



# Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Relations in West Africa: A Comparative Examination in Burundi

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## Abstract

Religious pluralism in West Africa is a complex interplay of various religious groups coexisting within diverse cultural and historical contexts. Burundi exemplifies this phenomenon, characterized by significant Christian, Muslim, and indigenous religious populations. The research employs a comparative analytical framework, drawing on qualitative data from interviews, surveys, and secondary sources. A thematic analysis is conducted to identify patterns and themes across different religious groups and communities in Burundi. A notable finding is the significant role played by interfaith dialogue forums in fostering mutual understanding and cooperation among Christian and Muslim communities, despite historical tensions. The study underscores the importance of structured inter-faith engagement for mitigating potential conflicts arising from religious diversity. Findings suggest a beneficial impact on social cohesion and peace-building efforts. Policy recommendations include the establishment of more inclusive interfaith councils and community-led initiatives to promote mutual respect and understanding among diverse religious groups in Burundi.

**Keywords:** *African geography, pluralism, inter-faith relations, cultural contexts, ethnography, symbolism, syncretism*

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