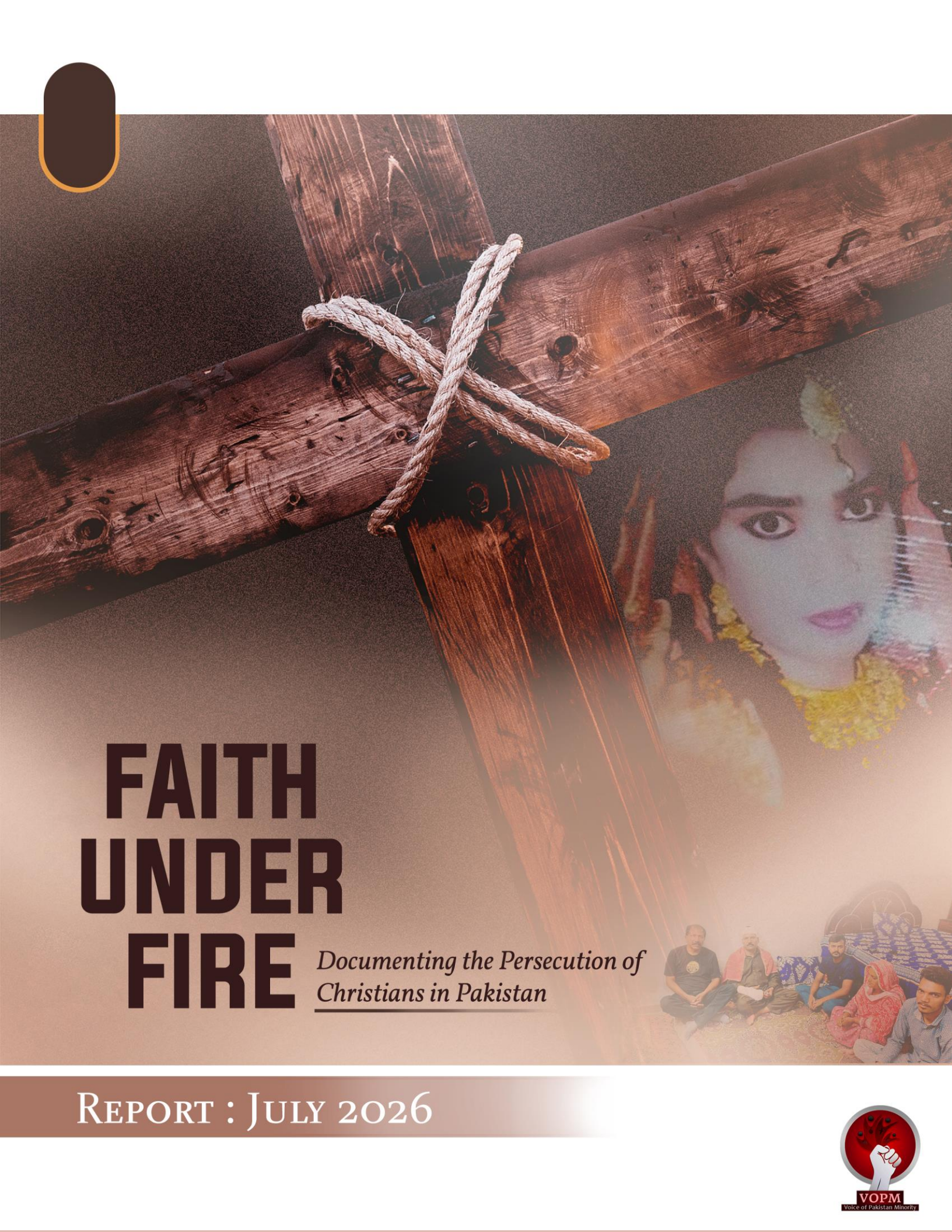




FAITH UNDER FIRE

*Documenting the Persecution of
Christians in Pakistan*

REPORT : JULY 2026

Faith Under Fire: Documenting the Persecution of Christians in Pakistan

Introduction

Christians in Pakistan constitute one of the country's largest religious minority communities, yet they remain among its most vulnerable and marginalised groups. Recent census data and independent estimates suggest that Christians number just over 3.3 million people, accounting for roughly 1.4 per cent of Pakistan's population, with the majority residing in Punjab and, to a lesser extent, in urban centres of Sindh. Within this demographic, many Christians occupy the lowest rungs of the socio-economic hierarchy, employed disproportionately in sanitation work, domestic labour and other low-paid, insecure sectors. Their position at the intersection of minority religious status, entrenched class divisions and, in some cases, caste-based prejudice creates a structural environment in which discrimination and abuse are both more likely and less likely to be effectively remedied.

Despite constitutional guarantees of equality before the law and freedom of religion, the everyday reality for many Christians is marked by systematic exclusion and an elevated risk of targeted violence. Over the past several decades, human rights organisations and local monitoring groups have documented hundreds of incidents involving attacks on churches, Christian neighbourhoods and individual believers, alongside routine reports of discrimination in education, employment and access to justice. These incidents range from threats and social boycotts to large-scale mob violence that has devastated entire communities.

A central driver of this vulnerability is the misuse of Pakistan's blasphemy provisions, particularly sections 295-B and 295-C of the Penal Code, which prescribe severe penalties, including life imprisonment and mandatory death sentences, for certain forms of alleged sacrilege. Since the late 1980s, civil society monitoring has recorded at least 2,793 individuals of various faiths accused under blasphemy laws, with Christians constituting around 11 per cent of these cases despite their small share of the population. Over this period, at least 104 people have been killed in extra-judicial incidents linked to blasphemy allegations, including lynchings and mob attacks.

