

SAVE THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

February 13, 2025

Hon. Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to you as a coalition of religious freedom and human rights advocates to congratulate you on your second term and to express our deep sense of relief in knowing that American Christians, and indeed Christians worldwide, have a leader in the White House committed to countering growing hostility, discrimination, harassment and persecution against followers of Jesus Christ.

Notably, such mistreatment of Christians is taking place at the hands of supporters of India's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by your guest today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP uses lawfare and harassment to oppress and persecute our co-religionists, other religious minorities and vulnerable lower-caste citizens.

We ask that you forthrightly address religious freedom violations in your discussions with the Prime Minister, as you have previously done with other leaders with similar records. For example, you did so in April 2018 with palpable, if regrettably all-too-short-lived, effects when you publicly challenged Nigeria's then-President Muhammadu Buhari about Christian-persecution in his country.

We believe you could have even more profound and beneficial impact if you speak with PM Modi about his party's mistreatment of: our Christian brothers and sisters in India, other religious minorities and the subjugated lower caste. Together, they make up the vast majority of India's population. Discrimination against them prevents their full access to the economy and impedes India's emergence as a great trade and strategic partner of the United States – especially in countering the Chinese Communist Party's ambition to achieve regional and ultimately global hegemony.

Unlike your America First nationalism, which renews our country's commitment to Judeo-Christian civilization – including restoring the constitutional rule of law and our other, traditional values – to create opportunities for *all* Americans, Modi's Hindu nationalist supporters oppress and breed violence against a large portion of the Indian population.

We ask you to encourage PM Modi to: put *all* the people of India first; respect religious freedom; free the lower cast; and end Hindu-centric policies. Thus, enabling more Indians to freely engage in the economy and political sphere will make their pivotal nation a more robust and reliable trade and security partner.

By holding Prime Minister Modi accountable for ending religious freedom and human rights violations in India – in particular by repealing discriminatory anti-conversion laws and ending caste-profiling – you can do him *and both of our countries* a great favor: Such political cover can clear the way for internal reforms needed to create a durable foundation for the sort of strategic U.S.-India partnership the times require.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Gaffney, President

Dede Laugesen, Executive Director

cc: Hon. J.D. Vance

Disclaimer: The views expressed here do not necessarily
reflect those of each member of Save the Persecuted Christians.
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