

Your daily prayer guide

CSW everyone
free to believe

prayer diary

October 2021-January 2022



“My whole purpose, my whole mission in life, is to speak for those whom God has given and entrusted us to speak for.”

Kori Porter



Week 1: 10-16 October

‘When criminals kill a priest they are sending a message – “If I can kill a priest then I can kill anyone.”’ - Father Omar Sotelo Aguilar

While the Mexican constitution upholds the right to freedom of religion or belief, violations experienced by faith or belief communities remain a common occurrence in several states in the country. The government often fails to intervene in cases of violence, discrimination and forced displacement. Religious leaders and priests are also often targeted by criminal groups and real investigations rarely take place.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/mexico



Pastor Aarón Méndez Ruiz

Sunday 10 October

It has now been over two years since the Inter-American Human Rights Commission called on the Mexican government to determine the whereabouts of Pastor Aarón Méndez Ruiz and Alfredo Castillo de Luna, who were abducted in August 2019. They remain missing today. Please pray for their safe return.

Monday 11 October

Children in Mexico continue to face restrictions on their right to education on account of their religion or belief or those of their parents. Sometimes they are discriminated against in schools, while in other cases they are excluded altogether. Ask God to foster a spirit of coexistence and inclusion in the educational system today.

Tuesday 12 October

On 13 June Franciscan Father Juan Antonio Orozco Alvarado was among several killed in the crossfire of violent clashes between rival criminal armed groups. Mexico continues to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a priest. Pray protection over Mexico’s priests today.

Wednesday 13 October

Two Protestant families from the village of La Mesa Limantitla have continued to face pressure to pay an exorbitant fine that was levied as part of an illegal agreement in order to restore their access to basic services. If they cannot pay, they risk being cut off again. Pray for them today.

Thursday 14 October

Psalm 46:1 says ‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.’ Pray that families who have been forcibly displaced from their homes on account of their religious beliefs would know this truth today.

Friday 15 October

The government of Mexico regularly fails to combat violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief, rarely intervening in cases of discrimination or violence against religion or belief communities. Ask God to raise up leaders with integrity and determination to end the culture of impunity.

Saturday 16 October

Lord God, we lift the nation of Mexico to you. Thank you for its rich and diverse heritage. We pray that this would be celebrated, and that you would frustrate the plans and change the hearts of those who seek to sow division, violence and intolerance. Amen.



Week 2: 17-23 October

On 8 January 2019, over 1,000 officers and military forces attacked the mainly Catholic community of Loc Hung Vegetable Garden in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Thousands of residents were forcibly evicted and over 500 homes were destroyed.

The community was scattered to various places, forced to find new accommodation away from the land they'd lived on for decades. Many adults were severely traumatised, while the forced move made it harder for the children to attend school - denying them their right to an education. Read more of the community's story on p.11 of Response.

We've provided a scripture for you to pray over the community every day this week.

Sunday 17 October

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty...He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. - Psalm 91:1,4

Monday 18 October

Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope! - Romans 15:13 MSG

Tuesday 19 October

Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. - Psalm 126:5 NLT

Wednesday 20 October

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights. - Habakkuk 3:19

Thursday 21 October

Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. - Psalm 63:7-8

Friday 22 October

'Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west...From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done.'

- Isaiah 43:5,13 NLT

Saturday 23 October

I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness in the exuberant earth. Stay with God! Take heart. Don't quit. I'll say it again: Stay with God.

