

International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church Rallies Intercessors

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) is inviting churches and Christians around the world to observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) on the next two Sundays, Nov. 2 and 9.

Don't Stand in Silence

"Today's greatest untold story is that more than 100 million Christians worldwide face persecution for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," says Rev. Godfrey Yogarajah, Executive Director of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission (RLC). "Daily Christians in Eritrea, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Sudan, Sri Lanka (and many others) face imprisonment, violence and even death."

"We are calling on Christians everywhere to stand by these persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ by praying for them and assisting them in any way possible, as commanded in Scripture," he continued.

Churches worldwide today set aside the first two Sundays of November to particularly remember and pray for the persecuted church, through the IDOP. Christians are called to follow the commands of Hebrews 13:3 to "remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (NIV).

The WEA RLC has prepared a website with resources for pastors and Christian leaders to use in worship services or small groups. It features stories, videos, and devotionals, information on persecution and prayer resources:

"This year's theme 'Don't Stand in Silence' reminds us of the plight of our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer

persecution, simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord," says Dr. Geoff Tunncliffe, Secretary General of the WEA. "Let us unite in prayer for the persecuted church, in the spirit of oneness that Christ commanded: 'For, if one part suffers, every part suffers'" (1 Cor. 12:26).