
World Watch Research

Sri Lanka: Persecution Dynamics

January 2025



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Open Doors International / World Watch Research

January 2025

© Open Doors International

research@od.org

Contents

World Watch List 2025 – Top 50.....	2
World Watch List 2025 – Ranks 51-78	4
Copyright, sources and definitions	5
Reporting period	5
Brief country details.....	5
Map of country	6
Dominant persecution engines and drivers.....	7
Brief description of the persecution situation.....	7
Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period	7
Specific examples of positive developments	8
Christian communities and how they are affected.....	8
Areas where Christians face most difficulties.....	9
Position on the World Watch List	9
Persecution engines.....	9
Drivers of persecution.....	11
The Persecution pattern	12
Pressure in the 5 spheres of life.....	13
Violence	16
5 Year trends.....	18
Gender-specific religious persecution / Female	20
Gender-specific religious persecution / Male.....	21
Persecution of other religious minorities	22
Trends Summary	23
Further useful reports.....	23
External Links	24

World Watch List 2025 – Top 50

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	14.4	98	96	98	96	94
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.7	11.1	94	93	92	91	92
3	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	10.6	94	89	89	88	87
4	Libya	16.0	16.2	15.9	16.2	16.4	10.6	91	91	88	91	92
5	Sudan	14.1	14.2	15.5	14.9	15.3	16.1	90	87	83	79	79
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.9	12.2	89	89	89	88	88
7	Nigeria	13.5	13.9	14.6	14.9	14.5	16.7	88	88	88	87	85
8	Pakistan	13.6	13.9	15.0	15.0	12.9	16.7	87	87	86	87	88
9	Iran	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.9	16.5	10.9	86	86	86	85	86
10	Afghanistan	15.6	15.9	15.9	16.4	16.7	5.0	85	84	84	98	94
11	India	12.2	12.9	13.3	14.9	13.9	16.5	84	83	82	82	83
12	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.8	16.6	3.3	81	81	80	81	78
13	Myanmar	12.6	11.1	13.5	14.1	12.9	16.5	81	79	80	79	74
14	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	13.0	15.2	15.6	80	79	76	70	67
15	China	13.2	10.1	12.8	14.6	16.1	11.1	78	78	77	76	74
16	Maldives	15.6	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.7	78	78	77	77	77
17	Iraq	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.8	13.9	6.1	78	79	76	78	82
18	Syria	13.5	14.4	13.9	14.4	14.3	7.0	78	81	80	78	81
19	Algeria	14.7	14.3	11.5	14.7	16.0	6.3	77	79	73	71	70
20	Burkina Faso	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5	14.0	15.6	76	75	71	68	67
21	Morocco	13.2	13.8	11.6	12.9	14.3	8.3	74	71	69	69	67
22	Laos	11.8	10.7	13.5	14.1	13.9	9.8	74	75	68	69	71
23	Mauritania	14.6	14.2	13.8	14.2	14.2	2.8	74	72	72	70	71
24	Bangladesh	12.4	10.6	12.7	11.3	10.4	16.1	74	71	69	68	67
25	Uzbekistan	14.6	12.7	13.5	12.4	15.5	4.4	73	71	71	71	71
26	Cuba	13.2	8.5	13.9	13.3	15.1	9.1	73	73	70	66	62
27	CAR	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	14.0	15.6	72	70	70	68	66
28	Niger	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	14.6	15.7	72	70	70	68	62

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
29	Turkmenistan	14.3	12.3	13.6	13.9	15.3	1.5	71	70	70	69	70
30	Nicaragua	12.4	7.6	13.7	13.3	14.1	9.6	71	70	65	56	51
31	Mexico	11.7	9.0	12.5	11.8	11.0	14.6	71	68	67	65	64
32	Oman	14.5	14.1	10.9	13.8	14.1	3.0	70	69	65	66	63
33	Ethiopia	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	15.6	70	69	66	66	65
34	Tunisia	12.4	13.2	10.1	12.6	13.8	8.1	70	69	67	66	67
35	DRC	8.0	7.9	12.6	10.8	14.5	16.1	70	67	67	66	64
36	Bhutan	13.2	13.2	12.3	14.1	14.2	2.2	69	68	66	67	64
37	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.9	68	68	68	65	63
38	Kazakhstan	13.3	11.6	12.2	12.8	14.2	4.3	68	65	65	64	64
39	Tajikistan	14.1	12.7	12.7	13.2	13.7	1.9	68	66	66	65	66
40	Egypt	12.7	13.7	12.1	12.4	10.9	6.3	68	68	68	71	75
41	Qatar	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	0.7	67	67	68	74	67
42	Comoros	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	2.6	67	66	66	63	62
43	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.4	13.1	16.1	67	66	65	65	64
44	Vietnam	10.8	9.5	12.2	14.1	14.1	5.9	67	68	70	71	72
45	Turkey	13.0	11.7	11.7	13.2	11.5	5.4	67	64	66	65	69
46	Colombia	11.0	7.9	12.7	11.5	10.5	12.6	66	68	71	68	67
47	Kyrgyzstan	13.5	10.3	11.7	11.4	12.4	6.9	66	59	59	58	58
48	Brunei	14.8	14.8	10.8	10.8	14.0	0.6	66	66	65	64	64
49	Chad	11.0	8.2	10.2	9.9	10.3	15.9	65	61	58	55	53
50	Jordan	12.9	14.3	10.4	12.2	12.8	2.4	65	65	65	66	64

World Watch List 2025 – Ranks 51-78

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
51	Malaysia	12.8	13.7	11.7	12.4	11.2	3.0	65	64	66	63	63
52	Azerbaijan	13.3	10.2	9.6	12.2	13.7	5.6	65	60	59	60	56
53	Kenya	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	13.9	64	63	64	63	62
54	Nepal	12.2	10.6	9.5	12.6	12.3	5.9	63	62	61	64	66
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	15.4	63	62	63	61	58
56	Russian Federation	12.7	7.9	10.7	13.1	14.1	4.4	63	58	57	56	57
57	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.1	1.7	61	61	60	59	56
58	Kuwait	13.1	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	0.9	61	61	64	64	63
59	Indonesia	10.9	11.9	10.9	11.6	10.2	5.7	61	66	68	68	63
60	UAE	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3	12.8	0.6	61	61	62	62	62
61	Sri Lanka	12.7	8.7	11.5	11.5	8.5	7.6	60	60	57	63	62
62	Palestinian Territories	13.1	13.3	10.3	10.7	12.1	0.2	60	60	60	59	58
63	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	14.6	59	57	55	52	48
64	Rwanda	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	12.1	9.4	58	58	57	50	42
65	Honduras	7.9	4.7	11.7	7.3	9.9	13.1	55	55	53	48	46
66	Togo	9.2	6.7	10.4	7.1	11.5	9.3	54	52	49	44	43
67	Bahrain	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	0.6	54	55	55	57	56
68	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	8.9	54	52	48	43	47
69	Ukraine	6.8	5.0	7.8	12.5	13.5	7.2	53	44	37	37	34
70	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	8.3	53	52	52	51	46
71	Venezuela	6.3	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	9.6	52	53	56	51	39
72	Uganda	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	16.1	52	52	51	48	47
73	Ivory Coast	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	9.6	51	44	44	42	42
74	Lebanon	11.5	10.1	7.0	6.2	6.7	7.2	49	48	40	35	34
75	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	4.4	48	47	44	44	43
76	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	8.1	15.6	47	46	46	43	43

