

# Prayer Alert

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**Deep calls to deep in the roar of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and breakers have swept over me. (Psalm 42:7)**

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

You may like to explore our new online [Prayer Alert Prayer Wall](#) where we can add our own prayers and praise, interactively. We trust that you will find this helpful and encouraging, as we pray from our homes during lockdown.

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Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

Blessings,

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert Team

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## Praise Reports

### [Sudan: answered prayer - coup ended](#)

On 28 October you prayed for Sudan to find a workable political system so that coups and coup attempts cease. On 21 November Sudan's ousted prime minister Abdalla Hamdok was reinstated and released from house arrest. All political detainees were also released as part of a new agreement between the military, civilian leaders and ex-rebel groups. The coup had sparked weeks of mass protests with many deaths. Mr Hamdok agreed to the terms to avoid further bloodshed. The group of mediators, which included academics, journalists and politicians, released a statement outlining the terms of the agreement, which said the rules governing the transition towards democracy would be restored.

Praise: God that the coup has ended. Continue praying for lasting peace and for restoration of Sudan's membership of the African Union. (Matthew 5:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-59364349](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-59364349)

### [UK to label Hamas a terror organisation](#)

The British government will designate Hamas as a terrorist organisation, joining the USA, Canada and the EU. Hamas will be banned under the UK's Terrorism Act of 2000, which would make it illegal to meet with Hamas members, fly its flag, or wear clothing indicating support for the group. Supporters could face up to 14 years in prison or a fine. The approval of the ban in parliament is expected within a week. Priti Patel said, 'Hamas is fundamentally and rabidly antisemitic. Antisemitism is an enduring evil which I will never tolerate.' Jewish people routinely feel unsafe - at school, in the streets, when they worship, in their homes, and online. This step will strengthen the case against anyone who waves a Hamas flag in the UK. [See https://www.cufi.org.uk/news/uk-announces-full-ban-of-hamas/](https://www.cufi.org.uk/news/uk-announces-full-ban-of-hamas/)

Praise: God for this decision to make Jewish people feel safer. (Psalm 137:5)

More: [www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/uk-moves-label-hamas-terror-organization](http://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/uk-moves-label-hamas-terror-organization)

## British Isles

### [27 migrants drowned in Channel](#)

Pregnant women and three children were among 27 Kurds from Iraq and Iran who drowned trying to cross the Channel. Two male survivors are being treated for exhaustion and hypothermia in a Calais hospital. A criminal investigation has been opened; five men are suspected of direct involvement in the attempted crossing. The bodies were brought by boat and helicopter to Calais, where volunteers with local migrant aid associations lit candles and held aloft placards reading 'How many more?' Despite the terrible loss of life, crossings have continued. The next morning forty migrants were brought to Dover by a lifeboat. It is windy on the water and extremely cold, but the determination to get to the UK remains as strong as ever. Boris Johnson said that there are 'difficulties' persuading France 'to do things in a way that the situation deserves'; it was clear French attempts to stop the migrant boats leaving 'haven't been enough' (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59412329>).

Pray: for the UK, France, and the rest of Europe to tackle the migrant problem together. (Philippians 2:2)

More: [www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/25/drowned-people-were-mostly-kurds-from-iraq-or-iran-says-france](http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/25/drowned-people-were-mostly-kurds-from-iraq-or-iran-says-france)

### Stonewall aides 'influencing government'

Nikki da Costa, Boris Johnson's former director of legislative affairs, said senior advisors are letting Stonewall dictate the Government's trans rights policy. She believes the advice being given to the PM is undermining women's rights. She said there is no other organisation - no business, or charity, no matter how big - that can pick up the phone to a special adviser sitting outside Boris Johnson's office and get them to speak directly to the prime minister. 'But that is the kind of access that Stonewall has.' Ms da Costa alleged that a group of aides controlled the views that Johnson was presented with in government papers and stopping him from meeting people with differing views on trans issues.' Carrie Johnson said Boris was an ally to LGBT people at a pro-Stonewall event in October.

