Noteworthy

The noteworthy items described here are structured in three groups: annual reports and global surveys, regional and country reports, and specific issues. Though we apply serious criteria in the selection of items noted, it is beyond our capacity to scrutinize the accuracy of every statement made. We therefore disclaim responsibility for the contents of the items noted. The compilation was produced by Janet Epp Buckingham.

Annual reports and global surveys

CSW General briefings
Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 8-11 September 2026
https://www.csw.org.uk/reports/
CSW updated its country briefing documents and policy recommendations to governments and international bodies on a wide variety of countries.

Global persecution index 2026
International Christian Concern, 7 July 2026
https://persecution.org/gpi/
The GPI examines ongoing trends reshaping the landscape of religious freedom, including the dramatic rise of religious nationalism, transnational repression, and state control over religious organizations.

Religious restrictions around the world
Pew Research Center, 15 June 2026
https://tinyurl.com/yhnnwtn6
Pew Research Center tracks global patterns in restrictions on religion – whether imposed by governments or by individuals or social groups. See the interactive website to explore restrictions in 198 countries and territories, and see how each country's restrictions have changed since 2007.

Regional and country reports
Algeria: Country update
USCIRF, April 2026
https://tinyurl.com/3bpxzswc
This country update assesses the interrelated challenges and underscores the systemic and ongoing nature of religious freedom restrictions in Algeria, with

particular attention to state limitations on access to religious materials and the wider legal environment shaping FoRB in that country.

Australia: Australian Christian freedom index 2025
ACFI, May 2026
https://australianchristianfreedomindex.org.au/
This inaugural annual report documents the erosion of freedom of religion in Australia. The report is sponsored by multiple Christian organisations in Australia and was written by a team of 11 experts.

China: China's codification and escalation of the "Sinicization of Religion"
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/2f33z3ha
This issue update provides an overview of some amendments and new laws that China's government passed or implemented in recent months, highlighting the systematic nature of its worsening subjugation and repression of ethnoreligious minorities such as Uyghur Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, and others.

Colombia: Religious freedom for whom?
International Institute for Religious Freedom, 25 September 2026
https://tinyurl.com/3hawh8yj
This report evaluates Colombia's Comprehensive Public Policy on Religious Freedom and Worship (PPRF), adopted in 2018. It identifies that the policy's institutional architecture tends to privilege legally registered religious entities.

Cuba: Country update
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/jxmk22cf
This report summarizes the country's restrictive legal framework; ongoing harassment, surveillance, and other intimidation of religious practitioners; and FoRB violations within the Cuban prison system.

Cuba's new normal: The situation of freedom of religion or belief five years after 11J
Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 9 July 2026
https://www.csw.org.uk/cubareport
Between January 2025 and June 2026, CSW documented 667 separate cases involving attacks on freedom of religion or belief (FoRB), almost of all of which involved multiple types of FoRB violations.

Egypt: Country update
USCIRF, April 2026
https://tinyurl.com/45phneav
This country update assesses the current state of religious freedom in Egypt, considering how this domestic and regional landscape affects the Egyptian government's efforts to protect FoRB for all.

Egypt: Erasure: Egypt's systemic campaign to eradicate its Baha'i community
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, September 2026
https://eipr.org/sites/default/files/reports/pdf/erasure.pdf
This report documents the challenges faced by the Baha'i community in Egypt since a landmark court ruling (2009-2025). In this time period, Egypt's legislative, judicial, and executive structures, alongside its political and economic conditions, witnessed profound changes that impacted the exercise of freedom of religion and belief at both the individual and collective levels.

India: Country brief
USCIRF, August 2026
https://tinyurl.com/bddab6d7
This report examines the systematic, ongoing, and increasingly egregious violations of religious freedom across India, including efforts to crack down on faith-based organizations and continued acts of transnational repression targeting religious minorities abroad.

Latin America and the Caribbean: Global religious freedom index 2024-2026
International Institute for Religious Freedom, 16 June 2026
https://tinyurl.com/3dzv5ry3
This report presents detailed data on religious freedom in Latin America and the Caribbean, scored annually from 1990 to 2023 across 27 countries. The data includes measures on government restrictions on religion, societal discrimination against religious minorities, and physical violence against religious groups.

Mali: Policy brief
Open Doors, 31 August 2026
https://tinyurl.com/2s3ax5ex
This policy brief identifies the escalating violence and erosion of religious freedom in Mali due to protracted armed conflict. It concludes with several policy recommendations for the Malian government.

Mexico: Protection on paper: The situation of freedom of religion or belief in Mexico
Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 29 May 2026
https://www.csw.org.uk/2026/05/29/report/6813/article.htm
This report documents two types of serious violations of FoRB in Mexico: those perpetrated by organized crime and those in villages under traditional law.

Morocco: Freedom of religion in Morocco
International Christian Concern and Regent University Center for Global Justice, 25 August 2026
https://tinyurl.com/jvmp4tr8
This report shows how Islam is constitutionally privileged, and how other provisions limit religious dissent. It also identifies three major areas of concern: the enforcement of Ramadan, restrictions on religious conversion from Islam, and burial practices.

Mozambique: The Islamic State-Mozambique and its local threats to religious freedom
USCIRF, April 2026
https://tinyurl.com/bdjtwcf8
This report examines armed violence by Ahl al-Sunna wa al-Jama'a (ASWJ), or Islamic State-Mozambique (IS-M), and its recent FoRB-related violations, assessing state responses and examining future challenges for protecting religious freedom in Mozambique.

Nicaragua: Country update
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/2e5b6m42
This country update provides an overview of recent key developments relating to religious freedom in Nicaragua and the international response to Nicaragua's FoRB and related human rights violations.