- Psalm 27:13-14 MSG

Week 3: 24-30 October

Recently a CSW staff member encouraged us to 'pray without ceasing' for those we work with in Nigeria, in particular Pastor Gideon Mutum and journalist Steven Kefas, who have received death threats. Praying without ceasing is a tall order, but this week you might want to leave a post-it note on the fridge with 'Pray for Nigeria'; or perhaps leave this page open somewhere you walk past often, to remind you to keep Nigeria in your prayers at this dark time. Find out more at csw.org.uk/nigeria



Pastor Gideon Mutum with CSW staff member

Sunday 24 October

Pastor Gideon Mutum, the founder and director of a camp for communities in southern Kaduna state fleeing militia violence, and Steven Kefas, a journalist and activist, have received death threats for speaking out against attacks by the Fulani militia. Pray Psalm 91 over them and their families, and that these threats come to nothing

Monday 25 October

The past year has seen a huge rise in mass abductions from schools, with over 1,000 children taken between December 2020 and July 2021. While Christian and government schools are particularly targeted initially, Islamic schools are being attacked increasingly, as both Muslim and Christian families suffer the terror and heartache of losing children. Please pray for the success of our latest campaigns (page 2, Response) in fighting this crisis.

Tuesday 26 October

Eighty-five of the 135 children kidnapped from Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna state in July 2021 remain in captivity, pending payment of further ransom. While we thank God for those who were released, we also remember the remaining 85 children and their parents, along with all who have been abducted for ransom, praying that they would be protected and rescued, and can soon resume their education.

Wednesday 27 October

While abductions used to be confined to remote rural locations in southern Kaduna and local government areas near Zamfara state, people are now being taken from their homes within the city, including the predominantly Christian Sabon Tasha district in Kaduna metropolis. Pray that this deterioration in security would be brought to an end.

Thursday 28 October

Religious leaders and activists are particular targets of terrorist groups like ISWAP, Fulani militia and kidnappers. Pray protection over religious leaders in the north and centre, including Reverend Yunusa Nmadu, CEO of CSW Nigeria, and the CSW team of staff and volunteers who often travel to very dangerous places in order to meet with victims.

Friday 29 October

'Father God, we thank you for the beauty and rich cultural diversity of Nigeria. We thank you for those who work to bring about unity, peace and understanding between religious groups and ask that you watch over them and bless their work. Amen.'

Saturday 30 October

'He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.'
- Daniel 2:20. **Nigeria is in desperate need of righteous leaders. Pray that God would raise up men and women of wisdom and courage.**

Week 4: 31 October-6 November

Pakistan is a diverse and vibrant country. However, the country’s blasphemy laws make it a criminal act to insult another’s religion, and are widely misused to settle personal scores and target religious minorities. In 2014 a Christian couple, Shafqat Emmanuel and Shagufta Kausar, was falsely accused of blasphemy and sentenced to death. Since then, many of you have faithfully and persistently joined CSW in praying for their release. On 3 June 2021, after seven years on death row, the couple’s sentences were finally overturned (see p.14 of Response). We praise God for this breakthrough and encourage you to continue praying for Pakistan this week.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/pakistan

Sunday 31 October

Praise God for the release of Shafqat and Shagufta! Join us in praying for Pakistan’s blasphemy laws to be amended or repealed, and for those who have been falsely accused to be released unconditionally.

Monday 1 November

CSW advocates for Hindu and Christian girls who have been kidnapped, forced to change their names, convert to Islam, and marry men who are strangers to them. Many never see their families again. Please pray that the government and police in Pakistan would take decisive action to stop these abductions, and that these girls would be able to return to their families.

Tuesday 2 November

Today is the International Day to end Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. Pray for Pakistan’s brave journalists and bloggers, who face targeted attacks and interference by the authorities for speaking the truth and exposing all forms of religious and sectarian intolerance that prevail in the country.

Wednesday 3 November

CSW partners with human right defenders in Pakistan who face many challenges in their work for standing up for religious minorities. Michelle Chaudhry, of the Cecil and Iris Chaudhry Foundation (CICF), is one of these amazing partners. Please ask God to bless her with strength, boldness, provision and protection.

Thursday 4 November

Today marks the anniversary of the killing of a Christian couple, Shama and Shezad Masih, who were burnt to death by a mob in 2014 after being falsely accused of blasphemy. Please pray for God’s comfort, protection and provision for their three children, and for Michelle and the staff at the CICF as they seek to support them.

