



## History

The United Arab Emirates comprises seven states which united after independence from Britain in 1971: Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Al Fujayrah, Sharjah, Dubai, Quwain and Ras al Khaymah. Abu Dhabi covers almost 97% of the entire area of the UAE, with Ajman being the smallest state.

## Government

The UAE is ruled by seven Emirs, the Supreme Council of Rulers, who are responsible for appointing a Prime Minister and cabinet. Political parties are not allowed. Legislation is based on Sharia law, and even foreigners may be subject to flogging if prosecuted for possession of drugs, adultery or prostitution.<sup>1</sup>

## Social Issues

The country faces numerous drug-related problems as it is a central port for African and Asian drug traffickers heading into Europe, although the government has in recent years implemented severe punishments if caught in possession or in the act of selling drugs or alcohol. The female adult literacy rate of 82% in the UAE is higher than that of men, 77%, owing to the large numbers of women now attending university.<sup>2</sup>

## The Way TV Viewership

According to surveys, around 3.4% of the population watches The Way TV.

### **Religion**

The UAE is 96% Muslim, with Christians making up an estimated 2%. Although other religious groups are not formally recognised by the state, they are free to purchase land for places of worship and practise their religion freely within.

### **Prayer Points**

Pray for continued tolerance and understanding from the state towards Christians as they seek to worship.

Pray for the relatively liberal stance towards Christianity in the UAE to spread to its neighbouring countries in order to permit Christians living in the region to worship freely and openly.

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