Pray: for the Government to receive a variety of balanced views as it currently consults on a proposed ban on conversion therapy. (Proverbs 16:3)

More: [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10197907/Boris-Johnsons-advisors-letting-Stonewall-dictate-government-trans-policy-ex-aide-warns.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10197907/Boris-Johnsons-advisors-letting-Stonewall-dictate-government-trans-policy-ex-aide-warns.html)

### British army engineers to help at Polish border

150 Royal Engineers will be sent to help reinforce Poland's border with Belarus. The border is an entry point to the EU, and there have been tensions there in recent weeks (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/europe-pa-site/item/14773-belarus-poland-border-crisis>). A small reconnaissance team of engineers had already gone to the area to assess the situation. The engineers are not combat troops but 'guys with diggers' who would be dispatched 'within days or weeks'. They will be building or making fences, roads, or checkpoint observation posts, or putting in infrastructure to help the Poles and potentially other Baltic states to secure their border. The UK defence secretary said, 'I'm particularly worried for the women and children and the vulnerable people who are being trafficked by the Belarusians into this game they seem to be playing. It's a horrendous thing to do to force migrants to be a tool in a game to try to destabilise their neighbours'.

Pray: for the support given by UK troops to improve tensions and ease the humanitarian emergency. (Hebrews 10:35)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59331828](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59331828)

### Children in care challenges

The number of children in care, which has risen 36% in a decade, is putting 'unprecedented pressure' on local authorities' budgets. The Government provides councils with £4.8bn for 'vital front-line services', including children's care. Funding a child in residential care costs £4,000+ per week. In 2015, 69,000 children were in care: by March 2020, the figure was 80,080. The rise is explained by, among other things, foster carers not keeping up with increased demands. With local authorities spending more time on this growing need, they are unable to do more early family intervention rather than taking children into care. A trial scheme across five counties is looking to address this challenge. The No Wrong Door programme, funded by the Department for Education and the local authority, brings therapists, police and social workers together within the home to work with families before they reach crisis. Since April, the number of children in care aged 12-17 has reduced by 5%.

Pray: for the success of this trial, and for more multi-agency early intervention by front-line services to keep more children safe in a stable family setting. (Psalm 4:8)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59365725](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59365725)

### University staff to strike in December

Staff at 58 universities will strike between 1 and 3 December over two issues: pension cuts, and pay and working conditions. They are demanding a £2,500 pay increase to end 'pay injustice'. More action is likely if demands are not met, causing further disruption for students in the run-up to Christmas. Staff pay has fallen by 20% after twelve years of below-inflation pay offers; one third of academic staff are on insecure contracts; the gender pay gap is 15%, and the most recent statistics reveal that of 22,810 UK professors, under a third were women and only 1% were Black. Staff are also experiencing a crisis of work-related stress with over half showing probable signs of depression. As well as the three-day walkout, staff at 64 other universities will take action short of striking by strictly working to contract and refusing any additional duties. This will go on indefinitely.

Pray: for minimal disruption for students, and for bosses to address the clear issues around how higher education is currently run. (Micah 6:8)

More: [www.ucu.org.uk/article/11872/Universities-to-be-hit-with-three-days-of-strikes-in-December](https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/11872/Universities-to-be-hit-with-three-days-of-strikes-in-December)

### Mental health deaths

The number of deaths of people treated under the Mental Health Act in England rose during the coronavirus pandemic. The Care Quality Commission's findings come amid concerns over staff shortages in psychiatric units. 490 people died while detained under the act in the year to March 2021, 324 of them for non-Covid reasons. The average overall figure between 2012 and 2019 was 273. Former health secretary Jeremy Hunt warned that shortages of doctors and nurses were now compromising patient safety 'in every part of the NHS'. Mr Hunt, who now chairs the Commons health and social care committee, said 'We still put far too many people into secure accommodation when they haven't committed any crime, just because it's the only option left.'