Friday 5 November

Students in Pakistan are often taught from a curriculum that discriminates against religious minorities. Religious minority children often face physical and mental abuse from classmates and teachers. Please pray for unbiased teaching and inclusive changes to the curriculum, so that children grow up learning to respect people from other religions and beliefs.

Saturday 6 November

Heavenly Father, we bring the country of Pakistan to you in prayer. Please protect and give courage to those working to make Pakistan an inclusive and tolerant society. Please comfort and help those who continue to suffer for their faith. Bless them and strengthen them, we pray. Amen.



Week 5: 7-13 November

As Christians, we stand with all those facing injustice because of their religion or belief. But this week, we’re joining churches and other organisations around the world to mark the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church - a special day dedicated to uplifting persecuted Christians to God. As you pray throughout this week, picture yourself as part of the multitude of worshippers before the throne of God, crying out for freedom and justice to reign in our world. We are one Church. This is our prayer.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/idop

Sunday 7 November

There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. I Corinthians 12:12

Today is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church and we are joining as one body, one Church, to pray for freedom. Unite your voice with Christians around the world to pray for freedom and justice for persecuted Christians today.

Monday 8 November

God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. I Corinthians 12:18

Each member of the body of Christ is unique, playing an active role in bringing the kingdom of God in this world. Give thanks for all those who play their role in the body by speaking out for truth, justice and freedom, whatever the cost.

Tuesday 9 November

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Hebrews 13:3 ESV

Every time you have a drink today, take a moment to remember the many Christians who are in prison because of their faith. As you drink, ask God to fill them afresh with his Spirit as they draw from the well of his love and grace which never runs dry.

Wednesday 10 November

Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10 ESV

If you are going out for a walk today,

or as you move around your home or workplace, pray that God’s Kingdom would come in countries where Christians are detained, disappeared or displaced as it is in heaven.

Thursday 11 November

Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice. Psalm 55:17

Choose one person whose story and situation you’ve read about in Response and take time to pray for them morning, noon and evening today.

Friday 12 November

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword... Hebrews 4:12

We all have favourite scriptures that strengthen us when we feel weak; choose your favourite and use it to pray for strength for the many Christians facing discrimination, persecution or violence today.

Saturday 13 November

Lord, we give thanks that you rule over all things: may your Spirit rule today over kings and presidents, over prime ministers and generals, over captive and free. In every dark place in this world, may your light shine. May fear be overcome and truth reign. May justice roll on like a river, like a never-ending stream. May your Kingdom and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Week 6: 14-20 November

The sad truth is that the issues we work on don't just affect adults - children also suffer discrimination, harassment and worse, because of what they believe.

This week, as we mark World Children's Day on 20 November, bring the children we've mentioned here before God.

Pray your own prayers over these children, asking our Heavenly Father to protect and bless them, and deliver them from all evil.



Kevin from Mexico

was just eight years old in 2018 when he and his family were forced to leave their home in Chiapas State because of their faith. It's always been his dream to be a doctor one day, but being uprooted from his home meant that he missed over a year of schooling.

But in September 2019, Kevin went back to school! Pressure from an international campaign, and lobbying by a local organisation, meant that Kevin was able to resume his education.

Chang Weiping's son

is only seven, and he and his mother are being harassed at home because of who his father is. His mother said he is 'scared to the point of insomnia... He even asks what he would do if the police hold a gun to his head.'

His father, Chang Weiping, is a Chinese human rights defender who was arrested last year and has been charged with 'subversion', purely for his human rights work. Chang has defended members of the banned spiritual movement Falun Gong, and Christians who attend unregistered 'house' churches.

Farzana Khan¹ is an Ahmadi Muslim teenager in Pakistan.

She told us, 'A few of the children in my school told the other students, "She is Ahmadi, don't play with her or eat with her, and stop treating her normally." They punished me, they used to strike me with sticks, and tell me not to sit with the other kids. I haven't told anyone in my new school that I am Ahmadi.'

