

Bhutan

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On The World Watch List

“Even if I’m empty-handed, He listens. I can come to Jesus with nothing in my hands.”

– Tashi*, a believer from Bhutan.

Score: 64/100

Very High

Violence:	0%
Church Life:	82%
National Life:	76%
Community Life:	72%
Family Life:	73%
Private Life:	78%

Region:	Asia
Leader:	King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	30,000 (3.6%)
Main Religion:	Buddhism
Source of Persecution:	Religious Nationalism

In Bhutan, all citizens are assumed to be Buddhist. Anyone who converts to Christianity is closely watched with suspicion and others will go to extreme lengths to force new Christians to return to their former religion.

An Illegal Faith

In Bhutan, there are no officially recognised churches, meaning that Christians are forced to worship illegally. Citizens are expected to follow Buddhism and those who share the gospel face a very high level of persecution. Bibles and other Christian materials cannot be produced in Bhutan and importing them is not allowed.

Disowned and Discriminated

For Christians, living out their faith comes with great risk. Converts may be disowned by their families, isolated from their communities and pressured to participate in Buddhist practices. Christian children often experience discrimination at school. In Bhutan, many believers are discriminated against by their employers and are refused crucial documentation for job applications, financial loans, land ownership and even ID cards.

*Name changed for security purposes.

How can we pray for Bhutan?

Pray that Christians will continue to courageously seek God and share His Word.

Pray that Christians will have access to God’s Word and build strong foundations of faith upon it.

Pray over the Bhutanese authorities, that God will be transforming their hearts to reflect His.

Download the full WWL report at opendoors.org.au/resources or opendoors.org.nz/resources