

# The Persecuted Church

# Persecution

Latin: *persecut* = “followed with hostility”

Cruel or unfair treatment of a person or group especially because of their religious or political beliefs or their race



# Balliol College, Oxford



# Meet Freddy Potts

- An Oxford College has banned the Christian Union from its freshers' fair on the grounds that it would be "alienating" for students of other religions, and constitute a "micro-aggression".
- The organiser of Balliol's fair argued Christianity's historic use as "an excuse for homophobia and certain forms of neo-colonialism" meant that students might feel "unwelcome" in their new college if the Christian Union had a stall.
- Freddy Potts, vice-president of Balliol's Junior Common Room (JCR) committee, said that if a representative from the Christian Union (CU) attended the fair, it could cause "potential harm" to freshers.
- Mr Potts, writing on behalf of the JCR's welfare committee, told the CU representative at Balliol, that their "sole concern is that the presence of the CU alone may alienate incoming students".



# In the West

Be in no doubt: There's a spectrum of persecution.

We, in the Western Church, face persecution each day. Our workmates, friends and family may do this. Secular leaders do it all the time with laws made to subdue the life of Christ in our communities.

Such persecution is subtle but effective. Its purpose is to reduce Christian influence on today's society.

"There is a worrying trend in which political correctness is being used *(as a tool)* to clamp down on Christians *(in the UK) ...*"

**Mike Judge** (Christian Institute)

# Why persecute Christians?

“Let us make man in our own image” Gen 1:26

“The coming of Jesus Christ into the world was the most stupendous event in human history”

Christians are the standard-bearers of Jesus:

“The way, the truth and the life” John 14:6

“We will *not* have Christ ruling over us”



# Prayer for Afghanistan



# Prayer for Somalia



# Prayer for North Korea



# Prayer Together

*Father God, as one Church, united under your holy headship, and knowing that we are all one family in Christ:*

*We pray for those who suffer in your name all over the world, our brothers and sisters, who share in that same great gift of salvation through your Son, but who face injustice, oppression and even death because of their faith in you.*

*We want to walk with them as they journey through the valley of darkness, and we pray knowing that you are a God of compassion, comfort, and justice; who always hears their prayers, never leaves them and will forever be their fortress and shield, whatever they face.*

*We pray that you will grant them strength, courage, and protection from those who seek to harm them because they follow you; guidance and wisdom for when their path seems impossible to tread, and hope for a future where they have the freedom to worship you without fear.*

*In the beautiful and wonderful name of Jesus, Amen.*