



**JOIN ACN'S
#TEAMRED
£500K4HOPE
MATCHED CHALLENGE!**

**TAKE ACTION
BE THE DIFFERENCE
FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS**

50kSTEPS4HOPE



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN www.acnuk.org

#RedWednesday

Help for persecuted Christians

ACN #TEAMRED MATCHED CHALLENGE

#TEAMRED FUNDRAISING IDEA

Walk the distance

50kSTEPS4HOPE

CAN YOU HELP US RAISE £500K FOR SUFFERING YOUNG CHRISTIANS?



Nigeria: 'Home' for many Christian IDP children.

Please join **Aid to the Church in Need** to make a huge difference for suffering and displaced children and young people around the world who have lost their homes, their future and sometimes their family members, just for being Christian.

The needs are great – and urgent, so our exciting **50k Step Challenge** aims to raise **£250,000** for our **#RedWednesday Fund** to help children and young people suffering the aftermath of persecution and violence. Can you help us?

Your support makes you part of **#Team Red**, so alone, or with family, friends, parish, school or group to share the challenge, **can you raise £500+** – and have some fun at the same time!

To meet our £500k target, whatever you raise or donate will be 'matched' to 250k, thanks to generous benefactors.

Walk, run, cycle, swim the distance and **be the difference.**

#Pledge£500

Front Cover @ACN: Life is tough for children in IDP camps. Following armed attacks, ACN is providing spiritual support for displaced children and families – **Cabo Delgado, Mozambique**

THE NEEDS ARE HUGE. CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD **NEED OUR HELP**

For children growing up in war, conflict or the threat of violence, the world is a fearful and dangerous place. In countries where Christians are persecuted, Christian children are collateral damage in the overall brutality – and the numbers run to millions. Many are left orphans, many grow up in IDP (Internally Displaced People) Camps or temporary

accommodation, reliant on charity for day-to-day essentials, missing out on stability and education – the only real way to escape long-term poverty. Often suffering from PTSD, the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual impact on children and young people is immense. **Their faith is their hope and strength.**



NIGERIA: 800 people live in this IDP camp and the majority are children.



FACT: THE DIOCESE OF NOUNA, BURKINA FASO HAS WELCOMED 30,000 DISPLACED CHRISTIANS, OF WHOM 80% ARE OF SCHOOL AGE

That is why ACN is working with the local Church in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Egypt, Mozambique, Iraq and Lebanon to support children and young people – and their families. We provide **emergency aid (food, shelter and medicine); trauma counselling; support for Church-run programmes, such as orphanages, summer respite activities and school scholarships.** We believe in giving children a future. **Can you help us achieve our £500k target for projects to improve the lives of children and young people?**

#Pledge£500

IT TAKES **COURAGE AND FAITH**

Millions of minority Christian families worldwide are displaced from their homes, livelihoods and communities. There are many causes and the stories of young people like Maryamu, Majed and Maira will give you a flavour. We hope they inspire you to do 50kSTEPS4HOPE or your own fundraiser to help children like them.

WATCH: Scale of the IDP crisis in Nigeria



NIGERIA: Maryamu – Captive for nine years



NIGERIA: Maryamu Joseph (16 years) – rebuilding her life.

During a Boko Haram attack on her village in 2013, Maryamu (7 yrs) and 21 others were kidnapped and forced to trek 22 days through thick jungle to their camp. Held in cages and forcibly converted to Islam, they were treated like animals. Renamed Aisha, at 10 years old she was punished for refusing to marry one of the leaders. Some years later, two of her siblings were brought to the camp and she had the trauma of

seeing her brother brutally killed. That is when mental health issues set in.

In July 2022, Maryamu and eleven others escaped in the dead of night, walking for two days to the safety of a Church-run camp supported by ACN. Maryamu is being cared for, including counselling for trauma and the guilt she feels for leaving her sister behind.

She is finding hope in her renewed Christian faith but her trust in men and the world will take time. She longs to study law and to stand up for the defenceless. Faith and education are the key to her recovery.

**Can you help Maryamu and give hope to others like her?
Will you take action and fundraise?**

#50kSTEPS4HOPE

TO BE A YOUNG CHRISTIAN



LEBANON: Strangers in a strange land



Majed and his family are refugees in Lebanon.

Since 2011, Lebanon has become a hub and a home for Syrian and Iraqi Christians – and others fleeing conflict and targeted violence. Overall, Lebanon is hosting 1.8 million refugees – one-third of the population – in a time of crippling economic crisis.

WATCH: Majed tells his story



The St John the Merciful Table is a key ACN project, providing one nutritious hot meal a day, every day of the year, serving 1,500 people. The majority are families with children and young people who lost everything when they fled Syria and who urgently need help. ACN is helping with rent, food and other basics for families like these to help them survive with dignity.



