

Prayer Diary: Pakistan

5-11 March 2023



‘We have zero tolerance for anyone taking the law into their own hands [and] mob lynchings will be dealt with full severity of the law.’

These were the words of Pakistan’s former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, following the tragic killing of Mushtaq Ahmed in February 2022. Mr Ahmed was stoned to death by a mob of hundreds after he was accused of burning pages of the Qur’an; he is believed to have been suffering from mental illness.

Hate speech against faith communities, along with the absence of the rule of law, often serves as a contributing factor to this kind of mass violence. The country’s controversial blasphemy laws also continue to disproportionately target religious minorities.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/pakistan

Sunday 5 March

Lift up in prayer all those who have been imprisoned on unjust charges of blasphemy. Among them is Asif Pervaiz, a Christian father of four who has been on death row since September 2020, and imprisoned since September 2013.

Monday 6 March

Minority religions are often discriminated against in educational settings, with textbooks presenting biased teaching and promoting intolerance. Pray for genuine reform in schools and universities, that they would become places of mutual respect where young people of all religions and beliefs can truly flourish.

Tuesday 7 March

Pray Jeremiah 29:11 over the nation of Pakistan: ‘For I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’

Wednesday 8 March

Today on International Women’s Day, pray for adequate safeguarding against abduction, forced conversion and forced marriage, which has increasingly targeted Christian and Hindu girls. Pray that the training CSW has given these communities will increase awareness and help them develop their own safeguarding mechanisms.

Thursday 9 March

Today marks 10 years since the attack on Joseph Colony, a Christian area in Lahore. It was one of the worst attacks on a religious community in the country’s recent history, with over 100 homes being burned down. Pray for comfort for all those still suffering the consequences of that attack.

Friday 10 March

The Ahmadiyya community, which has been declared non-Muslims by the state, is the most institutionally oppressed religious group in the country. Pray for the release of 13 Ahmadis who were unjustly arrested for celebrating Eid-ul-Adha in July – one of the biggest festivals in the Muslim calendar.

Saturday 11 March

Loving heavenly Father, you see the suffering of religious minorities in Pakistan. Be near to them today; give them strength, comfort and hope. Bring your justice and peace to this nation, we pray. Amen.