

# Uzbekistan

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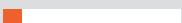





On The World Watch List

**“After my conversion to Christianity,  
my brother wanted nothing to do with me.”**

– Aziz\*, a believer from Uzbekistan.

Score: 71 / 100

Very High

Violence:		10%
Church Life:		94%
National Life:		73%
Community Life:		84%
Family Life:		77%
Private Life:		90%

Region:	Central Asia
Leader:	President Shavkat Mirziyoyev
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	345,000 (1%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Dictatorial Paranoia

## When Leaders Suffer

Church leaders are often subject to persecution at the hands of the authorities. They can be detained, or denied visas to leave the country. Many are fined for holding 'illegal' meetings, possessing Christian literature or even having Christian songs on their smartphone.

Outside the church, Christian men can be overlooked for promotion in the workplace, and businessmen who follow Jesus are watched and monitored by the authorities. Because of this, Christian families are sometimes crippled by financial hardship. Compulsory military service can also expose Christian men to further harassment and hostility and they are forced to leave their families with little income.

## No Freedom For Women

The decision to leave Islam for Christianity is costly for many women. Social expectations around submission mean most females cannot choose their religion and are in great danger if they do so. In extreme cases, wives must flee their own homes.

\*Name changed for security purposes.

## How can we pray for Uzbekistan?

Pray the Holy Spirit will encourage, equip and empower believers who face persecution.

Pray church leaders will be strengthened as they endure immense pressure as they lead their congregations.

Pray for discernment as the president makes decisions regarding Christian freedoms.

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)