
World Watch Research

Uzbekistan: Persecution Dynamics

December 2024



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Open Doors International / World Watch Research

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research@od.org

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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	71	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 and on the Open Doors Analytical website:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>
- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/> (password: freedom).

Reporting period

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

Brief country details

Uzbekistan: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
35,674,000	406,000	1.1

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Uzbekistan: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	406,000	1.1
Muslim	33,837,000	94.9
Hindu	980	0.0
Buddhist	37,400	0.1
Ethnic religionist	54,200	0.2
Jewish	3,800	0.0
Bahai	1,100	0.0
Atheist	309,000	0.9
Agnostic	1,021,000	2.9
Other	2,180	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

Map of country



Dominant persecution engines and drivers

Uzbekistan:	
Main Persecution engines	Main drivers
Dictatorial paranoia	Government officials, Political parties, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs
Islamic oppression	Non-Christian religious leaders, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, One's own (extended) family, Government officials, Ethnic group leaders
Clan oppression	Non-Christian religious leaders, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, One's own (extended) family, Government officials, Ethnic group leaders

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

Brief description of the persecution situation

All categories of Christian communities (except expatriate Christians) are experiencing some form of pressure and violence on grounds of their faith. Russian Orthodox churches face the least problems from the government as they do not usually attempt to make contact with the Uzbek population. It is the indigenous Christians with a Muslim background who are bearing the brunt of persecution both at the hands of the state and from family, friends and community. Where churches have not been registered, Christians suffer repeatedly from police raids, threats, arrests and fines.

Summary of international obligations and rights violations

Uzbekistan has committed to respect and protect fundamental rights in the following international treaties:

1. [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#)
2. [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\)](#)
3. [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(CAT\)](#)
4. [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)
5. [Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#)

Uzbekistan is not fulfilling its international obligations by regularly violating or failing to protect the following rights of Christians:

- Christians are killed for their faith (ICCPR Art. 6)
- Churches from non-traditional denominations are raided, services disrupted and attenders arbitrarily arrested (ICCPR Arts. 9; 18 and 21)
- Ownership and consultation of religious literature is severely restricted beyond international permitted limitations (ICCPR Arts. 18 and 19)
- Christians and their activities are monitored by the authorities and surrounding community (ICCPR Art. 17)

- Christian female converts run the risk of being abducted and forcibly married to Muslim men (ICCPR Art. 23; CEDAW Art. 16 and ICESCR Art. 10)

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

- **August 2024:** The regime has continued to block Bukhara's registered Baptist Union Church from meeting since May 2021. Officials refused Bukhara's Baptist Church permission to rebuild its church, which they sealed after water damage in 2021 (Source: [Forum 18, 15 August 2024](#)).
- **April 2024:** On 25 April, Judge Nurlubay Akimniyazov ordered the destruction of two buildings under construction belonging to Urgench Council of Churches Baptists (Source: [Forum 18, 13 August 2024](#)).

Out of security concerns, many reported incidents cannot be made public. In one report a young Christian woman was raped and killed.

Christian communities and how they are affected

Communities of expatriate Christians: Expatriate Christians in Uzbekistan are not forced into isolation. This category is therefore not included in the WWL scoring.

Historical Christian communities: The Russian Orthodox Church has accustomed itself to the limitations provided by the government and is therefore left more or less undisturbed. Church services may be monitored, but they are conducted unhindered and members can meet without fear of arrest. However, the printing or importing of Christian materials is restricted.

Converts to Christianity: Christian converts from a Muslim background bear the brunt of persecution in Uzbekistan. Apart from suffering at the hands of the state, they are also under strong pressure from family, friends and community. For them, hostility from the latter is by far the most serious challenge.

Non-traditional Christian communities: After converts, this category of Christians is the next most persecuted group - and especially when the churches have not been registered. Baptist, Evangelical and Pentecostal groups suffer from raids, threats, arrests and fines.

Areas where Christians face most difficulties

The level of persecution by government officials in Uzbekistan is the same all over the country. Pressure from family, friends and community on converts is stronger outside the urban areas, especially in the Fergana Valley in the east.

Position on the World Watch List

Uzbekistan: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2025	73	25
WWL 2024	71	25
WWL 2023	71	21
WWL 2022	71	21
WWL 2021	71	21

The score of 73 points is two points higher than in the previous four WWL reporting periods. The increase of violent incidents in Uzbekistan is the main reason for the increase in points. In WWL 2025, although the score for pressure went down very slightly in *Family, Community, National and Church spheres of life*, and stayed the same in the *Private sphere of life*, the violence score increased from 1.7 points in WWL 2024 to 4.4 points. *Islamic oppression (blended with Clan oppression)* dominates in the *Private and Family spheres of life*, while *Dictatorial paranoia* dominates in the *National and Church spheres of life*. Both engines 'meet' each other in the *Community sphere of life*. Muslim families, friends and villagers exert pressure on converts in particular, while the government imposes many restrictions on church activities and Christians belonging to non-registered churches have suffered from police raids, threats, arrests and fines.

