



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Nepal

Nepal – NPL37529 – Christians – Hindu converts to Christianity – Proselytising – Government responses – Hindu groups – State protection
29 October 2010

1. Is the practice of Christianity or any other religion legal in Nepal?

Christianity and any other religion may be practiced under the law in Nepal. The US Department of State's latest report on religious freedom stated that Nepal's interim Constitution, promulgated in January 2007, declared Nepal a secular state and provided for the freedom to practice one's religion. Conversion to another religion is also allowed.¹ Several sources estimate that the Christian population of Nepal is between one and two percent of the total population, with approximately one million adherents.²

2. Is proselytizing legal in Nepal?

No, proselytising is illegal in Nepal and punishable by fines and imprisonment. The US Department of State's latest report on religious freedom stated that Nepal's interim Constitution, promulgated in January 2007, declared a secular state and provided for the freedom to practice one's religion; however, proselytising was explicitly prohibited.³

Proselytising is punishable by fines or imprisonment, and for foreigners it is expulsion. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), or individuals, are permitted to file reports on people or groups that are proselytising, which are investigated by authorities.⁴

According to the US State Department some Nepalese were concerned with the growth of Christianity and were wary of proselytising and conversion.⁵ However, a Christian group,

¹ US Department of State 2009, 'Legal/Policy Framework' in *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1.

² 'Pope appoints first Catholic bishop to Nepal' 2007, Catholic Online website, source: *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 2 February http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=23009 – Accessed 19 April 2007 – Attachment 2; 'Easter rally calls Nepal gov't to expand religious freedom' 2007, Catholic Online website, source: *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 10 April http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=23700 – Accessed 24 April 2007 – Attachment 3.

³ US Department of State 2009, 'Legal/Policy Framework' in *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1.

⁴ US Department of State 2009, 'Restrictions on Religious Freedom' in *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1.

⁵ US Department of State 2009, 'Status of Societal Respect for Religious Freedom' in *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, has reported that there are no “perceptible demands” to pass legislation restricting “religious propagation and conversion”.⁶

3. What is the Nepali government’s attitude towards religion and religious practice in Nepal, in particular towards Christianity?

Sources indicate that the government upholds the constitution permitting the practice of any religion. In 2008, the government added Christmas to the country’s list of public holidays, among nine religious and ethnic feasts.⁷ In another show of official government support for the Christian population, several government ministers joined human rights officials and others at a Christmas Eve celebration held by the National Council of Churches in December 2008.⁸ The *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* also reported in 2009 that Christians regularly hold public meetings and processions at Christmas and Easter, to which senior politicians and dignitaries are invited.⁹ The US State Department¹⁰ reports that there are no specific government laws favoring the Hindu majority and civil servants are allowed to take religious holidays. It also reports Christian missionaries, hospitals, welfare organisations, and schools have operated for years in Nepal without government interference.

A December 2009 *Xinhua* article report on present-day Christmas celebrations described public events and festivities, and contrast the situation with four years earlier when celebrating Christmas openly ‘could be punished in Nepal, then the only Hindu country in the world’.¹¹ Even then, however, according to a 2007 *Union of Catholic Asian News* (UCAN) article Christian celebrations did occur in public, such as an Easter rally held in annually in Dharan (a south-eastern district).¹² More recently, a *UCAN* article dated 8 March 2010 describes the preparations for the celebration of Lent among Nepali Catholics as an openly celebrated and accepted activity.¹³

⁶ Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2009, *Nepal: Emerging threat of Hindu extremism*, October, p.4
<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=report&id=116> – Accessed 19 February 2010 – Attachment 4.

⁷ ‘Christmas added as public holiday in Hindu-majority Nepal’ 2008, *The Georgia Bulletin*, 2 January
<http://www.georgiabulletin.org/world/2008/01/02/WORLD-5/> – Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 5.

⁸ ‘Christmas Get-together 2008’ 2008, National Council of Churches of Nepal website, 25 December
http://www.nccnepal.org/news/news_details.php?newsID=65b9eea6e1cc6bb9f0cd2a47751a186f%7C594806 -
Accessed 29 October 2010 – Attachment 6.

⁹ Barclay, J. 2009, ‘The Church in Nepal: Analysis of Its Gestation and Growth’, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, October, FindArticles.com
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb6651/is_200910/ai_n45880914/ - Accessed 9 March 2010 – Attachment 7.

¹⁰ US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1.