Pray: for the Government to boost NHS staffing and provide the sector with greater investment. (Matthew 11:28-30)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59336579](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59336579)

### Storm Arwen bringing snow and gales

Swathes of Britain are set to be battered by gales as Storm Arwen brings winds of up to 75mph. The Met Office has issued weather warnings covering most of the UK for 27 November, with coastal areas hit hardest. Forecasters say high winds may cause some travel disruption and damage in the worst-affected areas. An amber alert issued for northeast Scotland and northeast England says 'flying debris is likely and could lead to injuries or danger to life'. Longer journey times in those areas are likely, with rail, air and ferry services potentially disrupted. Parts of the UK are also set for a sprinkling of snow this weekend as an Arctic blast bites, sending temperatures tumbling towards freezing. The wintry mix of gales, rain and snow is predicted anywhere except the far south.

Pray: for the safety of travellers, for the elderly to keep warm, and for wind gust damage to be minimal. (Mark 4:39)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/weather/snow-forecast-uk-weather-met-office-b1964179.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/weather/snow-forecast-uk-weather-met-office-b1964179.html)

## Europe

### Finland: Christian MP prosecuted for her beliefs

Parliament member Päivi Räsänen faces six years in prison for sharing her biblical beliefs on sexuality and marriage. Lutheran bishop Juhana Pohjola was charged with one count of ethnic agitation for publishing Räsänen's booklet. Finish prosecutors said Räsänen's statements disparage and discriminate against LGBT individuals and foment intolerance and defamation. The mother of five maintains her expressions are legal and should not be censored. 'I cannot accept that voicing my religious beliefs could mean imprisonment. I do not consider myself guilty of threatening, slandering or insulting anyone. My statements were based on the Bible's teachings on marriage and sexuality.' Six members of Congress have condemned Finland for prosecuting Räsänen, and said the USA should consider these prosecutions when advising on countries placed on a watch list of countries engaging in religious freedom violations.

Pray: for other countries to condemn Finland's abuse of religious freedom so that the cases are dropped. (Isaiah 48:17)

More: [www.christianpost.com/news/republicans-condemn-finlands-prosecution-of-christian-mp.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/republicans-condemn-finlands-prosecution-of-christian-mp.html)

### Russian preparations to attack Ukraine?

Russia has over 92,000 troops massed around Ukraine's borders and is preparing for an attack by the end of January or beginning of February, said the head of Ukraine's defense intelligence agency, Brig Gen Kyrylo Budanov. He said that an attack would likely involve airstrikes, artillery and armour attacks followed by airborne assaults in the east, amphibious assaults in Odessa and Mariupol, and a smaller incursion through neighboring Belarus. Russia's large-scale Zapad 21 military exercise earlier this year proved they can drop more than 3,500 airborne and special operations troops at once. America's defence secretary Lloyd Austin said, 'The USA continues to see troubling Russian behaviour. We are not sure what Mr Putin is up to, but these movements certainly have our attention. I would urge Russia to be more transparent, and to take steps to live up to the Minsk agreements. Our support for Ukraine sovereignty and territorial integrity remains unwavering.'

Pray: for increased diplomatic pressure and sanctions to make Russians think twice about attacking. and for Russian troop movements to remain inside its own borders. (Isaiah 5:20)

More: [www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2021/11/20/russia-preparing-to-attack-ukraine-by-late-january-ukraine-defense-intelligence-agency-chief/](http://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2021/11/20/russia-preparing-to-attack-ukraine-by-late-january-ukraine-defense-intelligence-agency-chief/)

### Polish PM holds talks in Europe on border crisis

Last weekend Polish prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki met his counterparts from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, also hit by migrant pressure in recent months. During the week he has travelled to other European countries, which he did not name. Morawiecki said on Facebook that it is a 'very serious geopolitical situation' which requires a lot of diplomatic effort as many migrants remain in Belarus and continue attempting to enter Poland. 'This is why I set out on a journey to other European countries, to talk about the international crisis provoked by the actions of Alexander Lukashenko. Unfortunately, there are numerous signs suggesting that this geopolitical crisis will continue for many months, even years', Morawiecki said. Poland is pushing the migrants back to protect the border for all of Europe and has received words of support from the EU, NATO and the USA.

