

Pray for India

**28 November –
4 December 2021**



Father Stan Swamy

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.