

WORKBOOK

For students



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Name



“

“Without your assistance, without your help we would not survive – it is a miracle that we have survived for a year!”

– Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

HUMAN RIGHTS

SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



ACN

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

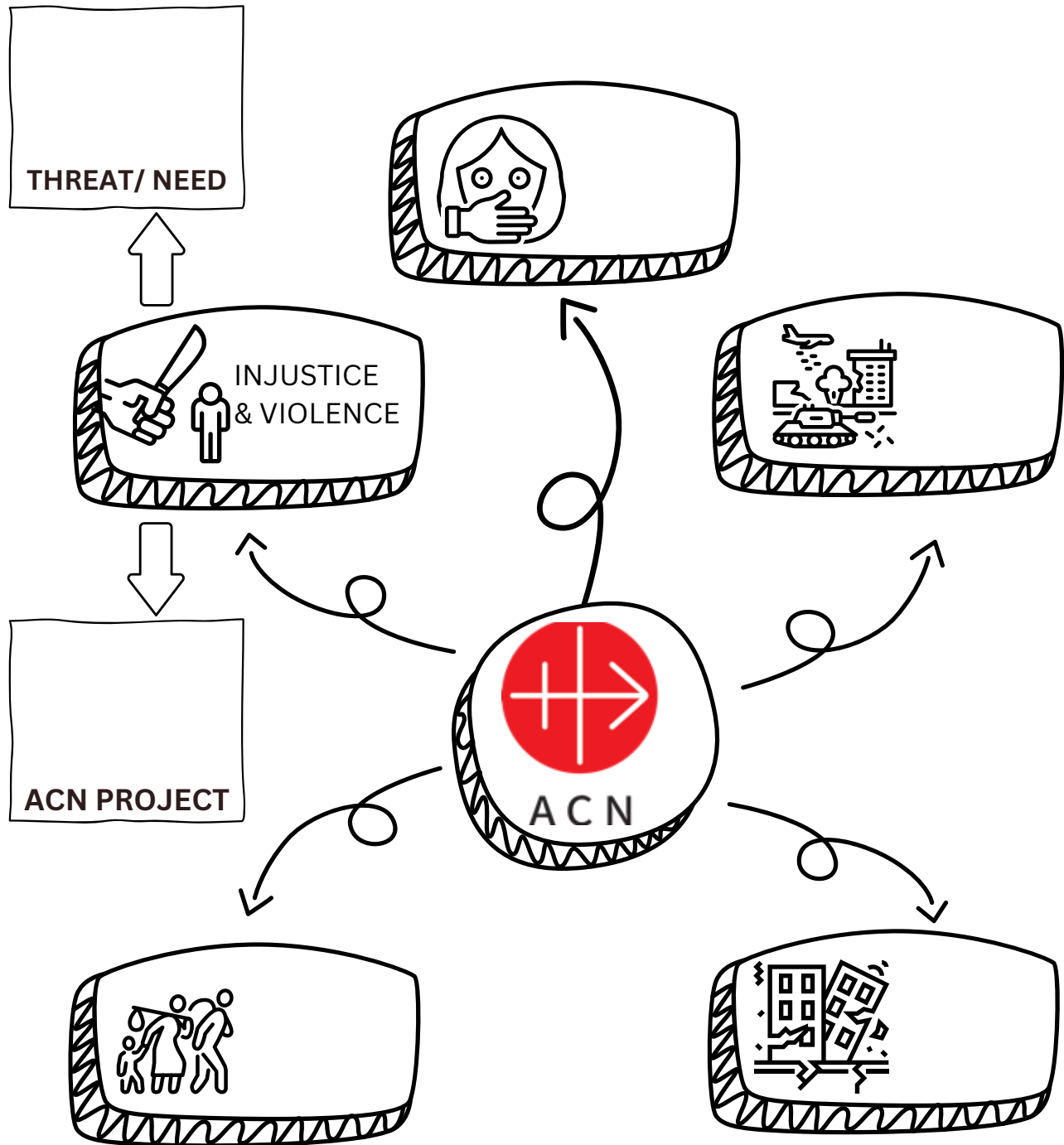
Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.




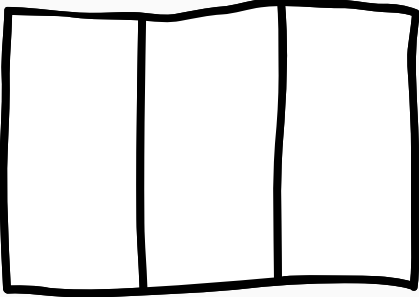
THE WORK OF ACN

Identify what each image represents and write it in the box. Around each one, add in the threat/need and the ways in which ACN is meeting the need.





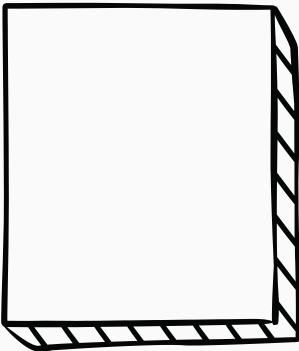
NIGERIA COUNTRY PROFILE

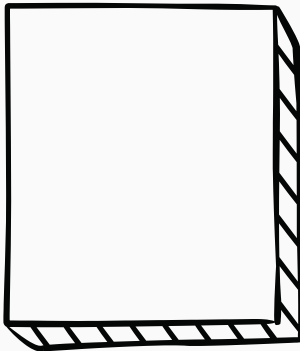


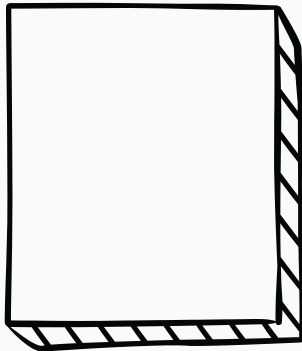
		

What else would I like to know about Nigeria?









PENTECOST 2022

Father Abayomi is the associate pastor at St Francis Xavier's Church in Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria, which was attacked during Mass on Pentecost Sunday, 5th June 2022. The massacre left at least 40 worshippers dead and dozens seriously wounded.



