom can provide guidance for students who are writing a thesis or dissertation on a topic related to religious freedom. The IIRF can also assist with publication opportunities.

Please send a letter of interest to info@iirf.global.