



# Gender Profile of Persecution: Compilation of World Watch List 2018 data

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# Gender Profile of Persecution - Compilation of WWL 2018 data

By Helene Fisher, Elizabeth Miller and WWR Persecution analysts

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Rank	Country	Female	Male
1	North Korea	No data available.	No data available.
2	Afghanistan	No data available.	No data available.
3	Somalia	One researcher reports: "Women and girls were pressured into attending Duksi classes, dressing in al-Shabaab compliant burkas, forcefully married off, suffered domestic violence, beaten up by family and spouses, verbally abused, put under 'house arrest', denied food and rights, lost their businesses, were threatened and forced to go into hiding with some seeking refuge outside the country, denied access to their children, were widowed and some even killed on suspicions of their faith."	According to one researcher, men and boys suspected of conversion to Christianity faced extreme levels of persecution: "Men and boys were verbally abused, physically assaulted, businesses taken over, threatened with death, tortured, burnt alive and others shot to death."
4	Sudan	Female Christians in the country face tremendous challenges. They are forced to dress like Muslims. Girls who are arrested for "indecent dressing" often face groping and humiliation during interrogation. The apostasy ordeal that Mariam Yehya Ibrahim had to go through, even giving birth in jail in May 2014, serves as an example of the sort of treatment a Christian woman in Sudan can experience.	The government targets male Christians with a variety of serious charges. For instance, the security forces often accuse Christian males of spying for the West. This has the potential to cause family disintegration and weaken the Church.

5	Pakistan	<p>Horrific statistics continue to indicate that an estimated 700 Pakistani Christian girls and women are abducted each year, often raped and then forcefully married to Muslim men from the community. This involves forced conversions as well, and if a Christian family is bold enough to challenge the abduction and marriage, they often face accusations of harassing the “voluntarily converted” girl and her new family.</p>	<p>No data available.</p>
6	Eritrea	<p>Female Christians face enormous challenges. Cross-denominational converts from the EOC as well as Christians from a Muslim background face forced marriage and forced renunciation of their new faith. Women are also subjected to obligatory military training and national service; however, men are more impacted by this.</p>	<p>Male Christians in the country are mainly victims of the system of obligatory military conscription. As a result, many young Eritreans seek to escape the country</p>
7	Libya	<p>The form of persecution that occurs particularly to Christian women and girls is sexual assault and rape. In addition to the physical pain and injury that such attack causes on the victims, the trauma and emotional hardship it causes to their family, friends and fellow Christians is very high.</p>	<p>Forced labor and forms of slavery are widespread forms of abuse and persecution experienced by Christian men. Beatings, torture and degrading treatment are also ways through which Christian men suffer from persecution.</p>
8	Iraq	<p>Of all WWL categories of Christian communities, female converts from Islam are particularly vulnerable to persecution for their faith. However, other Christian females also face inequality, e.g. if their husbands convert to Islam. In the case of female converts, pressure comes most often from the side of the (wider) family. When she still lives with her family, a convert risks abuse in the form of</p>	<p>Christian men reportedly face discrimination at work and education in Iraq. Job discrimination affects men belonging to all WWL categories of Christian communities, especially those working in the public sector. Christians in central and south Iraq have been put under pressure to leave their jobs, especially if they are working for foreign organizations or are employed at higher levels of society (e.g. government</p>