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
77	Belarus	9.9	3.7	5.0	10.8	14.1	3.1	47	46	43	33	30
78	Philippines	9.2	6.6	6.6	6.1	5.7	8.5	43	40	32	34	26

Copyright, sources and definitions

World Watch Research has divided up the previously named Full Country Dossier into two separate documents:

- [Background country information](#) (published annually in summer)
- [Persecution dynamics](#) (published annually in January).

These documents are the property of World Watch Research (WWR), the research department of Open Doors International. They include data and analysis based around Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) and statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD). Highlighted links in the text can be found written out in full at the end of each document under the heading “External links”. These documents may be used and distributed free of charge, but please always acknowledge the source as: © Open Doors International.

The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: “Any hostility experienced as a result of one’s identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians”. This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

The latest update of WWL Methodology can be found on the research pages of the Open Doors website: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Reporting period

The WWL 2025 reporting period was 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024.

Brief country details

In the table below, the number of Christians shown is an Open Doors (OD) estimate.

Sri Lanka: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
21,949,000	2,027,000	9.2

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024 (Adapted according to OD-estimate)

Sri Lanka: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	2,027,000	9.2
Muslim	1,990,488	9.1
Hindu	2,861,390	13.0
Buddhist	14,918,089	68.0
Ethnic religionist	1,208	0.0
Jewish	90	0.0
Bahai	18,727	0.1
Atheist	16,915	0.1
Agnostic	106,723	0.5
Other	8,739	0.0
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., *World Christian Database*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024 (Adapted according to OD-estimate)

Map of country



Areas that have regular reports of difficulties for Christians are the Southern and Eastern provinces and some parts of Northern province.

Dominant persecution engines and drivers

Sri Lanka: Main Persecution engines	Main drivers
Religious nationalism	Government officials, One's own (extended) family, Non-Christian religious leaders, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, Violent religious groups, Political parties

Engines and Drivers are listed in order of strength. Only Very strong / Strong / Medium are shown here.

Brief description of the persecution situation

Converts from a Buddhist or Hindu background face the strongest persecution. They are subject to harassment, discrimination and marginalization by family and community. They are put under pressure to recant Christianity as conversion is regarded as betrayal: All ethnic Sinhalese (the majority in Sri Lanka) are expected to be Buddhist. Similarly, within the minority Tamil population in the northeast, all are expected to be Hindu, except for those belonging to Historical Christian communities. The Christian minority is usually tolerated, as far as Christians from the Historical Christian communities are concerned but converts to Christianity are not. Additionally, non-traditional churches are frequently targeted by the surrounding local community, often stirred up by Buddhist monks and local officials, with demands to close their church buildings which they regard as illegal. Again and again, this ends up with mobs protesting against and attacking churches, especially in rural areas. Reports of such incidents come from all over the island, but are frequently matched by pastors claiming their constitutional right of religious freedom.

The devastating 2022 economic and social situation led to a public opposition movement involving all strands of society, including ethnic and religious minorities. The political turmoil and risk of an economic default was averted when the country agreed with the IMF on conditions for a [seven billion USD loan](#) in March 2023 (Newswire LK, 21 March 2023). A new president was elected in September 2024 (who is not related to any of the leading families) and a new government was elected in November 2024, now led by the president's NPP alliance with a two-thirds majority. Hopes are high for change in the situation of the Christian minority. Indeed, following a [visit to one of the churches bombed](#) at Easter in 2019, President Dissanayake vowed justice for the victims and re-opened investigations (The Hindu, 8 October 2024).

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

- **On Sunday, 31 December 2023**, 25 Buddhist monks surrounded a pastor's house in a village southern Sri Lanka ordering him not to hold any more church services. If he did, they threatened to beat him and drive him out of the village. The pastor has dared to continue by splitting up his church into a number of groups.
- **In March 2024**, letters filled with false accusations against a local church were anonymously distributed to households in a village. The letters encouraged Buddhists to act against the Christian presence. Shortly after, Buddhist monks and villagers sent in a petition to the local authorities demanding an end to the church's activities.

- **In June 2024**, a local pastor was being helped to build a house by church leaders from nearby villages. Local villagers knew this house would be used as a church and complained to a Buddhist monk and the local police who ordered the building work to cease and detained all seven church leaders for 4 days.
- **In July 2024**, a pastor was attacked and seriously injured through stabbing. Residents had told the man who assaulted the pastor that he was receiving funds from abroad to construct a church.

Specific examples of positive developments

Just outside the WWL 2025 reporting period: In October 2024, President Dissanayake [reopened probes into the 2019 Easter bombings](#) after visiting one of the churches targeted and vowing justice for the victims. In connection with this, the president dismissed the country's intelligence chief who appears to have had some form of involvement in the bombings (The Hindu, 8 October 2024).

Christians can be found throughout the country, but are more concentrated in the eastern, western and northern parts of the country, and are least represented in the south. When the Portuguese arrived in Sri Lanka, they built Roman Catholic churches along the eastern and western coast and in some towns. There are fewer Roman Catholic churches in rural areas. Assemblies of God (AoG) churches can be found in many parts of the country now, especially in rural areas. There are also Anglican mission and Methodist churches in some rural areas. The Catholic Church of Sri Lanka is spread over 12 dioceses and generally follows the geographic distribution described above. The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka comprises the Anglican, (Protestant) Church of South India, Methodist, Baptist, Reformed, Salvation Army, Presbyterian, Church of Ceylon, AoG and Foursquare Gospel churches. The National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka mainly represents evangelical groups and has a membership of more than 200 churches, representing more than 200,000 Christians. The Statistics Office of Sri Lanka published an [overview](#) about the religious affiliation per district in 2012.