The St John the Merciful Table in Lebanon has been a lifeline for desperate refugee families.

#Pledge£500

“

My name is Majed. We live in Lebanon now, but my Dad says we are originally from Syria and our home is also in Syria. Dad says that the bad people chased us away and we had to flee; like more than one million people from my country. Dad says that as a child I became a refugee, like baby Jesus, who also had to flee with his Mum and Dad. Mum was taking care of the house, but she is sick now. When there's nothing to eat, we go to the place where we receive meals from the Church.”

ACN #TEAMRED: WILL YOU PLEDGE TO RAISE £500 – OR MORE?

In this Olympic year, **we are asking you, your family and friends, parish, school or group 'teams' to raise £500 (or more!)**. A great chance to get active – and have some fun at the same time – open to all and pets welcome!

Walk, run, swim, cycle, climb, kayak the distance or play a round of golf – you choose. If 50ksteps 'Marathon' distance seems a step too far, you can complete your Challenge over a few days or a week, or share the distance – and £500+ sponsorship – between your 'team', **remembering the long journeys many Christians must take to escape danger.**

Alternatively, use your talents and choose your own or your team activity – **dancing, singing, bake sales, quiz night – even a stamp or coin collection!** For more exciting ideas and **to set up your #TeamRed page, visit justgiving.com/campaign/acnteamred** We will be cheering you on!

If you prefer, to make a gift of your choice,
Visit: acnuk.org/redwednesday
Phone: 0345 646 0110
Cheques: Payable to 'Aid the Church in Need'
Bank Transfer: Ref: RW24
Bank: Natwest. Sortcode: 60 05 24
Account: 626 70492

#50kSTEPS4HOPE

#TEAMRED FUNDRAISING IDEA



School children at Salama Housing IDP Camp in Yola, Nigeria love football. How about your own fundraising Five-a-Side challenge?



#TEAMREDPLEDGE

PLEDGE TO HELP DISPLACED YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Help young Christians displaced by conflicts and violence. Your pledge of £50 to £500 really can help change a life.



TOP TIPS

Daniel Fernandes walked 30km past 16 tube stations, praying for Holy Land & raised **£1,767!**



Central African Republic: Women and children fleeing violence and heading to the Church Mission.

WILL YOU TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

£50 could provide a school place and hot meals for a displaced child

£100 could provide basics for children and their families living in IPD camps

£500 could provide hope through educational activity programmes

Donations will support a range of child-focussed ACN projects in Egypt, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, India, Lebanon, Syria, Burkina Faso and Pakistan

YOUR 5 STEP ACTION PLAN

Your action will make a real difference!

- 1 Choose your fundraiser.
- 2 Recruit your team (friends/family/parish/school).
- 3 Set up your team page at justgiving.com/campaign/acnteamred. Click 'start fundraising'.
- 4 Share your #TeamRed challenge with your groups and networks – on social media too.
- 5 Do it! Smash your target and MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



IDEA: Afternoon tea fundraiser?

As an extra bonus, whatever you raise will be matched.



IDEA: A round of golf?

SPEAKING UP FOR CHRISTIAN GIRLS

In Pakistan, Egypt and elsewhere, countless young Christian girls face kidnap, sexual violence, marriage and forced conversion. If their parents try to get them back, the abductor may harm their child. If the girls escape, they are frequently forced into hiding for fear of being abducted again or killed. Their schooling is disrupted and their future prospects are bleak.

Your gift can help support young Christians with skills and knowledge to navigate a hostile world.

In Pakistan, discrimination against minority Christians and others is taught in classrooms. Mistreatment and sexual violence against Christian child brick kiln workers is common, as is the kidnap, forced conversion and forced marriage of Christian girls.



PAKISTAN: JUSTICE FOR MAIRA SHAHBAZ



In 2020, 14-year-old Christian girl, Maira Shahbaz, was forced into hiding having escaped the man who kidnapped her and forced her to convert and marry him. Raped and threatened, she managed to escape and with help, took her case to the Lahore High Court, which ruled against her. Since then, she and her family have lived in fear, moving regularly to avoid death threats for 'apostasy' – reverting to Christianity. **“We are all very frightened but we place our trust in God.”**

ACN has been a voice for her and in 2022, more than 12,000 people supported ACN's

petition requesting UK asylum for Maira and her family. Whilst the government failed to act, our continued efforts have brought Maira's case to the attention of international governments to find a solution so that this young Christian girl can regain her freedom.



#50KSTEPS4HOPE

#REDWEDNESDAY: HELP BRING ABOUT CHANGE!

ACN's **#RedWednesday** is now a recognised national – and international – campaign, breaking the silence on Christian persecution worldwide thanks to your continued support.