This report is situated within that broader context of structural vulnerability and escalating risk. It is intended to support efforts to ensure that Christians in Pakistan can live and worship as equal citizens, enjoying the full protection of the law and the fundamental rights guaranteed in the country's constitutional framework.

Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage

S No.	Date	Victim	Religion	Place	Culprit
1.	03.07.26	Maah Noor	Christian	Sargodha	
2.	02.07.26	Faza Javed	Christian	Sheikhupura	
3.	06.07.26	Nirmia Yousaf	Christian	Sialkot	
4.	12.07.26	Daud Masih	Christian		
5.	12.07.26	Alshaba Azhar	Christian	Gurjanwala	
6.	12.07.26	Saghar Imran	Christian	Sahiwal	
7.	04.07.26	Cynthia Sajid	Christian	Walton Lahore	
8.	17.07.26	Rachel Javed	Christian	Lahore	
9.	20.07.26	Inayat Barkat	Christian	Sargodha	
10.	21.07.26	Nadia	Christian	Multan	
11.	29.07.26	Karan Imran	Christian	Lahore	
12.	19.07.26	Victoria Ramsha	Christian	Lahore	
13.	04.07.26	Jadon Shimon	Chrisian	Khanewal	
14.	23.07.26	Chandaan	Christian	Sargodha	Markaz Ahl-e-Sunnat
15.	19.07.26	Alishma Johnson	Christian	Rawalpindi	

Murder/Target Killing

17.	08.07.26	Ayush Masih	Christian	Balochistan	ISKP
18.	08.07.26	Domnik Masih	Christian	Balochistan	ISKP

Harassment /Attack

19.	13.07.26	Afzal Masih	Christian	Faisalabad	Akbar Javed, Ashgar Javed and others
20.	20.07.26	Christian girl	Christian	Punjab	50-year-old man
21.	05.07.26	Christian family	Christian	Punjab	Muhammad Rizwan, Muhammad Iqbal, and Muhammad Aurangzeb
22.	14.07.26	Abida Bibi	Christian	Gujranwala	Ex-husband
23.	14.07.26	Christian Pastor	Christian	Faisalabad	Muslim Mob

Blasphemy

24.	09.07.26	Christians	Christian	Karachi	Muslims
25.	01.07.26	Amir Peter	Christian	Lahore	

Details of the Incidents:

1. Abduction/Forced Conversion/Marriage

1. 03.07.26

A Christian girl, named Maah Noor from Sargodha, was abducted, raped, forcibly converted to Islam and married to a Muslim man.



