



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

## **In 2026, Stand With the Persecuted Church!**

These days—and especially here in Canada—it’s hard to imagine that people are discriminated against or worse, persecuted because of their faith. Yet, for millions of people around the world, this is a daily reality.

According to recent reporting, 413 million Christians live in countries where religious freedom is severely violated. Of these, approximately 220 million live in countries where they are directly exposed to persecution. Although it is difficult to quantify this precisely, we estimate that 75% of religiously motivated violence is directed against Christians.\*

Instead of showing signs of improvement, the situation is deteriorating year after year. Persecution stems from various sources. Among the persecutors are governments—often communist or authoritarian regimes—that fear the Church’s influence and view it as a threat to their power. They try by every means to silence Christians. In other parts of the world, there are also religious groups that seek to eliminate Christians—or members of other religious denominations—in order to establish themselves as the sole religious authority in a given region or country.

Yet in the face of this suffering, persecuted Christians remain resilient. They draw strength from your prayers, a reminder that they are not alone and that the universal Church stands with them in solidarity and love.

**Thank you for your prayers, for participating in *Red Wednesday*, and for your support of the poor and persecuted Church.**

\* For more information on religious freedom and the situation of Christians, visit [Publications – ACN Canada](#) to read or download the two latest reports: the Executive Summary of the *Religious Freedom in the World Report 2025* and *Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians Oppressed for Their Faith 2022-24*.

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