I was still saying Mass when I heard the explosions. I was on the sanctuary, putting incense in the thurible, preparing for the procession outside the church, when I heard two loud noises and saw my panicked parishioners running in different directions. Someone ran to me and shouted: "Father, unknown gunmen!"

I don't know how many of them there were – some say six, others say four – but I do know they were organised. Some of the attackers disguised themselves as parishioners and worshipped with us during Mass, knowing the whole time they intended to kill us.

As bullets filled the air, I thought only of how to save my parishioners. Some of them managed to lock the entrance door and I urged people to move into the sacristy. Once in the inner part of the sacristy, I could not move: children surrounded me, and adults clung to me. I shielded them just as a hen shields her chicks.

My flock, especially the children, cried out: "Father, please save us – Father, pray!" I told them not to worry, as God would do something. There were three or four more explosions, one after the other inside the Church and there was sporadic shooting of guns by the attackers. It was a well-planned attack that lasted about 20-25 minutes.

Once the message came that the attackers had gone, we left the sacristy. Dead bodies were strewn across the church and there were many injured. My spirit was deeply troubled. With the help of parishioners who could drive, we immediately began to take our injured brothers and sisters to St Louis Hospital and the Federal Medical Centre. Since then, I have visited the wounded, praying with them, administering the Sacrament of the Sick and encouraging them to keep hope alive.

The world has turned away from Nigeria. A genocide is taking place, but no one cares. Nearby security personnel and police failed to come to our rescue, even though the attack lasted at least 20 minutes.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)'s publication of *Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians oppressed for their Faith 2020–22* is vitally important as it highlights the dire threats facing believers. It is not just Christians in Nigeria who suffer, but those in Pakistan, China, India and many other places.

Christians are killed all across Africa, their churches attacked and villages razed to the ground. In Pakistan, they are unjustly detained on spurious charges of blasphemy. Underage Christian girls are kidnapped, raped, forced to convert and marry middle-aged men in countries such as Egypt, Mozambique and Pakistan. In China and North Korea, totalitarian governments crush the faithful underfoot, monitoring their every move. And, as this report shows, the list of abuses goes on.

The suffering Church needs people to speak out for us. For the killing to stop, more organisations like ACN need to proclaim the truth of what is happening to Christians all over the world. If not, we will always remain persecuted and forgotten.



A C N



ACN

Leah Sharibu



NIGERIAN Schoolgirl

CHALLENGE YOUR GOVERNMENT



LEAH'S MOTHER



REVEREND PALA MALLAM



You have probably not heard of Leah Sharibu. You should have... but stories like Leah's don't often make the mainstream media. ACN and others want to change this.

On February 19th 2018, Leah Sharibu was kidnapped along with 109 other students when Boko Haram (a terrorist group) attacked a boarding school in the city of Dapchi, in north-eastern Nigeria. Some of the girls kidnapped along with Leah died.

A month later all the others who were still alive – 101 girls – were released, all except Leah. Those who were released testified that Leah was the only Christian of the group and was held back for refusing to give up her faith in Jesus. Her refusal to deny her faith meant she lost her freedom.

In February 2021, ACN spoke with Evangelical pastor and friend of the Sharibu family, Reverend Pala Mallam called on the world's governments to apply pressure on Nigeria's president to step up its efforts to release all those held by Boko Haram.

He said:

“Challenge your government to use their power and diplomatic channels to raise Leah’s issue with our president and the relevant structures of power in Nigeria to act in order to free Leah and others in captivity.”

He asked us to continue to work and to pray for Leah to be set free. Leah's family hold onto the hope that she will be released, but her mum has begged all people to pray for her safe release.

CASE STUDIES



Work in pairs. Each read one of the sheets and feedback to the other.
Discuss the questions below.

PENTECOST

- How do you feel having heard this story?
- What impact will this attack have on the community of St Francis Xavier's Church?
- Would the international reaction to this incident be different if it had happened in the UK?
- Should it be different? Why/why not?

Attack in of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic church in the diocese of Ondo where dozens of people, who were attending Mass on Pentecost Sunday 2022, were killed. Bishop with one of the survivors, praying for him by laying his hand on him.

