



Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

Pakistanis Support the Right of Christians to Build Churches in Muslim Countries: GILANI POLL / GALLUP PAKISTAN

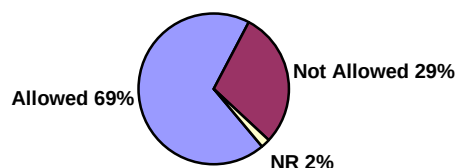
Islamabad, January 8, 2010

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, more than two thirds of all Pakistanis (69%) believe that Christians in Muslim countries like Pakistan should be allowed to construct churches for worship. The remaining 31% either did not support the idea or gave no response. The question was asked in the wake of the news that a majority of the Swiss voters had supported to ban the building of mosques with minarets in its neighborhoods.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked “*In your opinion, in Muslim countries like Pakistan, where Christians are in minority, should they be allowed to build church or not?*” Sixty nine percent (69%) claim to be in the favour of letting Christians build their own public worship sites, while 29% are against it. The remaining 2% of the respondents did not respond.

The findings of the survey reveal that a proportionately higher percentage of ruralites, and Pakistani men are slightly more tolerant towards the right of minorities to worship. Interestingly, the data also shows that contrary to what is popularly perceived about the residents of NWFP, a vast majority (81%) believe that Christian minorities have a right to worship and the governments of Muslim countries like Pakistan should allow the construction of their churches.

“In your opinion, in Muslim countries like Pakistan, where Christians are in minority, should they be allowed to build church or not?”



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The latest survey was carried out among a sample of 2740 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during December 2009. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

Gallup Pakistan proposes that its poll results be attributed as Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. This is to distinguish our polls from polls on Pakistan sometimes released by other organizations not part of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com) and referred to by the same title. Also please see necessary Disclaimer on our website (www.gallup.com.pk). Gallup Pakistan takes responsibility for only its own polls on Pakistan.

For more survey data on social and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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