	<p>house-arrest, sexual harassment, rape and even death, if her faith is revealed. Female converts from Islam cannot officially marry male Christians, as the Iraqi state still considers them Muslims and Muslim women are not allowed to marry non-Muslims. When married to a Muslim husband, a female convert risks abuse and death threats from her husband or his family which cause some to flee. They are also faced with travel restrictions. Travel bans can be imposed by the authorities but also by family, for instance to prevent the female convert from leaving the country. If this ban is violated, a court case can be started for “travelling without permission”. Female converts are also under the threat of forced divorce. The attitude of the spouse’s family is crucial in this issue.</p> <p>The IS group is known for its inferior treatment of women, especially those from religious minorities. Since establishing its so-called caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria in June 2014, IS abducted and forced large numbers of Yazidi but also several Christian women into marriages with IS-fighters. They suffered sexual enslavement and sex trafficking. Though their numbers have decreased, Yazidi and Christian women who are still missing could very well continue to be facing sexual abuse at present.</p> <p>Furthermore, IS has reportedly killed women for not wearing a scarf, forcing non-Muslims to veil themselves as well. Also outside of IS-held territory, Christian women and girls are now wearing veils for their own safety. Unveiled women in</p>	<p>companies).</p> <p>In the north, Christians report to struggle to get employment and allegedly feel vulnerable and prone to be exploited at their jobs, according to one country researcher. In the mostly traditional and tribal Iraqi society, men are often the primary breadwinners for their families and losing their jobs can have a considerable effect on Christian families. This problem affects Christians with a Muslim background in all sectors of society; if their faith is known they will face serious problems finding and keeping employment. Male converts with a Muslim background can face persecution from their families, including violent death.</p> <p>Also men from a non-Muslim Christian background risk being killed for their faith, the perpetrators being mostly radical Islamic militants. The consequences of this can be far-reaching for their families, who apart from being left without income, often face emotional trauma if the man flees or is killed. A convert’s family could face also mockery and pressure from the husband’s Muslim family. The loss of Christian men not only affects their direct families, but also the local church which consequently finds itself confronted with a lack of potential leadership. As such, Christian men - particular former Muslims - are in a very vulnerable position to sustain their families.</p>
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		<p>Baghdad and Basra are likely to be harassed, pelted with stones, kidnapped or killed. On the whole, Iraqi society is characterized by widespread lawlessness. For Christian women this is compounded by the fact there is general impunity for violations against Christians, be it stealing property, kidnapping, sexual abuse or corruption. The higher connections and higher status of the Muslim perpetrator means they will always win the case, especially under the tribal justice system which can override national justice. On a community level, in state schools, Christian girls are seen as weaker and often ridiculed for their faith, according to one country researcher. They are reportedly under pressure to convert to Islam and their grades can be impacted if they openly challenge concepts which contradict their Christian faith. In conclusion, Christian women – especially converts from Islam - suffer from unequal treatment in all sectors of society.</p>	
9	Yemen	<p>In a culture where the oppression of women is normal, female Christians with a Muslim background are additionally vulnerable. Tribal law and customs do not allow them to marry a Christian; punishment for disobedience can be death, banishment, or confinement within the home. In a public case reported in local papers, a young woman whose faith in Christ was discovered was committed to an asylum for the mentally ill. Female converts are also likely to be married off to a Muslim if their conversion is known. The</p>	<p>Although women face greater access restrictions to opportunities for discipleship, fellowship, and baptism, men face a greater risk of martyrdom. While women may be confined to the home, forced to marry a Muslim fundamentalist, beaten, or committed to an asylum for the mentally ill, they are less likely to be killed if their faith is discovered by family members or local authorities. This is due to an assumption that women are ignorant or mentally inferior, so they are considered less accountable for their error in judgement. Meanwhile men are</p>

		<p>local community of converts is reacting to this situation by arranging marriages with other Christians of Muslim background. Female converts may also risk rape or sexual harassment. As such, female converts usually continue to wear the local Muslim dress for their own safety and security. In comparison to men, female seekers and new believers face greater limitations in accessing discipleship training, fellowship with other believers, and opportunities to get baptized —unless they have a close male relative who can facilitate their participation in these activities. This is because families closely monitor the activities of female members of the household outside the home, whereas men can come and go without giving an account of how their time was spent outside the home.</p>	<p>more likely to be targeted by extremist groups, imprisoned by the local authorities, and are generally more likely to face persecution in the public sphere. Since women are already restricted by their gender from participation in the workforce, workplace discrimination or persecution particularly affects male converts. This also affects their families, since men are usually the sole provider for the household. A man whose wife is not a believer may be less likely to share his faith with others, as he fears his children will be raised as Muslims should his witness lead to his death or should he loose custody of his children in the case of divorce.</p>
10	Iran	<p>The Tahirih Justice Center reports that women and girls are especially vulnerable in the Iranian society because they are depending on their husbands and guardians.<sup>104</sup> There is little protection against (sexual) abuse and domestic violence. Furthermore, the issue of honor and shame is an important element within Iranian society. Thus, a woman’s conversion and arrest is often more shameful to families than when male members leave Islam. Nonetheless, more women than men are converting to Christianity in Iran. The number of female Christian converts arrested and detained has risen ever since the state started targeting ordinary church</p>	<p>In the WWL 2018 reporting period, more men were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced by the government than women. Men tend to have more leadership positions within the various (underground) churches, although sources say house-churches are often lead by women too</p>

