

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2026 (or any Sunday in November)

INFORMATION FOR LEADING PRAYERS

Thank you for taking part in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church – you and your church will be joining many churches in Ireland, Britain, USA, Canada and other countries in devoting time to praying for the persecuted. Our focus this year is on Iran and this information sheet offers suggestions as to how your prayers for our brothers and sisters in prison in Iran can be incorporated into your time of worship. Please discuss with your church leader what would work best in your church.

PREPARATION

1. View IDOP video via link on www.churchinchains.ie and familiarise yourself with it (even if you don't plan to use the video, it would be helpful in your preparations to view it). The video, produced by Elam Ministries (a Church in Chains partner organisation serving the church in Iran), features former prisoner Farshid Fathi speaking about how he was aware of Christians praying for him while he was in prison and encouraging prayer for Christians who are now in prison in Iran.
2. Arrange in advance with the person responsible for projection in your church to download the video.
3. Place prayer cards (which feature six current prisoners in Iran) on a table near the exit(s) where interested members of the congregation can take one as they leave (ask your church leader first).

PRESENTATION

USING VIDEO: The estimated time involved (introduction + video + prayer) is around 6 minutes.

Introduce the subject: "Today is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, organised in Ireland by Church in Chains". Explain that this year our prayers focus on Christian prisoners in Iran who are imprisoned for belonging to house churches or distributing New Testaments or attending Christian seminars. The vast majority of Christian prisoners are converts from Islam and Iran does not allow Christian converts to meet together for worship. Then show the video (**2 minutes long**) and lead prayer for Christian prisoners in Iran.

NOT USING VIDEO: Introduce the subject (as above) and then lead prayer for Christian prisoners in Iran. If you have more time, you could read the story of one of the prisoners featured on the prayer cards and explain that more information about each prisoner is available by scanning the QR Code on the card.

Finish by encouraging people to take a Prayer Card and visit our website www.churchinchains.ie

PRAYER

Focus your prayers on the following three prayer points (or use the prayer below prepared by Church in Chains)

1. An end to the war with the USA and Israel
2. That every Christian prisoner in Iran will know God's presence with them in prison just like Farshid did
3. That the Iranian authorities will change their policies and release Christian prisoners

Our Father, we pray for the great nation of Iran and ask that that the war with the United States and Israel will come to an end soon. Please bless all who are working to bring peace.

*Today, we remember **Nayereh Arjane, Hakop Gochumyan, Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh, Ghazal Marzban, Joseph Shahbazian, Mehran Shamloui** and other Christians in prison in Iran who have been imprisoned simply for meeting together or for telling others about Jesus. We pray that each one will know that you are with them today and that you will supply all their needs and make them a blessing to others in prison.*

We also pray for a change of heart for the leaders of the Iranian regime. We pray that they will recognise that these Christian prisoners are not criminals or enemies and release them from prison.

In the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.



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