

 Open Doors **WORLD
WATCH
LIST** 2026

Top 50 Prayer Calendar

**Pray for persecuted Christians
living in countries where faith
should be impossible.**

WORLD WATCH LIST 2026

ABOUT THE LIST

The World Watch List is compiled by Open Doors' analysts using real-world data from experts on the ground in 150 countries. Persecution in each country is recorded using a points system which tracks violence and pressure. This measures the number and severity of violent incidents against Christians and the degree of pressure exerted against the practice of their faith in 6 spheres of life.

Violence



Private



Family



Community



National



Church



Maximum score for each is 16.7, maximum total of 100 when combined. Each country's ranking is determined by its total score out of 100, giving an indication of severity of persecution.

PERSECUTION LEVELS



HIGH

41-60 points



VERY HIGH

61-80 points



EXTREME

81-100 points

Every country on the list is ranked as having very high or extreme levels of persecution, showing the intensity of persecution against Christians.



**WANT TO
KNOW MORE?**

Visit www.opendoors.org.za for profiles on each WWL country with more testimonies, prayer points, persecution trends and ways you can become involved.

COUNTRIES WITH EXTREME PERSECUTION

1 North Korea

Christian communities in North Korea are often small gatherings of families or close friends. Pray that God would protect these beautiful expressions of His Church.

2 Somalia

Somalia is a traumatised nation, and Christian Somalis are even more so. Pray that God's Spirit will minister to them and that He would bring healing to their minds and spirits.

3 Yemen

The small number of Yemeni believers is growing, but each believer lives with the daily risk of violence and even death. Pray for courage and hope.

4 Sudan

As the brutal civil war continues, some believers have been forced to flee, while others have no choice but to stay and hunker down. Ask God to protect them.

5 Eritrea

There are many Christians stuck in Eritrea's notorious prison system, some of them detained simply for practising their faith. Pray they will keep hope alive and be set free.

6 Syria

In the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime, many Christians live with constant uncertainty. Pray that believers would lean

on God as their "rock eternal" (Isaiah 26:4).

7 Nigeria

Last year, thousands of Nigerian Christians were displaced due to the violence in northern Nigeria that seems never-ending. Pray that God would give them hope and stability.

8 Pakistan

Pakistan's blasphemy laws continue to impact Christians disproportionately. Pray for those accused unjustly of blasphemy and ask that God will protect them from imprisonment or vigilante "justice".

9 Libya

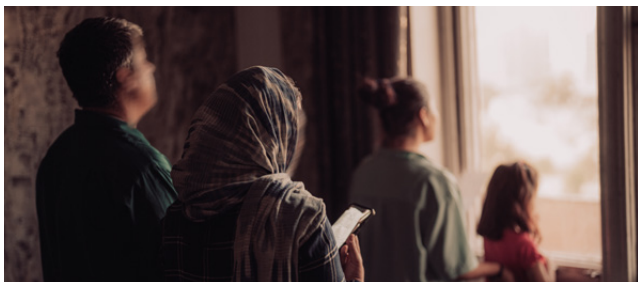
There are very few Christians in Libya. If they're discovered, they could be targeted. Pray for these believers to be able to follow Jesus in safety and to find fellowship.

10 Iran

In the aftermath of the war with Israel, many Iranian Christians report even stricter treatment from authorities. Pray that God will ease tensions and be with believers who risk everything to meet in secret.

11 Afghanistan

Christians in Afghanistan continue to persevere after four-and-a-half years of Taliban rule. Ask God to protect His people and to give them a spirit of hope and peace.



12 India

Extremists continue to target Christians in India. Pray that believers would be spared violence and ask God to comfort those who have suffered attacks.

13 Saudi Arabia

Even though there are more than 2 million Christians in Saudi Arabia, there are no legal, public churches. Ask God to make a way for believers to find fellowship with one another.

14 Myanmar

Christians are targeted and discriminated against by the ruling military junta. Pray for a change of heart in the authorities.

15 Mali

Christians face violence and displacement from groups associated with the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda. Pray for believers who risk everything because of their faith in Christ.

COUNTRIES WITH VERY HIGH PERSECUTION

16 Burkina Faso

Ask God to help Christians who have lost loved ones or been displaced in

the violence. Pray they would be comforted and would experience the true peace of Christ.

17 China

Many believers in China worship in unregistered churches, knowing that their church could be shut down at any time. Pray for protection and courage in the face of uncertainty.

18 Iraq

The Church in Iraq is still working to reestablish itself, nearly a decade after ISIS inflicted generational trauma. Pray that believers would be salt and light and that God would bless those called to stay.

19 Maldives

Christians, especially converts, are forced to worship in secret. Pray for these courageous fellowships and ask God to bless them.

20 Algeria

Conversion can be risky for both those who convert and anyone perceived to have shared the Gospel with them. Ask God to protect Christians who have converted from Islam.

21 Mauritania

The Church in Mauritania is small but resilient. Ask God to encourage believers there and to help them grow and live out the Great Commission.