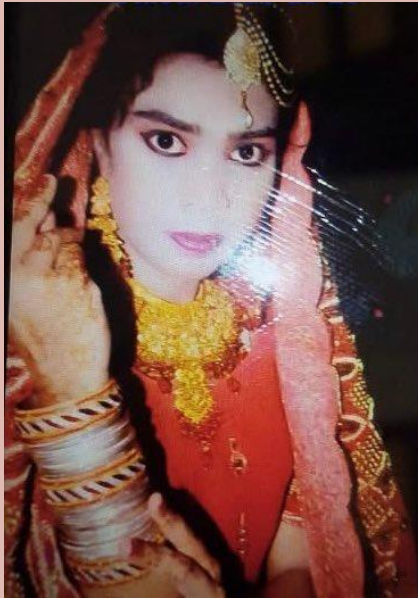
2. 02.07.26

12-year-old Christian girl Faza Javed, a resident of Muridke, Sheikhpura, has been abducted on July 2, 2026.



3. 06.07.26

A 25-year-old Christian woman Nirmia Yousaf abducted in Sialkot, was gang-raped, forcibly converted to Islam and forced married to her kidnapper.



4. 12.07.26

15-year-old Christian boy Daud son of Shahbaz Masih abducted since July 12, 2026. According to his parents, he was abducted with the clear intention of forcibly converting him to Islam.



5. 12.07.26

On July 12 in Sarfraz Colony, Gurjanwala, a 17-year-old Christian girl Alshaba Azhar was abducted from outside her home, raped, forcibly converted to Islam and married to her abductor.



6. 12.07.26

On July 12, 2026, near Harappa Bypass in Sahiwal, a 17-year-old Christian boy named Saghar Imran was abducted by Muslims with the aim of forceful conversion to Islam. His family has appealed repeatedly to local police for assistance and registration of an FIR, but officers have so far declined to take formal action.



7. 04.07.26

On 4th July, a 16-year-old Christian girl, Cynthia Sajid, resident of Walton Lahore, was abducted, raped, forcibly converted to Islam and married to her own Muslim kidnapper.



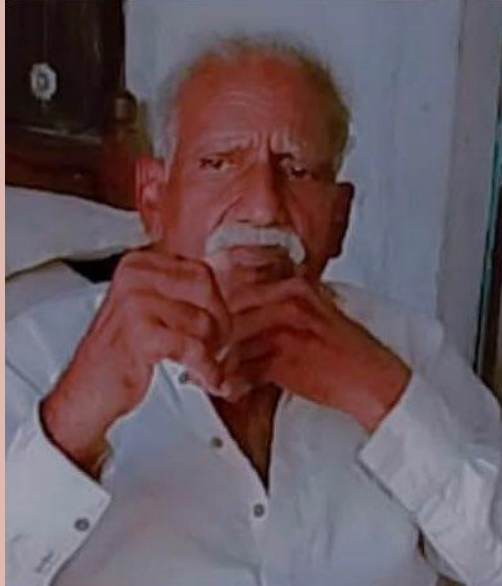
8. 17.07.26

A 13-year-old Christian girl Rachel Javed, resident of Mughal Pura, Lahore was abducted from outside her home on the morning of 17 July 2026.



9. 20.07.21

In Sargodha, a 65yr old Christian Inayat Barkat has been abducted on July 20 after refusing pressure to convert to Islam. Family said he was abducted for forced conversion to Islam.



