

Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
7, Lok Kalyan Marg  
New Delhi  
India

July 01, 2021

Dear Prime Minister Modi,

We write to you as an international group of concerned individuals watching the troubling developments taking place in India. As you know, India has been home to Christians for almost two millennia, but recent trends within India have created a reality filled with persecution, discrimination, oppression, and violence for Christians.

Members of your political party, and other ideological organizations like the VHP and the RSS, are targeting Christians regularly with brutal and oppressive measures. These actions are unbecoming of a free and fair democracy like India. Anti-conversion laws passed in several states across India empower radicals to persecute Christians. These laws erode the religious freedom guarantees of the India's constitution by empowering the government to track, monitor, and even disapprove of religious conversions.

In many instances, people who want to change their faith to Christianity need to provide government officials with notice of their decision to follow Jesus. Officials investigate their decision and must approve it for the conversion to be permissible. These measures are far too intrusive to the individual's freedom to choose and practice their religion as they see fit—a freedom guaranteed by India's constitution.

Hindutva radicals use a false notion of mass conversions to Christianity as their primary justification for passing these laws in states throughout the country. According to these extremists, Indian Christians are fraudulently converting poor Hindus to Christianity. These laws further cultivate a climate of impunity for these radicals to attack, harass, discriminate, and oppress Christians in every state that has enacted these laws.

Currently, the states of Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have these laws, which the governments of these states widely abuse. They empower persecutors to continue pursuing their radical agenda of making India an exclusively Hindu country.

We demand that you take action against these laws and use your authority as BJP leaders and the Prime Minister of India to put an end to these blatantly discriminatory laws. India must be safeguarded for all Indians regardless of their religion.

Sincerely,

*International Christian Concern*

and the undersigned: