

## News and Current Events :: In Nepal, new law cracks down on expression of religion

**In Nepal, new law cracks down on expression of religion - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2017/9/11 13:09**

Nepal (MNN) – Christianity in Nepal has two main bullies—Hindu radicals from within the country, and India. Thanks to growing pressures from these two sources, religious freedoms for minority groups are severely threatened. Earlier this month, a bill was passed that will likely restrict Christians and other groups from sharing their faith. It is currently being finalized into law.

The language of the bill closely resembles blasphemy and anti-conversion laws from neighboring countries. As we know, these laws are often abused to target specific groups—usually Christians.

More specifically, Christian Solidarity Worldwide says the law will criminalize some instances of religious conversion.

Joe Handley of Asian Access says this move goes against recent advances for religious freedoms in Nepal.

“The Church was making an impact in society and it was quite positive for many years which caused the Nepali government at the time to actually approach Church leaders and say, ‘we could use your help’.”

The government, he says, was eager to introduce more religious freedoms into the country and worked with Church leaders to widen these freedoms.

The government next door throws its weight around

After the earthquake in April 2015, one of the major sources of relief aid was the Church. They even went to locations that were more difficult for large aid groups to reach. It was a display of Christ’s love in a time of need. As a result, the Church grew very rapidly. Since then, believers have been seen as major contributors to the betterment of society.

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