

## Noteworthy

The noteworthy items are structured in three groups: annual reports and global surveys, regional and country reports, and specific issues. Though we apply serious criteria in the selection of items noted, it is beyond our capacity to scrutinize the accuracy of every statement made. We therefore disclaim responsibility for the contents of the items noted. The compilation was produced by Janet Epp Buckingham.

### ANNUAL REPORTS AND GLOBAL SURVEYS

#### **Rights of persons belonging to religious or belief minorities in situations of conflict or insecurity**

**United Nations Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, 2 March 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3De9ke1>

The outgoing Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, issued one report in 2022, *A/HRC/49/44*.

#### **United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

**United Nations Human Rights Council, January–November 2022**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/CyclesUPR.aspx>

The 40th and 41st sessions of the Universal Periodic Review for Human Rights took place during 2022, reviewing the human rights situation in 26 countries.

#### **2021 Report on International Religious Freedom**

**US Department of State, Office of International Religious Freedom, 2 June 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3DivefX>

The US Department of State draws from NGOs, religious groups, media, academic reports and other sources of information to compile an overview report on international religious freedom.

#### **2021 Annual Report**

**US Commission on International Religious Freedom, April 2022**

[https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2022 Annual Report.pdf](https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2022%20Annual%20Report.pdf)

This report documents the violations and progress in religious freedom violations and designates 15 Countries of Particular Concern and 12 countries for the State Department's Special Watch List.

### **Globally, social hostilities related to religion decline in 2019, while government restrictions remain at highest levels**

**Pew Forum, 30 September 2021**

<https://pewrsr.ch/3Hsj6HD>

This is the 12th annual study of global restrictions on religion, which examines 198 countries and territories. In 2019, 43 countries (22% of all those included in the study) had “high” or “very high” levels of social hostilities. That is down from 53 countries (27%) in 2018, and from a peak of 65 countries (33%) in 2012.

### **Freedom in the world 2021: Democracy under siege**

**Freedom House, November 2021**

<https://bit.ly/36Yr27a>

For the 15th consecutive year, Freedom House reports a decline in global freedom. This report documents the shifting international balance in favour of tyranny. The report identifies China as a significant negative influence with its authoritarian and repressive government.

### **World Report**

**Human Rights Watch, 2022**

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022>

Human Rights Watch, whose aim is to defend the rights of all people, publishes an annual report examining and investigating the abuses of human rights and justice across 90 different countries. The 2022 annual report examines the major events relating to human rights that occurred in 2021.

### **World Watch List 2022 compilation**

**Open Doors International/World Watch Research, 2 February 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3qxr7m> (password: freedom)

This is a compilation of the main documents published by World Watch Research, excluding country dossiers. These reports include the ranking of countries with regard to the persecution of Christians worldwide, press releases, and statements regarding trends in religious persecution.

### **The State of the World's Human Rights**

**Amnesty International Report 2021-2022, 30 March 2022**

<https://oiac.org/amnesty-international-report-2021-2022/>

This report documents the human rights situation in countries around the world, including the rights of religious minorities.

## **Global Trends and Challenges Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief**

US Institute of Peace, 21 June 2022

<https://bit.ly/3eKW7PH>

USIP collaborated with USAID's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships on an initiative called Closing the Gap to study the relationships between religious freedom and regime type, political stability, and economic development. This report summarizes the study's main findings and offers recommendations for policymakers and peace practitioners seeking to protect and promote the freedom of individuals to practice the religion of their choice, convert to another faith, or profess no faith at all.

## **Regional and Country Reports**

### **China: Shenzhen Holy Reformed Church**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, January 2022

<https://bit.ly/3UaMslt>

This report is an update on the persecution of the Shenzhen Holy Reformed Church in 2019, which caused most of the church's members to flee to Korea. This report documents the impact on members of the church, particularly children.

### **Cuba: Homeland, Faith, Life: A Call for Freedom in Cuba**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, February 2022

<https://www.csw.org.uk/HomelandFaithLife>

This report documents 272 cases involving 498 violations of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in 2021, up from 203 cases in 2020 and 260 in 2019.

### **India: Hate and Targeted Violence against Christians (2021 Report)**

Evangelical Fellowship of India, 15 February 2022

<https://bit.ly/3RV6dvE>

This report documents targeted violence and other forms of persecution against Christians in India. It calls 2021 a nightmare year for Christians. "This was perhaps the third most violent Christmas the community has faced in India."

