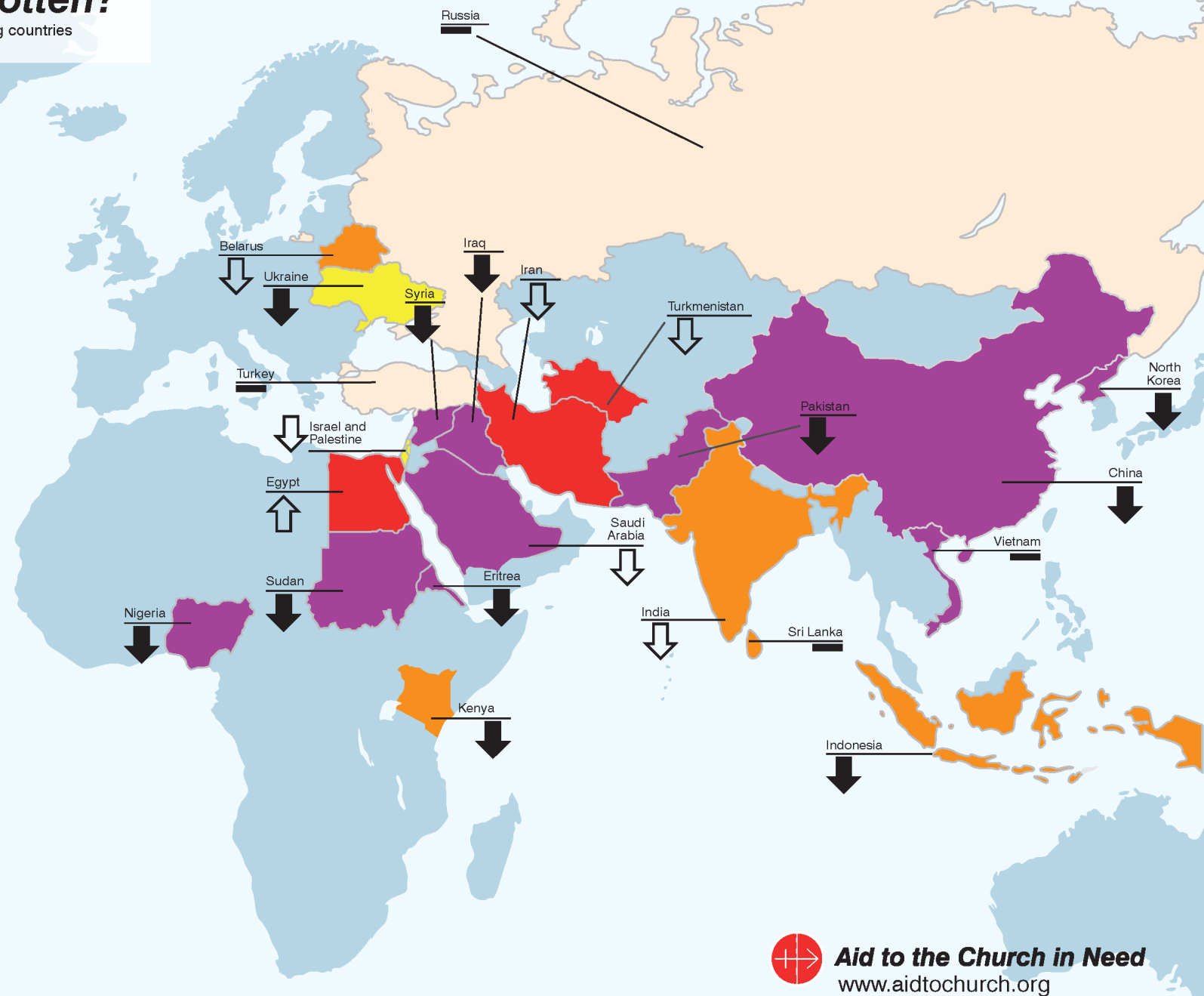


Persecuted and Forgotten?

Map of oppression/persecution of Christians, highlighting countries selected for inclusion in the 2013–2015 report.

Nature of persecution/oppression	
	= Extreme
	= High to extreme
	= High
	= Moderate to high
	= Moderate
	= Not included in this analysis
	= Situation improved
	= Situation unchanged
	= Situation worsened

Where arrows are only depicted in outline it means the situation has only slightly changed.



Scale of oppression/persecution of Christians

KEY: ● = Extreme
 ● = High to Extreme
 ● = High
 ● = Moderate to High
 ○ = Moderate

↑ = Situation improved
 — = Situation unchanged
 ↓ = Situation worsened

Where arrows are depicted in outline it means the countries have only got slightly better or slightly worse.