		<p>members and not just leaders. However, the number of detentions are lower than for men. One reason could be that issuing prison sentences to women can have negative international consequences for the Iranian regime, since people tend to have more sympathy for female detainees.</p>	
11	India	<p>The forms of persecution women and girls are particularly subject to are: molestation, rape, physical and verbal abuse; attempted murder; being forced to participate in Hindu rituals; isolation for faith and expulsion from home/village. India is a religiously diverse and democratic society with a constitution that in theory provides legal equality for all citizens irrespective of their religion, sex, race, or caste and prohibits religion-based discrimination. However, the reality is far different. Other simultaneously existing laws are ancient traditions which are by nature patriarchal and exploitative of the weaker class of society. Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, has announced the launch of “bahu lao-beti bachao” campaign. Under it, they “protect Hindu boys who marry Muslim or Christian girls” and create awareness among Hindu families “to protect their girls from falling in love or getting married to Muslim or Christian boys”.</p>	<p>The forms of persecution Christian men and boys are particularly subject to are: brutal beatings amounting to attempted murder; legal charges; arrest on charges; social discrimination. They are subjected to various forms of persecution such as: expulsion from home; social boycotts; being fined for conversion; denied drinking water; deprived of government benefits; false charges of forcing people to convert to Christianity; loss of assets.</p>
12	Saudi Arabia	<p>In a country where all citizens are considered to be Muslim, female Christians with a Muslim background are especially vulnerable. If their conversion gets known, they risk violence, house-arrest and</p>	<p>Deviations from standard behavior is quickly noticed and male converts to Christianity will experience pressure exerted by family and society.</p>

		<p>forced marriage. In the strict Islamic Saudi society, women are closely monitored. They need to mind the family's reputation - any undesired behavior can harm their family's honor, which is considered a mortal sin. Leaving Islam is one of the biggest crimes a Muslim can commit. Saudi's legal system is based on Sharia Law and apostasy carries the death sentence. If married, a female convert risks divorce and losing custody of her children. This means loss of a social safety net and protection. Considering this, it comes as no surprise that many female converts ultimately leave the country, for their own safety.</p> <p>Asian and African workers are known to suffer from physical and sexual abuse by their employers. Christian and other non-Islamic workers are additionally vulnerable in this respect. Among them, women are even more at risk of abuse. This is very much connected to the subordinate position of women in Saudi society and their unprotected status as women alone (working outside their house). For instance, Saudi women are not allowed to leave home without the companion of a male relative.</p>	
<b>13</b>	Maldives	No data available	No data available
<b>14</b>	Nigeria	<p>Women and girls have often been abducted and subjected to sexual assault and rape. This has been the common practice of both Boko Haram<sup>1</sup> and Fulani Muslim herdsmen. Many of them are also forced into</p>	<p>Christian men and boys have often been targeted specifically, especially in the north-eastern part of the country where Boko Haram has been active. Many have been attacked, abducted and forced to join the militant</p>

<sup>1</sup> To understand the background and context of violence against women as a form of persecution in northern Nigeria, see: "Our Bodies, Their Battleground - Boko Haram and Gender-Based Violence against Christian Women and Children in NorthEastern Nigeria since 1999", <http://theanalytical.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Boko-Haram-and-Gender-Based-Violenceagainst-Christian-Women-and-Children-in-North-Eastern-Nigeria-since-1999-2015.pdf>

