

Prayer Diary: Freedom of Religion or Belief

27 October- 01 November 2025

27 October: International Freedom of Religion or Belief Day

This week we give thanks for the right to freedom of religion or belief. Yet we cannot do so without remembering those who are denied the full enjoyment of this human right. Here is a prayer you can use by yourself or with your church, inspired by Luke 4:18 and Psalm 103:6.

Lord, thank you that you work righteousness and justice for all the oppressed (Psalm 103:6). This is our prayer for those who suffer because of their religion or belief, all over the world.

For **North Koreans** held in notorious prison camps.

For **Colombian** pastors under threat from criminal groups – fearful of gathering to pray.

Lord, set the oppressed free.

For the **Eritrean** church leaders who have been imprisoned for 21 years and counting – without charge or trial or contact with the outside world.

For Hindu, Christian and Sikh girls in **Pakistan** who have been abducted, forced to convert and forced into marriage with their abductor.

Lord, set the oppressed free.

For human rights defenders in **China** who stand up for others, at great cost.

For those fleeing war in **Sudan**, made more vulnerable by their faith.

Lord, set the oppressed free.

For all who endure harassment, imprisonment or surveillance; who suffer violence, disappearance or death; who face all manner of injustice because of their beliefs, together we pray:

Lord, set the oppressed free.

And teach us, Lord, to be your hands and feet. To go, like the Good Samaritan, towards the oppressed and the hurting; to play our part and to trust that ***you will set the oppressed free.***

Amen.