



Religion

Population

Area

- Christians : **95.4%**
- Agnostics : **3.2%**
- Others : **1.4%**

16.385.000

257.217 Km²

Legal framework on freedom of religion and actual application

The preamble to the constitution states that the people of Ecuador “recognis[e] our age-old roots [...], celebrat[e] the Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) [...] and invoke[e] the name of God and recognis[e] our diverse forms of religion and spirituality.”^[1] Under article 1, the country is described as an “inter-cultural, multi-national and secular state”. The state, according to article 3(4), guarantees “secular ethics as the basis for public service and the legal regulatory system”. Under article 11(2), “no one shall be discriminated against for reasons of cultural identity, [...] religion [or] ideology.”

Under article 66(8), the state recognises and guarantees “the rights of persons [...] to practise, keep, change, [or] profess in public or private one’s religion or beliefs and to disseminate them individually or collectively, with the constraints imposed by respect for the rights of others”. Under the same article, the state also protects “voluntary religious practice as well as the expression of those who profess no religion whatsoever”. Under article 19, “it is forbidden to broadcast advertisements that foment [...] religious or political intolerance.”

Article 57 provides that indigenous communities have “the collective rights [...] to uphold, protect and develop collective knowledge, their science, technologies and ancestral wisdom [...], the right to restore, promote and protect ritual and holy places” and “that the dignity and diversity of their cultures [and] traditions be reflected in public education and in the media.”

Article 66(11) provides for “the right to confidentiality about one’s convictions [including] one’s religious beliefs”. No one is obliged to “make statements about these convictions”.

Under article 28, “public education shall be universal and secular”. Article 29 declares that parents or guardians are free to choose their children’s education in accordance with their beliefs. Under the Code of Children and Adolescents, the

- [3] Modus Vivendi que restablece relaciones entre Ecuador y la Santa Sede de 1937, <https://procuraduria.utpl.edu.ec/sitios/documentos/NormativasPublicas/GENERALES/01Modus{205e30cafce628a4751a22837988> (accessed 3rd April 2018).
- [4] 'Iglesia Adventista en Ecuador fortalece la Libertad Religiosa', Noticias Adventistas, 20th June 2017, <https://noticias.adventistas.org/es/noticia/libertad-religiosa/iglesia-adventista-ecuador-fortalece-la-libertad-religiosa/>, (accessed 24th April 2018).
- [5] 'Festival de música interreligiosa empieza hoy en la urbe porteña', El Telégrafo, 1st November 2017, <https://www.eltelegrafo.com.ec/noticias/cultura/7/festival-de-musica-interreligiosa-empieza-hoy-en-la-urbe-portena>, (accessed 25th April 2018).
- [6] 'Proponen en Quito el diálogo interreligioso como fórmula de convivencia', Agencia EFE, 16th December 2017, <https://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/proponen-en-quito-el-dialogo-interreligioso-como-formula-de-convivencia/20000013-3468942#>, (accessed 25th April 2018).
- [7] A. García, M.V. Espinosa y W. Benalcazar, 'Las etnias del país se incluyen en los pesebres navideños', El Comercio, 19th December 2017, <http://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/etnias-ecuador-pesebres-navidad-nacimientos.html>, (accessed 25th April 2018).
- [8] 'Presidente Moreno se reunió con la cúpula de la Iglesia Católica', El Comercio, 21st February 2018, <http://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/leninmoreno-reunion-cupula-iglesia-catolica.html>, (accessed 12th March 2018).
- [9] 'Pop Up Café Samborondón fue clausurado: una obra causó polémica', El Comercio, 12th January 2018, <http://www.elcomercio.com/tendencias/clausura-teatro-guayaquil-obra-teatro.html>, (accessed 12th March 2018).