10. 21.07.26

18-year-old Christian, Nadia of Suraj Miani Road, Multan, wife of Zeeshan Kalim was abducted by Muslim men on 21 July 2026. After abduction, Nadia was raped, forcibly converted to Islam and forced married to her abductor.



11. 29.07.26

14-year-old Christian girl Karan Imran, a resident of Nawab Town, Lahore, was abducted from her home by Muslims on 29 July. The abductors raped her, forcibly converted her to Islam, and married her to a Muslim man.



12. 19.07.26

18-year-old Christian girl Victoria Ramsha was abducted from Lahore. After abduction, the girl was raped, forcibly converted to Islam and married off to her abuser.



13. 04.07.26

40-year-old Christian man, Jadon Shimon abducted from Shanti Nagar, Khanewal since July 4. Family fears forced conversion to Islam and murder.



14. 23.07.26

In Sargodha, a young Christian girl, Chandaan was kidnapped, raped, forcibly converted at Markaz Ahl-e-Sunnat and married to her abductor. After conversion, the girl was renamed as Komal.



15. 19.07.26

A 8 year old minor Christian girl named Alishma Johnson was kidnapped from Naseerabad on 19th July.



2. Murder/Target Killing

16. 08.07.26

A 21 year old young Christian name Ayush was shot dead in Mustang, Balochistan. The attack happened in the Shamsabad area, just a few kilometers from a Christian neighborhood. Ayush was a part of a small group playing an evening cricket match when the attackers arrived and opened fire.



17. 08.07.26

A 24 year old young Christian name Domnik Masih was shot dead in Mustang, Balochistan. The attack happened in the Shamsabad area, just a few kilometers from a Christian neighborhood. Domnik was a part of a small group playing an evening cricket match when the attackers arrived and opened fire.



3. Harassment /Attack

18. 13.07.26

On 13 July 2026, in Shahbaz Nagar 8 Chak, Faisalabad, Pastor Afzal Masih was attacked with an axe and steel rods. The assault occurred after he requested that local residents stop diverting sewage into the Christian graveyard.



19. 20.07.26

A 50-year-old man has raped a disabled Christian girl in Pakpattan, Punjab. According to reports, the victim had gone out to buy household items when the assault took place.

Form containing text in Urdu and English, likely a police report or official document. The text includes details about a case, possibly related to the assault mentioned in the text above. The form is dated 14-07-2026 and mentions ASI (Assistant Sub-Inspector) and SHO (Station House Officer).

Form details (transcribed from the image):

- Case No: 14-07-2026
- Date: 14-07-2026
- Time: 11:07 AM
- Location: 14-07-2026
- Officer: ASI
- Station: 5705L
- Subject: 03017242215
- Case Description: (Transcribed Urdu text follows, detailing the incident and investigation.)

20. 05.07.26

On 5 July 2026 in Pattoki, Punjab, the home of Christian man Arshad Masih and his family was set on fire while they attended church. Three men—Muhammad Rizwan, Muhammad Iqbal and Muhammad Aurangzeb (also known as Jani)—poured petrol and ignited the blaze. The attack is believed to have been retaliation after Arshad questioned Rizwan over the suspected theft of a UPS battery from the church.



