

Prayer Diary: China

10-16 December 2023



This week marks the 75th anniversary of a ground-breaking global pledge: the UN Declaration of Human Rights. We celebrate that this declaration enshrines freedom of religion or belief for all people. However, the Chinese Communist Party continues to crack down on these fundamental freedoms, more and more.

Religious groups are harassed in the name of Sinicization – the campaign to bring all religious doctrine and practice in line with CCP doctrine. We pray for Christians, Muslims, Falun Gong practitioners, Tibetan Buddhists and members of other religious groups who are affected by the pressure of Sinicization, and the extreme deterioration of human rights protections.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/china

Sunday 10 December

Today on Human Rights Day, pray that the universal rights enshrined 75 years ago will be upheld and protected in China. Pray that people of all religions or beliefs would be granted equal dignity, justice, and freedom in all its fullness.

Monday 11 December

During a Sunday service on 7 May, the congregation of Guangzhou Bible Reformed Church found themselves surrounded by police and officials from the Religious Affairs Bureau. Pray for them and other churches which experience intense monitoring and government surveillance.

Tuesday 12 December

Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu continues to be harassed, as do other churches whose leaders signed a joint statement in 2018, calling on the government to respect freedom of religion or belief. Pray that their voices calling for freedom and respect would be heard, and for their safety.

Wednesday 13 December

Pastor Wang Yi was unjustly arrested, five years ago, alongside over 100 members of Early Rain. Keep remembering him in prayer as he remains serving a nine-year sentence. There are reports that he has been held in solitary confinement and been denied family visits and adequate medical care.

Thursday 14 December

Several pastors and preachers of unregistered 'house' churches have been targeted with false allegations of fraud over tithes and offerings. Ask God to set the captives free, including Li Jie of Linfen Covenant House Church. Lie Jie was among those who signed the house church leaders' joint statement in 2018.

Friday 15 December

'Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.' Many brave individuals have been prosecuted, disappeared or disbarred for living out these words from Proverbs 31:9. May God guard those who take on the vital work of defending others.

Saturday 16 December

Lord our creator, thank you for the intrinsic, inalienable freedoms you have given all of us. Thank you that you see everywhere they are being infringed upon in China, and these violations will not go unpunished. Be quick to hold the perpetrators to account. Amen.