22 Central African Republic (CAR)

Sexual violence is an all-too-common occurrence in CAR. Ask God to bind up the wounds of the sisters who suffer this horrific crime, and pray for their healing, both in body and soul.

23 Morocco

Women who convert to Christianity can face severe persecution from their family and community. Pray these sisters would find fellowship and that all Christians will be wise and courageous in living out their faith in Morocco.

24 Cuba

Like all Cubans, believers on the island face significant humanitarian needs. Ask God to provide for the Cuban people and to give them access to the basics.

25 Uzbekistan

Non-registered churches are especially targeted and raided. Ask God to protect believers who risk so much to meet and worship Him.

26 Niger

In some parts of Niger, Christians are at risk from attacks by Islamic militants. Pray for protection and for those who have been

displaced by the insecurity.

27 Tajikistan

The government of Tajikistan monitors and performs surveillance on any community of believers. Ask God to keep Christians safe and give extra grace to church leaders.

28 Laos

Some Christian converts in rural Laos are expelled from their homes and villages after their faith is discovered. Pray that God will help them find shelter and that they can find comfort under the shadow of God's wings (Psalm 17:8).

29 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Believers in the DRC face violence and displacement for their faith in Jesus. Ask God to give them courage and hope, even when life seems impossible.

30 Mexico

Christians living in some areas of southern Mexico encounter heavy persecution when they share the Good News of Jesus. Pray that God will protect and encourage these brave believers.



31 Tunisia

While foreign Christians are often allowed to worship freely, Tunisian Christians don't share that same freedom. Pray that Tunisian followers of Jesus would find fellowship and grow in discipleship.

32 Nicaragua

Pray that churches under surveillance by the authorities would be given courage and wisdom to gather.

33 Bangladesh

Often those who convert to follow Jesus can face pressure from both family and community. Ask God to help them know they aren't alone.

34 Bhutan

Christians in Bhutan have no option but to attend unregistered churches as no churches are officially recognised by the state. Pray they can continue to meet and encourage one another.

35 Turkmenistan

Pray for unity among the people of God in Turkmenistan. Ask that God will break down walls and that the love of the believers would be on display as Jesus has commanded.

36 Ethiopia

Christians who leave Islam or the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and join evangelical communities can encounter rejection and persecution from their families and communities. Ask God to

keep these believers safe and to unify His people in Ethiopia.

37 Cameroon

The Far North of Cameroon remains an incredibly dangerous place for Christians. Ask God to keep His people safe and protect them from Boko Haram raids.

38 Oman

While foreign Christians are mostly able to practice their faith with little interference, native Omanis can face severe restrictions if they convert from Islam. Pray that God will protect these believers and help them find a safe Christian community.

39 Mozambique

More attacks took place in Mozambique in 2025, and Christians were among those targeted by Islamic extremists. Pray for the victims' loved ones and those who are displaced.



40 Kyrgyzstan

In early 2025, Kyrgyzstan enacted a new series of religious laws that many observers say will target religious minorities, including Christians. Pray for believers

to have courage and wisdom as they navigate these restrictions.

41 Türkiye

When Muslims in Türkiye convert to follow Jesus, they can be shunned by their families and communities. Pray that these believers would find belonging and hope in the family of God.

42 Egypt

Many Christians are thought of as second-class citizens, especially in rural areas and villages. The believers are left with limited employment options. Pray these believers would not be discouraged, but would know their value in the eyes of the Lord.

43 Comoros

Pray for Christians forced to follow Jesus in secret because being revealed as a Christian would mean brutal persecution.

44 Qatar

Native Qataris are unable to convert from Islam freely. Pray that there would be freedom to choose their faith.

45 Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's restrictive religious law means churches and church leaders are constantly under pressure. Ask God to give them refreshment and a renewed sense of the Holy Spirit's presence.

46 Nepal

Pray for the safety of Christian households living in hotspot areas and those who are the only believers in their families. Pray that they remain strong in their faith despite persecution.

47 Colombia

Pray that God would protect believers who find Jesus in indigenous communities. Pray they would be accepted rather than oppressed.

48 Chad

Believers who follow Jesus in regions where Islamic extremists are active can be targets for violence. Pray that God will change the hearts of the militants and that His people will be protected.


49 Jordan

Conversion from Islam can be pretty risky in Jordan. Pray for those who have lost friends or family because they follow Jesus.

50 Brunei

Converts from Islam can be charged with apostasy in Brunei, which is under Shariah (Islamic) law. Pray that all people in Brunei will be free to choose their own faith.





**Continue praying
with us for believers
who dare to share
about Jesus.**

SIGN UP for our communication:



Open Doors Africa

T +27 11 888 9341

E southafrica@od.org

 +27 66 397 1319

FIND US ON:

www.opendoors.org.za



Geopende Deure Open Doors NPC – Reg. Nr: 2004/023397/08 – PBO Nr: 930011129