Christian communities and how they are affected

- **Communities of expatriate Christians:** Expatriate Christians are not forced into isolation. This category is therefore not scored in WWL analysis.
- **Historical Christian communities:** These are groups such as the Roman Catholic Church and some of the eight denominations belonging to the [National Christian Council](#). They are typically less involved in evangelization and face less persecution or violence, but are affected by the overall atmosphere of Buddhist supremacy and are hindered from constructing church buildings at times.
- **Converts to Christianity:** These are Christians coming from Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu backgrounds. They face frequent hostility and violent attacks. New converts are most often seen as traitors by family and community and are consequently harassed, subjected to physical and verbal assaults and to isolation. This occurs mainly in rural villages.
- **Non-traditional Christian communities:** Evangelical, Baptist and Pentecostal congregations are often affected by violent attacks but the perpetrators have changed since the elections in 2015. While previously most attacks were carried out by the main Buddhist radical groups, now attacks are mainly led by village Buddhist monks and local government officials who impose legal restric-

tions on Christians or cover up acts of violence against them. The most frequent accusations concern "worshipping illegally", "unethical conversion" and being connected to Western influence.

Areas where Christians face most difficulties

The provinces of Sri Lanka are Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, North Central, North Western, Uva, Sabaragamuwa and Southern. In areas where there is less diversity, where one ethnic group is in the majority, there tend to be higher levels of pressure and violence targeting Christians. Some areas that could possibly be considered hotspots are the Southern and Eastern provinces, as well as some areas of Northern province. Even in districts that are not normally considered hotspots, there are certain villages where persecution is more intense (for instance, when the village is almost entirely Sinhalese Buddhist). However, problems for Christians coming from the Hindu minority (especially for converts from Hinduism), mainly occur in the Northern and Eastern provinces where they are living.

Position on the World Watch List

Sri Lanka: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2025	60	61
WWL 2024	60	58
WWL 2023	57	62
WWL 2022	63	52
WWL 2021	62	52

In the WWL 2025 reporting period, the overall score remained at 60 points as in WWL 2024. Although the violence score went up from 5.9 points in WWL 2024 to 7.6 points in WWL 2025 and there was also an increase in pressure in the *Community sphere*, pressure went down in other spheres of life. Hostility from Buddhist monks and village mobs caused most problems for churches and their leaders.

Persecution engines

Sri Lanka: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	IO	Very weak
Religious nationalism	RN	Very strong
Ethno-religious hostility	ERH	Not at all
Clan oppression	CO	Not at all
Christian denominational protectionism	CDP	Weak

(table continues below)

Sri Lanka: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Secular intolerance	SI	Not at all
Dictatorial paranoia	DPA	Weak
Organized corruption and crime	OCC	Not at all

The scale for the level of influence of Persecution engines in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Religious nationalism - Buddhist (Very strong)

The Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka is a secular state but its Constitution puts Buddhism first and evidently regards Buddhism as the state religion, while assuring all religions the rights granted by Articles 10 and 14(1)(e). These rights concerning freedom of religion and belief granted in Articles 10 and 14 are, however, frequently limited in all manner of subtle ways as can be seen in the examples below in: *Pressure in the 5 spheres of life*.

Buddhist supremacy is still a concept widely shared in the country. Every Sinhalese is considered to be a Buddhist, so not only Tamil Christians are treated as second-class citizens, but Sinhalese Christians are also looked upon with suspicion, frequently insulted and attacked. Perpetrators are not only the state authorities, as the telling name “Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs” indicates, but also Buddhist monks and local authorities.

Islamic oppression (Very weak)

Although categorized as 'Very weak', this is still mentioned here to indicate the complexity of the country's religious situation and as background for the October 2024 news that investigations into the Easter 2019 bombings of three churches are being re-opened. *Islamic oppression* has always existed to a certain degree, felt mostly by the small number of Christian converts coming from a Muslim background. However, the influence of this engine suddenly spiked, when a radical Islamic fringe group carried out suicide attacks against three churches in April 2019. That was exceptional. The Muslim community of 9.1% is currently under strong pressure due to the numerous crackdowns on radical Muslims and anyone affiliated with militant Islamic groups.

Drivers of persecution

Sri Lanka: Drivers of Persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	VERY STRONG								
Government officials	Very strong								
Non-Christian religious leaders	Strong								
Religious leaders of other churches	Weak								
Violent religious groups	Medium								
Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs	Strong								
One's own (extended) family	Very strong								
Political parties	Medium								

The scale for the level of influence of Drivers of persecution in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

