

Becoming a CSW Ambassador

Becoming a CSW Ambassador is one of the best ways that you can make a difference for those who are experiencing injustice because of their religion or belief.

Our network of Ambassadors are our hands and feet in mobilising churches and Christian Unions, raising awareness of global freedom of religion or belief, and leading those around them to respond in ways that will make a difference – to pray, campaign and give.

CSW Ambassadors are changing the world and we couldn't continue without them!

You can commit your unique skill set and as much time as you would like in serving those who are experiencing injustice, through the work of CSW. We just have three requests we ask you to fulfil each year, at your own pace.

Our three requests

1. Invite a CSW team member or volunteer speaker to your church, home group or social gathering.

This could be in person, online or in a short video. Option available to speak yourself as a volunteer speaker (in person or online).

2. Encourage your church to do a fundraiser, or make a church gift.

3. Invite your church community to pray and take action in one or more of our campaigns.

Other ways Ambassadors can take action include bake sales, film nights, art exhibitions, letter writing or prayer groups, joining CSW protests, and organising small and large events such as a church ball or gig.

The list is limitless! You could also encourage your church home groups to explore our new home group resource (launching early 2023).



Forth Bridge Abseilers, 2019

Our commitment to you

- Providing one Ambassadors event per year
- Annual 1:1 catch up with a CSW team member
- Church Communities Email and films
- Ambassadors Facebook page
- Personalised films addressed to your church
- Resources on request
- CSW speakers for your church service or church/community gathering
- Direct support from the Church Relationships team
- Opportunities to visit the CSW office
- Opportunities to be part of a CSW voluntary team at gatherings such as the Big Church Day Out
- Praying for you during staff prayer gatherings

Length of service options

We think it is helpful to opt in for a specific length of service, with the view of extending it or passing the baton on to someone else in your church. At the end of your agreed time we can reflect on what worked for you, what you enjoyed, what you'd like to do next, and how we can help.

To find out more, contact our Church Relationships team, Ruth or Phil: churches@csw.org.uk

**CSW everyone
free to believe**

Ambassador FAQs

Who are CSW Ambassadors?

CSW Ambassadors are supporters who actively raise awareness of religious freedom issues in their church or Christian Union, and encourage those around them to respond in ways that make a difference – to pray, campaign and give.

CSW Ambassadors are changing the world and we couldn't continue without them!

What's the vision for the programme?

CSW's vision is to have Ambassadors in every town using their gifts, skills and opportunities to raise awareness of, and support for, the work of CSW. We want to mobilise the UK Church to pray and campaign to transform situations where people are experiencing injustice for their religion or belief.

What do Ambassadors do?

Each CSW Ambassador can use their skills and opportunities in different ways; there is no set way of being an Ambassador. We encourage Ambassadors to do the following four things in their own ways:

Raise awareness

This could include inviting a CSW speaker to visit your church or Christian Union, becoming a speaker, sharing updates, putting on an event.

Encourage others to pray

This might be through sharing prayer updates in meetings, running a prayer group or using CSW's prayer materials in small groups.

Encourage others to campaign

This might include writing to people in prison because of their religion or belief, sharing campaign actions or lobbying politicians.

Enable others to give

This could include collections in church services, or organising small events such as bake sales, sporting or music events.



Volunteers at the Big Church Day Out, 2022

What support is available to Ambassadors?

In order to equip and encourage each other, CSW encourages the Ambassador network to share tips, stories and support with each other through a Facebook group.

CSW will provide ideas, information and encouragement to Ambassadors through a bi-monthly email newsletter. We will also provide training on topics such as in-depth insights into our advocacy work, as well as tips on public speaking, running events and awareness raising.

If you become a CSW speaker, we'll give you a Powerpoint presentation and a script to make your talks even easier! Ambassadors always have the support of the Church Relationships team, Ruth and Phil, to provide suggestions, solve problems and offer encouragement.

I'm considering being an Ambassador but I'm not sure. What should I do?

We would love to encourage you to consider becoming a part of the CSW family by becoming an Ambassador. There is no set way of being an Ambassador. If you would like to talk it through, please get in touch with Ruth or Phil at churches@csw.org.uk and they could put you in touch with existing Ambassadors to hear about their experience.

Can I be an Ambassador if I'm already busy?

Yes! Each Ambassador uses their unique skills, gifts, location and opportunities in their own way, and there is no minimum time commitment. Some

Ambassadors work or study full-time, but do a wonderful job of raising awareness about freedom of religion or belief in their spare time. Perhaps you could invite CSW to speak to your Christian Union at work or university, or use our International Day of Prayer (IDOP) resources with your church.

What if I'm not very confident?

Being a CSW Ambassador doesn't necessarily involve public speaking – you could invite a CSW Speaker to come to your church or group instead.

Alternatively, you could focus on taking part in and sharing one of our online campaigns, sharing campaign actions over social media or emailing politicians, rather than putting on events or talks. We want you to be an Ambassador in a way that fits your gifts and skills – it takes many different body parts to create a working body!

What if I'm not an established member of a church?

Overall, the main task of CSW Ambassadors is to help mobilise the Church in the UK to respond to religious freedom concerns. This means that most of our Ambassadors are members of a local church (of any denomination) or Christian Union at work or college, and this is often where Ambassadors have an impact. If this doesn't apply to you but you would like to be an Ambassador, please get in touch with Ruth or Phil to talk it through.

Can students be Ambassadors?

Yes! CSW is passionate about reaching students and young adults to let them know about religious persecution and encourage them to act. Student Ambassadors can raise awareness in their university

Christian Union or their church or both. We can come and speak at your CU to get you started.

Can my friend and I do it together?

Yes! It would be a great idea to work together.

I think my friend/contact would be a good Ambassador. What should I do?

That's great - we would love to chat with them! Perhaps you could work together? With your friend's permission, please pass on their contact details to Ruth or Phil, and we will get in touch to talk it through. Feel free to give them the Church Relationship team's contact details as well.

I'm an Ambassador. I've got an idea for raising awareness or raising money. What should I do?

We're so encouraged when Ambassadors have their own ideas of how to raise awareness, support or money in their own communities. Please let Ruth or Phil know – it would be great to hear your ideas so we can support you and hopefully share your ideas with other Ambassadors!

I have a question that has not been answered here. What should I do?

Please get in touch with the Church Relationships team, Ruth or Phil at churches@csw.org.uk

As part of our commitment to you, we aim to respond to your queries as soon as possible and at latest within a two week window. Please note, while we will strive to do our best, we will not be able to answer or action every question or query depending on the nature or relevancy of the request.



Grace Geng speaking at an Ambassador's event in 2017