



## Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

Living in a western democracy, and particularly in Europe, it is easy to forget that we are in a battle. The Bible teaches us that we should live in an attitude of love even to the extent of loving our enemies. Perhaps in our modern secular society we have become numb to the realities of what we can expect as the day of our Lord's return draws nearer.

*'Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.'* (Rev.2:10)

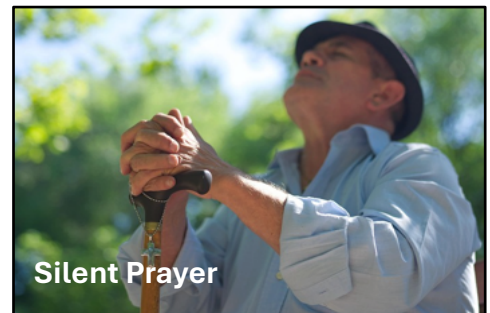
## Is persecution of Christians only happening in other parts of the world?

I want to start by giving thanks for organisations like Open Doors and others that work so hard, not only to help those persecuted for their faith all across the globe, but also help by their advocacy to government institutions to keep this issue in front of our leaders of Europe and across the world.

In this issue of Canopy, I would like to look at what is increasingly happening in our own back yard. In recent years, as our societies have become more multicultural and diverse perhaps the expression of love through the Christian principles that our nations have been shaped by, such as loving our neighbour, might have become an Achilles' heel. If the type of love that is expressed through the legislation that our nations adopt has become detached from our Christian roots, then that love is misguided.

Increasingly we see those Christian foundations of our continent under attack, not always by overt persecution, but by subtle changes to the laws that govern us. Sometimes well-meaning laws aimed at helping those perceived to be vulnerable in society are then abused by others for ideological reasons.

In recent times we may all have seen headlines like **'Court rules silent prayer is a crime'** or **'Christian family have children taken away, including baby'** or **'Nurse reprimanded for calling a transgender paedophile Mr'**, or **'Police threaten to arrest Christian gospel preacher'** and when reading these stories we may feel that those beliefs that have shaped our continent for hundreds of years are under attack. However we must ask ourselves why, and what has brought us to this place? Is it not that we as Christians have remained largely silent and even the church as a whole has not been willing to speak up.



As I write this article, I've become increasingly challenged personally. Yes I've worked for many years to support Christians in political leadership and organisations who seek to advise those in leadership, but how willing have I been to raise **my** head above the parapet? It is good for us to remember that Jesus himself suffered persecution, and Paul, the one who persecuted the early church, became persecuted himself for the sake of the gospel. Here I believe is a key, in that some of us may be called to stand up for those values that have been the bedrock of our continent for centuries but all of us must pray and uphold them. The truth is that we should all build ourselves up in the word of God and faith in Jesus Christ so that we may be resilient in the days of persecution that lay ahead.

Jesus is very clear even in His teaching that if we are not *"deeply rooted"*, then when trouble or persecution come we will quickly fall away (Mat 13:21). Perhaps we need to remind ourselves in Europe that as Christians we have never been promised an easy time. Being a Christian is hard in our secular society which has increasingly been turning its back on values that we regard as fundamental truths. The Bible has not promised that the life we may have enjoyed for many years is assured, and we need to be ready for what may lay ahead.

Christians in other parts of the world may have already endured suffering for the sake of the gospel - we don't have to look far to see their stories - but it is out of their resilience and endurance that we can now see the church in those places growing. Whether what we see going on in Europe at the moment is true persecution or not, now is the time to ready ourselves in prayer, in faith and in resilience so that we can embrace these words in Ephesians. *'Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.'* (Eph 6:13)

Let us pray

- For those who are standing up for biblical truth in the workplace, in society and in the Church.
- For those who advocate for biblical truth in our places of government, political leaders from all parties and organisations that defend and advocate for those same values.
- For ourselves, that we may root ourselves in His word so that when the evil day comes we may remain resilient and stand.

Some resources you may wish to look at to find out how you can pray for those who are standing up for their faith. These are some websites in English and may have translations in your language. Can I also encourage you to look for those in your own nations who may be standing for biblical truth in your nation and pray for them.

European centre for Law and Justice: <http://eclj.org/>

ADF International: <https://adfinternational.org>

Christian Concern: <https://christianconcern.com>

Open Doors: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/>

## UK : The Assisted Dying Bill

The Assisted Dying Bill is due to be debated again in the Westminster Parliament on 13 June. There were so many amendments to the bill, which has been deemed "unsafe" and "irredeemably flawed" by some MPs that there has not been time to debate them. In this second debate, it is not sure if they will get through all the amendments or even if a crucial third reading vote will take place that day, or on another date to be decided. Please pray that many MPs will understand the dangers and choose to vote against this bill which, if passed, would give the state power over some of the most vulnerable in UK society. Pray instead that the vulnerable will be protected and the dignity of life maintained.

## Further Prayer:-

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Polish presidential elections will be on Sunday 1 June. The 2 candidates are Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, the liberal candidate backed by Donald Tusk's centre-right party, and Karol Nawrocki, the candidate representing the conservative Law & Justice party. The polls are very close. Pray for the election, Poland and the Polish believers.
2. Sweden's cities have been rocked by gang violence and criminality for several years. It is a sad and dangerous situation that politicians, schools and police are struggling to contain. It will be a major issue in the 2026 general election. Pray for the young people in the gangs. Pray for miracles!



Why not press the button and visit our facebook page to get the latest items for prayer.

TO DONATE: Hebron Europe e.V.,  
IBAN DE53 6129 0120 0488 0210 06  
BIC GENODES1NUE  
giving your name and address. Thank you!

Donate