

Gerhard Robbers

The Montenegrin Law on Freedom of Religion or Beliefs and Legal Status of Religious Communities



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Foreword

The European Court of Human Rights has underlined that freedom of religion or belief is one of the foundations of a democratic society. It is ‘one of the most vital elements that go to make up the identity of believers and their conception of life, but it is also a precious asset for atheists, agnostics, sceptics and the unconcerned. The pluralism indissociable from a democratic society, which has been dearly won over the centuries, depends on it.’ Freedom of religion or belief is seriously endangered when churches, temples, monasteries, and other religious premises owned by religious communities are arbitrarily taken away by the State.

This study analyses the 2019 ‘Law on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Legal Status of Religious Communities of Montenegro’ in view of international human rights instruments and in the light of Montenegro’s possible accession to the European Union. It tries to contribute to the flourishing of freedom of religion or belief, rule of law, and peaceful coexistence in a pluralistic society.

Gerhard Robbers, April 2021

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