¹¹ Naxal, H. 2009, ‘Nepal celebrates Christmas despite bitter past’, *Xinhua News Agency*, 24 December – Attachment 8.

¹² ‘Easter rally calls Nepal gov’t to expand religious freedom’ 2007, Catholic Online website, source: *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 10 April http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=23700 – Accessed 24 April 2007 – Attachment 3.

¹³ ‘Power cuts add to Lenten mood in Nepal’ 2010, *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 8 March
<http://www.ucanews.com/2010/03/08/%e2%80%98blackouts%e2%80%99-put-catholics-in-lenten-mood/> – Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 10.

4. What is the attitude of Nepal's dominant religious groups, who are Hindus, towards other religious groups including Christian groups?

Most sources indicate that Hindus are generally tolerant of Christians and adherents of other minority religions, as demonstrated by their ability to practice in the open. Still, there are incidents of anti-Christian violence, perpetrated by Hindu extremist groups; however, Hindu leaders have publicly condemned these acts of violence. Some Christian sources also report lingering sense of discrimination and pockets of feelings of contempt for minority religions following the 2006 Parliamentary declaration of Nepal as a secular state. Despite occasional violence and some animosity, a 2008 report by the *Union of Catholic Asian News (UCAN)* suggests that Catholics have continued to openly gather and practice, not only in Kathmandu, but even in other areas where anti-government and extremist groups are operating.¹⁴

The US State Department¹⁵ reports that; 'Adherents of the country's many religious groups generally coexisted peacefully and respected places of worship, although there were reports of societal abuses and discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice.' It also reports that the Interreligious Council of Nepal, consisting of representatives of the Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, and Baha'i communities, is active in promoting interfaith peace in the country. The celebration of Christian festivals and open demonstrations of Christian faith have become more common and public in recent years, signifying a level of acceptance in this Hindu dominated nation. In 2008, Christmas was among nine religious and ethnic feasts the Nepalese government added to the country's list of public holidays officially promoting interfaith acceptance.¹⁶

The US State Department reports that converts to Christianity may suffer violence or may be ostracized; however, they are reportedly not afraid to publicly admit to their new affiliation. The US State Department also reports that although prejudice was not systematic, converts occasionally faced violence and hostility from Hindu extremist groups.¹⁷ Most sources report that religious extremist groups began carrying out acts of violence after the 2006 Parliamentary declaration of Nepal as a secular state. A 2009 report by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) reported that attacks on Christians by Hindu extremists groups in Nepal included the bombing of Christian orphanage in April 2007 and the murder of a Catholic priest in July 2008. CSW reported in 2009 that one group, the Nepal Defence Army (NDA), is the main Hindu extremist group targeting religious minorities, and had accused Christians of threatening Hindu culture through religious conversion.¹⁸

The US State Department notes groups of particular concern are the India-based Hindu political party Shiv Sena, locally known as Pashupati Sena, Shiv Sena Nepal, Nepal Shivsena, and the Hindu fundamentalist organization, Ranbir Sena. Acts of violence by these groups,

¹⁴ 'Catholics Have Fun On Parish Family Day' 2008, *Union of Catholic Asian News (UCAN)*, 4 January <http://www.ucanews.com/search/show.php?q=nepal&page=archives/english/2008/01/w1/fri/NP04157Rg.txt> – Accessed 17 January 2008 – Attachment 11.

¹⁵ US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1

¹⁶ 'Christmas added as public holiday in Hindu-majority Nepal' 2008, *The Georgia Bulletin*, 2 January <http://www.georgiabulletin.org/world/2008/01/02/WORLD-5/> – Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 5.

¹⁷ US Department of State 2009, 'Status of Societal Respect for Religious Freedom' in *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1.

¹⁸ Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2009, *Nepal: Emerging threat of Hindu extremism*, October, pp. 5-6 <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=report&id=116> – Accessed 19 February 2010 – Attachment 4.

however, have also been politically motivated and attacks are not exclusively directed at minority religious targets.¹⁹

