



# Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Dynamics in West Africa: Lesotho as a Case Study

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## Abstract

Religious pluralism in West Africa is a complex phenomenon shaped by historical, cultural, and socio-political factors. Lesotho, an enclave within South Africa, exemplifies this diversity with significant populations of Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and traditional indigenous beliefs. The research employs a qualitative approach involving semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with representatives from various religious communities, government officials, and civil society organizations. Data analysis focuses on thematic content. Interviews revealed that while inter-faith dialogue is increasingly prevalent, tensions persist over issues such as land rights and cultural practices. A notable theme was the integration of religious symbols into public spaces by local authorities, reflecting a pragmatic approach to inclusivity. The study underscores the importance of fostering inclusive policies that respect diverse religious expressions while addressing practical challenges in communal settings. Policy recommendations include promoting inter-faith education and dialogue programmes to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among different religious groups.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Pluralism, Cultural Studies, Ethnography, Socio-Political, Oral History, Anthropology*

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