



Protect the Right to Believe: A Global Call for Religious Freedom

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency António Guterres GCC GCL
United Nations Human Rights Council
United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ms. Nazila Ghanea
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, The Rt. Hon Andy Burnham MP

We, the undersigned, raise our voices to call for the urgent protection and continued promotion of the fundamental right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion worldwide, as enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which states:

“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.”

Yet, in many parts of the world we continue to witness **severe violations** of this fundamental human right. Members of almost every religious group, including Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, and Muslims, have suffered discrimination (in the workplace and school), physical violence, arrest, abduction, sexual abuse — and have even been killed — for simply wanting to live out their faith.

In the name of human dignity, **we therefore appeal to all countries** to implement Article 18 in full. Specifically, we call on:

1. International institutions and democratic governments to:

- Publicly condemn all forms of religious persecution.
- Make religious freedom a priority in foreign policy and diplomatic relations.
- Enforce appropriate measures against regimes that repeatedly violate this fundamental right.
- Take concrete steps, including educational and legal initiatives, to prevent violations, ensure effective protection of this right, and promote the socio-economic development of religious minorities.

2. At-risk religious communities to be granted protection, especially in countries suffering from sectarian violence or religious extremism. This is aimed at preventing forced migration, thereby enabling communities to stay in their ancestral homes and lands.

3. Individuals and groups suffering religious persecution to receive the emergency and legal aid they need.

Religious Freedom is not a privilege. It is a human right.

PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITION AND STAND UP FOR THIS FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT!