

## WHAT PEOPLE SAY

*"We need MEC and the work to which God has called them"*

CHRISTIAN LEADER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

*"I thank God for blessing me with MEC, because MEC's assistance has given me great courage"*

MIDDLE EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORCED TO FLEE

*"MEC's work makes a major contribution to supporting the church in the Middle East"*

BROTHER ANDREW, FOUNDER OF OPEN DOORS

*"MEC stands up and speaks for those who can't speak for themselves"*

CHRISTIAN LEADER IN SUDAN

*"There's an overwhelming need for MEC, which raises cases of persecution directly and individually"*

LORD ALTON OF LIVERPOOL, HOUSE OF LORDS, UK

*"I'm really thankful for all MEC's help, MEC has been a real rock in this storm"*

THE WIFE OF AN IMPRISONED MIDDLE EASTERN CHRISTIAN



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*defending  
the religious  
freedom of  
Christians*

# MEC (Middle East Concern) supports people in the Middle East and North Africa who are marginalised, discriminated against or persecuted for being or becoming Christians

MEC is an association of Christian agencies and individuals. In addition to the Bible, we take our mandate from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and declarations on religious freedom made by different church traditions.

MEC was founded in 1991 in response to needs expressed by Christian leaders in the region. MEC's individual and corporate members include Christians living and working in all countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

## THE SUFFERING CHURCH

Ranging from oppression and discrimination to blatant denial of constitutional or internationally recognised freedoms, religious persecution is the deliberate suppression of a person's or community's right to choose, have and practise their religious beliefs.

For centuries Christians of the Middle East and North Africa have been marginalised, discriminated against and at times violently persecuted. Christian believers from Muslim backgrounds are often cut off from family and Christian fellowship and their pain and suffering are often silent. Christians in the region are vulnerable to abuse by the state, extremist groups and at times the wider community. Converts can also face significant pressure or persecution from their families. Many have been imprisoned, tortured or even killed for their faith in Jesus Christ.

MEC believes all Christians are called to stand with all those who are persecuted. Christians are not only called to expect persecution but also to fight injustice.

## HOW MEC HELPS

MEC works with a wide network of church, NGO and media contacts in the Middle East to monitor discrimination and persecution against Christian communities. When requested or authorised by Christian leaders, MEC provides support by:

### *assisting victims of persecution*

- offering encouragement and informed, trustworthy expertise
- mobilising worldwide prayer, in open or confidential networks
- initiating political advocacy on behalf of victims of persecution
- providing practical and financial support, for example to Christians fleeing life-threatening persecution

### *challenging laws, policies and attitudes*

- undertaking research-based advocacy on legal and structural issues that underlie persecution
- campaigning for the reinstatement of civil rights to converts from Islam
- addressing unhealthy responses to persecution such as hasty relocation to the West

### *equipping Christians to face persecution*

- leading seminars to help Christians respond Biblically to suffering and persecution
- training community leaders in constitutional rights and international law
- providing practical training in issues such as crisis management and handling arrest and interrogation



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

*“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering”* Hebrews 13:3

Visit [meconcern.org](http://meconcern.org) for information and regular news about Christians in the Middle East and North Africa, to subscribe to prayer alerts, and to donate to the work of MEC.

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