

Review of: "Vietnam's Religious Policy: Navigating the Path to Religious Freedom"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Reviews:

1. Lack of religious freedom for unregistered groups, such as the Hoa Hao Buddhist community, due to continuous crackdowns by the Vietnamese authorities.
2. Tensions between the Catholic Church and the Vietnamese government, which have persisted since the French colonization period.
3. Restrictions and challenges faced by the Protestant community in Vietnam, despite their commitment to their beliefs and contributions to society.
4. Reports of religious leaders and followers, including former members of the South Vietnamese National Assembly, being sent for "re-education" without trial.
5. Prejudice against the Vietnamese Communist Party and State, leading to penal articles targeting dissatisfied religious leaders.
6. Allegations of false news and distorted information being spread through social networks, leading to infringements on religious freedom.
7. Lack of recognition and registration for certain religious organizations and sects in Vietnam.
8. Limited religious freedom for foreigners organizing their religious activities in Vietnam.
9. Lack of clarity on the current state of religious freedom in Vietnam, including the extent of restrictions and challenges faced by different religious groups.
10. Monitoring of freedom of religion by external entities, such as the United States, which may impact the perception and implementation of religious policies in Vietnam.

Recommendations:

1. Implement measures to promote religious freedom and tolerance for unregistered religious groups, such as the Hoa Hao Buddhist community.
2. Foster dialogue and cooperation between the Catholic Church and the Vietnamese government to address historical tensions and promote religious harmony.
3. Ensure equal rights and opportunities for the Protestant community, including the recognition of their religious organizations and protection of their religious freedom.
4. Establish transparent and fair processes for addressing dissent and grievances, including the treatment of religious

leaders and followers.

5. Encourage open and constructive discussions on religious matters, while addressing any false information or distorted narratives through appropriate channels.
6. Strengthen the registration process for religious organizations and sects, ensuring equal treatment and opportunities for all religious groups.
7. Provide clear guidelines and support for foreigners organizing their religious activities in Vietnam, while respecting the country's legal framework.
8. Conduct regular assessments and reporting on the state of religious freedom in Vietnam, ensuring transparency and accountability.
9. Foster dialogue and cooperation with external entities, such as the United States, to promote a better understanding of Vietnam's religious landscape and address any concerns or misconceptions.