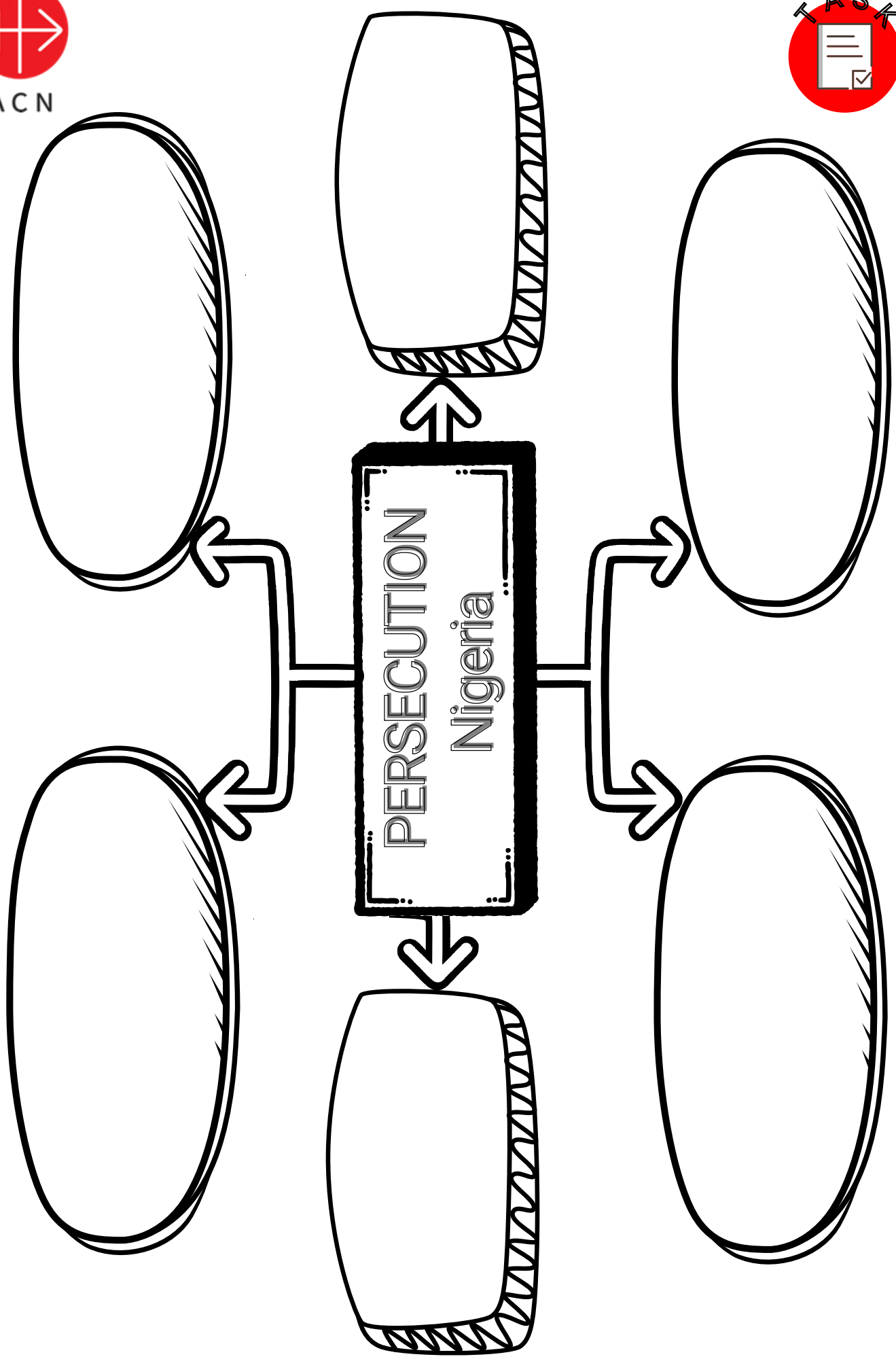
LEAH SHARIBU

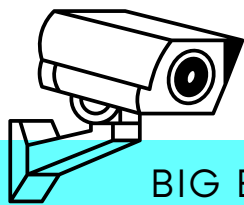
- Why do you think the kidnapping of girls/woman and religious minorities is not a priority for our media?
- If you could talk to Leah, what would you ask her?
- Some groups in society get much more attention around perceived or actual injustice. What factors influence this? When we take on 'causes' to defend, how much of this is due to the popularity of a particular issue? Are some voices more 'fashionable' than others?



DISCUSS







Surveillance



ACN

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU.

Big Brother sees and controls everything. Omnipresent and omnipotent, he is the infallible leader to the citizens of Oceania and their God.

George Orwell 1984. Part I, Chapter I

1984



control

"Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

George Orwell, 1984



AI

According to the AIGS (Artificial Intelligence Global Surveillance) index, at least 75 out of 176 countries globally are actively using AI-based surveillance technologies.

Forbes Magazine

London



London has approx 500,000 security cameras. This is about about 20% of the entire world's total CCTV.

how many times?

Reports by Relink claim that here, you are being actively recorded 300 times a day.

<https://opticsmag.com/security-cameras-facts/>



belief

"One believes things because one has been conditioned to believe them."

Aldous Huxley, Brave New World

"For, after all, how do we know that two and two make four? Or that the force of gravity works? Or that the past is unchangeable? If both the past and the external world exist only in the mind, and if the mind itself is controllable – what then?" George Orwell, 1984

truth



The death of privacy 26-2-20 issue of New Statesman.

freedom v security

Whereas once the deal was that we accepted some limitations on our freedom in exchange for security, now the state requires us to surrender most of our privacy in order to protect us. The (implicit and explicit) argument is that if we have nothing to hide there is nothing to fear. And people seem to accept that ludicrous trope. We have been slouching towards dystopia.

"You had to live – did live, from habit that became instinct – in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every moment scrutinised." George Orwell

scrutinising



your face

According to the Clario blog, of all the brands in their study, 6.25% of them had the option to store photos of your face: e.g. Airbnb, Instagram, Meta (formerly FB), and TikTok. (clario.co/blog)

"People can be identified at a distance by their heartbeat or by their gait, using a laser-based system...Cameras are so good that they can read fingerprints and iris patterns from metres away. And even without any of these technologies, we can always be identified because our smartphones broadcast unique numbers called MAC addresses.

Bruce Schneier, (Harvard) from The death of privacy. 26-2-20 issue of New Statesman.



Edward Snowden

'Edward Snowden has warned that surveillance technology is so much more advanced and intrusive today, it makes that used by US and British intelligence agencies which he revealed in 2013 look like child's play.' Ewen MacAskill. The Telegraph: 8 Jun 2023



Aldous Huxley, Brave New World

"A really efficient totalitarian state would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude."



'All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.'

Animal Farm, George Orwell

Fahrenheit 451

"Cram them full of noncombustible data, choke them so damned full of 'facts' they feel stuffed, but absolutely 'brilliant' with information. Then they'll feel they're thinking, they'll get a sense of motion without moving. And they'll be happy, because facts of that sort don't change. Don't give them any slippery stuff like philosophy or sociology to tie things up with. That way lies melancholy." Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury



Amazon Echo

In 2018, a judge in New Hampshire made headlines by ordering Amazon to submit Echo recordings of a double murder to investigators.

Dorian Lynskey, theguardian.com 9/10/2019

A WINDOW INTO THE SOUL: CHINA'S THREAT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



ACN

Extracts from

A Window into the Soul: China's Threat to Religious Freedom

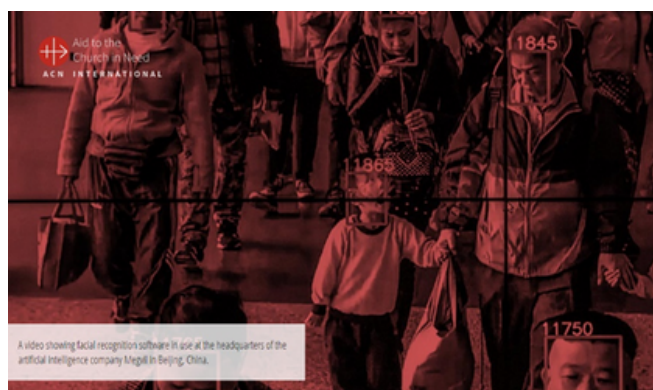
No regime in history has been more successful in making George Orwell's dystopian novel 1984 a reality than the People's Republic of China. Indeed, the apparatus of repression constructed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in recent years is so fine-tuned, pervasive, and technologically sophisticated that it makes "Big Brother" appear amateurish.

