

A WARNING

Case studies of persecution are often harrowing to read, demonstrating much cruelty and extreme suffering. It can be overwhelming and it is easy to despair. But the stories also reveal extraordinary courage and inspirational faith. Learning of the experiences of others is humbling, but also draws us nearer to God. We can have confidence that evil will be defeated, 'for nothing is impossible with God' (Luke 1:37). Churches can offer pastoral support when you need it — do talk to your own minister if things look too black.

WHAT DOES THE LOGO MEAN?

The letter 'N' in Arabic (*Nun* - pronounced *noon*) at the centre of the logo stands for *Nazarene* — as Christians are referred to in the Middle East. IS painted 'N' on the doors of Christians' homes so they could be targeted.

The 'Nun' sign has been adopted by Christians as representing their persecution — much as the yellow star, forced on the Jews by Nazis, represented theirs — and with the supporting hands forms the logo of the Caucus for the Persecuted Church.

USEFUL LINKS

Open Doors : <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Open Doors' World Watch List ranks the 50 countries where Christians face the most persecution

Barnabas Fund : <https://barnabasfund.org>

Hope and aid for the persecuted church

CSW : Christian Solidarity Worldwide : <https://www.csw.org.uk>

As Christians, we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their belief

Aid to the Church in Need : <https://acnuk.org/>

an international pastoral aid organization of the Catholic Church

Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust : <https://www.hart-uk.org/>

supporting local partners in 8 countries and advocacy in the UK and internationally

Caucus for the Persecuted Church :

contact Dr Russell Blacker c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com

International Christian Consulate :

<http://www.internationalchristianconsulate.com/>

Protecting the growing needs and interests of Christians in the Middle East

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church :

<http://idop.org> *Includes prayer resources*

Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East :

<https://frrme.org/>

Christian charity which aims to rebuild lives and restore hope in the Middle East

Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the Foreign Secretary of FCO Support for Persecuted Christians :

<https://christianpersecutionreview.org.uk>

see more on www.ctcinfohub.org/persecution

SUPPORTING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

WHAT CAN I DO?

PRAY

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practical suggestions inside



PRAY

Privately —

include persecuted Christians and those working to relieve their suffering in your personal prayers. Many organisations offer guidelines or prayer diaries to help you focus. Prayer Pointers are available on the CTC infoHub.

With others —

encourage any groups you attend that pray together to include the persecuted. For example, in Falmouth the FPCT Justice & Peace Action Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 2-4pm, to discuss a wide variety of topics but the second half of each meeting always includes prayer for the persecuted and refugees. Everyone welcome for all or part of the afternoon. See the CTC infoHub for details.

In church —

encourage those leading intercessions to pray regularly for the persecuted church

LEARN

Join —

most of the organisations working in the field have mailing lists and produce regular newsletters. The Caucus for the Persecuted Church produces a monthly digest: to receive it e-mail Dr Russell Blacker at c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com.

Read, listen and watch —

There is much material available on the background, history and reasons for persecution. Browse online, look out for films and broadcasts, explore your local library and bookshop. Perhaps start a book group with others interested?

Study —

the Bible has much to say about persecution. Why not encourage your church to make study materials available and perhaps run courses?

WITNESS

Remember —

wear a badge or wristband as a reminder to you to keep the persecuted in your thoughts and prayers, and to encourage others to ask questions. Support Red Wednesday and the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church in November.

Lobby —

ensure you MP understands the importance of UK support for persecuted Christians. Write to papers, join social media groups, attend local events discussing the issues, and raise awareness in your church congregation. CTC has materials to help.

Support —

Join letter writing campaigns to support individual Christians. Financial support is always needed by organisations working in the field.