### **Iran: Rights Violations against Christians in Iran**

Article 18, Open Doors, MEC, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 25 January 2022

<https://bit.ly/3REX8ah>

This annual report documents widespread violations of FoRB in Iran, particularly against Christians.

**Latin America: Bi-Annual Report, January-June 2022**  
**Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America, 22 August 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3RB0E5C>

This report documents violent incidents on the basis of religion in the Latin American region.

**Mexico: Let Her Be Heard**  
**Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 1 April 2022**

<https://www.csw.org.uk/mexicoreport2022.htm>

In 2021, in response to a dearth of information and analysis by monitoring bodies and experts regarding the unique experiences of indigenous religious minority women in Mexico, CSW carried out an investigation into whether the ways in which indigenous religious minority women in Mexico experience FoRB and other human rights violations are gender-specific and/or gendered.

**Nigeria: Nigeria: Killings and abductions**  
**in the period 1 October 2019 – 30 September 2021**  
**Observatory for Religious Freedom in Africa, July 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3qyGqNW>

This report is based on a two-year data-gathering project which documents killings and abductions based on religion in Nigeria. It is the first of its kind to be based solely on primary data.

**Pakistan: Abduction, Conversion, and Child Marriage**  
**of Religious Minority Girls in Pakistan**  
**Jubilee Campaign, 7 February 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3eEIuBs>

Every year, more than 1000 girls are kidnapped, forcibly converted and forced to marry their Muslim abductors. This report documents the common factors in such cases of abduction and forced conversion.

**Nigeria: Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria Shadow Report**  
**Jubilee Campaign, 12 January 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3qxFXf0>

Jubilee Campaign submitted this report to aid in the drafting of the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report with regard to Nigeria's failure to fully meet the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

**Vietnam: Freedom of Religion or Belief since the 2018 Law on Belief and Religion**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 4 July 2022

<https://bit.ly/3DmrMRv>

This report documents ongoing violations of FoRB in the four years since the Law on Belief and Religion, which was intended to guarantee freedom of religion or belief, was passed.

**Specific Issues****Anti-Conversion Laws: Free to Convert, Practice, and Profess: A Review of Anti-Conversion Laws in Algeria, India, and Nepal**

Jubilee Campaign, 14 March 2022

<https://bit.ly/3DmxVx8>

Anti-conversion laws, and their harsh punishments, have been highlighted at the United Nations for the last 10 years. Jubilee Campaign has issued this report to highlight these laws and their impact in Algeria, India and Nepal.

**Apostasy and Blasphemy: Imposition of Capital Punishment for Apostasy, Blasphemy, and Religious Offenses**

Jubilee Campaign, 15 June 2022

[https://jubileecampaign.org/2022\\_cp\\_ab\\_report/](https://jubileecampaign.org/2022_cp_ab_report/)

This report examines the countries that impose the death penalty for apostasy, blasphemy and religious offenses.

**Defending Freedom of Religion or Belief – An Introduction for National Evangelical Alliances in Europe**

European Evangelical Alliance, August 2022

<https://bit.ly/3D1LLcJ>

The EEA has produced a practical handbook, covering the essentials of what a national evangelical alliance can do to defend freedom of religion or belief. It goes on to give ideas of more in-depth options to help others and to strengthen support for this essential freedom. It is a valuable tool for others facing persecution.

**Documenting: International Protocol on Documenting Violations of Religious Freedom**

Open Doors International and Religious Freedom Institute, 9 June 2022

<https://religiousfreedominstitute.org/protocol-2/>

Crafted in response to requests from civil society partners who have suffered

severe violations of their religious freedom, the protocol seeks to fill a gap by providing a thorough and accessible resource for human rights advocates, civil society organizations, and others looking for guidance on how to document serious violations of religious freedom in their local contexts.

**Gender-Specific Religious Persecution: Invisible**

**Open Doors International/World Watch Research, 1 March 2022**

<https://www.opendoors.org/thegenderreport>

This fourth annual WWL report examines global trends regarding gender-specific religious persecution.

**Women: Obstacles to Women's Empowerment in Nigeria, Pakistan and Sudan**

**Jubilee Campaign, 24 March 2022**

<https://bit.ly/3deZiFi>

This report focuses on child marriage as a major impediment to women's economic empowerment.

## Book reviews

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