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Brazil

By Maria Sofia Lopez Menendez

Religious laws

Brazil is a secular state where freedom of religion is protected under Article 5 of the 1988 Brazilian Federal constitution and religious intolerance is legally persecuted. Historically, Roman Catholicism has been the predominant religion in Brazil, and to this day, Catholics still make up well over half of the population, making Brazil home to the largest catholic community world wide. Protestants form the second largest religious group and a growing portion of Brazilians identify as having no religious affiliation. Afro-Brazilian religions such as Candomblé and Umbanda face discrimination, especially by some Evangelical groups, despite constitutional protection. Practices like animal sacrifices have been used by Evangelicals to restrict these religious minorities. In 2023, President Lula enacted laws to strengthen protection of Afro-Brazilian religious groups and established March 21st as the “National Day of African Traditions and Candomblé Nation”. Though not compulsory, public schools are required to offer religious instruction. Larger denominations, particularly Christian churches, benefit the most from this, as they have the funds to take advantage of such opportunities. Brazil also exhibits a lenient registration process for a wide range of denominations, allowing for new and small religions to be established. Additionally, tax exemptions for churches benefit all religious groups and help them to further expand.

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[Religious Regulation in Brazil](#)

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[Brazil - United States Department of State](#)

[National Orisha Day in Brazil](#)

[The Major Religions of Brazil](#)



Internet freedoms

Brazil's law for Internet usage, Marco Civil da Internet, was passed in 2014. Article 19 of this law was specifically created to protect freedom of expression online. It stipulated that internet platforms could only be held liable for user-generated content if they failed to remove it after receiving a court order. This article prevented arbitrary censorship, but in 2025 the Federal Supreme Court (STF) decided to adjust Article 19. Platforms can now be held civilly liable for illegal content, if they knowingly permit it to remain online, even without a court order. Contrary to the original Article, platforms will now be incentivized to proactively moderate their content, which may lead them to preemptively remove content in order to avoid legal persecution. This will likely lead to self-censorship.

Read more

[Article 19 of the Marco Civil – Guarantee or Threat to the Future of the Brazilian Internet? - Internet Society](#)
[Brazil: The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court imposes new obligations on platforms and weakens protections for online freedom of expression - LexLink](#)

