

Please see overleaf for a fuller description of these four categories

Life can be difficult for Christians and harsh for converts

Christian minorities suffer systematic discrimination and persecution

Persecution of Christian minorities is pervasive and severe

Historically Christian minorities at risk of genocide



Where Christians are Persecuted

Religious Liberty The right to worship and practise the religion of your choice in private and in community, including the right to witness and evangelise, and the right to convert, i.e. to change your religion.

EXPLANATION OF PERSECUTION CATEGORIES

'Life can be difficult for Christian minorities and harsh for converts.'

In places where human rights are poor and Christians are a minority, but where politics is secular or relatively progressive and religion is largely nominal, life can be difficult but not severely or pervasively.

'Christian minorities suffer systematic discrimination and persecution.'

This is one degree worse than the above category, usually because religion and politics are more intertwined and religion is less nominal.

'Persecution of Christian minorities is pervasive and severe.'

There are significant religious and/or political forces driving a campaign of persecution, such as the Hindutva forces in India, the ruling Communist parties in Laos, the clerics in the Muslim world (Islam being in fact a *political* religion).

'Historically Christian ethnic minorities at risk of genocide.'

Iraq: Islamist forces and sympathisers (Sunni and Shia) in Iraq are exploiting the chaos of war to 'cleanse' Iraq of Christians, nearly all of whom are ethnic Assyrians, the indigenous people of Iraq.

Kosovo (Serbia): The Serbian population in Kosovo (the historic and spiritual heartland of Serbia), virtually all of whom are Serbian Orthodox, are at risk of genocide on account of Albanian separatism and nationalism, and Islamic imperialism – different forces which assist each other.

Northern Laos: The Communist government of Laos is waging a low-level but genocidal war against the predominantly Christian ethnic Hmong of Northern Laos because of their longheld political stance: pro-democracy, pro-religious liberty, pro-West.

Papua (Indonesia): The Indonesian government is waging a low-level but genocidal campaign against the predominantly Christian indigenous Papuans because of their resistance to Indonesian occupation, exploitation, colonisation and Islamisation.