		<p>marriage with non-Christians. The fact that there are laws which permit under-age marriage in some states (as well the existence of cultural and religious norms that discourage girls from going to school) contribute to this problem. The persecution of women and girls has a detrimental effect on the Church and Christian families. In addition to the great emotional toll and social cost of such persecution, in some communities where widows are the main bread winners of the family, such persecution of women also affects the economic wellbeing of the community.</p>	<p>group. Such attacks have a devastating effect on the Church and Christian families.</p>
15	Syria	<p>Women and girls from religious minority groups, including Christians, risk sexual harassment and rape. This can happen both in government-controlled areas and in rebel-held territory, though the threat is higher in and near the latter. In both areas, female converts can be abducted and/or forced to marry Muslims. Kidnapped Christian women and girls have been married off to IS fighters, sometimes to several fighters per Christian. IS published a message in their magazine that Christian and Yezidi women may be treated as “spoils of war”. Many of them are raped. There are credible reports on rape being used as a weapon of war to induce intimidation, regardless of one’s faith, although religion can be an additional motivation. Not only Islamic militant groups constitute a threat for Christian women and girls. For female converts violence can come</p>	<p>In Syria there is enforced military service for all men reaching the age of 18. Some Christians are conscientious objectors and this can prompt consideration of emigration. The persecution of Christian men affects their families considerably, particularly if they are killed or abducted as the family might well lack any income and be unable to afford basic needs. In Syrian culture the men are the main provider for the family</p>

	<p>from their own families if their new faith is discovered. Women are particularly vulnerable to the Islamic culture of honor and shame. Leaving Islam is a great taboo and seriously violates family honor. This includes assaults and honor-killing risks. Moreover there is limited protection from family violence in practice (if not in law) for women and girls in general. According to Sharia law, a Muslim woman is not allowed to legally marry a Christian man (vice versa is possible). This makes marriages between female Christians with a Muslim background and men from other categories of Christian communities legally impossible. Female converts from Islam to Christianity married to a Muslim risk divorce, particularly if their conversion becomes known to in-laws. In that case, they are very likely to be excluded from having custody over their children. In cases of divorce, other Christian women married to a Muslim also face the risk of losing their children. Although the attitude of the wider family is crucial, there is always a risk of losing custody to relatives as this issue falls under Sharia law which gives the right to the Muslim spouse. Also, Christian women can only inherit from their Muslim men, if they convert to Islam. This is especially problematic for Christian women married to Muslims or to male Christians with a Muslim background, who are still considered Muslims by Sharia law. As a result of the above described situation, it is very hard for female converts and Christian</p>	
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		women married to Muslims to raise a stable family.	
16	Uzbekistan	In Uzbekistan the daily life of indigenous people is based on Islamic culture which puts women in an inferior position compared to men. Total submission is expected from women to their parents and if married – to their husbands. This makes them more vulnerable to persecution - both as Christians and as women who challenge the existing order. Christian women and girls are suffering from verbal and physical abuse, threats, beatings, detention, interrogation, confiscation, fines, imprisonment, job loss, discrimination, home detention, forced marriage, family violence and rape, shaming, expulsion, divorce, loss of possessions.	Church leaders are normally men; they are also normally the heads of their family and the main bread winners. When a Christian man becomes a target of persecution - fined or imprisoned - his whole family will suffer. Losing jobs will affect the whole family. If a man is a church leader his persecution will affect his church and cause fear. Christian men and boys suffer from verbal and physical abuse, threats, beatings, detention, interrogation, confiscation, fines, imprisonment, job loss, discrimination, excommunication, home detention, shaming, pleading, excommunication, divorce, loss of possessions.
17	Egypt	Women are often subjected to harassment, forced marriage or marriage by abduction and sexual assault. Although such abuses are common practices that affect women in Egypt. There have been reports that Christian women are particularly targeted for marriage by abduction. Many of the Christian girls who are lured in to marriage are underage and come from power and vulnerable families. Such persecution causes great physiological trauma and pain to Christian families and communities.	No separate information available.
18	Vietnam	No data available.	No data available.
19	Turkmenistan	In Turkmenistan the daily life of indigenous people is based on Islamic culture which puts women in an inferior position compared to men. Total submission is expected from women to their parents and if	Church leaders are normally men; they are also normally the heads of their family and the main bread winners. When a Christian man becomes a target of persecution - fined or imprisoned - his whole family will suffer. Losing jobs will