This table provides a comparison of the 19 countries assessed in both the 2011–13 and 2013–15 report. The other three examined in 2013–15 were not included in the previous analysis, namely Kenya, Russia and Ukraine.

2013–15				COMPARISON 2011–13	
Country	Scale of persecution/ oppression	Change in situation	Principal findings	Scale of persecution/ oppression	Change in situation
Belarus	●	↓	State permission is still needed to carry out religious activities. Unrecognised groups risk having their property raided and seized.	●	—
China	●	↓	By some assessments worshippers suffered the harshest persecution seen in over a decade in 2014. Mass campaign of (partial) demolition of churches in a few local areas.	●	↓
Egypt	●	↑	While attacks on churches seen when President Morsi left power have not been repeated, Christians have still suffered targeted attacks, been killed, and imprisoned.	●	↓
Eritrea	●	↓	Christians and other religious minorities are leaving Eritrea and Ethiopia in large numbers. Extremist groups have kidnapped and executed believers.	●	↓
India	●	↓	Christians have faced a spate of violence against churches and attacks by Hindu extremists despite promises of protection for minorities by Prime Minister Modi.	●	↓
Indonesia	●	↓	Communities continue to be denied permits for new churches and Christians are subject to <i>Shari'a</i> law in some areas.	●	↓
Iran	●	↓	Increased raids and arrests – and the number of Christians in prison almost doubled over 2014, despite government promises to promote religious tolerance.	●	↓
Iraq	●	↓	Christians in northern Iraq told to convert or die. With Christian numbers as low as 275,000, and many displaced, the Faith's future here is in doubt.	●	↑
Israel and Palestine	●	↓	Christians have seen increasing attacks on holy sites, and attempts to drive them out by extremists. Christians numbers continue to decline in Palestine.	○	↓

In assessing the scale of oppression and persecution of Christians, ACN (UK) has considered many factors and drawn on a number of sources to make its final assessment. However, this sort of assessment is difficult to make for several reasons: i) acts of oppression and persecution are of different types, e.g. state suppression is different to acts of physical violence; ii) such conditions are frequently not uniform across a country or state; iii) the difficulties of getting information from some states or regions within countries; iv) the

Summary of Findings		
Scale of Persecution/oppression	No. of countries in 2015	No. of countries in 2013
Extreme	10	6
High/Extreme	3	5
High	4	5
Moderate/High	1	1
Moderate	1	2
Situation worsened	15	13
Situation unchanged	3	5
Situation improved	1	1

Nigeria	●	↓	Christians faced increased attacks by Boko Haram, who have targeted villages, churches and schools, kidnapping young girls and killing boys.	●	↓
North Korea	●	↓	Christians have now been executed for their faith under Kim Jong-un. Reports still suggest there are around 200,000 Christians in prison or in labour camps.	●	—
Pakistan	●	↓	Terrorist organisations have targeted churches, as government has become less responsive to acts of violence against Christians.	●	↓
Saudi Arabia	●	↓	Saudi Arabia has one of the worst records regarding abuse of religious freedom and the new king has heralded a more hard-line approach.	●	—
Sri Lanka	●	—	Christians and Muslims alike have been subjected to hate speech and violence by Buddhist extremists, who have destroyed or forcibly closed numerous churches.	●	↓
Sudan	●	↓	As President Omar al-Bashir stepped up the increasingly hard-line ultra-orthodox Islamist agenda, the number of Christians in Sudan has declined rapidly.	●	↓
Syria	●	↓	Christians in Syria are targeted by militants and extremists because of their faith and have been driven from their homes. Priests and Bishops have been kidnapped.	●	↓
Turkey	○	—	Christians are still seen as second-class citizens. Despite reform efforts by the government, there are concerns about the rise of radical Islamism within society.	○	—
Turkmenistan	●	↓	A new administrative code introduced in January 2014 increased punishments for 'illegal' unregistered religious groups. Many Christians are forced to worship in secret.	●	—
Vietnam	●	—	The government continues to control religious activities and repress groups challenging its authority. Attacks on Church buildings and imprisonment of believers continue.	●	↓

nature of ACN's qualitative assessment. In making this assessment it has drawn on other analyses such as the Pew Forum's Social Hostilities Index and Open Door's World Watch List, although taking into account that these are based on different periods. Ultimately there is necessarily a subjective element in a qualitative analysis of this kind.