Persecution engines

Uzbekistan: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	IO	Strong
Religious nationalism	RN	Not at all
Ethno-religious hostility	ERH	Not at all
Clan oppression	CO	Strong
Christian denominational protectionism	CDP	Very weak
Communist and post-Communist oppression	CPCO	Not at all
Secular intolerance	SI	Not at all
Dictatorial paranoia	DPA	Strong
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.

Dictatorial paranoia (Strong)

No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed. Protestants are frequently branded as "extremists" for their practice of religion outside state-sanctioned structures. It is very common that members of Protestant churches are regarded as followers of a foreign sect that has only one goal, namely to spy on and destroy the current political system. From this perspective they need to be not only controlled, but if necessary, even eradicated. Security forces have stepped up monitoring measures in order to find "extremists". This has also affected Christians and churches.

Islamic oppression (Strong), blended with Clan oppression (Strong)

If indigenous citizens (who are Muslim) convert to Christianity, they are likely to experience pressure and occasionally physical violence from their families, friends and local community to force them to return to their former faith. Some converts are locked up by their families for long periods, beaten and may eventually be expelled from their communities. Local imams preach against them, so adding pressure. As a result, most converts will do their best to hide their faith – they become so-called secret believers.

Drivers of persecution

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

Uzbekistan: Drivers of Persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	STRONG	-	-	STRONG	VERY WEAK	-	-	STRONG	-
Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Organized crime cartels or networks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral organizations (e.g. UN, OIC etc.) and embassies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Drivers of Dictatorial paranoia

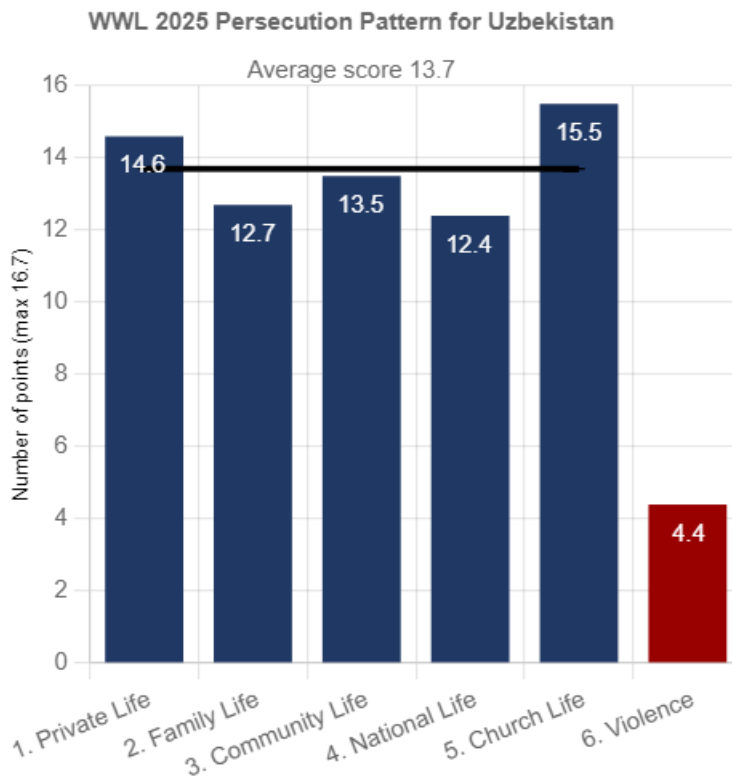
- **Government officials (Strong):** The law prohibits all unregistered religious activity and religious propagation in any form. Religious literature can only be used by registered religious associations within its registration area. Protestant groups are regarded as suspect and are forbidden from distributing Christian material. Many Christians have been arrested for trying to convert local Muslims. Non-Orthodox Christians are known to be detained, fined and beaten for simply possessing Christian materials or simply participating in illegal religious groups (which is how most non-Orthodox groups are viewed). The authorities frequently confiscate Christian property and possessions. A clever way of prohibiting proselytization is that it is illegal to preach in the Uzbek language; one can only do it in Russian. However, Russian is mainly only spoken by the older generation, making church growth more difficult.
- **Political parties (Strong):** Few parties are allowed in Uzbekistan but the ruling party which controls the government of President Mirziyoyev participates in persecution insofar as much of the pressure and violence targeting Christians is government-sanctioned.
- **Normal citizens (Medium):** Especially at the local level, mobs with support from the government have been known to interrupt Christian religious festivals and celebrations.

Drivers of Islamic oppression, blended with Clan oppression

- **Extended family (Strong):** Pressure from family, friends and community can be harsh on converts, especially in rural areas. This can lead to threats, beatings, house-arrest and ostracism.
- **Non-Christian religious leaders (Strong):** Most Muslim clerics are open in their hostility towards non-Orthodox Christians - particularly towards converts from Islam.
- **Normal citizens (Strong):** Converts to Christianity are treated severely by the local community.
- **Government officials (Medium):** At the community level there is a link between local officials and Muslim pressure. Often, active Muslims and local officials know each other. Therefore, the pressure on converts is stronger at the community level than at the state level (where officials claim to be secular).