		<p>married - to their husbands. This makes them more vulnerable to persecution - both as Christians and as women who challenge the existing order. Female converts from Islam are particularly affected by the obligation to follow any pre-marital arrangements made by her parents prior to her conversion. A female convert may experience abduction, home imprisonment, beating, forced marriage and rape. Other female Christians (i.e. without a Muslim background) may experience verbal abuse, threats and loss of employment.</p>	<p>affect the whole family. If a man is a church leader his persecution will affect his church and cause fear. The absence of an alternative option for military service is one of the problematic areas for males. For the following it is mainly Christian men and boys from a Muslim background who are affected: They may suffer from verbal and physical abuse, threats, beatings, detention, interrogation, confiscation, fines, imprisonment, job loss, discrimination, excommunication, home detention, shaming, excommunication, divorce, loss of possessions.</p>
<b>20</b>	Laos	No data available.	No data available.
<b>21</b>	Jordan	<p>In Jordan, of all categories of Christian communities, female converts from Islam are particularly vulnerable to persecution for their faith. However, other Christian females also face inequality, e.g. if their husbands convert to Islam. In the case of female converts, pressure comes most often from the side of the family.</p> <p>When she still lives with her family, a convert risks house arrest and even sexual harassment or rape if her faith is revealed. Though forced marriages are not uncommon in Jordan, female converts are under additional threat to be married off involuntarily in an effort to prevent shame and bring her back on 'the right path'.</p> <p>Female converts cannot officially marry male Christians. Even if they marry abroad, the state does not recognize the marriage. Christian women in general can only marry Muslim</p>	<p>Job discrimination affects all categories of Christian communities, especially those working in the public sector. In the mostly traditional and tribal Jordanian society where men are regarded as "the primary breadwinners for their families"<sup>190</sup>, this can have a considerable effect on Christian families. Under Sharia law, marriages between Muslim women and a non-Muslim men are not allowed. For the marriage to be legal, the man must convert to Islam. This makes legal marriage between Christian men who are not converts and Christian women with a Muslim background impossible. Sharia law also determines that if a Christian wife converts to Islam, her husband must convert as well for their marriage to remain legal. Finally, if the pressure on Christian families leads to emigration, this has a potentially negative effect on future leadership, since the Orthodox</p>