The Ahmadiyya community is the most persecuted religious group in Pakistan - discrimination, harassment and even violence are regular occurrences.

Week 7: 21-27 November

Myanmar/Burma is facing a humanitarian catastrophe and desperately needs our prayers. The devastating military coup that shocked the world in February, as well as a long running civil war, have been compounded by economic collapse and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Benedict Rogers, CSW's Senior Analyst on East Asia, has worked on the country for decades and describes the situation as the 'darkest of perfect storms', and asks us to pray for a miracle. Find out more at csw.org.uk/burma



Sunday 21 November

We thank you Lord for the people of Myanmar, for their resilience and their kindness. We give you thanks especially for all those who are working towards a peaceful future for the country - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Monday 22 November

The ever courageous Cardinal Bo, Archbishop of Yangon, appealed to the military to 'drop all guns' and 'bring medical care'. The country is reportedly running out of oxygen, with PPE and essential medical supplies in dangerously short supply. Pray that medical aid to the country would find its way to those who most need it, and for protection from the virus for the most vulnerable.

Tuesday 23 November

Pray for the Church in Myanmar and for its leaders, many of whom are at increased risk after the coup. Pray particularly for Cardinal Bo and Rev Samson, president of the Kachin Baptist Convention, who wrote to us recently asking for prayer for the people of Myanmar: 'Please pray for God's mercy and blessing [to] be upon Christians and non-Christians here in Myanmar... I believe the solution is only in God's hands.'

Wednesday 24 November

Today on Myanmar/Burma National Day we pray for those whose lives have been destroyed by the coup - especially for those imprisoned and those who have been disappeared. Please pray for their release and safe return, and for justice.

Thursday 25 November

An urgent response from the international community is vital if Myanmar is to be pulled back from the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. Please pray for the National Unity Government which has formed to oppose the military junta, that they might find favour and support among intergovernmental organisations including the United Nations.

Friday 26 November

The UN Child Rights Committee Chair Mikiko Otani said 'Children in Myanmar are under siege and facing catastrophic loss of life because of the military coup... If this crisis continues, an entire generation of children is at risk.' Pray for protection and prioritisation of children in Myanmar.

Saturday 27 November

Father God, when we consider the situation in Myanmar we see so much need; from coup to COVID and from civil war to economic collapse. So Lord we come to you and ask simply for a miracle. We ask you to intervene and bring miraculous peace and prosperity to the country. Amen.

Week 8: 28 November-4 December

In 1 Timothy 6:12, it says, 'Fight the good fight of the faith.'

Let us pray and give thanks for the life and work of the late Nehemiah Christie, who passed away in June of COVID-related illness. He was a vigorous human rights advocate and continued his work regardless of the threats, harassment and risks to his family. Let us intercede in prayer for his loved ones and everyone who knew him, and for breakthroughs in freedom of religion or belief issues in India.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/india

Sunday 28 November

Nehemiah Christie leaves behind his wife, Deepika, and their two daughters Elena Abigail (12) and Neginah Yale (5). Pray for God's peace upon his wife Deepika and his daughters as they grieve their loss.

Monday 29 November

Psalm 68:5 says, 'a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.' This is God's promise for his children. Pray that God will provide for Nehemiah's wife Deepika and their daughters' every need.

Tuesday 30 November

Patrick, CSW's Asia Team Leader, said, 'I strongly believe that the legacy which he leaves behind is that many have been empowered to speak up for themselves.' Pray that those he has empowered are never afraid to speak up for their rights.

Wednesday 1 December

Human rights defender Father Stan Swamy passed away in July, while under judicial custody after being arrested the previous October without proper evidence. Even after applying for bail on health reasons, he was never granted it. The 84-year-old priest's ill health deteriorated further after his arrest, and he continued to suffer cruel violations in prison – even being refused a sipper to help him drink water. Pray that his life would inspire many more people to stand up fearlessly for justice in India.

