

# Pakistan

5

On The World Watch List

**“I still hear them; the crowd who gave the judge a standing ovation, saying: ‘Kill her, kill her!’”**

– Asia Bibi, Pakistani Christian imprisoned for her faith.

Score: 88/100

Extreme

Violence:		100%
Church Life:		81%
National Life:		89%
Community Life:		90%
Family Life:		85%
Private Life:		93%

Region:	Asia
Leader:	Prime Minister Imran Khan
Persecution Level:	Extreme
Christian Population:	4,052,000 (1.9%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Dictatorial Paranoia

## Christians As Second-Class Citizens

Christians are considered second-class citizens in this strongly Islamic country. They are given jobs perceived as low, dirty and dishonourable. There are some Christians among the middle class, but they are still considered inferior to their Muslim counterparts and often face severe workplace discrimination. Converts from Islam are particularly at risk of harassment and job insecurity.

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians, and Islamic extremist groups are known to attack or kill those who speak openly about their faith.

## A Dangerous Place For Women

Young, Christian women are particularly vulnerable in Pakistan. They are often abducted and forced to marry Muslim men. The authorities do not protect the rights of women and regularly side with their attackers. Christian families who try to challenge forced marriages can be accused of harassing the man's family. Once married, Christian women are not protected against their husband's abusive behaviour.

## How can we pray for Pakistan?

Pray that Pakistani Christians will have courage to speak about their faith.

Pray that God will comfort women who have been abducted and forced to marry. Ask that they will know His love.

Pray for those who persecute believers in Pakistan, that they will come to know Jesus as their Lord and saviour.

Download the full WWL report at [opendoors.org.au/resources](https://opendoors.org.au/resources) or [opendoors.org.nz/resources](https://opendoors.org.nz/resources)