Compass Direct News²⁰ (CDN) reported on 16 September 2010 that Christians faced continuing threats from Hindu extremist groups. In an article entitled *New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians*, it reports that the Nepal Christian Society, which is an umbrella group of churches, met to discuss threats made by phone to organisation leaders from the Unified National Liberation Front. The armed group was engaged in extortion threats, demanding money for protection from religious communities. CDN also reported in the same article that '...the [Christian] community has endured longstanding animosity from the years when Nepal was a Hindu state; and that the anti-Christian sentiment refuse to die four years after Parliament declared the nation secular.' Threats, such as the above, may at times also be opportunistic and motivated by financial gains. In 2009, the Christian publication, *Compass Direct*, reported that in Nepal's current climate of political instability, lawlessness and impunity, Christians are seen as vulnerable and "soft targets".²¹

Acts of violence by extremist groups are condemned by mainstream Hindu organisations. In May 2009, two worshippers were killed and 14 people injured in a bomb attack on a Catholic Church in Kathmandu.²² Police later arrested the leader of the Nepal Defence Army (NDA) for the attack, who claimed that "his goal was to drive Christians out of Nepal and restore Hinduism as the state religion".²³ In the aftermath of the attack, Hindu and Muslim religious leaders, and human rights activists publicly converged on the area where the church is located to show solidarity with the local Christian community²⁴. In a further show of support from dominant religious groups, both Hindus and Muslims joined a 7,000 member Christian march in Kathmandu, on 31 May, protesting against the bombing.²⁵

5. Do Hindu converts to another religion including Christianity face family, community and societal problems and, if yes, what is the nature of these problems?

According to the US State Department, people who converted to another religious group, particularly from the dominant religion of Hinduism to Islam or Christianity, have suffered occasional violence and were sometimes ostracized. Hindu extremist groups were reported to have forced some converts to flee their villages. Such occurrences were occasionally violent; however, there is no indication that this is part of any nationwide systematic campaign. The

¹⁹ US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1

²⁰ 'New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians' 2010, Compass Direct News <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/25596/> - Accessed 27 October 2010 – Attachment 12.

²¹ 'Christians Increasingly Vulnerable in 'Secular' Nepal' 2009, *Compass Direct*, 30 July <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/4530/?view=Print> –Accessed 19 February 2010 – Attachment 13.

²² Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2009, *Nepal: Emerging threat of Hindu extremism*, October, pp. 5-6 <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=report&id=116> – Accessed 19 February 2010 – Attachment 4.

²³ Naxal, H. 2009, 'Nepal celebrates Christmas despite bitter past', *Xinhua News Agency*, 24 December – Attachment 8.

²⁴ Bhandari, S. 2009, 'Two dead, 14 injured in Nepal church blast: police', Google News website, source: *Agence France-Presse*, 23 May <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jfl7xiIq0glqihUYMP8I0W5Q9eqQ> - Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 14.

²⁵ 'Christians rally to protest church bombing' 2009, *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 2 June <http://www.ucanews.com/2009/06/02/christians-rally-to-protest-church-bombing/> - Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 15.

US State Department also reports that, in spite of these incidents, converts were not afraid to publicly admit to their new affiliation.²⁶ Other sources, including mainly personal accounts, indicate that families and communities may not be accepting of converts. Sources also indicate that urban areas are generally more tolerant than rural areas of minority religious communities.

A 3 June 2010 article in *Worthy News Asia Service*, entitled *Nepal Churches Growing Despite Persecution, Tensions, Group Says*²⁷, reports that US-based *International Christian Concern*, a Christian Advocacy Group, announced that churches in Nepal are experiencing unprecedented growth despite political turmoil and persecution. The article states that Christians are able to practice openly, for example as illustrated by a recent 25,000 person procession in Kathmandu celebrating Easter. The article acknowledges despite this growth in adherents, there is a cost and that ‘...anytime you become a Christian you face immediate persecution, even from family members.’

Hinduism is the main religion in Nepal and the basis for many Nepali cultural traditions²⁸, and sources indicate that Christians willingly participate in Hindu festivals and other community functions. An October 2009 *Union of Catholic Asian News* article reports that many Catholics participate in major Hindu festivals, such as the ‘Festival of Lights’ and personal accounts in the report indicate that some families of mixed religion celebrate these Hindu-based cultural events together.²⁹ Another source reports that Christian organisations are prominently involved in education, social work, development projects, and healthcare organisation.³⁰ Interfaith participation, however, sometimes produces mixed results; and may even engender a sense of distrust. A *Christianity Today* article states that “[a] common accusation made against churches in Nepal is that Christians are converting the poor by offering financial inducement.”³¹

