



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
USA**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

PRAYER CALENDAR
April 2018

April 1: Today is Easter Sunday, a day when churches are filled with people celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Please pray God would watch over His people as they worship and keep them safe from any violence.

April 2: Lord, as we live in the mercy and grace of Easter, we remember all that You sacrificed for us. Place in our hearts a renewed passion and energy for the Persecuted Church.

April 3: Please pray for religious freedom in the beautiful island nation of Sri Lanka, where the reality of life for Christians is far from idyllic. Violent extremist Buddhist groups, hate speech, and crimes against Christians go unpunished.

April 4: Pray for church leaders and their families in Sri Lanka, facing threats of violence and church closures, especially in remote areas. Dear Lord, shelter Your children under Your wing of protection.

April 5: Please pray for Lakshan Dias, a human rights lawyer in Sri Lanka. He is being threatened with disbarment from his profession, after commenting on television about religious intolerance toward Muslims and Christians. Pray Lakshan is allowed to continue his work without harrassment from government officials.

April 6: Pray for protection of all human rights defenders in Sri Lanka as they carry out their important work. Pray the government of Sri Lanka confronts religious intolerance and ensures rights to freedom of religions or belief are upheld.

April 7: Dear God, we pray for the country of Sri Lanka. Protect the brave human rights defenders like Lakshan Dias and bless their work. Please watch over religious minorities, and defend them from the violence of extremist Buddhist groups.

April 8: Ultra-nationalist Buddhist groups in Sri Lanka, such as the Bodu Bala Sena, have attacked Christians and promoted violence. Pray the government takes measures to stop this group and others that promote intolerance and hate.

April 9: Radical groups in Sri Lanka have used social media to spread their messages of hate, which has resulted in attacks. With the rise of smartphone and social media use, this problem is growing. Pray God raises up people to develop strategies to stop this trend.

April 10: Please pray for CSW's partner organization, the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL). Lord, please protect and encourage the staff and bless their work.

April 11: CSW is grateful to partner with NCEASL. It monitors the religious freedom situation in Sri Lanka amidst continued attacks on evangelical Christians, which often go unpunished. Thank God for the determined and courageous staff of the NCEASL.

April 12: Pray for all human rights activists working to promote inter-religious and inter-ethnic harmony in Sri Lanka. Pray for restoration of relationships between different religious and ethnic groups.

April 13: A 2008 Circular is being used to close down existing churches and stop the building of new ones. Although the Circular isn't law, it's being used by law enforcement officials and radical groups to intimidate and harass Christians and to shut down places of worship. Pray the government retracts the Circular.

April 14: Pray for safety of Sri Lankan human rights defenders and journalists who live in constant fear of abduction. Pray God changes the hearts and minds of members of extremist groups with His love and truth.

April 15: Please pray for Burma, a nation at the crossroads. For more than 50 years, Burma has been ruled by a succession of brutal military dictatorships, and for over 65 years, the country has been torn apart by civil war.

April 16: Pray for freedom and democracy in Burma. The Kachin, Shan, Karen and other ethnic groups are targets of violence and human rights abuses. Pray for justice and protection as conflict across Kachin and northern Shan states has left thousands displaced.

April 17: Pray Burma's military ends its offensive against the majority Christian Kachin people in northern Burma. Pray the international community puts pressure on the government of Burma to have meaningful political dialogue with the Kachin and other ethnic nationalities.



April 18: Pray for the government in Burma to uphold freedom of religion or belief. Pray for an end to the war in Kachin State and the forcible recruitment of child soldiers.

April 19: Please pray for Dumdaw Nawng Lat and Langjaw Gam Seng, two Kachin Christians who were given unjust prison sentences in 2017. In 2016, they guided journalists around a Catholic church in Burma that had reportedly been bombed by the military. Pray these men are released soon and charges against them dismissed.

April 20: Pray for Dumdaw Nawng Lat, 67, sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison, and Langjaw Gam Seng, 35, sentenced to 2 years and 3 months in prison. These ethnic Kachin Christians guided journalists around a Catholic church in Burma which had been bombed by the Burmese military. This verdict is a serious miscarriage of justice.

April 21: Pray the authorities in Burma release Dumdaw Nawng Lat and Langjaw Gam Seng, members of the Kachin Baptist Convention. They were unjustly imprisoned for guided tour in bombed out church. Pray the international community raises their case with the Burmese government as a matter of urgency.

April 22: Pray for religious freedom in Burma. There is great concern for Christians in Burma facing discrimination and persecution. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move upon the hearts and minds of all those in authority.

April 23: Pray for protection and strength for Christians in Burma who are being intimidated and harassed. The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in Burma offers incentives to Christians to convert to Buddhism, and children are taken into monasteries to become novice monks.

April 24: Pray for the Mandalay District Christian Fellowship in Burma. Thank God for religious leaders who have become increasingly outspoken against religious freedom violations in Burma.

April 25: Pray for the young people of Burma, that they will have courage and tenacity to stand up for religious freedom and change. Pray for the Church in Burma to be able to play a role in education, health and nation building, as it did 50 years ago.

April 26: Pray for the training of leaders in Burma to advocate effectively for their rights. Pray they can work with the media and formally document human rights violations against their communities.

April 27: Thank God for the work of civil society organizations in Burma, especially those working to counter hate speech. Pray for an end to hate speech, discrimination and religiously motivated violence.

April 28: Burma has always been a multi-ethnic and multi-religious nation, but serious racial and religious tensions surface quickly. Pray security forces act swiftly to protect those at risk of attack and to prevent violence from escalating.

April 29: God of justice and peace, spread Your peace across Burma. Still the violence and bring physical and spiritual healing to the suffering people of Burma.

April 30: Lord, we bring the nation of Burma to You in prayer. We pray that Burma will one day be a nation of peace and freedom for all its citizens, whatever their religion or ethnic background.

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