Though first introduced in China's restive Xinjiang province as a means of policing its mostly Muslim Uyghur population, elements of the CCP's surveillance state are rapidly being introduced across the entire nation of 1.4 billion. One aspect, "Sharp Eyes", is the proliferation of highly sophisticated security cameras and data scanners. Unlike traditional CCTV cameras, the new devices are capable of giving police high-resolution images of individual faces. In Urumqi, Xinjiang's regional capital, police installed more than 18,000 facial-recognition cameras covering about 3,500 of the city's residential complexes, and the country as a whole was anticipated to have installed some 626 million security cameras mounted in public and private areas by the end of 2020.

Meanwhile, scanners installed throughout the country at key pedestrian checkpoints scoop up data from smartphones, unbeknownst to those passing through.

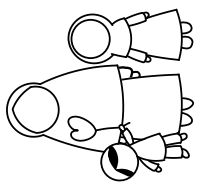
Using special apps on their smartphones, police can then upload the vast data they collect to shared analytical platforms, such as the Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP) currently operational in Xinjiang. The platforms collate and cross-tabulate the collected information, flagging individuals who meet with known "malcontents", use apps such as WhatsApp that employ encryption, or engage in an unusually high degree of religious activity.

Another element of China's surveillance state is a "social credit" system. While there is presently no single integrated nationwide social credit system, several major municipalities (including Beijing) have instituted schemes whereby individuals accumulate reputational points based on their "good" and "bad" behaviours. Bad behaviours can include visiting houses of worship too frequently or failing to help the police identify religious dissidents. Low social credit scores can make it impossible for individuals to purchase train or airline tickets, or secure places for their children in desirable schools. The CCP apparently aspires to impose an integrated social credit system on the entire country.

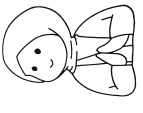
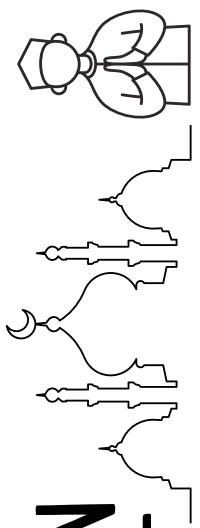


The system is designed to reward "good" behaviour as well as punish "bad" behaviour. This is the most dangerous feature since it creates strong incentives for Chinese citizens to cooperate with the regime's surveillance state, and even to love it, much as Orwell's fictional character Winston Smith came in the end to love Big Brother. Perhaps the only thing worse than a hated dictatorship, is one that enjoys widespread acceptance, legitimacy, and even affection. As Mark Warner, Democratic vice-chair of the US Senate intelligence committee stated:

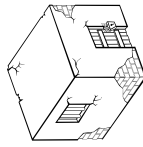
"Communist party leaders are developing a model of technological governance that ...would make Orwell blush."



CHINA: RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION



Who are the Uyghurs?

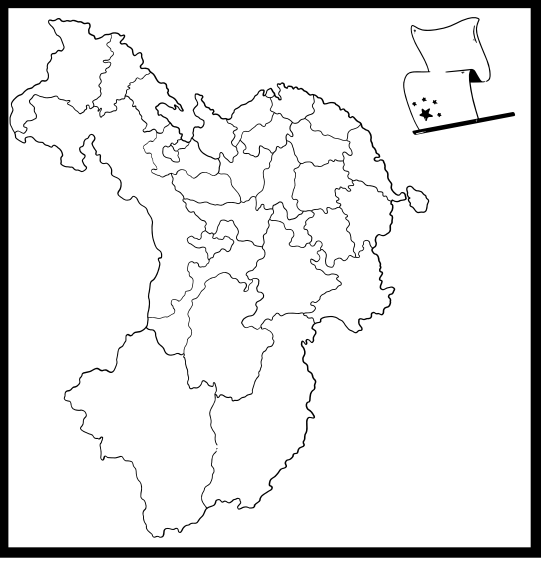


Re-education Camps:

What are they?

What are the conditions like?

Mark out the Xinjiang province on the map:



Surveillance State:

What is "Sharp Eyes"?

Summarise the "social credit" system:



Forced Sterilisation:

What does this mean?

What has happened to the birth rate amongst the Uyghurs?



**242 MILLION
PEOPLE**

**The world's fifth-
most populated
country**



**THE HEAD
OF STATE IS
THE
PRESIDENT**

**His name is
Arif Alvi**

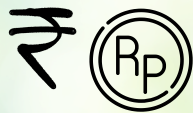


**PAKISTAN WAS BORN OUT OF THE
PARTITION OF THE INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT IN 1947**

**PAKISTAN IS HOME TO THE
SECOND-LARGEST MUSLIM
POPULATION AFTER INDONESIA**



**THE CURRENCY IS:
THE PAKISTANI RUPI**



**THE MOST POPULAR
SPORT IS: CRICKET**



**Pakistan is bordered
by India to the east**



**Afghanistan to the
northwest**



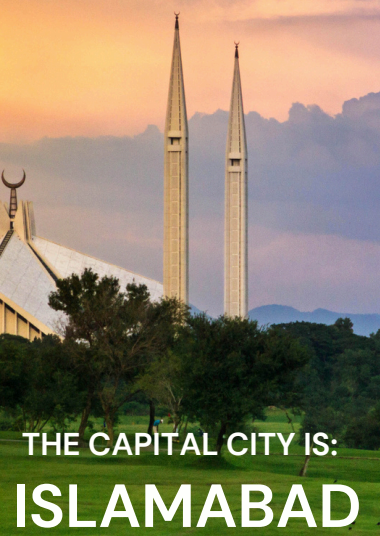
Iran to the west



**China borders the
northeast**

**The Indus
River
runs through
Pakistan. It
has provided
water to
communities
for over 4,000
years. It is
three times
more powerful
than the river
Nile
in Egypt.**

