



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
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Switzerland

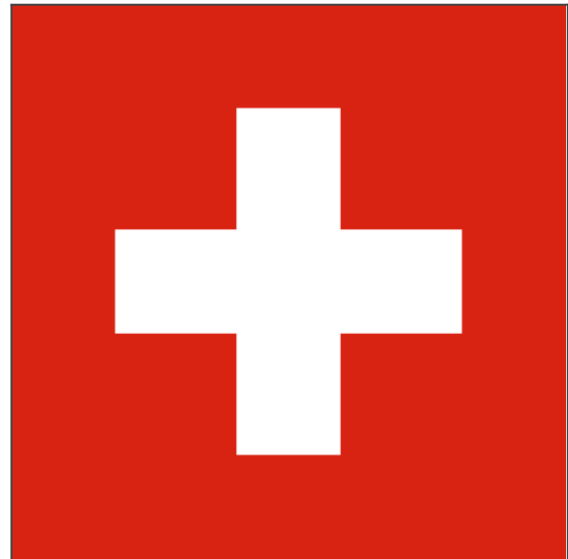
By Theodor Babusiaux

Religious laws

Switzerland has a federalized system for religious laws, with the cantons being responsible for regulating the relationship between church and state. The federal government and the cantons may, within the scope of their powers, take measures to maintain public peace between members of different religious communities. Most Swiss cantons only recognize the roman catholic and protestant churches, with some rare exceptions also recognizing select other christian faiths or judaism. In 1893, the Swiss population voted in favour of banning ritual slaughter. At that time, the referendum specifically targeted the jewish population of Switzerland. It nowadays also affects the Muslim population of Switzerland. Since 2009, after a referendum, the Swiss constitution prohibits the construction of minarets. Switzerland also has, in 2021, voted in favour of a prohibition on covering one's face. Currently, the Swiss population consists of 33.5% non-religious people, 32.1% catholics, 20.5% protestant, 5.9% muslims, 5.6% other christians, 0.2% jews and 1.3% other religious affiliations (and the religious affiliation of 0.9% of the population is unknown).

Read more

<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1999/404/de>
<https://www.aboutswitzerland.eda.admin.ch/de/religionen>
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eidgen%C3%B6ssische_Volksinitiative_%C2%ABf%C3%BCr_ein_Verbot_des_Schlachtens_ohne_vorherige_Bet%C3%A4ubung%C2%BB
<https://www.bk.admin.ch/ch/d/pore/vi/vis465t.html>



Internet freedoms

Switzerland's Federal Constitution and international obligations provide robust protections for internet freedom. While Article 13 protects privacy and data and forbids the exploitation of personal information, Articles 16 and 17 guarantee freedom of expression, information, and media. The Federal Act on Data Protection, which regulates the processing of personal data, upholds these rights. Net neutrality has also been upheld under Swiss law since 2021, which mandates that internet service providers handle traffic without discrimination, with the exception of specific circumstances. When taken as a whole, these regulations seek to protect online privacy and free speech.

Read more

<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1999/404/de>
<https://www.bakom.admin.ch/en/net-neutrality>

