

Appendix 59:

**Religious Factors
Plateau State Gazette¹**

Desecration of worship places

Disrespect for religious leaders:

People should cultivate the habit of respecting religious leaders, because they are messengers of God.

Religious leaders should note that they have followers from different political parties and should therefore be neutral in order to earn the respect of their followers.

Religious leaders should exhibit the highest degree of sincerity in consonance with the tenets of the Holy Books.

Religious intolerance:

CAN and JNI should check provocative preaching with a view to eliminating misrepresentations of their religious beliefs and flushing out quacks.

Government should neither operate nor sponsor but only facilitate pilgrimages.

Money thus saved should be used for religious education.

Admission into schools should be free from religious discrimination.

Intra-faith and inter-faith interaction and friendship should be encouraged.

Proselytization:

Conversion should be by choice, persuasion and conviction, not by force.

Religious fanaticism

Inter-religious marriage:

Marriage is a matter of choice and exercise of fundamental human rights. As such, people who intend to marry from other religions should be left alone.

Misuse of loudspeakers and bells

Blocking of public roads

Misrepresenting another religion

Manipulation and misuse of religion to fuel crises

¹Plateau State Government, 2004, pp. 65-71.

Indiscriminate proliferation of worship places in public places

Interaction between religious leaders

Delegates were happy with the already existing Inter-Religious Committee at state level and wanted it to be duplicated in LG levels.

Use of provocative preaching, posters, portraits and stickers

Insincerity of religious leaders

Polarisation of settlements along religious divides.

Issues of abattoirs and types of animals to be slaughtered:

There is need for education by all religions.

Government should segment abattoirs according to types of animals.

Fear of sharia in Yelwa

Government must check the activities of overzealous religious leaders. Imposition of sharia is not practicable.²