APPEAL LETTER FOR ACN's #REDWEDNESDAY – 18th November 2026

Appeal Letter (ver.1)

Aid to the Church in Need's #RedWednesday campaign was established in 2016 to raise awareness of – and say NO – to Christian persecution worldwide. As one priest from Africa says 'People need food for their souls as well as their bodies'. Ahead of Black Friday, which celebrates materialism, #RedWednesday is a day to remember that faith matters!

Thanks to the UK Catholic community and with support from MPs, influencers and other public figures, #RedWednesday is now a recognised national and international campaign. ACN's colour is red because red is the colour of martyrdom – and over the years, parishes, schools, Churches Together and other groups as well as individuals across the country help raise awareness by lighting red, wearing red, or organising red-themed liturgies and fundraising events.

Christians are the most persecuted and oppressed faith group in the world today. Praying for and taking positive action for our brothers and sisters in Christ makes you part of ACN's #TeamRed – a coming together of Catholics and other Christians around the country to stand up for the Faith and give a voice to all who are suffering for Christ today.

In this 10th Anniversary year of #RedWednesday, ACN is highlighting the plight of suffering young Christians and their families around the world. For children growing up in war, conflict or with threat of violence, the world is a fearful and dangerous place. In countries where Christians are persecuted, children are collateral damage in the overall brutality – and the numbers run to millions. Seven-year-old Maryamu in Nigeria was kidnapped with others, and they were held in cages by Boko Haram extremists – she refused to convert. Two years later her young brother was brutally killed in front of her. After nine years in captivity, she managed to escape to a Church-run displacement camp, supported by ACN, where she received trauma counselling and learnt practical skills to help her earn a living.

For children like Maryamu, faith is their hope and strength. **Will you give them hope this #RedWednesday? Your kind donation** will help support a range of vital child and family focused ACN projects in priority projects where we work including Nigeria, India, Lebanon, Syria, and Pakistan. £50 could provide a respite activities for traumatised children and support for displaced and suffering families. A parish gift of £500 could provide long-term material, practical and spiritual support through pastoral programmes and educational activities. **And, as a bonus, your kind gift will be doubled thanks to generous ACN benefactors contributing to our #RedWednesday 10th Anniversary £1m4HOPE matched challenge.**

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Maiduguri, Nigeria is a great friend of Aid to the Church in Need. His diocese has suffered unimaginable suffering due to extremist violence. He is so

grateful to Christians in the UK for their support**.** He says, "I applaud ACN's #RedWednesday, it is a wonderful initiative. When people hear about it, they will be stimulated to act whether morally, socially, economically or spiritually and will give hope to those who are affected!"

So, on **Wednesday 18th November**, please join ACN and Christians around the UK in prayer and by lighting your church red, if you can. Wear something red – perhaps a tie, socks or scarf – we'll leave it up to you. Please also help spread the word – the more people involved the more it helps our persecuted brothers and sisters. If you are able, please make a kind gift – or even a regular Direct Debit to help change the lives of children who are paying the price for their faithfulness to Christ.

Thank you and God Bless.

A prayer for #RedWednesday

Loving God, we pray for all people around the world who are taking part in #RedWednesday in any way. We pray for all the parishes, schools and individuals who are taking time to pray, fundraise and take action. We pray for all those around the world who suffer discrimination and persecution for their faith.

May we ask for the strength to build Your Kingdom here on earth. Let us make a place where all are welcome, and all are free to practise their faith in peace.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

APPEAL LETTER FOR ACN's #REDWEDNESDAY – 18th November 2026

Appeal Letter (ver.2)

For children like Maryamu, faith became her lifeline. After years of captivity and loss, she found safety, support and a future through the Church. Today, she is rebuilding her life because people like you chose to stand alongside her.

This #RedWednesday, you can help bring that same hope to other children and families facing persecution, displacement and violence because of their faith.

Your gift will provide practical, emotional and spiritual support through ACN projects in countries including Nigeria, India, Lebanon, Syria and Pakistan. Every donation helps ensure that vulnerable children have access to safe spaces, trauma support, education and pastoral care when they need it most.

- **£50** could help provide respite activities and emotional support for traumatised children.
- **£500 from a parish community** could help sustain long-term pastoral and educational programmes supporting families living through hardship and persecution.

Most importantly, your gift will not stand alone. Thanks to generous ACN benefactors, every pound you donate to our #RedWednesday 10th Anniversary **£1m4HOPE Matched Challenge** will be doubled, meaning twice the impact for children and families who urgently need support.

When Christians in the UK come together through prayer, generosity and witness, we send a powerful message to those suffering for their faith: **you are not forgotten, and you are not alone.**

As **Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme** says:

"I applaud ACN's #RedWednesday. It is a wonderful initiative. When people hear about it, they are moved to act, whether morally, socially, economically or spiritually, and give hope to those who are affected."

On **Wednesday 18 November**, please join thousands of Christians across the UK by praying, wearing red, lighting your church red if possible, and sharing the message with others.

And if you are able, please make a gift today. Together, we can help children like Maryamu move from fear to hope, from isolation to community, and from uncertainty to a future sustained by faith.

Thank you for standing with suffering Christians and their families.

God bless.