Nigeria: Briefing: Conflict-related sexual violence in Nigeria
Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 19 June 2026
https://www.csw.org.uk/2026/06/19/report/6821/article.htm
This briefing focuses on patterns of gender-based sexual violence in conflict-affected areas of Nigeria.

Nigeria: Disaggregating chaos: Analyzing Nigeria's four patterns of violence
International Institute for Religious Freedom, 1 September 2026
https://tinyurl.com/mst7m9uz
This report identifies that 2025 Nigeria data does not describe a single national emergency with regional variations. Rather, it describes four distinct systems of violence that differ in who carries them out, what they are trying to achieve, how they generate casualties, and who they affect.

Nigeria: Killings and abductions in Nigeria (2020-2025)
Observatory for Religious Freedom in Africa, June 2026
https://tinyurl.com/42skyxkz
This detailed report analyzes the religious conflicts, particularly violence against Christians, between 2020 and 2025.

Nigeria: Nonstate violators of religious freedom in Nigeria: Fulani militants
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/yk77myvr
This report examines Fulani militants' role in deteriorating religious freedom conditions in Nigeria by explaining Muslim and Christian communal dynamics and providing examples of recent and ongoing religious freedom violations by violent Fulani actors. It also describes efforts – and shortcomings – on the part of the Nigerian government and civil society actors to bolster social cohesion, improve security, and reduce patterns of violence.

Nigeria at the crossroads: Is there a future for Nigeria's displaced church?
Open Doors, September 2026
https://tinyurl.com/9bdd5jym
The brief explores violence trends and causes in Nigeria; the situation, experiences and prospects of return for IDPs since the 2024 "No Road Home" report, and what the future could look like. It also includes recommendations for the Nigerian government and the international community.

Pakistan: Religious minorities in Pakistan
National Commission for Justice and Peace, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/5847n2jy
This report is by a branch of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops Conference. It monitors violations of religious freedom against religious minorities in the country for the year 2025.

Pakistan: Stolen girls
Jubilee Campaign and Voices for Justice, 14 July 2026
https://tinyurl.com/4w3nnff
This report documents patterns of forced conversion, abduction, child marriage, and sexual violence affecting minority girls in Pakistan, and highlights the legal gaps and institutional failures that allow these abuses to continue.

Saudi Arabia: Country update
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/5cxkzmbh
This report examines key issues, including the evolving role of religion in shaping national identity; entrenched laws and policies that remain systematic barriers to FoRB; the use of the legal apparatus to restrict religious expression; and the targeting of religious minorities, women, and others – both in country and abroad – on the basis of religion.

Somalia: Factsheet: Religious freedom in Somalia
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/47p7kbb3
This publication outlines major religious freedom concerns in Somalia and assesses the significant religious freedom violations of insurgent nonstate actors, especially al-Shabaab.

Sri Lanka: Growing up believing: Exploring children's right to freedom of religion or belief in Sri Lanka
National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka, 14 July 2026
https://tinyurl.com/mswk3pke
This research study is a qualitative and quantitative analysis, drawing upon primary and secondary sources of information examines many aspects of children's rights to freedom of religion or belief in Sri Lanka.

Syria: Country update
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/3bytmzft
This report provides an overview of the recent religious freedom conditions in Syria with a particular focus on rule of law issues. It notes that religious freedom has continued to deteriorate in 2026.

Tajikistan: Country update
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/2rpf3w57
This report outlines concerning religious freedom conditions in Tajikistan, including examining the government's ongoing efforts to control all aspects of Tajik religious life.

Türkiye: Country brief
USCIRF, August 2026
https://tinyurl.com/5dx39zz9
This report outlines the government's longstanding administrative restrictions on freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) and highlights recent developments and religious freedom violations.

Uzbekistan: Country update
USCIRF, May 2026
https://tinyurl.com/2s3n6nam
This report assesses Uzbekistan's negative religious freedom trajectory by summarizing its backsliding over the past decade and highlighting the damaging impact of its policies on religious communities through harassment, fines, detention, prison sentences, and physical abuse.

Vietnam: Freedom of worship – A false reality in Vietnam
International Christian Concern, 5 June 2026
https://tinyurl.com/jbma2wjm
This report examines the current state of religious freedom and Christian persecution under communism in Vietnam. It finds that churches that defy the regime's regulations are forced underground.

Specific issues

Christians: Top five countries for killings, abductions, arrests, and sentences of Christians, attacks on buildings and houses of worship, and forced displacement
International Institute for Religious Freedom, 18 August 2026
https://tinyurl.com/mrynjwd7
This report covers the calendar year 2025, from 1 January to 31 December. The figures are drawn from the IIRF Violent Incident Database. All incidents are those in which the victims were recorded as Christian.

Prisoners of conscience: Religious prisoners of conscience
Lantos Foundation, Bellwether International, Religious Liberty Clinic, July 2026
https://tinyurl.com/4fy8dw6a
This report analyzes global patterns and practices in religious prisoner of conscience cases. It was prepared for the IRF Summit.

Refugees: State of the Golden Door 2026
World Relief, Open Doors, 3 September 2026
https://worldrelief.org/goldendoor/
This is the fourth annual report on refugee resettlement and asylum in the US in light of global Christian persecution. It finds that this fiscal year will be the first on record that no refugees from the top 50 countries of concern for Christian persecution on Open Doors' World Watch List were resettled in the US.

Social hostilities: More countries had elevated levels of social hostilities involving religion in 2023
Pew Research Center, 15 June 2026
https://tinyurl.com/kfd4ur5x
Fifty-five countries had high or very high levels of social hostilities involving religion in 2023, up from 45 the previous year. Among the countries with very high scores on the Social Hostilities Index in 2023 were Nigeria, India, Israel, Syria, Bangladesh and Pakistan.