

Syria

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On The World Watch List

“People continued to come to church even though the bombs were falling.”

– Pastor George, a church leader from Syria.

Score: 81 / 100

Extreme

Violence:		72%
Church Life:		84%
National Life:		87%
Community Life:		81%
Family Life:		83%
Private Life:		80%

Region:	Asia
Leader:	President Bashar al-Assad
Persecution Level:	Extreme
Christian Population:	677,000 (3.6%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Dictatorial Paranoia

Even though Christians have been in Syria since the first century, they only make up less than four percent of the population. Since the war broke out in 2011, Islamic extremist groups, like the Islamic State, have operated more openly and seek to remove Christianity from Syria.

A Breeding Ground For Persecution

Syria's continuing civil war has made the country a breeding ground for Christian persecution. The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 has only made the situation worse, leaving many displaced Christians struggling to survive.

Christians Under Tight Control

In areas controlled by Islamic extremist groups, public expressions of Christianity are forbidden and most churches have been seized or destroyed. In government-controlled areas, this threat is less – but many young Christians have still been abducted.

Christians from a Muslim background are particularly vulnerable to pressure from their family and communities, who perceive conversion from Islam as bringing dishonour. These Christians risk violence and rejection from their communities if their faith is discovered.

How can we pray for Syria?

Pray for the safe return of families to their homes, communities and livelihoods, and for God's continued restoration on those who have already returned.

Pray that Syrian believers will be the light of God in Syria, providing comfort and wisdom to those who are suffering.

Pray that persecutors will experience the love of God and have their hearts changed.

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