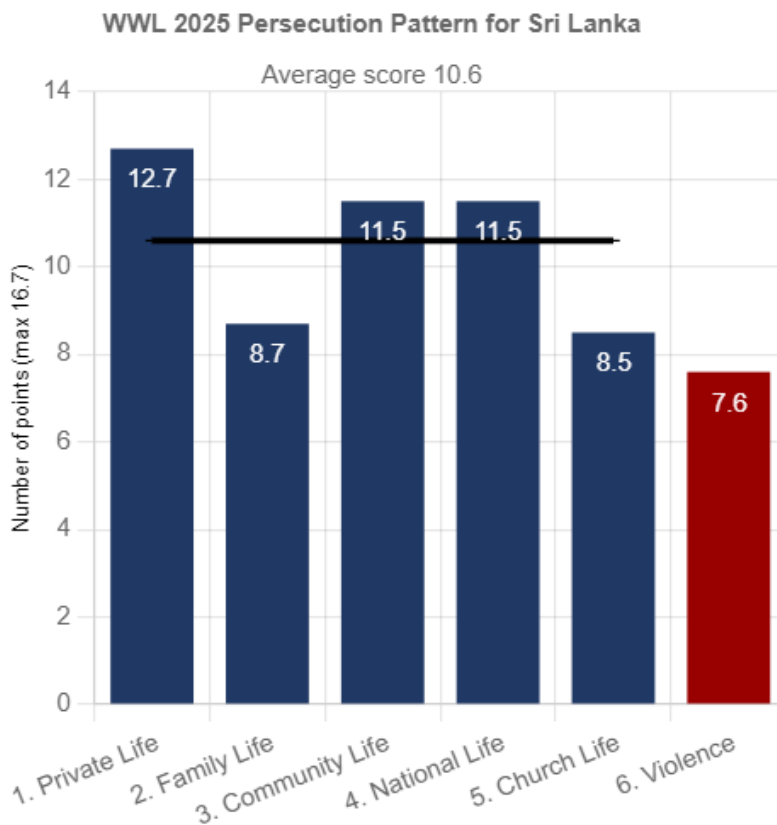
Drivers of Religious nationalism

- Government officials (Very strong):** Government officials (mostly local government officials, police officers and provincial council officers), especially in predominantly Buddhist communities, have continued to be highly involved in action or inaction against Christians. Often, government officials have instigated persecution against Christians by simply heeding to the demands of local Buddhist monks and mobs.
- Extended family and normal citizens (Very strong / Strong):** Family members together with village officials and society in rural areas have often abused Christian converts verbally and demanded that they leave their villages. Converts are put under strong pressure to return to their faith, while non-convert Christians also face pressure either to leave their villages or at least to cease meeting as a Christian group. Such incidents have been reported from the Hindu (Tamil) minority region in the northeast of Sri Lanka as well. To non-Christian parents and elders in the family, conversion is seen as an act of rebellion, which they have the right to correct using whatever means necessary.
- Non-Christian religious leaders (Strong):** Main drivers of persecution are frequently Buddhist monks at the local level. The radical Buddhist movements which drove persecution in earlier years, claiming Sri Lanka as a Buddhist Sinhala nation, seem to be lying dormant for the time being. The Bodu Bala Sena movement (BBS) transformed itself into a political party, but has not been particularly influential in the political arena. Religious leaders, which frequently also double as Ethnic Sinhala leaders, have been calling for the protection of the Sinhala majority. As a country expert explained: "Monks also frequently lead mobs when petitions are signed or protests are

organized against church constructions. Since Buddhist monks are held in high regard by people, government officials who are devout Buddhists themselves, would bend to the will of these monks. In rural areas, monks tend to have more authority than the police or government officials as a result." Young Buddhist religious leaders have been using social media platforms to promote hatred towards religious minorities in the country. Another development is that in the Hindu-majority northeastern areas, groups of radical Hindus belonging to the RSS movement (well-known in India as a strong driver of persecution) are gaining in influence. RSS and Hindu Shiva Senai (HSS) groups infiltrating the country from neighboring countries have been involved in leading violent attacks in the Tamil regions - especially in Eastern province. There have also been incidents in the Northern province.

- **Political parties (Medium):** Political parties tend to join in calls for the protection of the country’s Buddhist heritage, since this gains votes. However, in recent months, political parties were more focused on the challenges of the difficult economic situation.
- **Violent religious groups (Medium):** RSS and Shiva Senai groups are violent religious groups active in the Hindu majority provinces. In their efforts to keep a pure form of Buddhism in Sri Lanka and especially in its villages, such groups can act violently towards the Christian minority. In 2022 - 2024, these groups appear to have been less active than before.

The Persecution pattern



The WWL 2025 Persecution pattern for Sri Lanka shows:

- The average pressure on Christians in Sri Lanka decreased very slightly from 10.8 points in WWL 2024 to 10.6 points.

- Pressure is highest in the *Private, National and Community spheres of life*. Although pressure decreased in *Private, Family and Church life*, it increased significantly in *Community life*. While pressure in the *National sphere* is typical for countries affected by the Persecution engine *Religious nationalism*, pressure in the *Private and Community spheres* points to difficulties faced by Christian converts from other religions.
- The violence score went up from 5.9 points in WWL 2024 to 7.6 points in WWL 2025, reflecting in part a 'back to normal' pattern after the period of protests and turmoil caused by the economic crisis (and political changes) in 2022 and 2023.

Pressure in the 5 spheres of life

In each of the five spheres of life discussed below, four questions have been selected from the WWL 2025 questionnaire for brief commentary and explanation. The selection usually (but not always) reflects the highest scoring elements. In some cases, an additional paragraph per sphere is included to give further information deemed important. To see how individual questions are scored on a scale of 0-4 points, please see the “WWL Scoring example” in the WWL Methodology, available at: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Pressure in Block 1 / Private sphere

Block 1.4: It has been risky for Christians to reveal their faith in written forms of personal expression (including expressions in blogs and Facebook etc.). (3.00 points): Regardless of denominational affiliations, when Christians share Christian content on social media it very often receives hostile and malicious comments from people of other religious groups and frequently involves the use of obscene language.

Block 1.3: It has been dangerous to privately own or keep Christian materials. (2.75 points): The possession of Christian materials is mostly a problem for converts in a non-Christian family. Some converts only dare to read the Bible when they are outside the family home. A country researcher recounted an incident where an older, non-Christian brother angrily tore up his younger brother's Bible. There was also a report of a woman who only takes home portions of Scripture written on loose sheets of paper to avoid having a Bible discovered at her home.

Block 1.5: It has been risky for Christians to display Christian images or symbols. (2.50 points): Since many converts do not reveal their faith immediately but wait until some time passes, they cannot attempt to wear a cross or put up Bible verses in their rooms at home. This is particularly the case in rural areas and also affects other categories of Christians if they are the only Christian family in the neighborhood.

Block 1.6: It has been risky for Christians to access Christian radio or TV, or Christian material on the Internet. (2.50 points): This particularly affects Christians when they are the only converts in a family home. But it can be the case for any Christians living in a Buddhist-, Hindu- or Muslim-majority area where neighbors can quickly become hostile if they hear Christian hymns, for example. Village residents, police authorities and local Buddhist monks monitor the activities of Christians in their villages in order to know when to incite attacks against them or to find faults that they can accuse them of.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

Block 2.9: Children of Christians have been harassed or discriminated against because of their parents' faith. (3.25 points): Children of Christians often face bullying by their school peers. Teachers at school have also been reported to pick on them, particularly when they know the father is a pastor of a non-traditional church. There have also been incidents where state-run schools refused the enrollment of students when they learned that they were Christians. Since families are close-knit and it is common for relatives or grandparents to live in the same house or close by, some will try to dissuade children from following their parents' faith.

Block 2.4: Christian baptisms have been hindered. (3.00 points): This particularly affects converts and non-traditional Christian communities, where baptisms are usually kept very low-profile and are not carried out in the home village to avoid local anti-Christian sentiment and opposition.

Block 2.13: Christians have lost their inheritance rights because of their conversion to Christianity or (if a person already was a Christian) other types of Christianity. (2.25 points): The denial or loss of inheritance rights is one of the most common threats in trying to bring a new convert back to his or her old faith. If this threat does not succeed, the converts lose their inheritance (which is often land). Convert girls in Tamil areas have sometimes not been given their dowry and in other cases all ties to the family are cut.

Block 2.11: Spouses of converts have been put under pressure (successfully or unsuccessfully) by others to divorce. (1.75 points): Divorce itself is rare, but there is at times pressure to divorce nonetheless. A pastor reported that families would sometimes threaten to cut ties with their son if their wife did not give up Christianity and return to her original faith. Expulsion from the family home was a more common threat.

Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere

Block 3.7: Christians have been pressured by their community to renounce their faith. (3.75 points): Christians, especially converts (but not exclusively), are frequently urged to follow Buddhism. This can be done in subtle, non-violent ways, which usually begin by hindering contact with the local Christian group. For instance, a church leader reported: "When distributing government benefits to children in the school or to the families in the community, less priority is given to Christians. Sometimes they do not give them any benefits which makes some of the poorer Christian families give up on their faith. In some places, the other religious leaders meet poor families of the community to provide for them at just the time for attending church. Tuition classes for children in the community are conducted on Sundays so that the Christian children also do not attend the church." Christians are more likely to succumb to pressure to renounce their faith where their contact with other Christians has been weakened.

Block 3.9: Christians have faced disadvantages in their education at any level for faith-related reasons (e.g. restrictions of access to education). (3.75 points): Christians often face discrimination and restrictions in their education in government institutions. Christian children have been denied admission to schools in contravention to Education Ministry Circulars and the Assisted Schools Act. Christian students have also been forced to observe Buddhist rituals in state schools. A school upholding Buddhist values and practices will not give positions of leadership to students who do not

participate in those religious activities, which means Christian children get less leadership opportunities. Also, a country expert reports that in Roman Catholic schools, children from families belonging to other Christian groups are not accepted.

Block 3.2: Christians have been monitored by their local communities or by private groups (this includes reporting to police, being shadowed, telephone lines listened to, emails read/censored, etc.). (3.00 points): Particularly in rural areas, local community members keep a close eye on church activities and the activities of church workers. They then report their observations to the local Buddhist monk and local authorities. Government officials are also known to monitor places of worship and state intelligence agents visit pastors to talk to them about their activities.

Block 3.10: Christians have been discriminated against in public or private employment for faith-related reasons. (3.00 points): It is usual that Buddhists get first preference when it comes to employment, with Christians often being treated as second-class citizens. There have also been reports of workers facing verbal abuse from superiors if it becomes known they have converted to Christianity. One country expert told of a member of staff at a government hospital who had to keep changing her shift to get Sundays off to go to church. However, when the hospital authorities found out why she was changing her shift, they no longer gave her permission.

Pressure in Block 4 / National sphere

Block 4.1: The Constitution (or comparable national or state law) limits freedom of religion as formulated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (4.00 points): Article 10 of the Constitution provides for freedom of thought, conscience and religion for every individual, but there are restrictions: Article 9 states that Buddhism is to hold the "foremost place" among the country's religions and Article 14(2) presents a wide range of vaguely defined restrictions which can be interpreted to limit the religious freedom of Christians. In addition, as stated by the [US State Department IRFR 2023 Sri Lanka](#): "According to a 2003 Supreme Court ruling, the state is constitutionally required to protect only Buddhism; other religions do not have the same right to state protection. The same ruling also holds that no fundamental right to proselytize exists or is protected under the constitution. In 2017, the Supreme Court determined the right to propagate one's religion is not protected by the constitution."

Block 4.10: Media reporting has been incorrect or biased against Christians. (3.25 points): Media such as TV and newspapers mostly report incidents that paint churches in a negative light. In some areas, when people oppose church activities, the local media would report the incident based only on what the persecuting party claims and would not include the church's side of the story. For instance, one channel claimed as fact that Christians give money to the poor to convert them to Christianity. Social media is used by Hindu and Buddhist groups to spread harmful narratives about Christians, particularly concerning allegations of forced conversion.

Block 4.8: Christians have been hindered in expressing their views or opinions in public. (2.75 points): During the 2022 demonstrations, Roman Catholic church leaders were able to openly criticize the government. However, it is a different story for Christians belonging to non-traditional church groups and converts. In many local situations, since converting is seen as turning one's back on family and traditions, many have a low view of Christians and their opinions are often deemed not worth listening to. Even mentioning that 'Buddhists need Jesus' can have legal consequences.

Block 4.13: Christians have been accused of blasphemy or insulting the majority religion, either by state authorities or by pressure groups. (2.75 points): Biased media reports and hate speech on social media often relate to accusations that Christians have insulted the majority religion, Buddhism. Similarly, in majority Tamil areas, where groups like HSS promote 'Siva bhoomi' (a notion that this land belongs to the god shiva), the presence of Christian activities is considered to be insulting to traditional Hindu values.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

Block 5.11: Pastors or other Christian leaders (or their family members) have been special targets of harassment for faith-related reasons. (3.50 points): This mostly affects non-traditional church groups in rural areas, where house-church leaders will be targeted for interrogation, for instance, where there are complaints from neighboring households. Pastor's children are also more vulnerable to bullying and discrimination at school.

Block 5.1: Church activities have been monitored, hindered, disturbed, or obstructed. (3.00 points): Village mobs, often led by Buddhist monks, police and local authorities have continued to disrupt Christian gatherings, questioning the legality of their activities, and take these cases to the higher authorities. This is particularly the case where Bible study groups meet in a private home or where house-churches operate.

Block 5.14: Openly selling or distributing Bibles (or other Christian materials) has been hindered. (2.50 points): Selling Bibles and Christian books is permitted in bookshops in most parts of the country. However, in rural areas in particular, Christians from non-traditional church groups will experience intense opposition if they distribute booklets and Bible portions to non-Christians, as many see this as an attempt to convert people.

Block 5.6: Work among youth in particular has been restricted. (2.00 points): This affects non-traditional Christian groups active in Tamil areas, where HSS has a strong influence. HSS has been setting up attractive youth education centers to counter the effectiveness of Christian youth ministries.

Violence

Violence is defined in WWL Methodology as the deprivation of physical freedom or as bodily harm to Christians or damage to their property. It includes severe threats (mental abuse). The table is based on reported cases as much as possible, but since many incidents go unreported, the numbers must be understood as being minimum figures. The following points should be considered when using the data provided in the Block 6 table:

1. Some incidents go unreported because the Christians involved choose not to speak about the hostility being faced. Possible reasons for this may be:

- Doing so would expose them to more attacks. For example, if a family member is killed because of his/her faith, the survivors might decide to keep silent about the circumstances of the killing to avoid provoking any further attacks.
- In some circumstances, the reticence to pass on information may be due to the danger of exposure caused by converts returning to their previous faith.
- If persecution is related to sexual violence - due to stigma, survivors often do not tell even their closest relatives.
- In some cultural settings, if your loved one is killed, you might be under the obligation to take revenge. Christians not wishing to do that, may decide to keep quiet about it.

