**#RedWednesday Secondary Schools Assembly**

**Notes for Teachers**

Aid to the Church in Need’s #RedWednesday initiative aims to highlight the injustices and religious persecution found in our world today.

Our #RedWednesday Assembly is the perfect resource for you to use with your students to help them understand the tragic plight of many Christians around the world. It requires minimal preparation in your classroom; the assembly is complete in its video format.

**Who We Are:**

Aid to the Church in Need is a Catholic charity who supports Christians around the world who experience any kind of persecution, oppression or pastoral need. We fund 5.000 projects in over 140 countries, and help both Christians as well as their wider communities.

**When is #RedWednesday?**

This year, #RedWednesday is on 25th November.

**What is #RedWednesday?**

#RedWednesday is our annual, global, campaign to raise awareness for those who suffer the human rights violation of religious persecution. You can find out more about #RedWednesday here: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/>

This year we are particularly raising awareness of two young women who are battling extreme persecution because of their faith. The stories of these two women, who are in their teens, are the main focus of the #RedWednesday assembly.

You can find more about them here:

**Leah Sharibu**

<https://acnuk.org/news/nigeria-leah-sharibu-must-have-been-raped-and-forced-to-convert/>

**Maira Shabaz**

<https://acnuk.org/news/pakistan-escape-from-the-house-of-hell/>

**Assembly Aim:**

Our #RedWednesday assembly aims to help your students understand what religious persecution is, and why it is something that is important to raise awareness about. Religious persecution is more than just ‘not being able to practise your faith’. In everyday life, it can translate to serious discrimination, traumatic violence, or acts of terrorism, a constant risk that many Christians and other faith groups have to live with.

We share two stories of students their own age, Leah and Maira, who are currently in extremely difficult situations because of religious persecution.

In the assembly, we encourage your students to use their skills and enthusiasm to help advocate for these young people by sharing details of our #RedWednesday activities and campaigns. The more we can raise awareness of the work of ACN, the more we can help young people like Leah and Maira.

Finally, we remind your students to pray for those who are suffering. We remind them of the impact and importance of prayer, and that everyone, no matter their situation, can make a difference.

**Preparation for the Assembly**

* We recommend that you watch the assembly through before showing to your students, as some sections may not be suitable for Yr7-8/P.7-S.1
* Take a look at the resources mentioned in the video, online: <https://acnuk.org/resources/?filter_resource_category=277>

**Things to Consider for #RedWednesday Itself**

* Ask Tutor Groups, Heads of Year, your Chaplaincy Team and/or RE Department to engage with #RedWednesday and plan what you would like to do on the day.
* Religious persecution affects more than just those who are religious. In a society where religious freedom is violated, many other human rights are threatened too. You may want to consider the cross-curricular links that #RedWednesday touches upon, including justice, freedom, equality, prejudice and discrimination.
* If you have lots of languages spoken in your school, why not create a follow-up assembly or prayer service on #RedWednesday with students leading the Our Father in their language of choice? Alternatively, Our [#RedWednesday Novena](https://acnuk.org/resource/redwednesday-novena-for-parishes/) has everything you need to run a daily prayer time in the lead up to the day itself, it uses Pope Francis’ reflections on the Our Father.
* Keep an eye on our website as there is more #RedWednesday content to follow!: <https://acnuk.org/resources/?filter_resource_category=277>
* For our Scottish schools, getting involved in our initiatives has the added bonus for those completing the Caritas award! They can gain up to ten hours towards their award by becoming an ACN Ambassador in their school and parish. Find out more here > <https://acnuk.org/resource/caritas-award/> ‘

**Check in with Us!**

No matter what you’re planning for #RedWednesday, whether it’s small or big, we’d love to hear from you! Let us know what you’re up to at: Schools@acnuk.org so we can add you to our interactive map.