ISLAMABAD



**Large goats called
markhor can be
seen in northern
areas, with spiral-
shaped
horns
and a
long fur
coat. The
markhor
is seen
as the
national
animal.**



**PAKISTAN HAS A STRONG CULTURE OF
MUSIC AND POETRY, ESPECIALLY AMONG
PEOPLE INFLUENCED BY SUFISM, A
MYSTICAL BRANCH OF ISLAM.**



**PAKISTANIS HAVE STRONG FAMILY BONDS
AND RESPECT THEIR ELDERS AND
TRADITIONS.**



**IN PAKISTANI CULTURE, IT IS CUSTOMARY
FOR DINERS TO EAT WITH THEIR HANDS.
PARATHA BREAD IS USED TO DIP INTO THE
CURRY AND THEN SWIPED ACROSS THE
PLATE LIKE AN ENORMOUS SPOON,
MEANING THAT A KNIFE AND FORK ARE NOT
NECESSARY.**





ACN

MAIRA SHAHBAZ

In April 2020, a 14-year-old Catholic girl called Maira Shahbaz was abducted by several armed men. As is the case with many such kidnappings of Christian girls in Pakistan, she was married to one of her abductors and forced to sign a statement that she had converted. Her parents brought a case to court, which ruled she was legally married. In August, Maira managed to escape and rubbished claims that she had converted to Islam and that she had been married voluntarily.

After Maira's escape, her "husband" claimed that she had committed apostasy from Islam. In Pakistan this is a life-threatening accusation to make. Maira and her family are now under serious threat of attack. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) have heard reports of death threats being made against Maira and her family, and of groups of extremists going door to door in the area they live demanding to know where the Catholic family are.

In response to this, ACN in the UK have lodged a petition with the UK Government to grant Maira and her family asylum in the UK. The petition was signed by 12,000 people. The petition calls on the Prime Minister to grant Maira and her family asylum, due to threat to their lives. The petition was presented to Fiona Bruce the Conservative MP for Congleton, Cheshire, and the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.



LETTER

Dear Maira.

When I heard what happened to you, I wanted to write a letter to you because I was so shocked by the story of your horrendous ordeal. I think about you a lot and I feel outrage at the attacks you have suffered, just as if they had happened to my own sister or myself. I want you to know that people like me on the other side of the world are thinking and praying about you a lot.

I am 17, and as a young Catholic girl, I want to stand in unity with you. I know that you have asked all communities to pray for you and for other girls in your position. I'm going to go to an extra Mass for you. At the consecration, when Jesus Himself is there, I am going to beg Him for you to get asylum and to find peace and healing.

When things are really tough for you, maybe you could imagine people like me going to pray for you and know that your courage and faithfulness give lots of young Catholics like me the strength to hold true to our faith. You have helped me. You may not think so, but you are a wonderful example for us. You give us hope for the future.

I really hope that you get asylum in this country. I am going to join campaigns to make that more of a possibility. Pope Francis said that the world is "trying to hide" the persecution of Christians, so it is up to people like me to tell your story.

I pray that you will be able to come to Britain where you can feel safe and free. You will have many friends waiting for you here, and I would love to be one of them.

Love Lena-Marie (London)