	<p>men if they convert to Islam, as determined by the religious registration system. This is particularly complicated for Christian women who are not converts desiring to marry converts, as their husbands-to-be are still considered Muslims. When married to non-Christian husbands, female converts risk abuse and death threats which cause some to flee. They are also faced with travel restrictions. Travel bans can be imposed by the authorities but also by family, for instance to prevent the female convert from leaving the country. If this ban is violated, a court case can be started for “travelling without permission”. Female converts are also under the threat of forced divorce. The attitude of the spouse’s family is crucial in this issue.</p> <p>According to the International Religious Freedom Report for 2016<sup>188</sup>: “Any member of society may file an apostasy complaint against such individuals [<i>apostates</i>]. In cases decided by a sharia court, judges can annul converts’ marriages, transfer child custody to a nonparent Muslim family member or declare the children ‘wards of the state’, and convey an individual’s property rights to Muslim family members.” If a Muslim husband and non-Muslim wife are divorced, the wife automatically loses custody of the children when they reach seven years of age, unlike Muslim women<sup>189</sup>. If a divorced Christian converts to Islam, she can gain custody rights over the children and receive an inheritance from her husband. This puts a lot of pressure on divorced Christian women to</p>	<p>and Catholic churches will then have less men available for training and taking on leadership roles.</p>
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		convert. In short, raising a stable family is very hard for converts and for Christian women whose husbands convert to Islam.	
22	Tajikistan	In Tajikistan the daily life of indigenous people is based on Islamic culture which puts women in an inferior position compared to men. Total submission is expected from women to their parents and if married – to their husbands. This makes them more vulnerable to persecution - both as Christians and as women who challenge the existing order. The state authorities in Tajikistan prohibit the use of religious clothes or symbols, also by female believers. In the case of Islamic women, the hijab is also prohibited. Among some Baptists and Pentecostal groups married women traditionally cover their head with a headscarf. This headscarf is different to the one used by Muslim women, but potentially, it could also become a case for arrest. No cases have yet been reported, however.	Church leaders are normally men, and men are also normally the head of their family and the main bread winner. When a Christian man becomes a target of persecution (e.g. fined or imprisoned), his whole family will suffer. Losing jobs and income will affect the whole family. If a man is a church leader his persecution will affect his church and cause fear. Persecution from the state includes raids, searches, detention, interrogation, confiscation, fines and imprisonment. When detained by police, Christian men suffer verbal and physical abuse, threats, beatings, and pressure to become an informer. At the hands of the local community, Christian men can lose their jobs and suffer beatings, threats, verbal and physical abuse, discrimination, ostracization, and pressure on the family members. At the hands of his own family, a Christian with a Muslim background may face beatings, threats, home detention, verbal and physical abuse, humiliation, excommunication and divorce.
23	Malaysia	No data available.	No data available.
24	Myanmar	No data available.	No data available.
25	Nepal	Christian women and girls are also subjected to physical violence but it comes gradually after emotional and mental torture. In an initial phase, they are emotionally tortured by the immediate family members	Most Christian men and boys are subjected to physical, mental and social forms of suffering as they are usually ostracized from family and society. They are also denied their ancestral property and even basic human rights such as

		<p>(e.g. husband, in-laws, parents). Gradually the mental and physical torture starts until finally they are regarded as social outcasts by the family and community. This makes them vulnerable and victims of sexual oppression.</p> <p>Nepal is a patriarchal society where girls have less opportunities. Education and exposure to wider society is minimal as they are limited within the boundaries of home with a large amount of household duties. Those who become Christians do so mainly through witnessing healings and miracles in their own or closest family life.</p>	<p>citizenship by immediate family members and village level government units. Christian men mostly migrate to new cities or areas to start a new identity and are economically deprived in the first phases of persecuted life.</p> <p>In many cases, Christian men and boys are the breadwinner of the family. After being persecuted, the family often suffers through a reduced income as the men and boys are severely beaten and socially ostracized. Often the local police administration takes the male Christians away for intensive and lengthy interrogation. Thus, when men and boys suffer the whole family is in trouble economically and insecure socially.</p>
<b>26</b>	Brunei	No data available.	No data available.
<b>27</b>	Qatar	<p>Female Christians risk abduction, rape and other forms of abuse. In Quranic terms, a Muslim is free to have sex with whatever his "right hand possesses". This includes wives and female slaves. House maids working in Qatar are often viewed as belonging to this category. Many Qatari households have a domestic worker, many among them are Christian which makes them even less significant in the eyes of the Qataris and more vulnerable to sexual abuse. It goes without saying that the impact of sexual abuse is deeply traumatic.</p>	<p>Most of the time, Christian men are the breadwinner for their families and face the brunt of discrimination (at their workplaces) to help their families. Men can also easily become the victim of discrimination in the labor camps.</p>
<b>28</b>	Kazakhstan	<p>In Kazakhstan the daily life of indigenous people is based on Islamic culture which puts women in an inferior position compared to men. Total submission is expected from women to their parents and if married - to their husbands. This makes them more vulnerable to persecution -</p>	<p>Church leaders are normally men and men are also normally the head of their family and the main bread winner. When a Christian man becomes a target of persecution – e.g. is fined or imprisoned - his whole family will suffer. Losing jobs and income will affect the whole</p>