Thursday 3 December

Next Thursday marks International Human Rights Defenders Day; let's remember those who champion the rights of others. Nehemiah said, 'Many ask me 'Nehemiah, why do you support these people?,' but I say to them, 'Is this not their human right?' Pray for protection for human rights defenders in India, who often face intense opposition.

Friday 3 December

Discriminatory practices in the system (e.g. law enforcement and the judiciary) mean that human rights are not fully protected. The government is also stifling the work of NGOs. Pray for better accountability for rights violations.

Saturday 4 December

The Bible tells us that righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne (Psalm 89:14). Spend some time today thanking God for the selfless, fearless courage of India's human rights defenders.



Father Stan Swamy

Week 9: 5-11 December

'Of all the preparations I had made for my imprisonment, this one was the most helpful to me.'
– Li Yingqiang

On Sunday 9 December 2018, Chinese authorities arrested over 100 members of Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, Sichuan province, as part of a large-scale crackdown on the church. Li Yingqiang, one of the elders, was among those detained.

Li and his wife, Xinyue, had already agreed that if he were ever imprisoned, they would set aside five o'clock each afternoon to pray together. Li later said that this was his 'most helpful' piece of preparation because he knew that, despite being physically separated from his family, nothing could stop them uniting in prayer. 'The comfort and support I received in my spirit was the most important spiritual support during my months spent in the detention centre.'

Christian communities in China have since committed to pray daily at 5pm for those who have been detained or imprisoned in connection with their Christian faith. This week, we encourage you to join in this prayer movement and stand alongside them at the same time; in the UK, this will be at 9am. Use the prayer points below to help you, or find out more at csw.org.uk/china



Pastor Wang Yi and his wife Jiang Rong

Sunday 5 December

Ask God to restore the physical, mental, and emotional health of all China's prisoners of conscience. May he strengthen them with the knowledge that they are dearly loved and not forgotten.

Monday 6 December

Pray that the Father of compassion will comfort the loved ones of those who are unjustly imprisoned and provide for all their needs.

Tuesday 7 December

May the Holy Spirit be a shield around prisoners of conscience in China, protecting them from harassment, torture, and further violations of their human rights while behind bars.

Wednesday 8 December

Today, pray that God will miraculously change the hearts of China's prison guards so that they choose kindness over cruelty.

Thursday 9 December

On the third anniversary of his arrest, pray for the immediate and unconditional release of Pastor Wang Yi – the leader of Early Rain Covenant Church, who is still serving a nine-year sentence.

Friday 10 December

Pray protection over Christians gathering in unregistered 'house' churches, like Early Rain. May God make their meetings invisible to the Chinese authorities so that they can worship in freedom and peace.

Saturday 11 December

Pray urgently for international leaders to put increasing pressure on the Chinese government to release all those detained because of their religion or belief.

Week 10: 12-18 December

In July protests sprang up across Cuba, as the country's citizens united in peacefully calling for their basic rights. The protests followed months of severe food and medicine shortages, exacerbated by a spike in COVID-19 infections. The government responded harshly, and the peaceful protesters were violently attacked. Many church leaders, activists and independent journalists were detained for peacefully expressing their views.

For updates on this developing situation visit csw.org.uk/cubaprotests

Sunday 12 December

Over 800 people were detained during the protests, many of them held incommunicado for varying lengths of time and now facing charges of 'disrespect' and 'public disorder' which carry long prison sentences. Those who were released reported being under surveillance. Pray for complete emotional, psychological and physical healing from their ordeal.

Monday 13 December

Pastors Yéremi Blanco Ramírez and Yarian Sierra Madrigal were detained on 11 July, held for two weeks and fined following their release. Pastor Yarian's wife and child were evicted after their landlord was threatened that he would lose the property if he did not evict them. Pray for God's protection over them and their families, and that Yarian's family would find a new home.

Tuesday 14 December

Reverend Jatniel Pérez Fera told CSW that for weeks following the protests, his home was under 24-hour surveillance, with a State Security vehicle blocking his door, effectively putting him under house arrest. Pray for his protection.