- **Ethnic or Clan group leaders (Medium):** With the support of the authorities, leaders of [Mahalla community groups](#) have been given government authorization to prohibit Christian missionary activity (Global Informality Project, accessed 11 December 2024).

The Persecution pattern



The WWL 2025 Persecution pattern for Uzbekistan shows:

- The average pressure on Christians is at an extremely high level (13.7 points), not much different from the 13.9 points score in WWL 2024. This indicates that very little has changed in Uzbekistan over the last reporting period.
- The *Church* and *Private spheres of life* have extremely high values. The scores for the *Family*, *Community* and *National spheres of life* are classified as very high. The fact that the highest score is in the *Church sphere* reflects the extreme pressure the state is continuing to impose through many restrictions.
- The score for violence increased significantly in WWL 2025 (reaching 4.4 points, up from 1.7 points in WWL 2024), as a greater number of violent incidents were reported.

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://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/>, password: freedom).

Pressure in Block 1 / Private sphere

Block 1.3: It has been dangerous to privately own or keep Christian materials. (3.75 points)

In the case of converts, persecution comes most of all from their family or community if they find Christian materials. Christian materials are considered as hard evidence for conversion. Discovery can lead to fierce reactions. Pressure from the government is also high since it is illegal to possess religious materials. Even a Bible must bear a stamp indicating that it was published in Uzbekistan. It is illegal to have more than one Bible per person. It is illegal to carry a Bible outside your home. It is illegal to read the Bible or any religious literature in public. A family was once fined for a Christian poem found on a piece of paper in the bed of a boy who was memorizing it for Sunday school.

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.). (3.75 points)

From the Muslim perspective, this has two sides to it: First, converts who reveal their new faith will instantly draw the ire of their family, friends and community; and secondly, other Christians will immediately be suspected of carrying out evangelism. As the state opposes evangelism, Christians must be very careful in this respect. Any Christian who reveals his/her faith publicly will immediately draw the attention of the state and its agents.

Block 1.8: It has been risky for Christians to speak about their faith with those other than immediate family (extended family, others). (3.75 points)

It is already very risky for a convert to talk about his new faith with members of the family and the latter will make it virtually impossible for the convert to do this with non-family members. The shame and honor culture will make sure that the family will try to prevent this at all costs. Also, the state views such behavior as an attempt at evangelism and will oppose it by arresting these Christians.

Block 1.9: It has been risky for Christians to meet with other Christians. (3.50 points)

Converts run the risk of drawing unwanted attention from their social environment when they meet with other Christians. Many Uzbek Christians only meet one to one as it is less dangerous and often change places where they meet. Worship must be silent or very quiet. Due to the very high level of surveillance in Uzbekistan all non-Orthodox Christians are very careful in this respect. Religious activities can officially only occur in buildings of registered churches. No such activities are allowed to take place in the form of house churches, for instance.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

Block 2.4: Christian baptisms have been hindered. (3.50 points)

The pressure on converts not to go through with baptism is immense, as it is often regarded as the ultimate sign that one has left Islam. The Muslim environment will go to extremes to prevent baptisms of converts. The state will oppose baptisms of converts as they fear this could lead to tensions and problems in the community. Also, the state will oppose unregistered groups in all their activities, including baptisms. Baptisms are not, however, legally forbidden.

Block 2.6: Christian couples have been hindered in adopting children or serving as foster parents because of their faith. (3.50 points)

Muslim families and communities will block the adoption of an ethnic Central Asian child if it is known that the adopting person is a convert or other category of Christian. The government imposes no restrictions regarding adoption. However, a case was recorded of a boy being taken back to the orphanage after reporting to a social worker that his adopted parents had been teaching him about the Christian faith.

Block 2.7: Parents have been hindered in raising their children according to their Christian beliefs. (3.50 points)

The extended family of converts will try to bring the children of converts back to Islam and raise them accordingly. The school system also contributes to this since - as Uzbekistan is officially a secular state - no religious teaching is provided in schools. The only place for parents to provide Christian teaching is at home, since all youthwork for churches has been made illegal. Parents must be careful that they do not draw too much attention from both family and the local authorities by doing this.

Block 2.8: Christian children have been pressured into attending anti-Christian or majority religion teaching at any level of education. (3.50 points)

The Muslim environment (family, friends, community) will pressurize children of converts in particular to receive Islamic instruction - sometimes even against the wishes of their parents. Anti-religious propaganda at schools and universities happens on a regular basis, for instance in the form of lectures. Attendance at such lectures is compulsory.

Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere

Block 3.12: Christians have been fined for faith-related reasons (e.g. jizya tax, community tax, protection money). (3.75 points)

Fines are issued by state agents for a long list of possible offences, e.g. for meeting illegally, for the possession of religious literature, for having Christian songs on one's smartphone, etc. Even technically legal groups (such as Baptists) face this kind of persecution.

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.). (3.50 points)

Converts are constantly monitored by family and the surrounding community. At the community level, Muslims also monitor the activities of Protestant groups closely and report on their activities to the local police. Government agents at all levels are constantly monitoring Christian activities - all but the Russian Orthodox Church are on their radar.

