

Afghanistan

- **Leader:** President Ashraf Ghani
- **Government:** Republic
- **Population:** 34,169,000 (thousands of Christians)
- **Main Religion:** Islam
- **Persecution Level:** Extreme
- **Source of Persecution:** Islamic Oppression, Organized Corruption and Crime

Christians in Afghanistan experience extreme persecution. Severe pressure on believers, resulting from Islamic oppression, is exerted mostly by families, friends and community, but also by local religious leaders.

The state authorities are weak, and Islam is viewed as a welcome unifying factor, especially as society agrees that conversion away from Islam cannot be tolerated. Many who convert from Islam to Christianity are murdered once their extended families learn of their new faith. In other families, Christian converts are delivered to mental hospitals under the premise that no one in their right mind would ever choose to leave Islam.

In any case, converts usually lose their rights to personal property and possessions, effectively leaving them destitute. This can occur even upon the mere suspicion of conversion — a fear tactic that leads family members to react all the more harshly in curbing even the slightest hints of interest in Christianity.

Prayer Points for Afghanistan

- Pray for believers in Afghanistan who lack fellowship, especially new converts who fear telling anyone about their faith in Christ.
- Pray for those who lose worldly possessions to persecution when they gain eternal life.
- Pray that they would be able to forgive their persecutors to the glory of God.