Nepal has deep cultural roots in Hinduism, and some reports indicate that Christianity is not widely understood. Several reports were located indicating that Christians report feeling discriminated against, or worse. Most of these types of reports consist of individual accounts of mistreatment. None of the reports persuasively argued that there is widespread discrimination, or systematic harm, preventing Christians, from practicing their religion. In ‘Threat of Return to Hindu State in Nepal Looms’³², Dr. Ramesh Khatri, Executive Director of Association for Theological Education in Nepal, reported there is hatred of Christians in Nepal and he stated that he is personally subjected to derogatory terms and experiences antagonism in Nepal society. He also reported he was aware of one particular incident of mob violence directed at Christians. He reports that a newly established church in Dolkha, in the

²⁶ US Department of State 2009, ‘[Introduction]’ and ‘Status of Societal Respect for Religious Freedom’ in *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1.

²⁷ ‘Nepal Churches Growing Despite Persecution, Tensions, Group Says’ 2010, *Worthy News* website, 3 June <http://www.worthynews.com/8253-nepal-churches-growing-despite-persecution-tensions-group-says> - Accessed 27 October 2010 – Attachment 16.

²⁸ Stephen, A. 2000, ‘The Church at the top of the world’, *Christianity Today*, vol.44, no.4, 3 April.

²⁹ ‘Catholics join Hindus in celebrating “festival of lights”’ 2009, *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 16 October <http://www.ucanews.com/2009/10/16/catholics-join-hindus-in-celebrating-festival-of-lights/> – Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 17.

³⁰ ‘Apostolic Vicariate of Nepal’ 2007, UCAN Diocesan Profiles Series, Union of Catholic Asian News website, last updated 11 June http://www.ucanews.com/dps/html/dps-np_nepal.php – Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 18.

³¹ Stephen, A. 2000, ‘The Church at the top of the world’, *Christianity Today*, vol.44, no.4, 3 April.

³² ‘Threat of Return to Hindu State in Nepal Looms’ 2010, Compass Direct News, 30 March <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/16810/> - Accessed 27 October 2010 – Attachment 19.

foothills of Mt. Everest, was attacked by a local mob. The church was destroyed and members were warned not to speak about Christianity. He reported that the Christians felt afraid to return to their homes.

Compass Direct News, in *New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians*,³³ provided several recent accounts of individuals ostracised from their communities for converting to Christianity. A pastor at a church reported he only reluctantly returns to his home in Giling village, fearing 'persecution'. Another pastor reported that he is subjected to threatening gestures and is reviled by neighbours. A Christian reported losing his position on a village committee due to his religion. Others report having to migrate to different villages to escape discrimination. The article reported that the city of Bidur had become a 'center for displaced Christians', since it is operates administrative centre for the district, which offers more protection.

An October 2009 *Union of Catholic Asian News* article describes a lack of openness faced by Catholics in Nepal, where "it is always Hinduism that people talk and hear about." In the article, one young Catholic describes how she often accompanies her friends to Hindu temples where they make offerings, but she faces a lack of understanding from others when she attempts to openly discuss her faith. The article reports on a retreat organised by the Church to help young Catholics 'boost their spiritual formation' to address this sense of isolation.³⁴

Despite individual accounts of discrimination, most sources indicate a growing acceptance of Christians in Nepali culture. On the *Theologians without Borders*³⁵ weblog one participant states: 'The church growth in Nepal is phenomenal' and several sources report Christians associations and community groups are increasing their visibility by operating openly in Nepal and providing support and guidance.³⁶ Catholic Church inroads to local communities even prompted a Bishop to state in an interview in 2008 that: "We have 27 schools total, in the entire country: 6 in Katmandu and 21 in rural towns. We offer education to over 17,000 students, 9,000 of whom are girls. We have strengthened our role as Church, present to serve the people, which has led us to win the affection of all classes of people."³⁷

³³ 'New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians' 2010, Compass Direct News <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/25596/> - Accessed 27 October 2010 – Attachment 12.

³⁴ 'Catholic youths strive for spiritual growth in Hindu environment' 2009, *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 30 October <http://www.ucanews.com/2009/10/30/catholic-youths-strive-for-spiritual-growth-in-hindu-environment/> – Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 20.

³⁵ 'The Challenges Facing Theological Education in Nepal' 2009, Theologians Without Borders weblog, 13 January <http://theologianswithoutborders.blogspot.com/2009/01/challenges-facing-theological-education.html> – Accessed 23 March 2010 – Attachment 21.