Block 3.5: Christians have been put under pressure to take part in non-Christian religious ceremonies or community events. (3.50 points)

Converts are under pressure from their community to continue practicing or return to Islamic customs. Participation in religious ceremonies is a part of community life and other Christians are also pushed to "honor" the local tradition.

Block 3.10: Christians have been discriminated against in public or private employment. (3.50 points)

At the community level, both Christians with a Muslim background and non-traditional Christians face discrimination in employment (in both public and private jobs) because of pressure from the Muslim community. As a result, some Christians prefer to keep their faith a secret in order not to lose their job or get a new one. As far as public employment is concerned, local authorities will be influenced by the Muslim community, but there is also the ideological aversion against Christians that hinders them from obtaining government employment.

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)***

The law requires religious groups to register with the government and declares religious activities of unregistered groups to be illegal. The law restricts public speech and proselytism, censors religious literature and limits the possession of religious materials of all types and formats in private homes. Raids on Christians' homes have resulted in a combination of fines, corrective labor and prison sentences.

Block 4.8: Christians have been hindered in expressing their views or opinions in public. (3.75 points)

This is very dangerous for non-Orthodox Christians and will cause threats of reprisals from both the government and the local Uzbek community. The level of persecution is so intense that converts and non-Orthodox Christians must keep their religion effectively secret. Any public expression of their faith is likely to be perceived by the government as proselytization. Russian Orthodox Christians normally do not speak about their religious beliefs in public. Muslims consider Christian preaching and evangelism undesirable and will obstruct this with all means available.

Block 4.9: Christian civil society organizations or political parties have been hindered in their functioning or forbidden because of their Christian convictions. (3.75 points)

There are no Christian political parties or Christian civil society organizations in Uzbekistan. The fact of applying for registration could be sufficient to be arrested by the police on the grounds of trying to establish an extremist organization. Any Christian organization will be regarded as an attempt to convert people to Christianity and will be blocked.

Block 4.6: Christians have been barred from public office, or promotion has been hindered. (3.50 points)

Non-Orthodox Christians have no chance to get a job in the public sector or get a promotion if it is known they are Christians. If this comes out, Christians may be fired from public employment.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

Block 5.8: Christian preaching, teaching and/or published materials have been monitored. (4.00 points)

The law requires religious groups to obtain a license to publish or distribute materials. The CRA reviews all materials produced and must approve them before distribution. Materials include books, magazines, newspapers, brochures, leaflets, audiovisual items (including CDs and DVDs), and materials posted to the internet describing the origins, history, ideology, teachings, commentaries, and rituals of various religions of the world. The state forbids banned "extremist religious groups" from distributing any type of publications (Source: US State Department [IRFR 2017 Uzbekistan](#)). Of course, such permissions are rarely granted. Muslims will also keep an eye on this and report to the authorities when necessary.

Block 5.12: Churches or Christian organizations have been hindered in printing Christian materials or owning printing presses. (4.00 points)

It is not allowed to own printing presses. Muslims will report to the authorities if they discover Christians are printing religious materials.

Block 5.13: Churches have been hindered in importing Christian materials from abroad. (4.00 points)

All religious materials must be approved by the government. Very few items are able to pass this hurdle. Even the Bible Society is having problems doing this. Muslims will report to the authorities if they discover Christians are importing religious materials illegally.

Block 5.16: Churches, Christian organizations, institutions, or groups have been prevented from using mass media to present their faith. (4.00 points)

All media are state-controlled and inaccessible to Christians. Internet access is also state-controlled, and many sites are blocked.

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. A symbolic number of 1,000* could go well over 10,000 but, again, the real number is uncertain. The same applies for symbolic numbers 10,000*, 100,000* and 1,000,000*: Each could indicate much higher numbers, but WWL chooses to be cautious because the real number is uncertain.

Uzbekistan: 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)?	1	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?	2	1
6.3 How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	10 *	10
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?	2	0

Uzbekistan: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
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)?	10 *	60
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?	2	0
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?	0	0
6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	5	0
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	0	0

In the WWL 2025 reporting period:

- **Christians killed:** Sources reported that one young girl was killed.
- **Churches damaged:** On 25 April 2024, Judge Nurlubay Akimniyazov ordered the destruction of two buildings under construction belonging to Urgench Council of Churches Baptists. Demolition began on 30 July. One of the buildings was intended to be a church. (Source: [Forum 18, 13 August 2024](#))
- **Christians arrested:** Members of unregistered Christian communities are often detained, interrogated or kept in custody.
- **Christians sentenced:** Sources reported that a pastor was sent to prison on fabricated grounds.
- **Christians sexually harassed:** Sources reported that two girls were abused by relatives in rural areas.
- **Christians attacked:** Families often use force against converts in their midst.
- **Houses or properties of Christians damaged:** Sources reported that there have been at least two cases where stones were thrown and windows were broken. Also the house of a pastor was burned down.
- **Christians forced to leave their homes:** Sources reported that Christians were evicted from their homes.

