

IDOP 2023

5 AND 12 NOVEMBER

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PRAYING FOR THE DISPLACED CHURCH

ORGANISED BY THE WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE, THE IDOP IS AN ANNUAL, GLOBAL EVENT THAT UNITES CHRISTIANS IN PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH.

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH | WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

A PRAYER GUIDE FOR THE PERSECUTED AND UPROOTED BELIEVERS

Introduction:

On this occasion of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, let us pray for our brethren enduring persecution and displacement due to their faith in Christ. Amid their trials, let our prayers serve as a testament of unity, empathy, and unwavering support.

This resource is designed to help you pray an informed manner for the displaced church.

Grasping the Reality:

In today's global landscape, we observe an escalating trend of Christians forcibly uprooted from their homes across various nations, often due to religious persecution. Statistics reveal that over 100 million individuals are forcibly displaced worldwide due to multifaceted factors, including religious persecution.

Triggers for Uprooting:

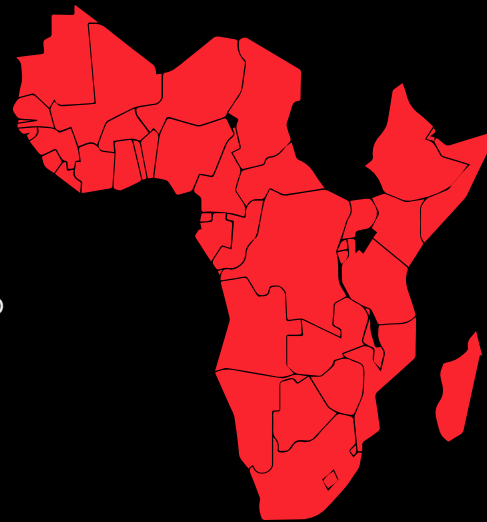
Displacement of Christians unfolds through a complex interplay of circumstances, with armed conflict, violence, ethnic tensions, economic pressures, and religious persecution intersecting. Often, it is the tipping point of religious identity that compels individuals to forsake their homes in search of safety. Elements such as religious persecution, ethnic tensions, economic hardships, and insecurity collaborate, creating intricate layers of challenges that impel Christians to embark on journeys of displacement.

Challenges Faced by Displaced Christians:

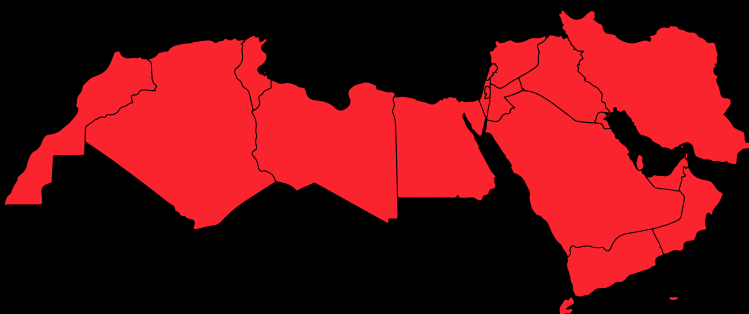
Challenges encountered by displaced Christians encompass both physical and psychological dimensions. They grapple with the constant possibility of physical harm, emanating from extremist groups, human traffickers, and even host communities. Moreover, the psychological pressures they endure, from coercion to renounce their faith to being ostracized by new communities, exact a profound toll on their mental well-being. Additionally, children and youth, torn from their families, confront distinctive hurdles that shape their present and future.

Regional dynamics:

In **Sub-Saharan Africa** forced military conscription, often without the option of conscientious objection on faith grounds, drives many Christian youth to flee. This reality, particularly prevalent in countries like Sudan and Eritrea, forces young believers to make the decision to flee for the sake of their faith and safety.



In the **Middle East and North Africa**, there a complex interplay of various drivers that drive displacement. Violent religious groups, including al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, and ISIS, create a dangerous environment for Christians. Family and community pressures are also significant factors, especially for those converting from Islam.



Asia's displacement landscape is marked by family and community pressures, predominantly targeting those from non-Christian backgrounds. In countries like Pakistan, apostasy and blasphemy laws cast a shadow over religious minorities, pushing many to flee. Political instability and the rise of religious extremist groups contribute to displacement, notably evident in Myanmar.



Organized crime groups and revolutionary/paramilitary forces shape the displacement narrative in **Latin America**. Christians, particularly church leaders and vocal believers, face persecution from both criminal entities and authoritarian governments. Indigenous Christians encounter community pressure upon conversion, risking expulsion from their homes and communities.



10 POINTS OF INTERCESSION:

1

Safekeeping Amidst Peril:

Pray earnestly for the protection of displaced Christians, seeking divine refuge from physical threats, abductions, and harm inflicted by extremists and human traffickers.

2

Inner Healing and Fortitude:

Uplift displaced Christians grappling with psychological trials, imploring God for inner resilience, emotional healing, and the restoration of strength following trauma.

3

Integration and Unity:

Pray for a seamless integration and embrace of displaced Christians within new communities, eradicating prejudices and fostering an atmosphere of trust. Pray that local congregations and fellow believers extend open arms to them.

4

Restoring Family Bonds:

Intercede for families shattered by displacement, beseeching God to orchestrate reunifications and mend the emotional wounds inflicted by separation, particularly among children severed from their parents.

5

Empowerment and Renewal:

Pray that displaced Christians discover avenues to rebuild their lives, contribute positively to new environments, and radiate hope to others treading similar paths.





Sustenance and Resources:

Pray that the material needs of displaced Christians are met, encompassing essentials like shelter, sustenance, clean water, and medical care.

6

Deepened Faith Amid Struggles:

Pray that, amidst trials, displaced Christians experience an intensification of their faith, finding solace and strength in their unwavering bond with Christ.

7

Supporting Faith Communities:

Lift up local churches and faith-based organizations supporting displaced Christians. Pray for discernment, resources, and boundless compassion as they minister to these vulnerable communities.

8

Advocacy and Awareness:

Pray for guidance for organizations, governments, and individuals tirelessly advocating for the rights and safety of displaced Christians. Pray that their endeavors lead to substantial change.

9

Unified Global Front:

Pray that the worldwide body of Christ stands united in solidarity with the displaced church, recognizing the urgency of walking alongside our brethren during their hour of trial.

10