We work with the UK Government and others to bring about positive change for Christians facing discrimination, violence and loss – loss of their homes, livelihoods and hope for the future of their children, simply for their faithfulness to Christ.

Our advocacy initiatives and respected research raise invaluable awareness within Governments and the media, giving persecuted Christians a voice. But we cannot do it alone.

For this year's **#RedWednesday**, we invite you to join with us in raising awareness for young Christians, especially girls, experiencing persecution, sexual violence, child labour and forced conversion on pain of death. Silenced and exploited because of their youth and religion, they need us to demand that our Government take action to help them.

Sign our open letter calling on the UK Government to ensure more Overseas Development Aid is given to Christians and other religious minorities, particularly women, girls and displaced persons, recognising their unique vulnerabilities. Visit acn.org/redwednesday

Join our advocacy mailing list for latest news.
Contact advocacy@acnuk.org

#TeamRed



acnuk.org/redwednesday

MAKE YOUR #TEAMRED ACTION COUNT

FUNDRAISE:

GET YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY INVOLVED

Young Christians and their families need your help!

- Set up your **#TeamRed JustGiving page**
- **Visit our #TeamRed** webpage for information and downloadable materials for your fundraiser.
- **Get social.** Follow #TeamRed on socials to get inspired by others.
- **To keep up to date,** sign up at acnuk.org/newsletter

FOLLOW US AT:



@acn_uk



@acnuk



@aidtothechurchinneed_uk

#REDWEDNESDAY (20TH NOVEMBER)

- **SCHOOLS:** View our Primary and Secondary **#RedWednesday Livestream** on 19th November.
- **EVENT:** Join our annual **#RedWednesday Mass** on 20th November at Brompton Oratory (London), 7pm. A special evening of prayer, music, awards, guests, light, hope and action. All welcome. (acnuk.org/events)
- **PRAY:** Organise your own liturgies around the country and **don't forget to wear red**, (the colour of martyrdom).
- **RED:** Go red! Light up your building red; wear red; create a red space your parish or home as a visual statement that today Christians are suffering in ever greater numbers and that the world remains silent.
- **LEARN:** Get your free copy of **Persecuted & Forgotten? A report on Christians persecuted or oppressed for their faith.** (Published in late October 2024).
- **SIGN:** ACN's open letter for action.
- **ADVOCACY:** Join our mailing list to learn about our awareness raising initiatives. (advocacy@acnuk.org)

For the JustGiving page, event and advocacy details, fundraising ideas, materials, and prayer resources, visit acnuk.org/redwednesday

DOUBLING YOUR EFFORTS!

Whatever you donate or raise towards our **#RedWednesday Fund** will be **doubled to a maximum of £250,000** thanks to generous benefactors who have pledged their support.



DONATE

[acnuk.org / redwednesday](http://acnuk.org/redwednesday)



OR

FUNDRAISE

Set up your
#TeamRed
JustGiving page



OR

PHONE

0345 646 0110

(Quote:
#RedWednesday)

To set up a **REGULAR GIFT** (*first three payments matched*) for persecuted Christian communities around the world, please visit **acnuk.org/regular** or phone **0345 646 0110**

#TEAMRED FUNDRAISING IDEAS

50K STEP CHALLENGE



REFUEL FAITHTEA



5 A SIDE



PADDLE FOR FAITH



DAILY 50 CHALLENGE

5 DAY CHORE CHALLENGE FOR DONATIONS -
SOMING LESS SCREENTIME, OR 50 REPS OF X



QUIZ, FILM OR MUSIC NIGHT



For more exciting ideas and to set up your **#TeamRed** page, visit **acnuk.org/redwednesday**



Overcoming trauma by building strength and resilience at a summer camp in Syria.



Nigeria: ACN supports school places for girls from an IDP camp.



Christian girls in Lahore, Pakistan experience rare moments of fun organised by the Sant'Egidio community.



Unable to return home, many children grow up in camps and need basics to survive.



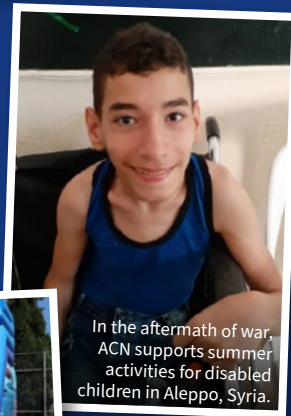
Christ is ever-present.



Some light relief for young Christians in Egypt who face discrimination and girls risk kidnap.



This ACN sponsored Chaldean summer camp is for 50 orphans and 150 refugee children.



In the aftermath of war, ACN supports summer activities for disabled children in Aleppo, Syria.

JOIN #TEAMRED

raise £500 and BE THE DIFFERENCE

#ACTION4HOPE

Find out more



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN

www.acnuk.org

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Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church

acnuk.org/redwednesday