2. Other incidents go unreported for the following possible reasons:

- Some incidents never reach the public consciousness, because no one really knows about it; or the incident is simply not considered worth reporting; or media coverage is deliberately blocked or distorted; or media coverage is not deliberately blocked, but the information somehow gets lost; or the incidents are deliberately not reported widely for security reasons (e.g. for the protection of local church leaders).
- In situations where Christians have been discriminated against for many years, armed conflict can make them additionally vulnerable. Christians killed in areas where fighting regularly takes place are unlikely to be reported separately. Examples in recent years have been Sudan, Syria and Myanmar.
- Christians who die through the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care (due to long-term discrimination) are unlikely to be reported separately. Christians are not always killed directly; they can be so squeezed by regulations and other oppressive factors that they die – not at once, but in the course of years. This often includes the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care, or exclusion from government assisted socio-economic development projects. These numbers could be immense.

3. The use of symbolic numbers:

- In cases where it has been impossible to count exactly, a symbolic round figure (10*, 100* etc.) is given and indicated with an asterisk. A symbolic number of 10* could in reality even be 100 or more but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 100* could go well over 1000 but the real number is uncertain.

Sri Lanka: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
6.1 How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?	0	0
6.2 How many churches or public Christian properties (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	9	7
6.3 How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	8	5
6.4 How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons?	1	0
6.5 How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)?	0	0
6.6 How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?	0	0
6.7 How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?	3	0
6.8 How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)?	43	10 *

(table continues below)

Sri Lanka: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
6.9 How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	7	5
6.10 How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	1	1
6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	13	7
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	0	1

In the WWL 2025 reporting period:

- **Churches attacked:** At least seven churches were damaged by angry Buddhist villagers; one church has been forced to close due to complaints of noise; a village mob vandalized a rural church-run education center. Various other intimidating actions by mobs and Buddhist monks occurred, where church services and prayer meetings were disrupted.
- **Christians detained:** In one case in June 2024, the police arrested five pastors and two church workers, while a house-church was under construction.
- **Christians physically or mentally abused:** In connection with attacks against churches, Christians have often been physically and verbally abused and harassed. For instance, a pastor was seriously injured in a stabbing and there were 3 incidents reported of husbands beating their convert wives for attending church services.
- **Christian homes/property/shops attacked:** There were various reports of deliberate damage and theft clearly targeting pastors to ruin their livelihoods.

5 Year trends

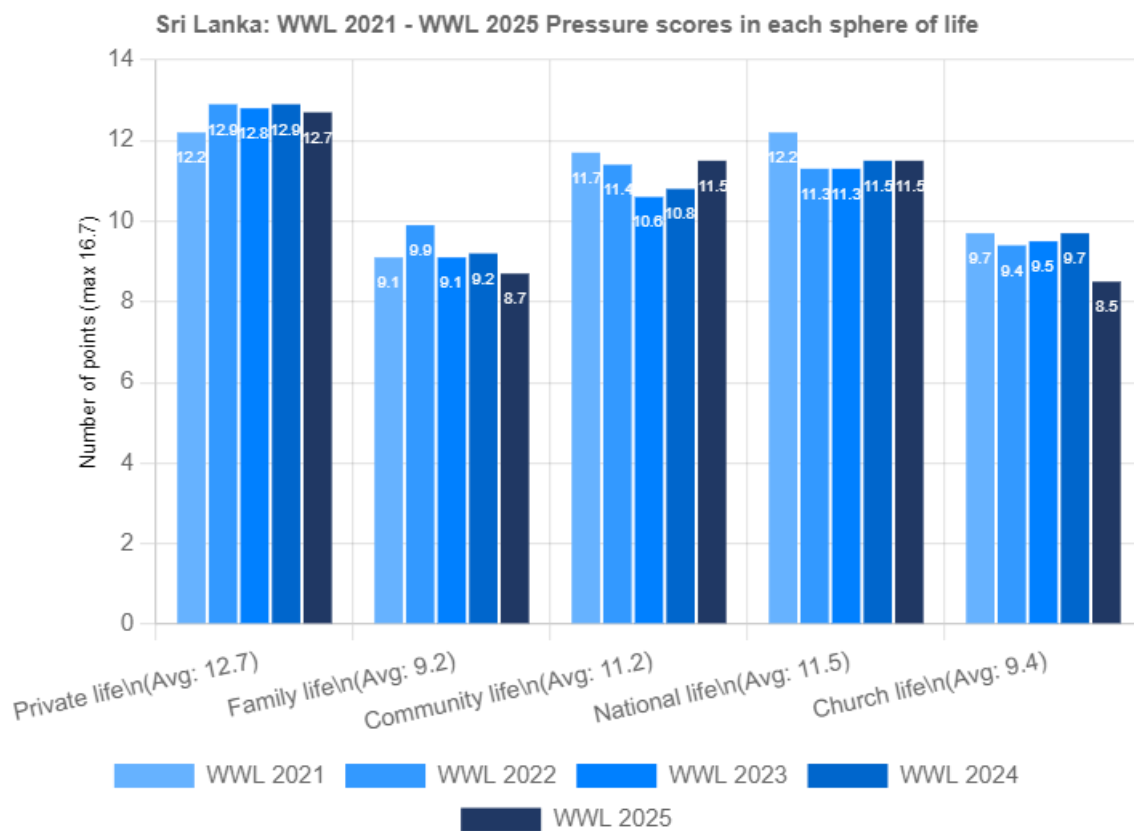
The following three charts show the levels of pressure and violence faced by Christians in the country over the last five WWL reporting periods.

5 Year trends: Average pressure

The table below shows that the overall tendency in the last five years is to a gradual decline in the average pressure on Christians, going down from 11.0 points in WWL 2021 to 10.6 points in WWL 2025.

Sri Lanka: WWL 2021 - WWL 2025	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2025	10.6
2024	10.8
2023	10.7
2022	11.0
2021	11.0