Wednesday 15 December

Pastor Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo was detained with his 17-year-old son, David Lorenzo, after taking part in a peaceful march. David was released after being 'disappeared' for a week, but Pastor Lorenzo has been charged with 'public disorder, disrespect and attacks' and is being held in a maximum security prison.

His wife was fired from her job and has not been allowed to visit him. Pray that the family would be reunited in freedom.

Thursday 16 December

Many denominations and religious groups made bold public statements calling on the government to release all those detained in relation to the protests. Give thanks for this demonstration of unity, and pray for protection over all who spoke out and who may be targeted as a result.

Friday 17 December

Reverend Ibrahim Figueroa Fonseca is serving a nine-month prison sentence for 'disrespect' after he attempted to make a complaint about a massive increase in the electricity rate, set by the government, for churches in June. Religious leaders have expressed concern that the increase is an attempt to 'asphyxiate' the churches. One religious institution reported that their bill went up from about £15 per month to £750. Please pray for freedom for Reverend Figueroa Fonseca and for all religious groups facing unaffordable demands for payment.

Saturday 18 December

Lord Almighty, sovereign over all nations, we cry out to you for transformation. You hold the hearts of kings and rulers in your hands, so we ask that you plant truth, righteousness and justice in the hearts of all those who govern in Cuba. May your Holy Spirit be at work removing the roots of injustice and planting seeds of justice, freedom and hope. Amen.

Week 11: 19-25 December

Christmas is a time of immeasurable joy for the Church. Yet it's also a time of great danger for many of her members. As we prepare to receive Jesus Christ into our hearts and homes once more, let's remember all those around the world who are prevented from doing so in freedom and safety. Pray the following prayer every day this week, asking the Incarnate Word to protect and bless all those facing injustice for believing in him.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news.

Lord Jesus Christ, may those who suffer discrimination, harassment and all forms of injustice because they belong to you be reminded of the good news you bring to earth. This Christmas, and always.

He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command.

Jesus, Light of the World, shine your transforming light into the darkest corners of this world; may the places where there is no freedom, justice or peace radiate your glory and power. Now and forevermore.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase.

Son of God, the joy which your incarnation brought to the world cannot be contained in words.

May the Church throughout the world be filled with an inexpressible joy. Today and every day.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us.

Emmanuel – God with us. Be near to all those around the world suffering for their faith. May they find immense consolation knowing that they need never suffer alone, for you are by their side. Until the end of time.

Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

The miracle of Christmas brought salvation to the world. May all Christians in every corner of the world be reminded of the hope and assurance they have in you, knowing that you are their Saviour. Today and for all eternity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.

Amen.



Week 12: 26 December-1 January

The targeting of Muslim converts to Christianity has been escalating in Iran since 2009, often accompanied by anti-Christian rhetoric from senior officials. Along with Baha'is, Sufi Dervishes and Sunni Muslims, Christians continue to face severe violations of their right to freedom of religion or belief, including imprisonment, torture, and even extrajudicial execution. At least 545 people are currently believed to be detained on account of their religion or belief.

The authorities often particularly increase the surveillance, harassment and interrogation of Christians during major festivals such as Christmas.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/iran

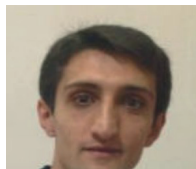
Sunday 26 December

As you prepare to worship today, please pray for Christians in the northern city of Karaj who have faced intense pressure for years, and have been warned by the authorities not to gather for house church meetings, or even to visit one another in their homes.

Monday 27 December

In June three Christians from the Church of Iran, all of whom are from Muslim backgrounds, were each sentenced to five years in prison on charges of 'sectarian activities' under a new amendment to the Iranian penal code. In August the sentences were reduced to three years on appeal. Please pray for their wellbeing, and for their immediate release.

