

PAKISTAN

UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION

Christians in Pakistan face pressure from several directions. Blasphemy accusations can lead to imprisonment, death sentences, mob violence, or force entire families to flee. Christians also face economic discrimination, limited access to education, and social vulnerability that can leave them with few protections.

For many Christian families, poverty and persecution overlap. Some are trapped in bonded labor at brick kilns, where debts can be inherited from one generation to the next. Entire families may work to repay debts that continue growing through interest and expenses controlled by kiln owners. Children often work alongside their parents instead of attending school.

Women and girls can be especially vulnerable. Christian girls and young women may face kidnapping, forced conversion, forced marriage, and abuse. At the same time, Christian families can be pressured to abandon their faith in exchange for relief from debt or hardship.

Yet the local Church continues to respond. ICR partners provide legal help, education, practical care, support for pastors, and assistance to families rebuilding their lives after persecution. They also work directly with brick kiln families, helping some find freedom and a new beginning.

PAKISTAN



FACTS & CONTEXT

#8 — World Watch List

Pakistan ranks among the most difficult places in the world to follow Jesus, with Christians facing legal, social, and economic pressure.

4 Million in Bonded Labor

Around 4 million people are estimated to work in bonded labor in Pakistan's brick kilns. Many are Christians trapped in inherited debt.

15,000–20,000 Brick Kilns

Bonded labor is spread across thousands of kilns, where entire families may live and work under the control of kiln owners.

240+ Families Freed

More than 240 families have been freed from brick kiln slavery through one ICR partner and helped begin again in a new location.

Blasphemy Accusations Can Be Devastating

Christians can face false accusations, imprisonment, life sentences, or death penalties under Pakistan's blasphemy laws. Even an accusation can lead to mob pressure and serious danger.

Education Is Often Out of Reach

Christian children from poor or enslaved families may be denied education or forced to work. ICR partners help support schools serving children from brick kiln communities.

PAKISTAN

MARIAM'S STORY

Freedom from Bondage

Mariam* was left carrying her former husband's debts after their marriage ended.

In Pakistan's bonded labor system, debt can control nearly every part of a person's life. Unable to repay what she owed, Mariam became trapped in slavery.

Her story reflects the reality faced by many Christian families working in brick kilns. Entire households can spend years making bricks while their debt continues growing. Kiln owners may control their housing, food, work, and daily life, making escape nearly impossible.

Christians can face additional pressure because of their faith. Some are told their debts will be forgiven if they convert to Islam.

Through ICR's local partner, families like Mariam's are being redeemed from their debts. The partner negotiates with kiln owners, pays what is owed, helps the family relocate, connects them with a local church, and provides three months of groceries and rent as they begin again.

Freedom is more than leaving a brick kiln.

It means parents can begin working toward a sustainable future. Children can have the opportunity to attend school. Families can worship without their livelihood being controlled by someone else.

More than 240 families have already experienced that new beginning through this partner.

Name used to protect her identity.

PAKISTAN



WHAT THE CHURCH IS DOING

ICR works through trusted local pastors, churches, lawyers, and ministry partners who understand the realities Christians face in Pakistan.

For brick kiln families, this includes negotiating freedom from debt and helping families rebuild afterward. Partners provide relocation, food, housing, education, and connection to a local Christian community.

ICR partners also provide legal assistance for believers facing blasphemy accusations, support persecuted families when a breadwinner is imprisoned, and help pastors and evangelists serving in dangerous areas.

Education is another important part of breaking the cycle. Schools serving children from brick kiln communities give young people the opportunity to learn, read Scripture, and pursue a different future.

PAKISTAN

WAYS TO SUPPORT

FREE A FAMILY

Help redeem an enslaved Christian family from brick kiln debt and provide the practical support they need to begin again.

SUPPORT PERSECUTED FAMILIES

Help provide rent, food, school fees, legal assistance, and other essentials when persecution leaves a family without income or security.

PROVIDE EDUCATION

Help Christian children receive an education and begin breaking the cycle of poverty, exploitation, and bonded labor.

PAKISTAN

PRAYER

Father, we lift up the persecuted Church in Pakistan. Protect believers facing violence, false accusations, and pressure because of their faith. Bring freedom to families trapped in bonded labor, protect vulnerable women and children, and give pastors and lawyers courage as they stand with those in need. Strengthen Your Church to remain faithful and hopeful in every circumstance. Amen.