

No, Israel Didn't Make Christian Prayer Illegal

THE LIE

Israel passed a bill criminalizing Christian prayer at the Western Wall.

THE TRUTH

The bill is intended to regulate internal Jewish prayer disputes and does not affect Christian prayer in any way.

BACKGROUND

- On March 10, 2026, Emerald Robinson posted a claim on X that a new bill revising Israel's Protection of Holy Places law would make Christian prayer at the Western Wall a criminal offense punishable by seven years, allegedly based on Jewish law classifying Christianity as idolatry.
- The 1967 Protection of Holy Places Law prevents desecration of holy sites and guarantees access to them, defining violations according to each site's customs to respect worshipers.
- An amendment to the law passed a preliminary vote in Israel's Knesset on February 25, 2026.

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- **Proposed Amendment:** The bill redefines desecration at Jewish holy sites to include violations of Chief Rabbinate rulings, and requires government consultation with the Chief Rabbis. The amendment makes no mention of Christians and has no effect on Christian prayer or access to the Western Wall. ([Jerusalem Post](#)), ([Israel Democracy Institute](#))
- **Real Target:** The legislation is a reaction to **Women of the Wall**, a secular Jewish feminist group that holds frequent demonstrations at the Wall challenging Orthodox prayer customs. These actions sometimes require police intervention. The amendment addresses internal Jewish disputes, not Christian worship.
- **Al-Aqsa Contrast:** Non-Muslim prayer is completely banned on the Temple Mount, a site sacred to Jews and Christians long before Islam, and Jews praying there have been arrested. Meanwhile, at the Western Wall – the site now under dispute – individual Christians are free to approach, pray, and worship without restriction. The lack of outrage over this highlights the **selective framing** of claims about the Western Wall. ([AJC](#)), ([INSS](#))

QUOTES

- "Israel has been a responsible guardian of the Abrahamic tradition, transforming Jerusalem into a miraculous mosaic of religious pluralism among the most devout Jews, Christians, and Muslims." – Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

TAKEAWAY

The proposed amendment does **not criminalize Christian prayer**, does not mention Christianity, and leaves Christian access to the Western Wall unchanged. Viral claims are a **fabrication** designed to mislead and create tension, part of a long-running pattern of attempting to turn Christians against Jews. Christians deserve **accurate information**, not manipulated narratives.