Tuesday 28 December



Ebrahim Firouzi is a Christian convert who is currently serving a two-year sentence of 'internal exile' in the remote town of Sarbaz in south-east Iran. Prior to this, he served a five-year prison sentence. He currently faces further charges in connection with six videos published online, of him complaining of ongoing violations suffered by his family. Pray for these charges to be dropped and the harassment to end.

He currently faces further charges in connection with six videos published online, of him complaining of ongoing violations suffered by his family. Pray for these charges to be dropped and the harassment to end.

Wednesday 29 December

'For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.' (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV). Pray this verse over Christians in Iran today, asking God to strengthen and reassure all those who are fearful of the authorities' harassment.

Thursday 30 December

In some cases Christians, and particularly Christian converts, are forced to flee Iran indefinitely. Please pray that these individuals would know God's comfort, and that they would be permitted to return home without fear of harassment or persecution.

Friday 31 December

Many Christian converts, as well as members of other religious minority groups, will be seeing in the new year from a prison cell. Among them are pastors Yousef Nadarkhani and Matthias Haghnejad. Please pray that both pastors, and the many others like them, would be released immediately and without condition.

Saturday 1 January

Lord God, we lift the nation of Iran to you. May this new year be one of breakthrough and lasting change. Release the captives, protect the vulnerable, and change the hearts of those in power so that Iran would become a nation of peaceful coexistence and freedom. Amen.

Week 13: 2-8 January

'We were forced to close our businesses and leave our homes to another city and we continue to receive threats.' - Peter Salama, a Christian who was forced to flee his home after his father was executed by terrorists.

While there have been some positive developments for freedom of religion or belief in Egypt in recent years, there is still a long way to go. Christians continue to be targeted with threats and sectarian violence; the Shi'a, Quranists, Ahmadiyya, Baha'i and atheist communities experience discrimination too. The government has also cracked down forcefully on the country's human rights defenders. Find out more at csw.org.uk/egypt

Sunday 2 January

This Sunday, pray for Christians from the Saint Macarius Monastery in Wadi Al-Rayyan whose land was confiscated by the Egyptian authorities on 30 May. Pray that their land would be returned to them, and that they would be free to practise their faith without fear of harassment or intimidation.

Monday 3 January

Please pray for the family of Nabil Habashi Salama, a 62-year-old Christian who was abducted and subsequently executed by Islamic State terrorists on 18 April. Ask God to comfort the family in their grief, and to keep them safe from harm.



Nabil Habashi Salama

Tuesday 4 January

On 15 June, ten men were finally found guilty of sectarian violence which took place in the village of Al-Karm in Minya in May 2016, during which the 72-year-old mother of a man accused of being in a relationship with a Muslim woman was stripped and beaten in public. Praise God for justice being served,

and pray the remaining perpetrators are also held to account.

Wednesday 5 January

'Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.' (Romans 14:19). Pray for peace, unity and mutual respect between the different religious groups in Egypt today.

Thursday 6 January

Today, give thanks for recent reforms by the Egyptian government, including the continued legalisation of places of worship. By 9 August, 76 churches and worship buildings had been legalised. Ask God to bless Egypt's leaders with wisdom and vision to take this legislation further, to the benefit of all religious groups in the country.

Friday 7 January

Please pray for the immediate and unconditional release of Coptic activist Rami Kamil, who was arrested in November 2019 on spurious terrorism charges and has remained imprisoned ever since. His detention has been extended on numerous occasions. Pray that justice would be served.

Saturday 8 January

Lord God, we thank you for the positive steps that Egypt has taken in recent years. We do not take these for granted. We continue to pray for further reforms, and that the nation of Egypt would become an example of peace, unity and co-existence for all religious groups. Amen.



CSW everyone
free to believe

We believe
**in the power of prayer
to bring change.**

CSW is a human rights organisation advocating for freedom of religion or belief. As Christians we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.

T +44 (0)20 8329 0010

🐦 @CSW_UK

f /CSWUK

csw.org.uk

PO Box 99
New Malden
Surrey, KT3 3YF
United Kingdom

Scan the
QR code to
give today



Registered Charity No. 281836