³⁶ 'Vocations, prayers stressed during Year for Priests' 2009, *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 11 August <http://www.ucanews.com/2009/08/11/vocations-prayers-stressed-during-year-for-priest> – Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 22; National Council of Churches of Nepal website - Accessed 27 October 2010

³⁷ 'Interview with Bishop Anthony Sharma, Apostolic Vicar of Nepal' 2008, *Agenzia Fides*, 15 September <http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=17241&lan=eng> - Accessed 22 March 2010 – Attachment 26

6. What state protection would be afforded to Hindus who convert to Christianity who suffer any type of harm from Hindus, Hindu religious groups, family members, community and the society?

The Nepalese law and order system can be corrupt and bribery to drop charges is commonplace.³⁸ Nepal is currently a country in a post-conflict transitional phase. It is a country characterised by weak law and order, impunity and discrimination.³⁹ Therefore, the capabilities of the police to provide protection to any class of people may be lacking. Country Advice Research Response NPL36596⁴⁰, of 3 May 2010, provides a comprehensive overview of police capabilities in Nepal. While one report was located indicating that local official prejudices may reduce police response to anti-Christian problems, there is no indication that this is widespread occurrence. Police have made arrests in the aftermath of at least one high-profile attack against Christians and there are reports that they do respond to high-level requests for protection.

Christian leaders are not deterred from seeking protection from the state and one report was located indicating a positive responses. In a 21 March 2010 interview, Catholic Bishop Sharma told Catholic news organisation *Zenit*⁴¹ that he had written a letter to the Home Minister of Nepal requesting that authorities investigate threatening phone calls received by clergy from alleged extremist groups. The Bishop threatened to close schools if protection was not forthcoming. The Bishop said that were responsive, that police made arrests, and the leader one group was forced into hiding.

Compass Direct News⁴² reported on 16 September 2010 that Christians faced continuing threats from Hindu extremist groups indicating that police may be willing to respond, but their capabilities may be limited. In an article entitled *New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians* it reports that the Nepal Christian Society (NCS), which is an umbrella group of churches, met to discuss threats by phone to organisation leaders from the Unified National Liberation Front (UNLF), an armed group demanding money and making threats. In an indication that Christian organisations may not individually have faith in government abilities to protect them from such threats, the NCS General Secretary stated that religious leaders have not reported specific incidents to police for fear of retaliation. Conversely, the Secretary stated that the NCS was adopting a 'wait and see' approach before seeking police protection on behalf of members, suggesting more organisational confidence in soliciting protection from authorities. Police capabilities to counter this extortion threat may, however, be limited as nearly 1,500 local government officials have reportedly resigned in 27 districts after receiving threats from the UNLF.

In the same article by Compass Direct News, *New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians*,⁴³ it was reported that Christians in rural areas sometimes escape local

³⁸ Mehmood, Isha 2009, 'Law and Order: Domestic Violence in Nepal, Part 1', The Advocacy Project website, 20 July <http://advocacy.net.org/wordpress-mu/imehmood/blog/2009/07/20/law-and-order-domestic-violence-in-nepal/> – Accessed 19 February 2010 – Attachment 23.

³⁹ DIAC Country Information Service 2009, *Nepal: Country Information Report No. 09/58 – CIS Request No. NPL9770; Discrimination*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 3 August 2009), 5 August – Attachment 24.

⁴⁰ RRT Country Advice Service 2010, *Research Response NPL36596*, 3 May – Attachment 25.

⁴¹ 'Interview With Bishop Anthony Francis Sharma' 2010, *Zenit* website 21 March <http://www.zenit.org/article-28710?l=english> - Accessed 29 October 2010 – Attachment 26.

⁴² 'New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians' 2010, Compass Direct News <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/25596/> - Accessed 27 October 2010 – Attachment 12.

⁴³ 'New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians' 2010, Compass Direct News <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/25596/> - Accessed 27 October 2010 – Attachment 12

discrimination and persecution by moving to larger administrative centres of districts. The city of Bidur was listed as an example of a place where Christians could live in safety. A report on the website Breadsites.org⁴⁴ supports the assertion that Christians are provided greater protection in urban areas than in rural areas. It also states that levels of protection vary according to districts and the bias of officials, stating that if a regional government representative is anti-Christian, police are often less responsive. The US State Department⁴⁵ reports that members of minority religious groups occasionally reported police harassment which may be related to the CDN report. The report, however, did not provide examples, which may also indicate that the problem is not widespread, or significant.

