

# Malaysia

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On The World Watch List

**“When I was a Muslim, I prayed five times a day...But I had never experienced anything like [Christ] before.”**

– Aina, a believer from Malaysia.

Score: 63/100

Very High

Violence:	11%
Church Life:	60%
National Life:	68%
Community Life:	77%
Family Life:	86%
Private Life:	72%

Region:	Asia
Leader:	Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	2,991,000 (9.1%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Islamic Oppression

In Malaysia, every ethnic Malay is expected to be a Muslim. The government heavily monitors churches and it is illegal to share the gospel with these Malay Muslims.

## Re-Education Camps For Christians

Converts from Islam to Christianity experience the most persecution. Whoever leaves Islam is seen as not just going against Malaysia's constitution, but also against their family and community. These believers are often forced to hide their faith and meet in secret. If discovered, they could face divorce from their spouse, rejection from their family — or even risk being sent to a re-education camp.

## Diminishing Hope

Apart from the abduction of certain Christians in recent years, persecution has rarely been violent in Malaysia. Pastor Joshua Hilmy and his wife Ruth have been missing for more than three years now, and Pastor Raymond Koh was abducted in February 2017.

There was some hope for a new openness to the gospel in Malaysia after elections in 2018, but persecution against followers of Jesus has not changed much at all.

## How can we pray for Malaysia?

Pray for believers who seek to meet in secret. Ask God to give them meaningful times of worship and fellowship.

Pray for Malay believers who have left Islam and are often isolated and cut off from their family members.

Pray for wisdom and boldness for church leaders as they lead their people. Ask God to give Malay believers unity and strength through every trial they face.

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)