5 Year trends

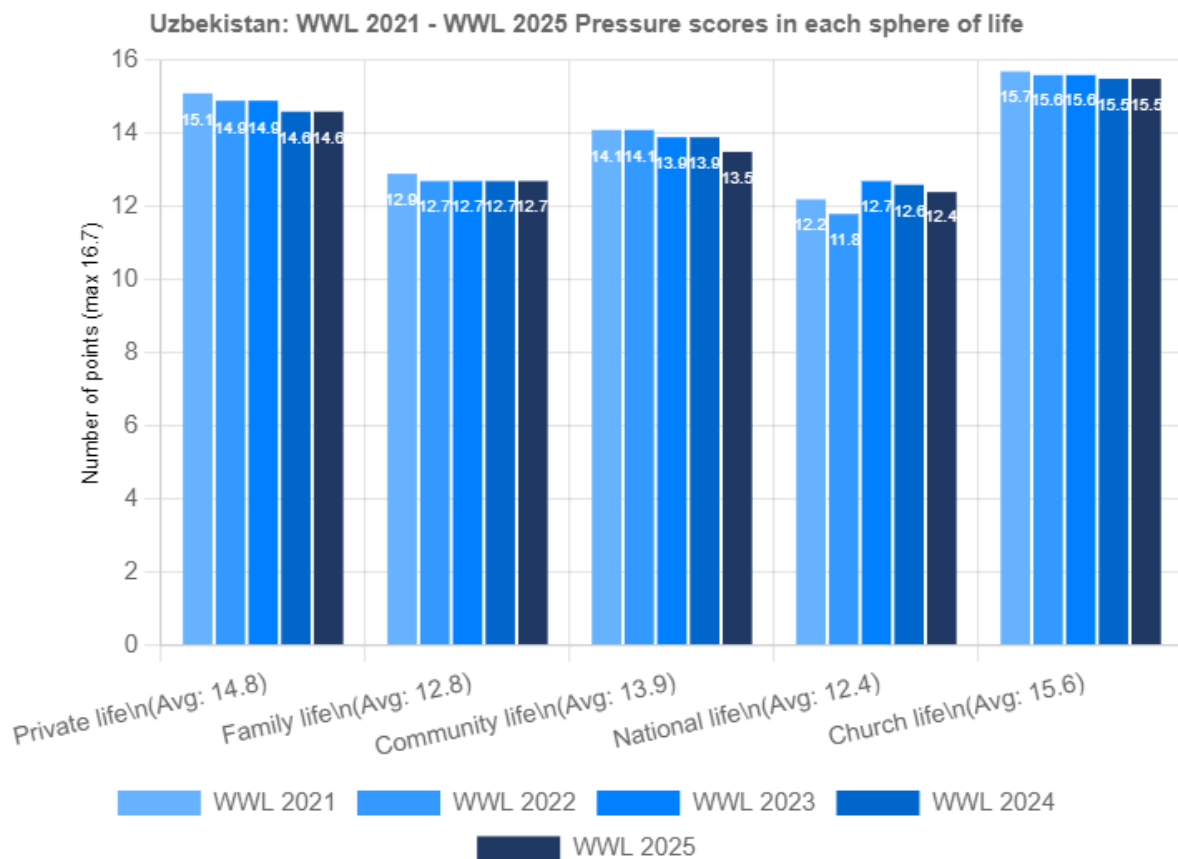
The following three charts show the levels of pressure and violence faced by Christians in the country over the last five WWL reporting periods.

5 Year trends: Average pressure

Uzbekistan: WWL 2021 - WWL 2025	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2025	13.7
2024	13.9
2023	14.0
2022	13.8
2021	14.0