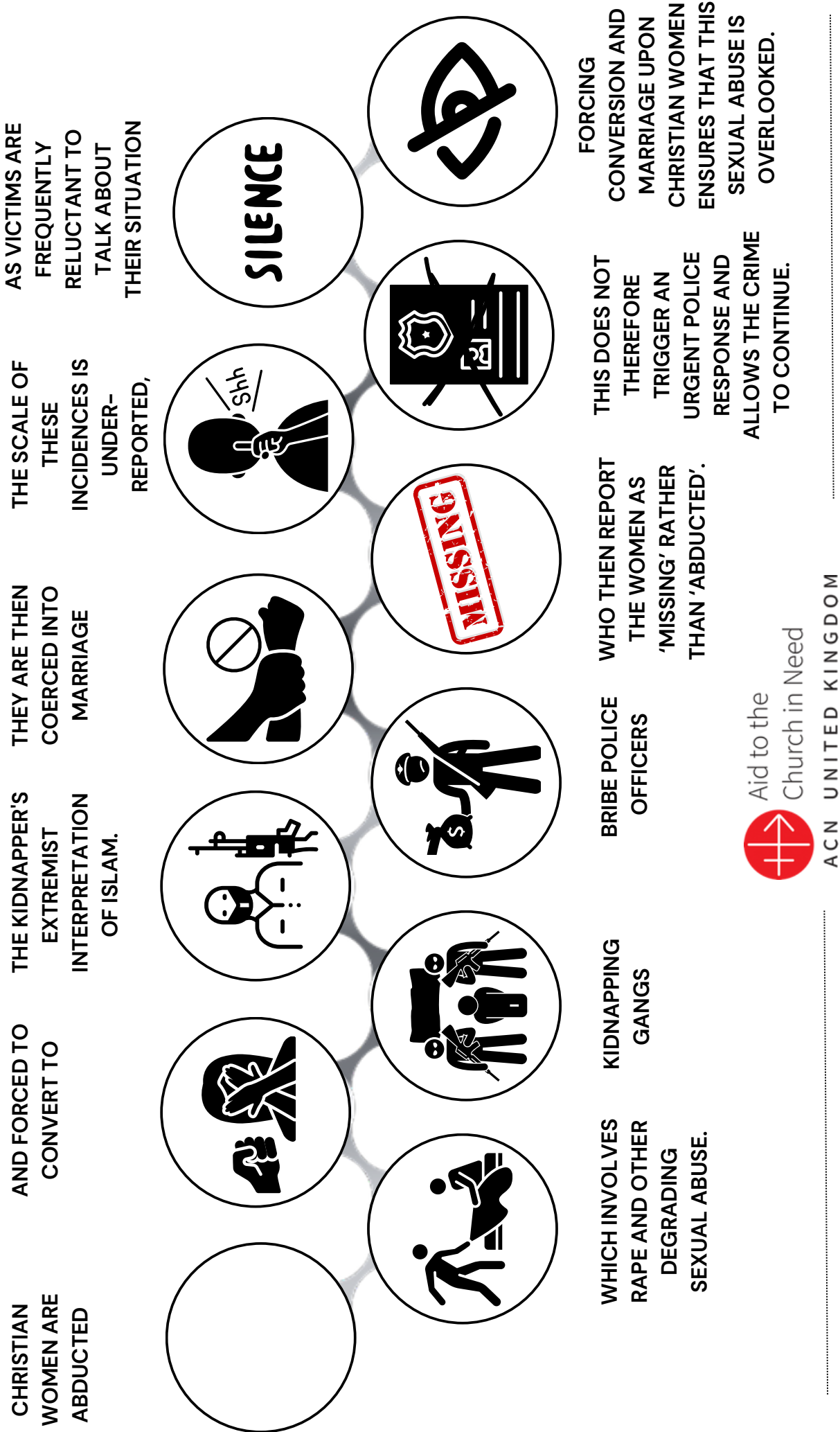
ACN



What is the situation in Egypt?

Abduction, forced conversion and marriage

1

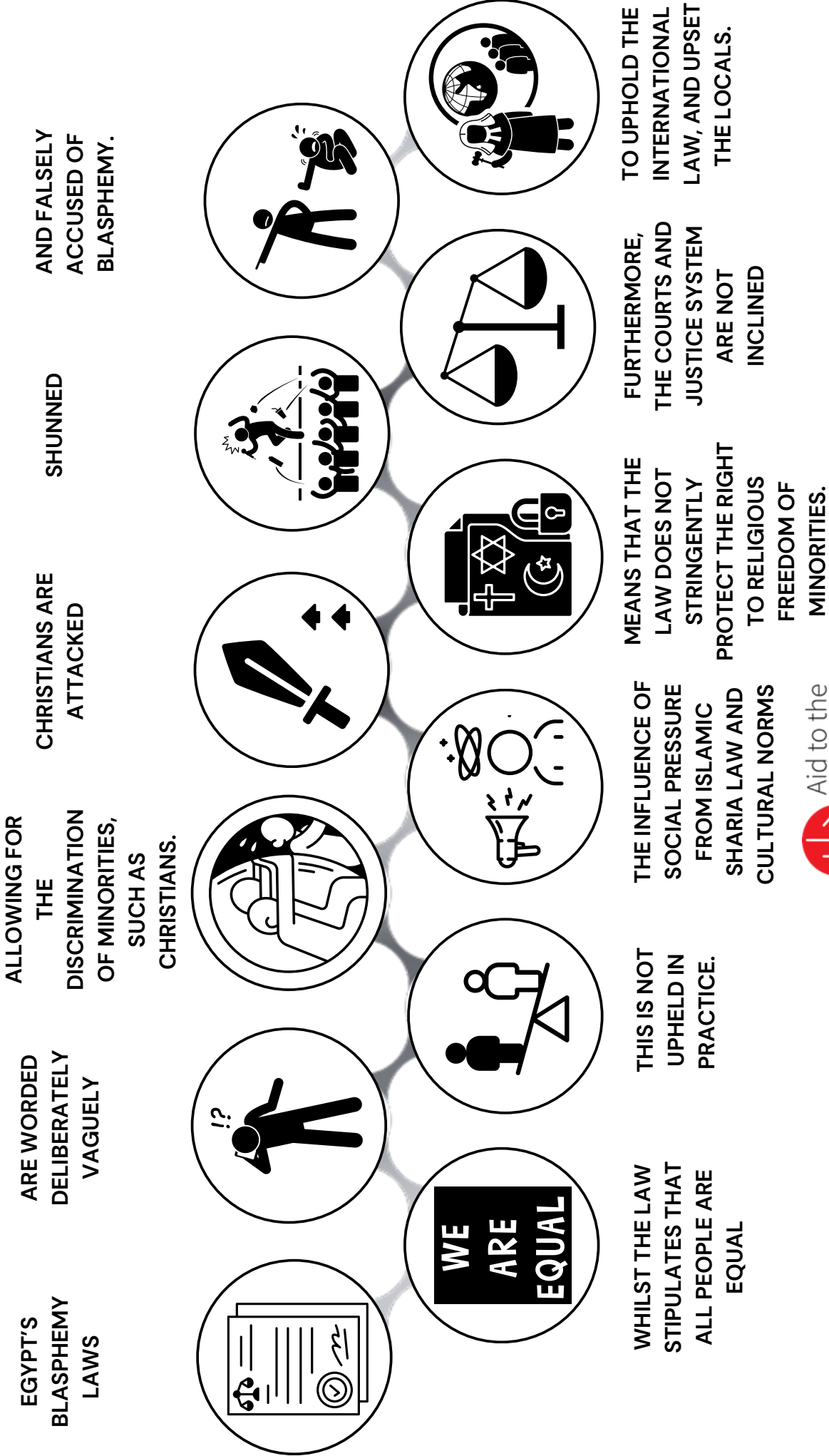


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2

What is the situation in Egypt?