5 Year trends: Pressure in each sphere of life

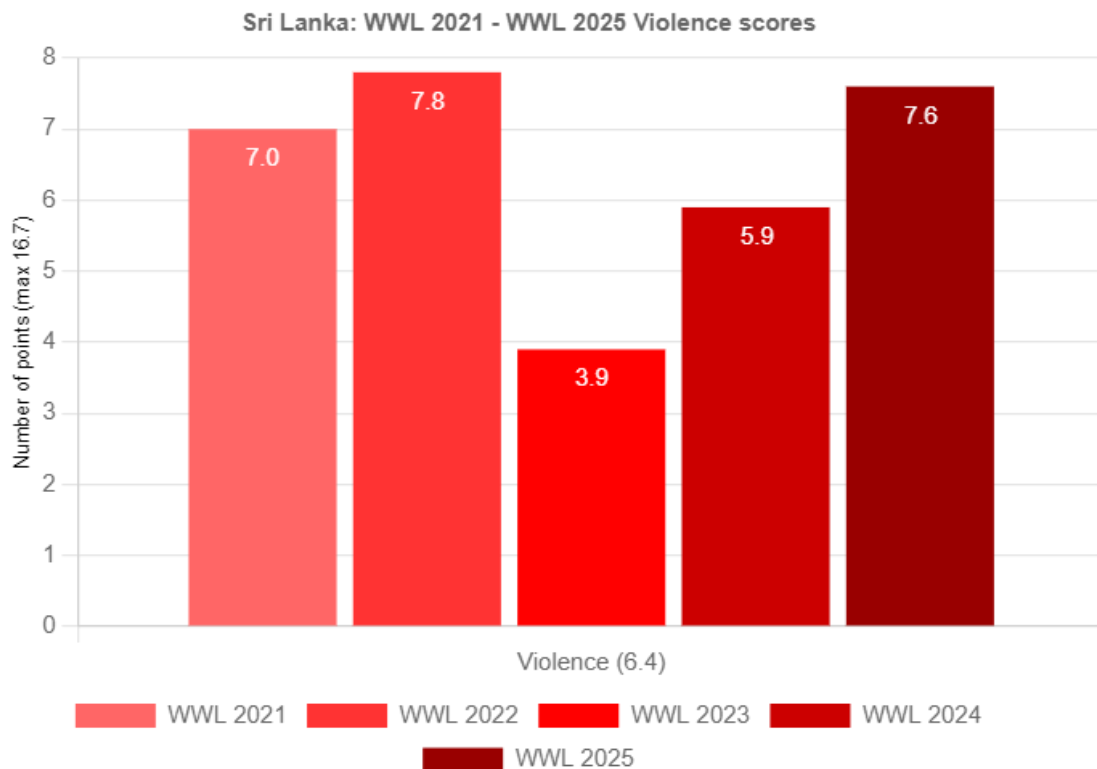


The chart above shows the development of pressure in the individual *spheres of life* over the last five reporting periods. Pressure has always been highest in *Private life*, *National life* and *Community life*. Pastors have continued to hold church meetings despite frequent intimidation from Buddhist villagers and monks in many areas.

5 Year trends: Violence against Christians

As can be seen in the chart below, after falling dramatically in WWL 2023, the violence score has since then been on the rise again and reached in WWL 2025 a similar very high level as in WWL 2022.

In WWL 2023, the authorities and communities were more focused on coping with the country's economic and political crisis than on dealing aggressively with Christians. However, since then, the pattern of violent incidents has returned again to a more "normal" shape.



Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

The economic crisis in 2022 and 2023, paired with the legacy of COVID-19 and climate emergencies have led to devastating impacts on the security of women in Sri Lanka, with drastically increased violence against women and girls. [UN Women](#) (Asia and The Pacific, accessed 21 March 2024) notes that along with considerable spikes in cases of domestic and/or intimate partner violence, the crises have also led to spikes in human trafficking, sexual bribery, exploitative sex work, rape and femicide.

While Sri Lanka has made recent positive steps to address the protection of women (such as establishing the Office on Missing Persons and Office for Reparations), the risk of sexual violence remains high and perpetrators frequently enjoy impunity (Report of the UN Secretary General, June 2020, "[Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)", p.42). However, the Sri Lankan government has continuously failed to adequately investigate and hold perpetrators accountable for gender-based violence, trafficking and related violence. For example, almost all rape cases committed by soldiers during Sri Lanka's civil war have not been prosecuted resulting in under-reporting and impunity.

Sexual assault is a weapon used against all women, regardless of religion. For a Christian woman however, she is doubly vulnerable because of her faith. When Christian women and girls - not just converts - are subjected to this kind of persecution, their families are more reluctant to allow them out for any church-related work again. In recent years there have been few reported cases of rape, but

sexual harassment has remained an ongoing issue. A country expert summarizes: “If there has been any kind of sexual assault due to their faith, most often it would be considered as a shame towards the whole family. This also in extension impacts their prospects for marriage.”

Female converts are also at risk of being denied access to Christian religious materials and teaching, and can be cut off from churches which are a source of community and fellowship. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to this kind of isolation in light of Sri Lanka’s patriarchal society, and female converts find it difficult to overcome the verbal harassment they receive from their families and communities. Women grapple with increasing burdens of unpaid care work and shrinking incomes, along with shrinking social protection systems; this means that women’s access to protection and justice in Sri Lanka also continues to decrease. A country expert comments: “Although women do play important roles in families, they are often expected to submit to the authority of their husbands and fathers. When pressure arises for women/girls who convert from their husbands/fathers, the community and family see their resistance as being stubborn and disrespectful, which creates an environment where they will receive more hateful comments and rejection from people around them.” On rare occasions, they may even be divorced by their husband due to their conversion.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

Christian leaders often bear the brunt of attacks against a church. As men are often in such roles, they are most often the victims of physical attack and threats (although Sri Lanka has a comparatively high number of female church leaders). Pastors and Christian leaders (and their family members) who have a ministry or church in Sinhalese-dominated areas are frequently targeted and harassed by Buddhist monks and villagers for faith-related reasons. Pastors have been targeted and intimidated in their own homes and communities.

Sri Lanka is a male-dominated, patriarchal society. As such, when a man is physically assaulted, it also creates a sense of shame within rural close-knit communities. They can also be targeted by the authorities. A pastor shares: “Pastors in [some] areas are not given the deeds to the land they live in by government officials to make sure they do not build churches ...Pastors also face challenges when trying to get building plans for their houses approved from the relevant government office. Officials would be reluctant to approve the plans and often suspect pastors of trying to build a church.”

The persecution of men and boys particularly affects the livelihood of Christian families. Especially in rural communities, males are the financial providers of the family, so losing a job or livelihood financially affects the whole Christian family and creates fear. It is mostly men who experience verbal harassment in the workplace. Reports indicate that businesses have been damaged and that Christian men have been denied jobs.

Persecution of other religious minorities

According to the US State Department ([IRFR 2023 Sri Lanka](#)):

- "Muslim NGOs and organizations continued to report police harassment and surveillance of their activities since the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings."
- "Jehovah's Witnesses said they had been present and active in the country for more than a century and reported more than 7,000 members. Despite multiple meetings with the Ministry of Buddhasasana and the Department of Christian Affairs in 2020 and 2021, they said they did not receive clear guidelines regarding registration and, as an unregistered religious group, did not receive the same rights and privileges as registered religious groups. A 2023 report released by a religious group said the approval process for construction permits for places of worship lacked transparency and consistency resulting in abuse and discrimination against some religious groups, including minority religious groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses."