After the May 2009 bombing (mentioned previously in question 3), when the Nepal Defence Army (NDA) carried out a bomb attack on a Catholic Church in Kathmandu, killing three and injuring 14 people,⁴⁶ police successfully arrested the leader and an accomplice, who were responsible. The leader was put on trial, convicted, and is serving time in prison.⁴⁷

RRT Response NPL32600 Question Five⁴⁸, from 21 January 2008, provides information on political instabilities during 2007-2008 when Christian groups did express fears that the government was unable to provide a secure environment for religious minorities. A great deal of the violence was related to political struggles, ethnic conflicts, disputes over the caste systems, all of which stretched the ability of authorities to provide protection for many parts of society.

Attachments

1. US Department of State 2009, 'Legal/Policy Framework' in *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October.
2. 'Pope appoints first Catholic bishop to Nepal' 2007, Catholic Online website, source: *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 2 February http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=23009 – Accessed 19 April 2007.
3. 'Easter rally calls Nepal gov't to expand religious freedom' 2007, Catholic Online website, source: *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 10 April http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=23700 – Accessed 24 April 2007.
4. Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2009, *Nepal: Emerging threat of Hindu extremism*, October, p.4 <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=report&id=116> – Accessed 19 February 2010.

⁴⁴ Fox, G. 2010, 'Miracles in the Hindu Kingdom' 5 October, Breadsites.org website <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Rpwclmtrm9cJ:www.hvk.org/articles/0605/87.html+miracles+in+the+hindu+kingdom&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=au> - Accessed 27 October 2010 – Attachment 27.

⁴⁵ US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Nepal*, 26 October – Attachment 1

⁴⁶ Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2009, *Nepal: Emerging threat of Hindu extremism*, October, pp. 5-6 <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=report&id=116> – Accessed 19 February 2010 – Attachment 4.

⁴⁷ Naxal, H. 2009, 'Nepal celebrates Christmas despite bitter past', *Xinhua News Agency*, 24 December – Attachment 8.

⁴⁸ RRT Research & Information 2008, *Research Response NPL32600*, 21 January - Attachment 28.

5. 'Christmas added as public holiday in Hindu-majority Nepal' 2008, *The Georgia Bulletin*, 2 January <http://www.georgiabulletin.org/world/2008/01/02/WORLD-5/> – Accessed 22 March 2010.
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8. Naxal, H. 2009, 'Nepal celebrates Christmas despite bitter past', *Xinhua News Agency*, 24 December.
9. Deleted.
10. 'Power cuts add to Lenten mood in Nepal' 2010, *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 8 March <http://www.ucanews.com/2010/03/08/%e2%80%98blackouts%e2%80%99-put-catholics-in-lenten-mood/> – Accessed 22 March 2010.
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12. 'New Threats, Old Enmity Pummel Nepal's Christians' 2010, *Compass Direct News* <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/25596/> - Accessed 27 October 2010.
13. 'Christians Increasingly Vulnerable in 'Secular' Nepal' 2009, *Compass Direct*, 30 July <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/4530/?view=Print> – Accessed 19 February 2010.
14. Bhandari, S. 2009, 'Two dead, 14 injured in Nepal church blast: police', *Google News* website, source: *Agence France-Presse*, 23 May <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jfl7xiIg0glqihUYMP8I0W5Q9eqQ> - Accessed 22 March 2010.
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16. '*Nepal Churches Growing Despite Persecution, Tensions, Group Says*' 2010, *Worthy News* website, 3 June <http://www.worthynews.com/8253-nepal-churches-growing-despite-persecution-tensions-group-says> - Accessed 27 October 2010.
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18. 'Apostolic Vicariate of Nepal' 2007, UCAN Diocesan Profiles Series, Union of Catholic Asian News website, last updated 11 June http://www.ucanews.com/dps/html/dps-np_nepal.php – Accessed 22 March 2010.
19. 'Threat of Return to Hindu State in Nepal Looms' 2010, Compass Direct News, 30 March <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nepal/16810/> - Accessed 27 October 2010.
20. 'Catholic youths strive for spiritual growth in Hindu environment' 2009, *Union of Catholic Asian News*, 30 October <http://www.ucanews.com/2009/10/30/catholic-youths-strive-for-spiritual-growth-in-hindu-environment/> – Accessed 22 March 2010.
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