2. Harsh implementation of blasphemy laws

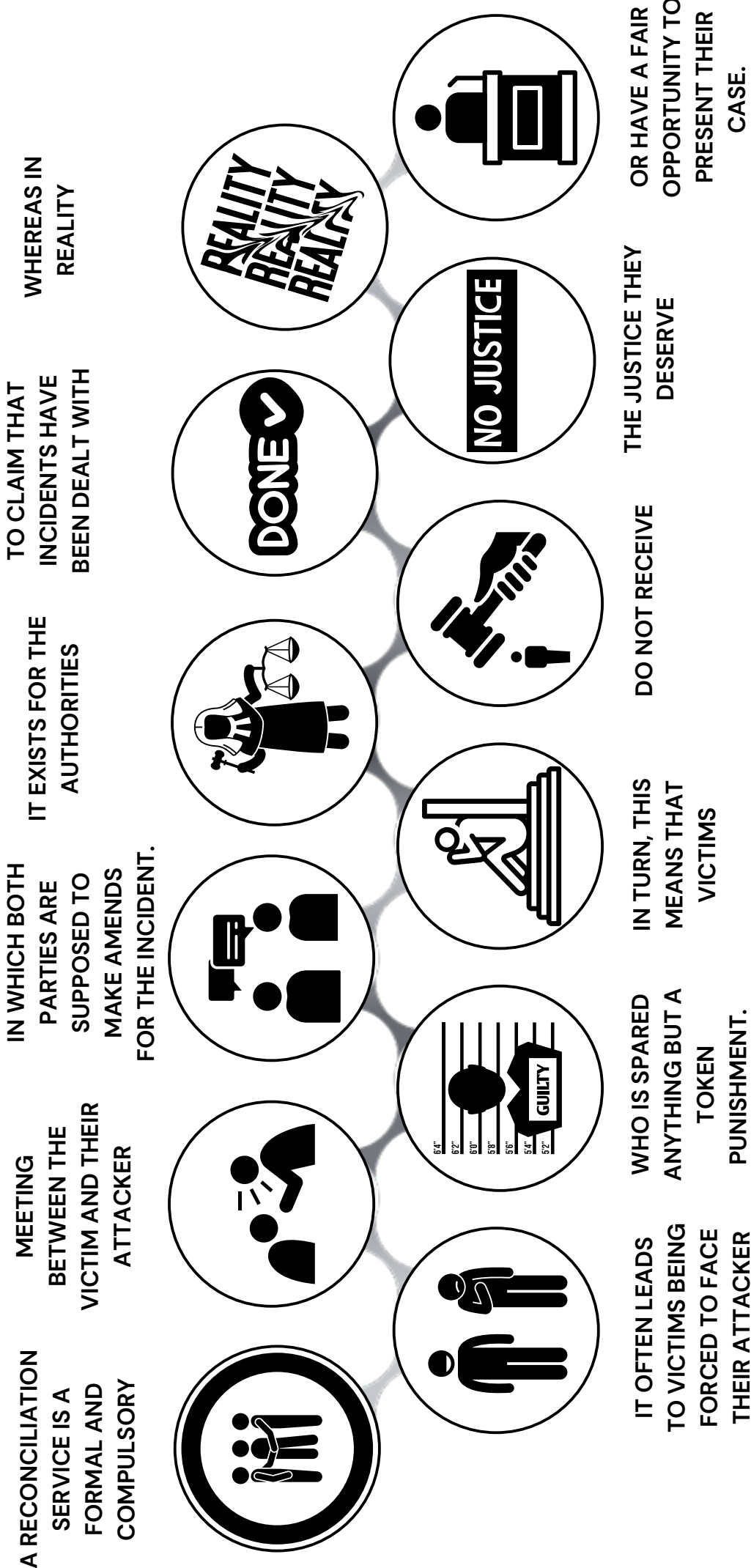


Aid to the Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

3

What is the situation in Egypt?
3. Sham reconciliation services

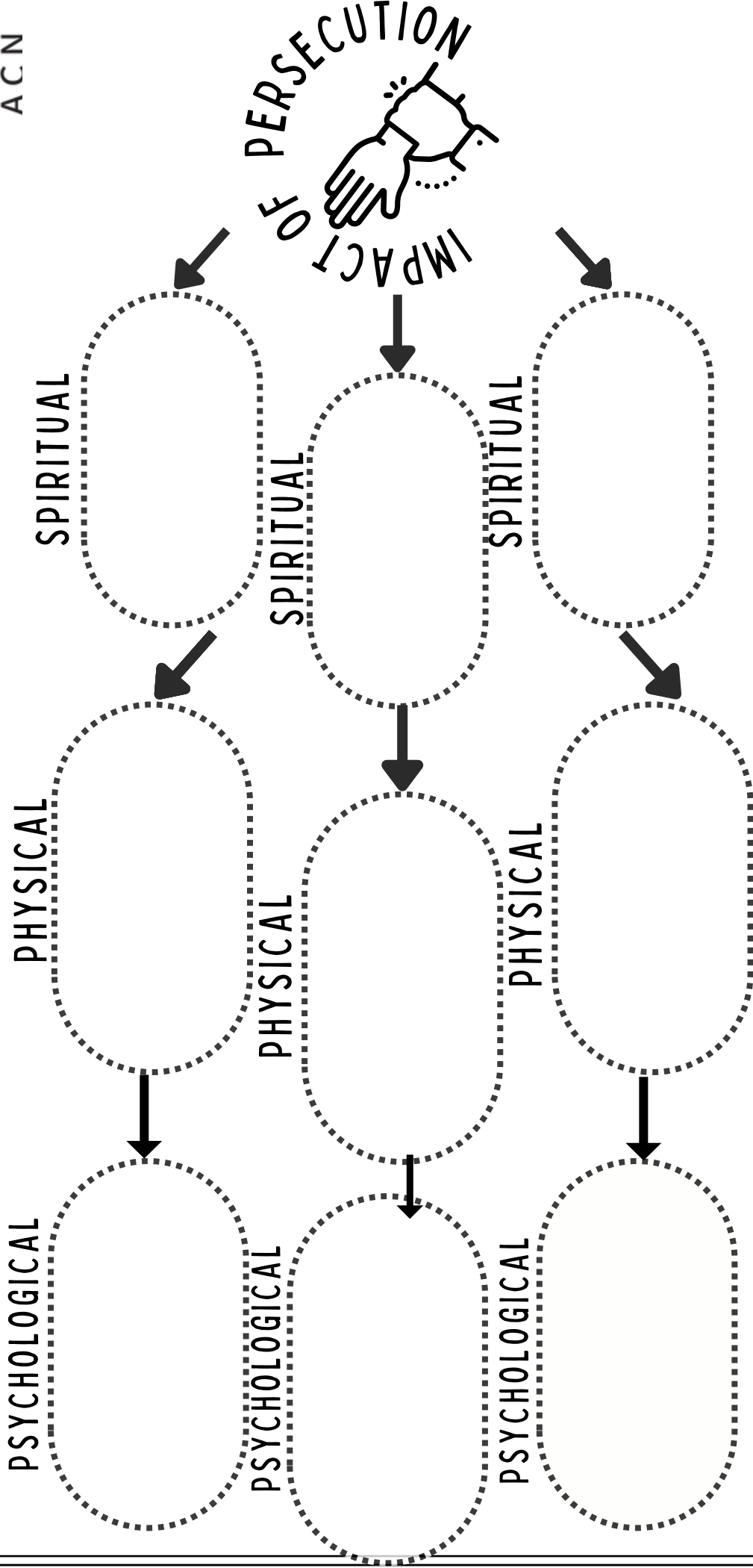


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Complete the impact grid with reference to Egypt and Pakistan.