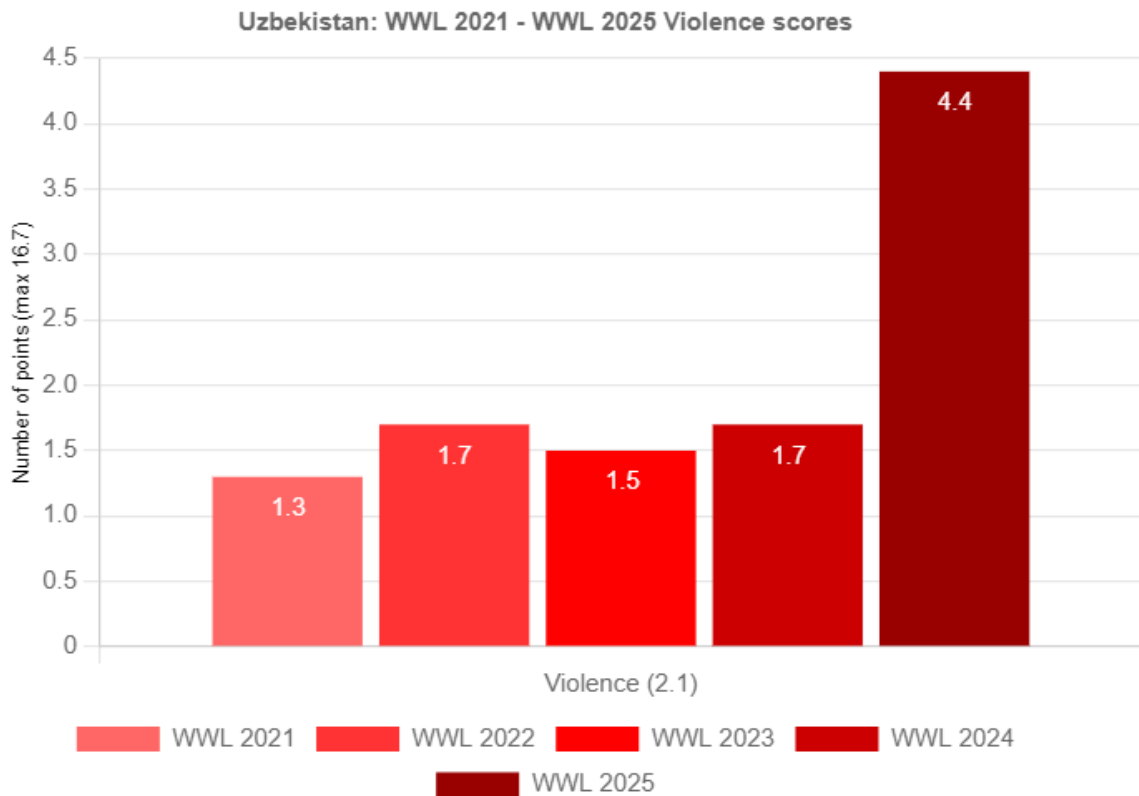
As can be seen from the table above, the average pressure has remained extremely high within the range of 13.7 - 14.0 points for the last five WWL reporting periods. This is a clear indication of how little the situation for Christians in the country has changed in recent years.

5 Year trends: Pressure in each sphere of life



Over the past five years the scores in the five *spheres of life* in Uzbekistan have not changed dramatically. The highest levels of pressure on Christians have continued to be recorded in the *Church* and *Private spheres of life*, which reflect the operation of the two main Persecution engines in Uzbekistan: *Dictatorial paranoia* (in the *Church sphere of life*) and *Islamic oppression*, blended with *Clan oppression* (in the *Private sphere of life*).

5 Year trends: Violence against Christians



From WWL 2021 to WWL 2024, the scores for violence were more or less stable at a low level. In WWL 2025 there was a spike in violence, now reaching 4.4 points.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

Uzbekistan **Female Pressure Points**
Most frequently recorded PPs: WWL 2019 - WWL 2024

- Abduction
- Denied access to social community/networks
- Forced divorce
- Forced marriage
- Incarceration by family (house arrest)
- Violence – physical
- Violence – sexual
- Violence – psychological
- Violence – Verbal

While laws in Uzbekistan give equal rights to men and women, traditional Islamic culture places women lower than men and subservient to them within the family context. Total submission is expected from women to their parents, or if married, to their husbands. Perpetrators of violence against women have historically gone unpunished, in part due to the lack of legislation addressing domestic violence and marital rape ([HRW 2023 country chapter Uzbekistan](#)). However, after many years of campaigning, vital steps to address gender violence have been taken: In April 2023, Uzbekistan’s upper house of Parliament unanimously passed legislation to criminalize domestic violence and provide women and children with additional protection mechanisms ([Amnesty International UK Press Release](#), 6 April 2023). There is still work to be done to implement the new law, and address cultural norms around domestic violence, but it is hoped this is a step in the right direction.

Within Uzbekistan’s patriarchal context, women are not free to choose their own religion and are likely to face severe opposition upon conversion to Christianity. Persecutors target women both to inflict harm upon them, but also as an instrument to cause psychological harm on their husbands and wider family members. Incarceration by a convert's family (i.e., house arrest) remains a common and socially accepted form of putting female converts under pressure. Access to social networks, specifically Christian networks, is restricted in the hope that the convert will return to Islam.

Female converts, particularly those in conservative regions with traditions of bride-kidnapping, run the risk of being kidnapped by their own communities and married off to a Muslim, especially in rural areas. Families, too, arrange such marriages in the hope that the convert will return to Islam. Sexual violence within those marriages is an often unacknowledged component that becomes normalized under the legitimization that marriage gives. If already married at the point of conversion, Muslim husbands commonly divorce their wives and deny them their possessions. Pressure to divorce often comes from the wider family network.

A country expert explained that sexual violence “remains unreported in most cases. New-believing women from Muslim backgrounds are especially vulnerable ... [F]amily violence and rape are common and up to 90% of women suffer some sort of sexual violence; since culturally it is considered shameful for the woman and her fault, women do not speak about it even to close family members. In case of conversion, the risk of being raped or sexually harassed increases as it can be used as a form of punishment.”