Pray: for humanitarian aid to reach the stranded migrants living in freezing conditions. (Psalm 34:17)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/mateusz-morawiecki-poland-european-union-europe-lithuania-b1961356.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/mateusz-morawiecki-poland-european-union-europe-lithuania-b1961356.html)

## Worldwide

### USA: religious liberty

A leaked memo from the Department of Health and Human Services reveals America's plan to undo religious liberty protections and disregard First Amendment rights. The memo states, 'This action will likely be well received among civil rights and groups advocating separation of church from state. But many will interpret this as the Government abdicating its responsibility for compliance with religious freedom, and will issue strong negative reactions.' We can pray for the US government to remember the roots of their religious freedom and liberty birthed by the Pilgrims in 1620. The Pilgrims didn't just institute Thanksgiving, celebrated on 25 November this year. They were prepared to die for religious freedom and made the Bible America's guide to life. The self-rule they pioneered eventually shaped America's [government and constitution](https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2020/november/the-pilgrims-brought-the-values-that-shaped-freedom-loving-america) (<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2020/november/the-pilgrims-brought-the-values-that-shaped-freedom-loving-america>).

Pray: for religious liberty and civil liberty to be restored to the original Biblical values. (Hebrews 4:12)

More: [decisionmagazine.com/leaked-hhs-memo-reveals-biden-admin-moving-to-remove-religious-liberty-protections/](http://decisionmagazine.com/leaked-hhs-memo-reveals-biden-admin-moving-to-remove-religious-liberty-protections/)

### Nigeria: lawlessness and 'fake news'

Luka Binniyat, a Christian journalist, faces three years' imprisonment after reporting on attacks against Christian communities and critical assessments of the government's response. He was arrested on 4 November and charged with electronically transmitting information 'known to be false'. Many believe his arrest is aimed at silencing dissenting voices and intimidating Luka and Kaduna communities. Luka has persistently challenged the government on issues of security and killings in southern Kaduna. This charge follows his report on police failing to make any arrests after gunmen killed 35 people in two separate attacks on churches. He said, 'In Nigeria, police decry massacres as "wicked" but make no arrests'. Pray for Luka's release and for an end to [criminalisation of journalism](https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/journalist-arrested-after-reporting-on-attacks-against-christians-in-nig/) (<https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/journalist-arrested-after-reporting-on-attacks-against-christians-in-nig/>). Meanwhile bandits invaded Emmanuel Baptist Church, service killing two, seriously injuring three, and kidnapping 66. Rev Joseph Hayab said, 'The abducted worshippers are in danger and require urgent government intervention.' The insecurity in Kaduna state has grown beyond imagination and is threatening Nigeria's peace.

Pray: for God's peace for the Church and may the international community recognise the fragile situation and act so that violent lawlessness is eradicated. (Isaiah 61:8)

More: [punchng.com/bandits-kill-two-out-of-66-abducted-kaduna-baptist-church-worshippers-can/](http://punchng.com/bandits-kill-two-out-of-66-abducted-kaduna-baptist-church-worshippers-can/)

### USA: Kyle Rittenhouse and gun rights

Kyle Rittenhouse, a teenager cleared of murder during racial unrest, said his case 'had nothing to do with race' it was about the right to self-defence. Jurors cleared him of killing two men and wounding a third with a military rifle when he said he had feared for his life. A patriot to some and a vigilante to others, his acquittal divided the US with media commentary dwelling on race, even though Rittenhouse and all three men shot were white. The incident is the story of an American dystopia induced by guns and Pennsylvania's lawmakers wanting to move closer toward allowing permitless concealed carrying of firearms. See <https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/editorials/kyle-rittenhouse-kenohsa-verdict-conceal-carry-pennsylvania-gop-20211122.html>