		both as Christians and as women who challenge the existing order. Female converts are at a bigger risk of suffering physical and verbal abuse, harassment, threats, house-arrest, discrimination and rejection by their family and the wider Muslim community, than other female Christians. For other Christians, persecution would be not different for men and women.	family. If a man is a church leader his persecution will affect his church and cause fear. Obligatory military service for young men provides an extra potential risk of persecution. In the case of converts from Islam, men and boys are at a bigger risk of physical and verbal abuse, harassment, threats, discrimination and rejection by family and Muslim community, than other male Christians.
29	Ethiopia	Women are mostly victim to abduction, rape and divorce. A country researcher says: "Some believers will also face the challenge of living without marriage. Church leaders explain that women comprised the majority of their members. But, these women would not find husbands and the community and their relatives will pressure/insult them."	A country researcher states: "Physical attack is more serious on men and boys than on women and girls. They will also face more scrutiny in Ethnic antagonism areas."
30	Tunisia	No information available.	No information available.
31	Turkey	Conversion to Christianity is probably more difficult for women as they are more vulnerable to persecution in an Islamic society in which they have an inferior position. That holds particularly true for women from minorities and even more so in rural areas.	During military service men are in an environment where, if their religion is stated as being Christianity in their ID, they can be viewed with suspicion by their superiors and bullied by their peers.
32	Kenya	No data available.	No data available.
33	Bhutan	No data available.	No data available.
34	Kuwait	According to the Tahirih Justice center, domestic abuse, especially against women, is thought to be widespread in Kuwait. Domestic violence is considered to be a family affair; there are no specific laws on domestic violence and the authorities most probably will not act against it. <sup>47</sup> Besides	Men are especially subject to discrimination and hostilities on the work floor. Migrant workers are tied to their employers via the so called <i>Kafala</i> sponsorship system, which make both men and women vulnerable to slavery practices. <sup>49</sup> This could

		that, the role of women in society is very limited and they often do not have a choice in marriage. In this kind of atmosphere, it is not difficult to imagine what can be going on with female Christian domestic workers. In March 2017, a shocking video was published, showing an Ethiopian housemaid falling from a window; the woman filming her does not try to rescue her.	lead to the disintegration of their families.
<b>35</b>	Central African Republic	Women and girls are frequently subjected to rape and sexual assault in CAR, particularly when militants attack civilian communities. They are also often forced into marriage under threat of violence. Polygamy also seems to be an accepted practice. Hence, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, and young girls who are abused and get pregnant are likely to drop out of school.	Boys and men are at times are forced to join some of the Islamic militant groups and they are also targeted for torture and assault. They are also exploited as forced laborers in the mining industry.
<b>36</b>	Palestinian Territories	Sometimes, Christian girls and women are looked down upon by their Muslim neighbors, because they are not obviously Muslims (e.g. they do not wear a veil). There is also the issue of honor killings, an accepted practice that leaves girls and women vulnerable. A Muslim girl who wants to come to Christ would refrain from doing so, because of her knowledge that one of her family members might kill her.	Job discrimination especially affects men – and their families, as they are usually the main family breadwinners.
<b>37</b>	Mali	Many Christian women and girls are subjected to sexual abuse, forced marriage, under-age marriage, and are denied access to modern education. This is particularly rampant in	Young men are subjected to abduction, forced conversion and conscription in militia in the northern parts of the country. This has a devastating effect on their families and fellow

		northern Mali. Although there are national laws that protect women and girls in general, traditional and cultural practices and norms make women more vulnerable for such treatment including early marriage, forced marriage polygamy and female genital mutilation. As a result of such practices, fellow Christians are traumatized, and lose confidence in the authorities in their country, and their faith is sometimes also affected.	Christians who are traumatized by such persecution.
<b>38</b>	Indonesia	No data available.	No data available.
<b>39</b>	Mexico	Regarding women and young girls, public policies and legislation related to the promotion of abortion in cases of sexual violence and teenage pregnancy puts them in greater danger, because it favors the impunity of the aggressor (not forgetting the fact that it also forces doctors to practice this procedure). Also, in the poorest sectors of the country, conditions are in place for government aid to be received – these include the acceptance of contraceptive health policies (including tubal ligation). Since Mexico is one of the countries with the highest rate of human-trafficking, women are an easy target for recruitment, especially in the areas controlled by mafia and drug cartels, in which girls and women have been abducted are used for sex slavery and prostitution.	There is no law making Christian men more vulnerable to persecution. However, in the areas controlled by criminal groups or drug cartels, young men are exposed to indoctrination and mandatory participation in these groups. In some cases, due to the economic and social context, young men accept this as their inescapable destiny and those who do not accept this - whether for Christian or other reasons – are persecuted, threatened and often abducted
<b>40</b>	United Arab Emirates	Christian women remain especially vulnerable, as women in general in the UAE are treated as being inferior to men. Amnesty International has also reported that some laws improving the rights of foreign workers explicitly	Men in particular face discrimination on the work floor. According to one country researcher: “Most of the time, men and boys are breadwinners and therefore they have to face the brunt of