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

Uzbekistan

Male Pressure Points

Most frequently recorded PPs: WWL 2019 - WWL 2024

Economic harassment via business/job/work access
Economic harassment via fines
Imprisonment by government
Travel bans/restrictions on movement
Violence - physical
Violence - psychological
Violence - verbal

Church leaders, most of whom are men, are common targets for violations of rights. Typically, they will be fined, detained, denied exit visas to leave the country, or put under house arrest. They can be fined for such offences as meeting illegally, possession of religious literature, or having Christian songs on their smartphones. The persecution of church leaders is a deliberate tactic, as targeting them causes a ripple effect, spreading fear and anxiety throughout their congregations. Pastors and lay leaders of unregistered churches in particular have been insulted, beaten and humiliated. A country expert shared that in one area of the country “every pastor and his family were surveilled by about 30 people. Practically every step was watched.”

Christian men continue to face inequalities in every area of their lives. Some men will be denied promotion at work, while others may lose their job altogether unless they renounce their faith. Christian businessmen face constant state monitoring to see if they are involved in any illegal activities, as well as pressure from the local Muslim community who will often obstruct their business activities; this occurs mainly at the local level, rather than at the national level. As the man is normally the provider, this form of economic harassment has a crippling effect on the whole family. Family members feel fear, anger and anxiety. To avoid this, many Christian businessmen choose to keep their Christian faith secret.

Converts to Christianity also suffer from verbal, physical and psychological abuse, regularly being mocked in their places of work and study and coming under greater pressure from police officials.

Persecution of other religious minorities

According to [USCIRF 2023 Uzbekistan \(Special Watch List\)](#):

- “Local governments and mahallas (local neighborhood committees) still arbitrarily blocked some registration applications submitted by Jehovah's Witnesses and Protestant Christians.”
- “Throughout the year [2022], authorities continued to detain, arrest, imprison, and ill-treat Muslims for distributing unauthorized or illegal religious materials, criticizing state-approved imams, holding prayers in unsanctioned areas, and leading informal classes on Islam without government permission. Law enforcement authorities conducted raids against and detained alleged members of the Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir for meeting to discuss religious texts or sharing such texts online.”
- “Authorities sought to limit some elements of Islam and Islamic practice unofficially considered inappropriate. For instance, in May [2022] police in two districts of Tashkent rounded up at least 10 men and threatened them with arrest if they refused to have their beards shaved, drawing criticism from the U.S. ambassador to Uzbekistan. Similarly, officials have harassed women and girls who wear the hijab and maintained that only a 'light-colored national headscarf' may be worn in schools. Despite a public announcement made in recent years that children can attend mosques, in April security officials in the exclave of So'x (or Sokh) reportedly raided and drove out children from the Hazrati Ali mosque during the holy month of Ramadan. Authorities allegedly dissuaded or hindered attempts by Muslims to reopen previously closed places of worship, such as the Abu Zar mosque and the Nazira Bibi Xonim mosque in Tashkent, and required Muslims interested in performing the Hajj or Umra pilgrimages to apply to their mahalla.”

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

- “The government continued to ban Islamic groups it defined as extremist and criminalized membership in such groups, which included 22 religious organizations. The government reported that at year's end, the following organizations remained banned: Akramites, Islamic Movement of Turkestan, Islamic Jihad Group, Hizb ut-Tahrir al-Islami, al-Jihad, al-Qa'ida, World Jihad Foundation, Muslim Brotherhood, Zamiyati Islomi Tablig, Jamaat-e-Islami-i-Pakistan, Eastern Turkestan Liberation Organization, East Turkestan Islamic Movement, Boz Kurd, Abu Saif Group, Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam, Islamic State, Tavhid va Jihad, Katibat al-Imam al-Bukhariy, Jamoat-e-Ansarulloh, Jabhat al-Nusra, Jihadists, and Nurchists. The government stated its actions against persons or groups suspected of religious extremism were not an infringement on religious freedom, but rather a matter of preventing the overthrow of secular authorities and the incitement of interreligious instability and hatred.”
- “In September, Nuriddin Kholiqnazarov, Grand Mufti of Uzbekistan and a government employee, warned in a video against religious 'excesses' such as the wearing of full-body burqas or long beards, saying they ran counter to Uzbekistani traditions. He described such practices as Arab customs, not Islamic rules, and he encouraged Uzbekistanis to continue their own longstanding cultural traditions.”
- “During the year [2023], Jehovah's Witnesses reported police detained members of their community for proselytizing. In the Jehovah's Witnesses 2023 report, the group said they were not severely persecuted in Uzbekistan and were often treated with respect but stated there were

several instances of what they referred to as "preventive conversations" with local law enforcement requesting information on religious meetings and leaders."

- "Jehovah's Witnesses reported they continued to face what they described as insurmountable challenges to registering any new congregations in the country. Since the passing of the religion law, they reported trying to register two new congregations, one in Samarkand and one in Tashkent. In July, Jehovah's Witnesses received a letter from the Tashkent City government, stating they were unable to register their Tashkent congregation due to repeated complaints from citizens regarding "missionary and proselytizing activities," which are illegal."
- "Jehovah's Witnesses reported being the target of harassment and mistreatment due to the organization's unregistered status, except for its sole registered community in Chirchik. The group continued to attempt registration in seven districts of the country. Jehovah's Witnesses reported that local governments continued to block official registration of additional congregations for administrative reasons. According to Jehovah's Witnesses, local agencies such as local branches of the Ministry of Construction or local fire safety offices, among others, refused to provide the documentation required to complete the registration process."

