

## Religious laws

Although the 21st century saw times of great upheaval for Egypt, Sharia and the Napoleonic code have remained the base for Egypt's law system. Questions of personal status, family, religion and the like are almost solely governed by Islamic jurisprudence. Thus, only the three Abrahamic religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism are recognised as religious communities, with Islam being the official state religion. The existence of other religious groups or sects is seen as a source of dissent therefore heavily sanctioned by the state. Even avowing no religion at all in official documents has been possible only since 2009 after years of legal proceedings. After a period of Muslim fundamentalist rule in the wake of the Arab spring, the current military government has returned to a more secular constitution, which guarantees absolute freedom of religion, at least in theory. In practice, non-Muslims to this day face unfavourable treatment by both the muslim majority population and the authorities, be it hindering church construction or physical violence against non-muslims that is not sanctioned.



## Internet freedoms

Despite the drastic leadership changes in the past 15 years, consistent long-term investment into digital infrastructure has brought internet access to more and more Egyptians, reaching 75% of the population in recent years. Under the old regime of Hosni Mubarak, censorship was rather basic and only covered the most critical voices, as well as pornography. The current military government on the other hand has heavily invested into surveillance technology to monitor and prosecute postings on public sites as well as private communications. Opinions and information critical of the government are silenced under the pretext of domestic terrorism and the alleged spread of misinformation and moral debauchery. For example, while homosexuality is legal in Egypt, honey pot operations on sites like Grindr have led to the identification and arrest of gay men in the past years.