

Please stand with those who have no voice

Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) matters to everyone because it is a basic human right.

We are free to pray and worship; we do not have to hide our faith but some have to.

The Government will host a global summit to promote FoRB on 5-6 July 2022. Senior ministers from 33 countries plan to bring real change to protect FoRB for all, no matter where they live in the world. Perhaps your church can join with them to make a difference.

Pray

Why not include prayers for FoRB in your Sunday Intercessions in the four weeks leading up to the summit (you can use the prayers in the FoRB resource on the Southwark website at southwark.anglican.org/tkc).

Alternatively, use parts of the All God's People interactive prayer resource to engage people on a practical level (download it from southwark.anglican.org/tkc).

Book a speaker

Engaging speakers can share stories of those they help. Open Doors UK (opendoorsuk.org) and CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide; csw.org.uk) are charities happy to come to your services or an event.

Hold an event

Consider hosting a breakfast, afternoon tea, or Messy Church event using creative ideas with Question Cards to help talk about those who hide their faith. Some ideas for props to encourage reflection include:

- cross of twigs – to quickly dismantle
- scallop shell – Christian symbol
- clay fish – a secret sign
- prayer beads for the Lord's Prayer



- stone painting – encouraging words
- prayer net – with a ribbon for each country where Christians are persecuted.

Discussion questions

Question cards help people stand in the shoes of those persecuted for their faith or beliefs. Examples include:

1. What if owning a Bible led to being imprisoned?
2. With my faith hidden, whom could I trust?
3. Would you give up your faith to protect your family?



Scatter cards on tables at your event to get people talking (download question cards at southwark.anglican.org/tkc).

You may like to ask groups outside your church to come to your event or activities too.

Perhaps a Messy Church session could look at FoRB using this fish and prayer net (above) to pray for different countries where people are persecuted for their faith; young people could try worshipping together in secret, singing in a whisper.

More information

For further information, prayers, activities, and question cards, visit: southwark.anglican.org/tkc

#EndThePersecution