

Pray for Egypt

**27 December 2020
- 2 January 2021**



In recent years, we have seen several positive steps taken by the Egyptian government to advance freedom of religion or belief in the country. We have welcomed the legalisation of many churches and places of worship, the issuing of permits to build and renovate new churches, and increased efforts to crack down on hate speech and incitement. At the same time, we have raised concerns about the ongoing restrictions on free speech and targeting of human rights defenders. In some parts of the country, the issue of church construction continues to cause tension. Find out more about Egypt at csw.org.uk/egypt

Sunday 27 December

As you prepare to worship with your church today, give thanks for those churches which have been legalised in recent years and granted the permissions they need to build or renovate their buildings.

Monday 28 December

In parts of Upper Egypt, church repairs and construction continue to be a source of tension. Even when Christians have received permission to renovate or build new churches, local Muslims have blocked their attempts to do so. Pray today for church communities that have been the victims of related violence.

Tuesday 29 December

In May local authorities demolished a church building and mosque in Koum Al-Farag, Al-Behera governorate, following sectarian protests. A few years ago local Muslims had constructed a mosque next to the church, hoping to prevent it from being legalised. Renovations sparked sectarian tension, and to prevent further escalation, local authorities demolished both buildings. Pray for an end to tensions resulting from church legalisation.

Wednesday 30 December

Rami Kamil is a Coptic human rights activist who was arrested and detained on unfounded terrorism charges in November 2019. His detention was extended multiple times during 2020, and there were serious concerns for Mr Kamil's health amidst worries about the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Egypt's prisons.

Thursday 31 December

Pray Psalm 27:23-24 over Rami Kamil today: 'The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.'

Friday 1 January

As Coptic Christians prepare to celebrate Christmas on 7 January, we pray the priestly blessing from Numbers 6 over them: 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.'

Saturday 2 January

Heavenly Father, we give thanks that you are at work in the nation of Egypt to bring about justice and equality for all Egyptians, regardless of their religious beliefs. Give courage to all those who speak for truth, justice and freedom, and face consequences for doing so. Strengthen your Church in Egypt to continue to stand strong in faith, serving you and their neighbours for the sake of your name. Amen.

CSW everyone
free to believe

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