



Marcus Perkins/CSW

CSW everyone
free to believe

Introducing CSW

Our right to freedom of religion or belief is our ‘first freedom’: it is the first freedom given to humanity by God. It’s a touchstone human right which can often act as a ‘litmus test’ for whether other human rights are under threat.

It’s a right we must protect, defend and restore.

That’s why, as Christians, we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.

CSW’s specialist team of advocates work on over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America to ensure everyone’s right to freedom of religion or belief is protected and promoted. We’re working to challenge and change the laws, behaviours and policies which lead to abuses of this vital right.

We have over four decades of experience advocating for freedom of religion or belief with politicians around the world.

OUR VISION IS A WORLD FREE FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, WHERE EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO PRACTISE THEIR RELIGION OR BELIEF FREELY.

“This is the very first time we feel someone cares about us. We put our lives in danger, facing the government and the security services, and we never think about ourselves...Our mental health is really affected by the work we are doing.”

A human rights defender who took part in CSW training workshops on trauma and self-care

We believe **everyone has the right to practise a religion or belief of their choice.**

Our right to freedom of religion or belief is enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But, more importantly, it's the first freedom given to humanity by God. We believe we are all made in the image of God, and the freedom to follow him – or not – is God-given. We believe that freedom needs protecting and restoring.

We believe **as Christians we must stand with everyone facing religious persecution.**

We believe that working to protect and restore that 'first freedom' given to us by God means doing so for everyone. It doesn't just mean freedom for those who believe the same thing as us. We're following Jesus' teaching in the parable of the Good Samaritan to love our neighbour as ourselves – and our neighbours include those who don't share our beliefs.

We believe **in the power of prayer to bring change.**

We have seen countless seemingly impossible situations completely turned around, after we as a community of believers committed it to prayer. Prayer is the most powerful tool we have as we campaign for everyone to be free to believe, and we believe that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

PROVERBS 31: 8-9

We gather evidence and raise awareness

Our teams regularly visit the countries we're working on to gather first-hand evidence of violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief. Our research and analysis is used by politicians, policy-makers and international institutions around the world.

We seek to influence decision-makers

We challenge, encourage and equip those in positions of power, whose policies or actions affect the oppressed, to bring about change. We are the only advocacy organisation specialising in freedom of religion or belief with UN accreditation, which gives us a unique opportunity on the international stage.

We train, equip and empower

To bring lasting change, we work with activists, journalists, religious leaders and partner NGOs in the countries on which we focus. It's a priority for us to do all we can to equip and build up networks of partners and communities who can challenge injustice.

We pray, campaign and support

We inform, equip and encourage individuals and churches to join us in challenging injustice. We believe we can all play a part in campaigning for freedom of religion or belief.



CSW in action: Campaigning for Christians imprisoned in Nepal

CSW played a key role in campaigning for the release of eight Christians from prison in Nepal, who were wrongfully charged with attempting to convert children to Christianity. As a consequence of our advocacy, UN experts raised the case directly with the government of Nepal, which played a significant part in securing their release.

“We are so glad and have no words to express gratitude for the support, prayer and love... On behalf of [us all] I would like to say thank you from the core of my heart.”

Our manifesto #1

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has the right to practise
a religion or belief of
their choice.

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Change the world. Join us today.