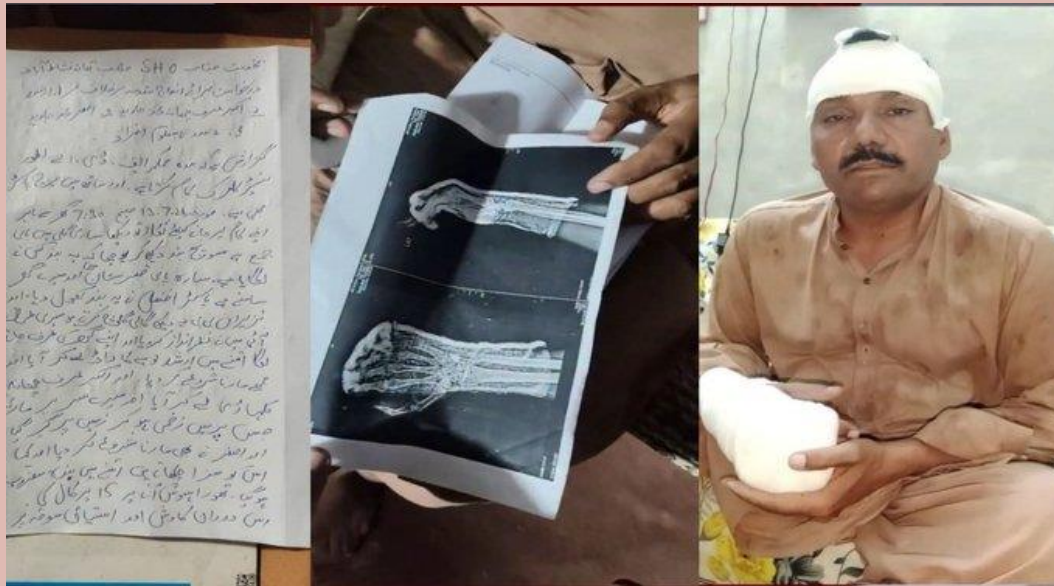
21. 14.07.26

A Christian woman, name Abida Bibi was lured by her ex-husband to a house in Ali Nagar, Wazirabad and sexually assaulted.



22. 14.07.26

On 13 July 2026 in Shahbaz Nagar 8 Chak, Faisalabad, Christian pastor Afzal Masih was attacked with an axe and steel rods by a group of local Muslim residents. The incident occurred after a dispute over dumping dirty water in a Christian cemetery. He sustained a fractured hand and a serious head injury.



4. Blasphemy

23. 09.07.26

On July 9th, a Muslim mob has besieged the Christian neighborhood in Qasai Colony, Baldia Town, Karachi over fabricated blasphemy charge. Christian families trapped in their homes, properties being damaged and open calls for lynching Christians were made.



24. 01.07.26

Amir Peter, a 61-year-old Christian, was held in a Lahore jail on a false blasphemy charge stemming from a petty dispute. He suffered from advanced dementia and remained in custody despite being declared unfit for trial. He died on 1 July 2026 while still awaiting trial and justice.



Conclusion

The evidence reviewed in this report shows that the persecution of Christians in Pakistan is rooted in a combination of discriminatory laws, deep-seated social prejudice and a persistent climate of impunity, rather than in isolated or exceptional incidents. Christians, who constitute a small minority of the population, experience a disproportionate exposure to blasphemy allegations, mob violence and systematic discrimination in education, employment and access to justice, leaving them structurally vulnerable in almost every sphere of public life. The data on blasphemy cases and extra-judicial killings, together with recent episodes of large-scale mob attacks on Christian neighbourhoods and churches, highlights how quickly hostility can escalate into collective punishment when inflammatory rhetoric and weak law-enforcement responses intersect. At the same time, the testimonies and case studies presented here demonstrate that this persecution is experienced not only in spectacular episodes of violence, but also in the quiet, daily erosion of dignity, opportunity and security.

Addressing this situation requires more than ad hoc relief or symbolic gestures; it demands sustained legal, institutional and social reforms that tackle the drivers of persecution at their source. Key priorities include revisiting and reforming blasphemy provisions and their procedures, strengthening accountability for officials who fail to prevent or respond to anti-Christian violence, and ensuring effective protection mechanisms for at-risk communities and individuals. Equally important are initiatives to challenge hateful narratives, promote interfaith solidarity and amplify Christian voices in local and national decision-making. If these steps are pursued with political will and broad-based support, they can begin to dismantle the structures that enable persecution and open the space for Christians in Pakistan to live and worship as equal citizens. In doing so, Pakistan would move closer to fulfilling its constitutional promises of freedom of religion and equality before the law, and to honouring the inherent **dignity** of all its people.