According to [USCIRF 2024 Uzbekistan Chapter](#):

- "Various government agencies continued to police and censure Muslims for their religious activities. In October 2023, law enforcement authorities in Tashkent raided and closed several halal restaurants, reportedly questioning employees about their religious beliefs and telling the proprietors that they could reopen if they agreed to sell alcohol. Throughout the country, mosques also lowered the volume of the call to prayer, a practice that the government had previously loosened restrictions on to signal its increased respect for religious freedom. The official Committee on Religious Affairs (CRA) sought to control media reporting on Islam and in one instance instructed media outlet Kun.uz to cut or change sections of a story it had produced on religious matters. In August, the founder of Azon.uz, a popular website that focused on Islam, suddenly and inexplicably announced the closure of the site and its television and radio broadcasting, which many attributed to government pressure. The government continued to rigorously oversee the performance of the Hajj and Umra and warned its citizens against undertaking either pilgrimage "illegally" by traveling with an unauthorized organization. In November, the government additionally restricted the ability of minors to perform pilgrimages and allegedly continued to involve mahallas (local neighborhood committees) to determine who would be allowed to go on pilgrimage."
- "The government increasingly detained, arrested, fined, and sentenced Muslims to prison for the illegal dissemination of religious materials or participation in illegal religious organizations. Authorities particularly targeted young men who had downloaded or shared songs with alleged "religious extremist" content. In January, a court sentenced Sardor Rakhmonkulov - whose mother claimed he experienced torture while in custody - to five years' imprisonment on extremism-related charges for "distributing religious songs." In May, another court gave Jahongir Ulugmurodov three years in prison for posting a song to social media. Both individuals were released from prison later in the year pursuant to court decisions. In May, a woman received a three-year prison sentence for "liking" a religious lecture on social media five years prior, which a court decided constituted "distributing" the material to her friends online. A court later changed her sentence to a form of house arrest. Officials with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State

Security Service engaged in transnational repression by attempting to forcibly or coercively return citizens living abroad to Uzbekistan, where they faced criminal extremism charges."

Further information

- The Interior Ministry closed public Muslim prayer rooms nationwide, using excuses such as 'escaped prisoners might use them'. (Source: [Forum 18, 26 January 2024](#))
- Regime officials have repeatedly used a variety of tactics to block state registration applications from Muslim and non-Muslim religious communities. Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, and Protestants have all experienced blocking of registration attempts, and in a Jehovah's Witness case courts have backed the regime's arbitrary use of its power. "The Religion Law gives the authorities unlimited powers to refuse our registration," Jehovah's Witnesses told Forum 18. Unregistered Protestant communities have also come under police and SSS secret police pressure, including attempts to recruit informers. (Source: [Forum 18, 26 April 2024](#))

Trends Summary

1) Uzbekistan remains an authoritarian regime but there are improvements

Despite the change in leadership since the death of President Islam Karimov on 2 September 2016, very little has changed for Christians in Uzbekistan. It is still difficult to obtain official registration and those churches that are without registration remained unable to practice their religious beliefs without risking criminal prosecution. On the other hand, since 2018, there have been considerably fewer raids on churches.

2) Uzbekistan's foreign policy is changing

After the death of President Karimov, Uzbekistan has done its best to improve its relationship with its neighbors and President Mirziyoyev has paid visits to practically all other Central Asian countries and Russia. However, the results of this were limited as border conflicts with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan continued to erupt from time to time. Uzbekistan has also done its best to improve relationships with Western countries such as the USA. To achieve better relations, the pressure on registered churches was reduced, which in turn led to positive reactions from both the US State Department and USCIRF.

Further useful reports

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/>.

These are also available on the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom):

- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/?s=Uzbekistan>
- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/reports/>.

External Links

- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cat.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Rights of the Child - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: Forum 18, 15 August 2024 - https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2927
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: Forum 18, 13 August 2024 - https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2926
- Drivers of persecution description: Mahalla community groups - [https://informality.com/wiki/index.php?title=Mahallah_\(Uzbekistan\)](https://informality.com/wiki/index.php?title=Mahallah_(Uzbekistan))
- Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere: IRFR 2017 Uzbekistan - <https://2017-2021.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Uzbekistan-2.pdf>
- Violence / Block 6 - commentary: Forum 18, 13 August 2024 - https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2926
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: HRW 2023 country chapter Uzbekistan - <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/uzbekistan>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: Amnesty International UK Press Release - <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/04/uzbekistan-parliament-passes-long-overdue-legislation-criminalizing-domestic-violence/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: USCIRF 2023 Uzbekistan (Special Watch List) - <https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/Uzbekistan.pdf>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: IRFR 2023 Uzbekistan - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/uzbekistan/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: USCIRF 2024 Uzbekistan Chapter - <https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/Uzbekistan.pdf>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: Forum 18, 26 January 2024 - https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2888
- Persecution of other religious minorities: Forum 18, 26 April 2024 - https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2905