According to the US State Department ([IRFR 2022 Sri Lanka](#)):

- "The government continued to require all imported Islamic religious books, including the Quran, undergo review before being released as part of what the Ministry of Defense (MOD) said was a counterterrorism measure to screen for extremist content."
- "On February 2 [2022], Fathima Famitha Rameez, a Muslim teacher who was assigned to teach at Shanmuga Hindu Ladies College in Trincomalee, was confronted and threatened by a group of persons in the principal's office; one member of the group allegedly attempted to strangle her. When police arrived at the school, the principal accused Rameez of pushing her and injuring her leg; both the principal and Rameez were admitted to the hospital. Rameez said she was blocked from working at the school because she wore an abaya."
- "On May 9 [2022], several hotels and houses in Negombo were attacked, set on fire and looted during country-wide protests that turned violent. On May 10, a group of persons attacked the majority-Muslim Deen Junction neighborhood in Negombo, alleging that the May 9 looters were Muslims. They attacked 16 Muslim-owned shops and set vans, three-wheelers, motorcycles, and bicycles on fire. Three Muslims and one Sinhalese Buddhist injured in the attack were taken to Negombo Hospital."

Buddhist nationalist monks campaign strongly not just against Christians but also against the country's Muslim minority. While physical violence has been rare since the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 the government [announced](#) the closing of 1000 Muslim madrassas across the island as well as a ban on the wearing of burqas (AP News, 13 March 2021).

The Hindu minority continues to be watched with suspicion which is partly due to religious bias, and partly due to the country's history of bitter war, when the predominantly Hindu minority of Tamils in the Northern and Eastern provinces fought for independence (the LTTE was supported by many, but not by all Tamils). These Hindu communities are increasingly becoming drivers of persecution against Christian converts and churches in their midst. Incidents against Hindus include restricting their participation in *poojas* (a form of Hindu worship), constructing Buddha statues in the premises of Hindu temples, taking over land belonging to Hindu places of worship etc. The Department of

Archaeology in particular has been accused of being complicit in the appropriation of sacred Hindu sites.

Trends Summary

1) Sri Lanka continues to look both to China and India for investment

Sri Lanka's leaders have always had to navigate between the two Asian giants, neighboring India and not-so-far-away China. Although China has played a significant role in alleviating Sri Lanka's debts and had an [important voice](#) in the restructuring, it should not be forgotten that Western countries and institutions are large debtors of Sri Lanka as well (Panda Paw Dragon Claw, 13 June 2022). It is still uncertain whether China really intends to create a [military port](#) in Sri Lanka within the next two to five years, as one research report claimed (The Diplomat, 15 August 2023). It remains to be seen how Sri Lanka will continue to woo China and navigate the foreign policy challenges. Of the two main rivals for influence in Sri Lanka, in 2024 it seems that India has taken the lead for now. Newly elected President Dissanayake is scheduled to [visit](#) President Modi in India in November 2024 (Devdiscourse, 15 October 2024).

2) Sri Lanka would seem to be enjoying a breath of fresh air

When Ranil Wickremesinghe became president in July 2022 for a sixth time (less than a week after President Rajapaksa fled the country and resigned), it was well known that he was [close to the Rajapaksa family](#) (Nikkei, 20 July 2022). Many saw his presidency as a black mark on democracy as his party had not secured any seats in parliament and Wickremesinghe was the only representative to have entered parliament through the National List. The fact that a friend of Rajapaksa was suddenly in office as president without having the people's vote, was a source of frustration for many (if not most) of Sri Lanka's population. Although improvements in the economic situation began to be seen in 2023, the government's heavy-handedness against any real or perceived opposition bred discontent. Thus, the election in September 2024 of leftist Dissanayake as president - a politician with no connections whatsoever to elite ruling families - came as something of a breath of fresh air (as was also indicated by the landslide NPP coalition election win in November 2024). Almost immediately, the Christian community felt taken seriously when the new president ordered the re-opening of the investigation into the Easter bombing of three Catholic churches in 2019. However, it should not be forgotten that the president's party, JVP, has identified itself with Sinhala Buddhist ideology in the past, and so Christians should not set their hopes too high that this political change will mark the beginning of the end of discrimination, Sinhala supremacy and violence.

Further useful reports

Further background information per country and a selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-background/>
- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/>.

External Links

- Copyright, sources and definitions: Background country information - <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-background/>
- Copyright, sources and definitions: Persecution Dynamics - <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/country-dossiers/>
- Brief description of the persecution situation: seven billion USD loan - <https://www.newswire.lk/2023/03/20/imf-approves-the-extendedfund-facility-to-sri-lanka-govt/>
- Brief description of the persecution situation: visit to one of the churches bombed - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lanka-orders-new-probe-into-easter-sunday-bombings/article68734185.ece>
- Specific examples of positive developments: reopened probes into the 2019 Easter bombings - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lanka-orders-new-probe-into-easter-sunday-bombings/article68734185.ece>
- Church spectrum today - additional information: overview - http://www.statistics.gov.lk/PopHouSat/PopulationAtla_2012/03_DistrictMaps/Map%20P2.5.1%20Population%20by%20Religion%20and%20District,%202012.pdf
- Christian communities and how they are affected: National Christian Council - <http://nccsl.org/web/member-churches/>
- Block 4.1: The Constitution (or comparable national or state law) limits freedom of religion as formulated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (4.00 points): US State Department IRFR 2023 Sri Lanka - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/sri-lanka/>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: UN Women - <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/sri-lanka/evaw>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: Conflict-Related Sexual Violence - <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/report/conflict-related-sexual-violence-report-of-the-united-nations-secretary-general/2019-SG-Report.pdf>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: IRFR 2023 Sri Lanka - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/sri-lanka/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: IRFR 2022 Sri Lanka - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom/sri-lanka/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: announced - <https://apnews.com/article/cabinets-national-security-islamic-state-group-sri-lanka-eb23fb57fd43ba306c4716b87de026fe>
- Trends Summary: important voice - <https://pandapawdragonclaw.blog/2022/06/13/from-project-financing-to-debt-restructuring-chinas-role-in-sri-lankas-debt-situation/>
- Trends Summary: military port - <https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/aiddata-report-warns-of-a-chinese-naval-base-in-sri-lankas-hambantota-port/>
- Trends Summary: visit - <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/politics/3122198-diplomatic-dialogues-president-dissanayakes-delayed-visit-to-delhi>
- Trends Summary: close to the Rajapaksa family - <https://asia.nikkei.com/Location/South-Asia/Sri-Lanka/Sri-Lanka-s-Wickremesinghe-elected-president-after-Rajapaksa-exit>