ACN



GO2MASS CAMPAIGN

ORGANISING A SCHOOL MASS



A) Checklist:

- Contact your school priest and ask if he would consider celebrating an additional Mass for persecuted Christians
- Find a day and time which work well. Do you need to consider asking permission for pupils to miss lessons, or will it be held at an alternative time?
- Write a series of bidding prayers and choose people to read them. There are example bidding prayers you can use or change below.
- Choose Bible readings and readers for the Liturgy of the Word. There are example Bible readings below. It may be useful to send the Bible readings you choose to the priest in advance, so he can prepare a homily.
- Does your school have orders of service you can distribute at the start of Mass?
- Would you like to invite other members of the school community, such as parents, governors or parishioners? If so, you may wish to have a couple of pupils welcoming them as they arrive.
- Appoint one or two altar servers if you have any trained in your school.

B) Optional Bible Readings:

First reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The body is one, although it has many parts; and all the parts, though many, form one body. So it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as free men, and we were all given the same Spirit to drink.

Now the body is one, although it has many parts. If the foot were to say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it nevertheless still belongs to the body. Or if an ear were to say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it nevertheless still belongs to the body. If the whole body were an eye, how would we be able to hear? If the whole body were an ear, how would we exercise a sense of smell? But God arranged each part in the body as he intended. If all the members were identical, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," any more than the head can say to the feet, "I do not need you." On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are in fact indispensable, and those parts of the body that we regard as less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more respectable members have no need of this. But God has so designed the body as to give greater honour to the more humble parts, in order that there may be no dissension within the body and each part may have equal concern for all the others. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it. If one member is honoured, all the members rejoice together with it. You therefore are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it..

PSALM 21

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

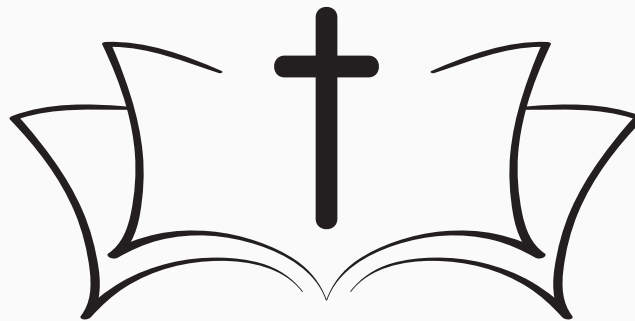
The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me to tranquil streams.

He restores my soul,
guiding me in paths of righteousness
so that his name may be glorified.

Even though I wander
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are at my side,
with your rod and your staff
that comfort me.

You spread a table for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever and ever.



Gospel reading: Matthew 5: 1 - 12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain. After he was seated, his disciples gathered around him. Then he began to teach them as follows:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and utter all kinds of calumnies against you for my sake. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. In the same manner, they persecuted the prophets who preceded you.



Aid to the
Church in Need

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C) Optional Bidding prayers:

Dear Lord,

We pray for those who have lost family members and loved ones in the name of religious persecution. Give them comfort as they mourn.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Dear Lord,

We ask you to bring an end to the suffering and victimisation of those we have learnt about in Nigeria, China, Egypt and Pakistan. May your love conquer the evil actions of those who choose a path of violence in these countries and give the persecuted new hope for the future.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Dear Lord,

We pray that world leaders may ensure the laws of their countries be responsibly written and justly upheld. Give them the courage to stand up for truth in the midst of corruption.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Dear Lord,

As we come together during this Mass, please inspire and fill us with the Holy Spirit. Help young people in our country to recognise the difference we can make and the positive impact that, with your grace, we can achieve.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

LIVING IN THE TRUTH - FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2465 The Old Testament attests that God is the source of all truth. His Word is truth. His Law is truth. His "faithfulness endures to all generations."

255 Since God is "true," the members of his people are called to live in the truth. 256

2466 In Jesus Christ, the whole of God's truth has been made manifest. "Full of grace and truth," he came as the "light of the world," he is the Truth.

257 "Whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

258 The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know "the truth [that] will make you free" and that sanctifies.

259 To follow Jesus is to live in "the Spirit of truth," whom the Father sends in his name and who leads "into all the truth."

260 To his disciples Jesus teaches the unconditional love of truth: "Let what you say be simply 'Yes or No.'"

2467 Man tends by nature toward the truth. He is obliged to honor and bear witness to it: "It is in accordance with their dignity that all men, because they are persons . . . are both impelled by their nature and bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth.

They are also bound to adhere to the truth once they come to know it and direct their whole lives in accordance with the demands of truth." 262

2468 Truth as uprightness in human action and speech is called truthfulness, sincerity, or candor.

Truth or truthfulness is the virtue which consists in showing oneself true in deeds and truthful in words, and in guarding against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy.



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Christ has no body now but
yours. No hands, no feet on
earth but yours. Yours are
the eyes through which he
looks with compassion on this
world. Yours are the feet with
which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through
which he blesses all the
world. Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet, yours are
the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on
earth but yours.



ASSESSMENT

Choose one of the titles. Write a speech, essay or a podcast script which illustrates your own reasoned judgement. Use the research and case studies from the past four lessons on Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan and China, relevant Biblical texts and acknowledgement of an opposing view.

‘Charity begins at home.’

Is charity an appropriate response to the suffering of others?

What is more needed, charity or justice?

‘What is truth?’

Pilate, John 18:38

How can truth be known with certainty?

If it does not exist, what are the implications?

‘The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.’

Edmund Burke

What implications does this quote have for:
The international community? Charities?
You?

‘Forgive those who trespass against us.’

Our Father Prayer

Why should Christians - and all people - follow this instruction?



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