

Prayer Diary: Mexico

19-25 November 2023



In certain regions of Mexico, indigenous communities hold legal autonomy to govern themselves according to their traditions and customs. Like many traditional communities, there is a strong sense of group identity. In many cases, this has led to discrimination, harassment and violence against those who do not subscribe to, or wish to conform to, the majority religion in a particular community.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/Mexico

Sunday 19 November

Juana Custodio Bernabe lives in Guerrero. Because she and her family converted away from the majority religion, the village authorities encouraged farmers to graze their cattle on her cultivated land – trampling and eating Juana’s livelihood. Pray for miraculous provision, and an end to such injustices.

Monday 20 November

When Juana’s husband complained to the local authorities, he was told that no action would be taken to defend their rights because his family changed their religion, and because the cows belong to members of the majority religion. Pray that families like Juana’s would no longer be punished for belonging to the religious minority.

Tuesday 21 November

In some areas of Mexico, community leaders have connections to criminal groups, which further increases the vulnerability of religious minorities. Pray for protection over the vulnerable and those who fight corruption and violence.

Wednesday 22 November

Religious minorities in indigenous communities are often denied basic services such as education, electricity, and water. Women are also sometimes denied prenatal healthcare. Pray for these situations to be rectified, that people of all religions or beliefs would be treated equally and with compassion and dignity.

Thursday 23 November

CSW works to inform local and national authorities of violations of freedom of religion or belief, and to seek justice. Pray for opened eyes and softened hearts amongst those in positions of authority, that they would respond and take effective action to bring change.

Friday 24 November

On several occasions, our reports of incidents involving serious violations of freedom of religion or belief have been met with surprise by state, national and international authorities; they were not previously aware that these issues existed. Pray that our advocates and researchers would be spurred on and protected as they bring unseen violations to light.

Saturday 25 November

Next week marks one year since Maria Concepción, a Protestant Christian, was attacked in Hidalgo State. Today, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we continue to pray that the perpetrators – who nearly cost Maria Concepción her life – will be made to account for their actions.