



# Afghanistan

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On The World Watch List

**“How we survive daily only God knows. He has been kind... but we are tired of all the deaths.”**

– Secret Afghan believer.

Score: 94/100

Extreme

Violence:		61%
Church Life:		100%
National Life:		100%
Community Life:		100%
Family Life:		100%
Private Life:		100%

Region:	Central Asia
Leader:	President Ashraf Ghani
Persecution Level:	Extreme
Christian Population:	1,000 (0.1%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Clan Oppression

Officially there are no local Christians in Afghanistan. Christianity is perceived as a harmful Western influence and all acts of Christian worship and activity are dangerous. Believers risk their freedoms, their livelihoods, their families and their lives for their faith.

### A Nation of Secrecy

It is impossible to live openly as a Christian in Afghanistan. Leaving Islam is considered shameful, and Christian converts are forced to flee the country or be killed. The Islamic State and the Taliban continue to have a strong, violent presence in Afghanistan and control large regions of the country.

### Women in Afghanistan

All believers in Afghanistan are extremely vulnerable to persecution and women most at risk. It is estimated that 70-80 percent of Afghan women are placed into forced marriages with Muslim men. Women also have little financial or social freedom. They often face physical abuse and may be sold into slavery or prostitution. Honour killings, of those who have brought shame onto the family, are common.

## How can we pray for Afghanistan?

Pray that despite their isolation, Afghani believers would be strengthened and encouraged in their faith.

Ask that believers will find ways the access the Word of God and communicate with other Christians.

Pray that God would be at work in the hearts of Islamic extremists and they come to know the love of Jesus.

Download the full WWL report at [opendoors.org.au/resources](https://opendoors.org.au/resources) or [opendoors.org.nz/resources](https://opendoors.org.nz/resources)