



# Brunei

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On The World Watch List

**“They look at us Christians like outsiders. Like Hepatitis C, they say we have the ‘Double C Virus.’”**

– Tun\*, a believer from southeast Asia.

Score: 64/100

Very High



Region: Asia  
 Leader: Sultan and Prime Minister Hassanal Bolkiah  
 Persecution Level: Very High  
 Christian Population: 52,000 (11.7%)  
 Main Religion: Islam  
 Source of Persecution: Islamic Oppression

Persecution and discrimination have continued to rise in the tiny kingdom of Brunei, which is an Islamic nation ruled by a Sultan. Pressure has increased in most areas of life for Christians, who are viewed as second-class citizens. Even though overt violence remains a remote risk for most believers, many face intense discrimination and abuse daily.

### Trouble For Converts

Every level of society in Brunei has been affected by the implementation of Sharia law in 2019. Leaving Islam for another religion is illegal.

Converts from Islam can be disowned by their families, forced to divorce their spouse and to leave the family home. Married converts to Christianity from Islam can also lose custody of their children.

### Pressure On Churches

Non-traditional Christian communities cannot be registered as churches and instead, usually have to be registered as companies, organisations or family centres. They are treated as secular business entities and are required to annually submit their financial and operational reports to the government.

\*Name changed for security purposes.

## How can we pray for Brunei?

- Pray that believers will faithfully live out their Christian convictions despite the implementation of Sharia law.
- Pray that God will build His kingdom in Brunei, both numerically and in strength of faith.
- Pray for wisdom for church leaders as they encourage their congregations to be salt and light to the nation.

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)