

**From:** [CSW](#)  
**To:** [ctcinfohub@gmail.com](mailto:ctcinfohub@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Roger, how will you use your voice this Lent? Your February news from CSW.  
**Date:** 25 February 2025 18:00:42

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**CSW everyone  
free to believe**



## Six months missing: Where are they?

Carmen and Lesbia are religious leaders in Nicaragua. They were detained on 10 August 2024 and haven't been seen or heard from since.

**Help us find and free these women.**

We're calling on the Nicaraguan government to provide an urgent proof of life for Carmen and Lesbia; to free them immediately and without condition.

You can help by raising their case with your [Member of Parliament \(UK\)](#) or [Member of Congress \(US\)](#) today.

Neither woman has committed any crime. Yet they have been

treated as criminals for serving their communities through the Roman Catholic Church, inspired by their faith.

It is part of the Nicaraguan government's continued onslaught against religious leaders, human rights defenders, and other independent voices. **The crackdown must end.**



## Colombia: Too risky to pray

***'I wanted to call the churches to a season of prayer and fasting for peace in our country... but it is too risky.'***

In areas of Colombia with a presence of illegal armed and criminal groups, the threat to life for religious leaders is so high that even holding an extended time of prayer can be incredibly dangerous.

One pastor, who represents more than 50 churches, recently called for a 40-day season of prayer and fasting to end the violence in his city. But local church leaders were fearful of the reprisals that would no doubt come.

**They can't gather to pray – but we can.**

Will you join us in praying for peace in Colombia this Lent? Sign up

and we'll send you some prayer points to get you started.

Yes! I'll pledge to pray.



## Now the UK has a new Special Envoy, what does that mean for freedom of religion or belief?

After the new Labour government took office in July, one of CSW's key priorities was ensuring the appointment of a Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

We campaigned for months, and on 11 December the government finally appointed **David Smith MP** to the position.

Our blog explores why the role is important, and how it could and should shape the UK's response to global violations of freedom of religion or belief going forward.

[Read it here.](#)





## Invite a CSW speaker to your church

We would love the opportunity to share stories of breakthrough with your church, like the **recent release of Pastor Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo** in Cuba – pictured here reunited with his family at the prison gates.

Sometimes what's happening around the world can feel so far away, but our speakers bring our work to life – informing congregations about the religious freedom abuses that are happening, and also inspiring them that **they can make a difference** for those who are suffering for their beliefs.

**Get in touch with our team today and book a CSW speaker for your church:** [csw.org.uk/bookspeaker](https://csw.org.uk/bookspeaker)

[Sign up to pray with us every Saturday...](#)

[Get Response magazine in your inbox four times a year...](#)

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## Our manifesto #2

We believe  
**no one should suffer discrimination, harassment  
or persecution because of their beliefs.**



CSW is a human rights organisation specialising in freedom of religion or belief, and as Christians we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.  
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