DHARMA WATCH

State of Hindu Persecution

Global Annual Report 2025

A comprehensive review of documented incidents affecting Hindu communities worldwide during calendar year 2025. Compiled from verified sources including USCIRF, BHBCC Unity Council, CoHNA, HAF, and independent media monitoring.

CRITICAL RISK

Bangladesh · Pakistan

Violence, forced conversion, mob attacks

HIGH RISK

US · UK · Canada · Sri Lanka

Temple vandalism, harassment, identity hostility

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Executive Summary

In 2025, reported incidents affecting Hindu communities remained most severe in Bangladesh and Pakistan, while the Hindu diaspora experienced a visible rise in temple vandalism, desecration, intimidation, and identity-based harassment in countries such as the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The year was defined by three major patterns:

- South Asia remained the global center of anti-Hindu violence and discrimination.
- Hindu temples and sacred images became frequent symbolic targets.
- Diaspora Hindus faced a growing mix of religious, ethnic, and political hostility.

Bangladesh saw the most alarming spike. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCC) alleged at least 522 communal violence incidents during calendar year 2025, while earlier reporting documented thousands of minority-targeted incidents after the August 2024 political crisis.

Pakistan remained a high-risk environment for Hindus, especially in Sindh and Punjab, where forced conversions, coerced marriages, blasphemy-related pressure, and weak accountability continued to affect Hindu and Christian minorities. USCIRF's 2026 report noted continued reports of forced conversions among Hindu and Christian girls.

In the United States, the March 2025 desecration of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Chino Hills, California, became one of the year's most visible anti-Hindu incidents. Law enforcement investigated it as a hate crime, and AP News noted that similar BAPS temple vandalism had occurred in New York, Sacramento, and Newark.

Key Findings

1. BANGLADESH WAS THE MOST URGENT HINDU PERSECUTION HOTSPOT IN 2025

Bangladesh's Hindu community faced repeated reports of mob violence, temple vandalism, home destruction, sexual violence, intimidation, and property attacks. USCIRF's Bangladesh factsheet noted that Hindu leaders reported a climate of fear, with some Hindu women reportedly avoiding bangles and bindis to reduce harassment risk. USCIRF also cited a May 22, 2025 attack in Dahar Mashihati village that destroyed or vandalized an estimated 20 homes.

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council alleged 522 incidents between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

2. PAKISTAN REMAINED A SEVERE STRUCTURAL-RISK COUNTRY FOR HINDUS

In Pakistan, Hindu persecution was less defined by one-time riots and more by continuing structural vulnerability: forced conversion, coerced marriage, blasphemy-law pressure, social discrimination, weak policing, and lack of legal accountability. USCIRF continued to monitor Pakistan for blasphemy laws, anti-minority violence, and forced conversions.

Reports in 2025 continued to identify Hindu and Christian girls as especially vulnerable to abduction, forced conversion, and coerced marriage.

3. THE HINDU DIASPORA FACED RISING TEMPLE-CENTERED HOSTILITY

In the United States, Hindu temple vandalism remained a prominent concern. The March 8, 2025 Chino Hills BAPS incident involved anti-Hindu and anti-India graffiti and was investigated as a hate crime.

The Hindu American Foundation stated in 2025 that hate crimes against Hindus and mandirs had increased significantly and announced law-enforcement training efforts to improve understanding of anti-Hindu hate.

4. SRI LANKA REMAINED A CONCERN FOR TAMIL HINDUS AND TEMPLE LAND DISPUTES

USCIRF's 2025 Sri Lanka chapter reported that authorities detained eight Tamil Hindus conducting

Shivaratri activities at a temple, accusing them under antiquities law before releasing them after 10 days. The case reflected broader tensions around Hindu worship, land, heritage claims, and Buddhist-majority state structures.

5. ANTI-HINDU DISCRIMINATION IS UNDERCOUNTED GLOBALLY

Anti-Hindu incidents are often underreported because families, temples, and community leaders may avoid publicity, fear retaliation, or lack confidence in police and media handling. CoHNA's U.S. temple attack tracker explicitly notes that many incidents go unreported because temples and individuals often keep a low profile to avoid further attention or attacks.

Global Risk Ranking for 2025

	Countries / Regions	Primary Concerns
Critical	Bangladesh, Pakistan	Violence, forced conversion, mob attacks, temple desecration, weak accountability
High	Sri Lanka, selected diaspora hotspots	Temple disputes, intimidation, vandalism, religious identity pressure
Medium-High	United States, Canada, United Kingdom	Temple vandalism, hate graffiti, harassment, politicized anti-Hindu rhetoric
Medium	Australia, Caribbean, Fiji, South Africa	Discrimination, isolated vandalism, diaspora tensions
Low-Medium	Western Europe broadly	Underreporting, online hostility, occasional temple/community incidents

Incident Types Observed in 2025

Violence	Mob attacks, assault, sexual violence, lynching, arson
Vandalism	Damage to temples, signs, community property
Desecration	Damage to murtis, sacred spaces, religious symbols
Discrimination	Social exclusion, school/workplace bias, state pressure
Threats	Online threats, temple threats, intimidation
Forced Conversion	Abduction, coerced marriage, pressure to renounce Hindu identity

Strategic Assessment

The state of Hindu persecution in 2025 cannot be reduced to one country or one ideology. It appeared in several forms:

- In Bangladesh, persecution was often tied to political instability, mob violence, and minority vulnerability.
- In Pakistan, it remained deeply structural, especially for poor Hindu families and girls.
- In the diaspora, it appeared through temple vandalism, identity-based hostility, and politicized targeting of Hindu sacred spaces.

The most important challenge for Hindu communities is not only the incidents themselves, but the lack of consistent documentation. Many attacks are reported locally, discussed briefly, and then disappear from public memory.

That is the gap Dharma Watch is built to fill.

DHARMA WATCH POSITION

Dharma Watch documents incidents with accuracy, neutrality, and evidence. The mission is not to inflame tension, but to preserve truth.

Dharma Watch exists to build a verified global record of incidents affecting Hindu communities. We document violence, vandalism, desecration, discrimination, threats, and other forms of hostility using source-based reporting, geospatial mapping, and transparent verification standards.

"See. Understand. Make a Difference."

Sources: USCIRF 2026 Annual Report · BHBCC Unity Council 2025 · CoHNA Temple Attack Tracker · Hindu American Foundation · AP News · Church in Need · ECOI

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