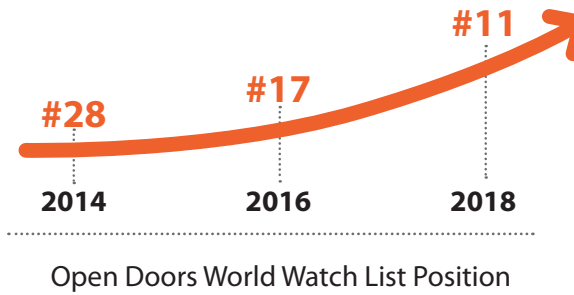


# PRAY AS PERSECUTION IN INDIA IS ON THE RISE



For Christians, India is a powder keg of persecution – and the growing violence is mainly due to the rise in radical Hinduism. Those who follow Jesus in India face constant pressure to turn to traditional Hindu beliefs. They're often physically assaulted and sometimes killed. Christian women are twice as vulnerable due to their gender and faith, and persecution against them tends to be more intense.

And yet, the good news is that with your help in strengthening persecuted believers, the Gospel is spreading, the Church is growing and individual believers are risking their lives to share Jesus' love and further His Kingdom!



India's position on the World Watch List has soared from #28 to #11 in just four years. Yet the government denies the very real persecution being spurred on by radical Hindu nationalism.

It's alarming how the number of violent incidents in India keeps growing and has reached new heights this year. And these reported incidents for the 2018 World Watch List\* are considered to be just the tip of the iceberg.

**23 793**  
Christians physically and/or mentally abused

*Both Christian women and men are being threatened and physically harmed, in an attempt to either convert them back to Hinduism, force them to leave or simply eliminate them. Although both men and women face persecution, persecution against women tends to be more violent.*

- Arrest based on false accusations
- Social discrimination
- Loss of assets
- Brutal beatings amounting to attempted murder

- Rape and molestation
- Murder
- Isolation for faith
- Forced to participate in Hindu rituals

**336** Christians forced to leave their homes

**635** Christians unjustly detained

\*Reporting period: 1 November 2016 tot 31 October 2017



Six out of 29 states have implemented anti-conversion laws in India, with more states looking to implement it.

**Radical Hindus and the government are working together to make India a purely Hindu state**

Since the second half of 2014, Hindu radicals launched a “homecoming” campaign (a.k.a., *Ghar Wapsi*) designed to lure Muslims and Christians back into the Hindu fold. Several campaigns have been held in which hundreds of people returned to Hinduism. The campaign reached its peak in 2015 and early 2016.

Churches are being attacked and demolished on an almost daily basis in India, but the government is turning a blind eye to the reality of violence and pressure against Christians. Why? The government has plans to convert everyone to Hinduism by the year 2020, and they will stop at nothing to ensure that India becomes a Hindu state.



**Please lift up your brave brothers and sisters in India to hold fast to Christ!**

### PRAY FOR:

**The deteriorating situation in India.** In recent years, Hindu organisations have become more aggressive, claiming India belongs to Hinduism. Pray for Christian converts from Hinduism who are heavily pressured to return to their Hindu faith.

**Christians as they evangelise amid anti-conversion laws.** Pray for God’s provision for and protection over believers in India as they boldly evangelise in states with anti-conversion laws. Pray they’ll be wise and protected in their evangelism efforts.

**Young believers facing homecoming ceremonies.** Ask God to provide discipleship opportunities for young believers, so they will be rooted in faith and resist the temptation to return to Hinduism as Hindu radicals increase their homecoming campaign efforts.

**Women and young girls.** Pray for Christian women who are vulnerable to rape and Christian girls in India who are placed under house arrest by their families because of their faith. Ask God to protect them, and pray that their families would come to know the Lord.

**The protection of Christians.** As violence against Christians has increased, ask God to protect them as they daily serve Him in this volatile nation.