		excluded domestic staff, many of whom are Christian women.	discrimination to help their families.”
41	Bangladesh	No data available.	No data available.
42	Algeria	No information currently available	No information currently available
43	China	There is no information available on gender-specific persecution of Christians in China	There is no information available on gender-specific persecution of Christians in China
44	Sri Lanka	No data available	No data available
45	Azerbaijan	<p>Christian women and girls from a Muslim background are at a bigger risk than non-converts of experiencing physical and verbal abuse, harassment, threats, house arrest, discrimination and rejection by family and Muslim community. For non-converts, persecution would be not different for men and women.</p> <p>In Azerbaijan the daily life of indigenous people is based on Islamic culture which puts women in inferior position as compared with men. Women are expected total submission to their parents and if married – to their husbands. Azerbaijan is also a Caucasus country where family traditions and rules are even stricter and disobedience to senior family members is not acceptable. This makes female converts more vulnerable to persecution - both as Christians and as women who challenge the existing order.</p>	<p>Male converts from Islam are at a bigger risk than non-converts of experiencing physical and verbal abuse, harassment, threats, discrimination and rejection by family and Muslim community. For non-converts, persecution would be not different for men and women. Men are normally church leaders and the heads of their families, they are also main bread winners. When a Christian man becomes a target of persecution his whole family will suffer. Losing jobs will affect the whole family. If a man is a church leader his persecution will affect his church and can result in an increase of fear.</p>
46	Oman	In general, the position of women in Oman is vulnerable. Society is very conservative with the lives of women and girls being controlled by their husband or guardian. This environment makes it especially difficult for women to convert from Islam to Christianity.	There is no separate information about the persecution of Christian men, but it is safe to assume that Christian expatriate men face most discrimination on the work floor.

47	Mauritania	No separate information available.	No separate information available.
48	Bahrain	Women and girls are often victims of violence. In their communities, women are often seen as inferior. As one researcher explained: "there is this practice that subtly decides what women and men could do. It is very unlikely to see women in power. This is even more when it comes to Christian women. Being a woman is bad enough, and being a Christian woman is even more."	Most of the time, male Christians are the family breadwinners and therefore, they have to face the brunt of discrimination at their workplaces to support their families.
49	Colombia	Regarding women and young girls, there is no particular law enforced that puts them in danger. However, in those areas controlled by guerrillas, paramilitaries and criminal groups, women have few chances to receive or end state education and there are reports where girls have been abducted and used as sex slaves or have become victims of trafficking and prostitution. Women have also been victims of forced abortions or forced use of contraception - especially among the FARC - since "in war there can be no children" since they might be "used by the enemy". On the other hand, according to country researchers, in the indigenous culture there have been incidents of Christian girls being promised in marriage to non-Christian men in order to eradicate their faith.	There is no law making Christian men more vulnerable to persecution. However, in the areas controlled by criminal groups, drug cartels, guerrillas and paramilitaries, young men are exposed to indoctrination and mandatory participation in these groups. In some cases, due to the economic and social context, young men accept this as an inescapable destiny and those who do not accept this - whether for Christian or other reasons - are persecuted, threatened and even killed along with their families.
50	Djibouti	The typical challenge that female Christians face, especially converts, is rape and forced marriage.	Data not available