Pray: for white supremacists, Black Lives Matter advocates, and gun law campaigners to step back from the rhetoric that is tearing the USA apart. (Proverbs 28:5)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-59382788](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-59382788)

### Australia: proposed law to allow 'discrimination'

On 25 November prime minister Scott Morrison introduced a controversial Religious Discrimination Bill, which will allow faith-based organisations to prioritise hiring and enrolment of people from their faith. The bill, tabled just months before next year's election, is seen as an attempt to woo votes from religious citizens, as Mr Morrison is a Pentecostal Christian. When introducing the bill to parliament, he said it would protect those who expressed their religious faith outside the workplace as long as it did not cause financial damage to their employer. 'People should not be persecuted or vilified because their beliefs are different from someone else's. Australians shouldn't have to worry about offending an anonymous person on Twitter.' The bill will be put to vote in the lower house next week, but is unlikely to pass into law before the elections.

Pray: for the law to protect people from discrimination not used to discriminate against others. (1 Timothy 4:16)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/australia-religious-anti-discrimination-law-b1964124.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/australia-religious-anti-discrimination-law-b1964124.html)

### Nepal: missionaries' prayer request

Villagers shamed the family of a girl who took her own life, especially as her mother was a Christian. Local missionaries and other church members were the only ones who came to comfort them, making a deep impression on the mother's unbelieving son; their love and care opened his heart to the gospel, giving workers a chance to share with him more deeply and lead him to Christ. Local missionaries saw 118 people put their faith in Christ over a six-month period, and they helped train 45 pastors and others for church leadership. Workers need donations for the means to carry out such evangelism and discipleship. They request prayer for provision to fulfill their outreach goal.

Pray: for the funding needed so that more hearts are opened to the Lord. (Luke 6:38)

More: [www.christianaid.org/prayerline/](http://www.christianaid.org/prayerline/)

### Solomon Islands: violent rioting

Solomon Islands prime minister Manasseh Sogavare declared a lockdown on 24 November after a thousand anti-government protesters gathered in the capital demanding his resignation. Sogavare has been in power for twenty years, and foreigners have plundered the country's resources. The people are not blind to this, and will not be cheated any more. A Honiara journalist said the cause of the chaos was a 'mixture of a lot of frustration.' The protesters breached the parliament building and set fire to buildings, including a police station. Sogavare requested Australia's assistance under a bilateral security treaty; Australia will send a detachment of 23 federal police officers and up to 50 more to provide security at critical infrastructure sites, plus 43 defense force personnel, a patrol boat, and at least five diplomats. The deployment is expected to last for a few weeks.

Pray: for Australia's intervention to provide stability and security. and for the start of political and diplomatic changes for the better.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

More: [www.nbcnews.com/news/world/australia-sending-troops-solomon-islands-unrest-grows-rcna6716](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/australia-sending-troops-solomon-islands-unrest-grows-rcna6716)

### Pakistan: false blasphemy accusations

Two Christian nurses accused of blasphemy received bail and were released from prison in September. The decision was kept secret for almost two months to avoid backlash from Islamists. Mariam Lal and Nawish Arooj were granted bail by a sessions court in Faisalabad. Those charged with blasphemy in Pakistan usually languish in jail for years until the appeals process is exhausted. This is an unprecedented decision by any sessions court in a blasphemy case. Both women are currently in a safe location. They are very happy and relieved after their release, and are optimistic that the court will absolve them of the charge once the trial concludes. In Pakistan, false accusations of blasphemy are widespread and often motivated by personal vendettas or religious hatred. Accusations are highly inflammatory and have the potential to spark mob lynchings, vigilante murders, and mass protests.

Pray: for the nurses to be completely exonerated, and for this case to be a turning point in the unjust justice system. Pray that more false accusations against Christians will be proved untrue and dropped. (Ephesians 5:11)

More: [www.persecution.org/2021/11/22/two-christians-accused-blasphemy-pakistan-released-bail/](http://www.persecution.org/2021/11/22/two-christians-accused-blasphemy-pakistan-released-bail/)

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