

Pakistan

Christians in Pakistan, a small minority making up only 1.8% of the population, are facing an alarming increase in persecution. The recent attack on August 16, 2023, in Jaranwala, where churches and homes were destroyed due to blasphemy accusations, tragically highlights their vulnerability. Blasphemy laws, often used to unfairly target Christians, have become a weapon for inciting violence and discrimination.

The situation for Christian women and girls is especially dire, as they are often abducted, forced to convert to Islam, and subjected to sexual violence. The recent case of a 15-year-old girl who was raped on July 1st, 2024, and denied justice due to police negligence, reveals the deep-seated discrimination and lack of legal protection for Christians in the country. These horrific incidents create a cycle of fear and vulnerability, leaving victims traumatized and without any hope for justice.

Systemic discrimination further pushes Christians to the margins of society, limiting their job opportunities to menial work and subjecting them to degrading labels. While historical churches enjoy some freedom, they are constantly monitored and at risk of attack. Most Christians live in Punjab Province, which has unfortunately become the epicenter of this persecution.

The international community has expressed grave concern over the worsening situation, calling on the Pakistani government to protect religious minorities and uphold human rights. However, progress is slow due to a lack of political will and widespread societal prejudice.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray that God would protect Christians in Pakistan from violence, discrimination, and injustice. Ask for His strength and comfort to endure persecution and for courage to stand firm in their faith.
2. Pray for justice for victims of persecution and for the repeal of discriminatory laws like the blasphemy laws and for legal reforms that protect the rights of Christians and other minorities.
3. Pray that Christians in Pakistan would be able to freely practice their faith without fear of persecution or discrimination. Pray for an end to forced conversions and for the protection of women and girls from abduction and violence.
4. Pray that the persecution of Christians in Pakistan would not extinguish their faith but would instead strengthen it and lead to a greater witness for Christ.
5. Pray for the transformation of hearts and minds, that those who persecute Christians would come to know the love and forgiveness of God.