



If your member of parliament is a TD in the Irish Government, you can use the draft email below to write to them directly.

Draft email:

Subject line: Please support human rights in Nigeria through the UPR process

Dear {TD name}

Early next year, Nigeria will undergo its regular Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council. This process gives an opportunity for other nations, NGOs and local human rights advocates to raise concerns and make recommendations for a particular country.

Nigeria is currently number six on the Open Doors World Watch List of the countries where Christians of all denominations risk the most to follow Christ. While Nigeria has committed to respect and protect fundamental rights in several international treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the reality for Christians in parts of the country is very different.

Article 6 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to life. However, if the Open Doors World Watch List focused exclusively on violent persecution, Nigeria would be at the top of the World Watch List. According to Open Doors' research, 89% of Christians killed for their faith last year were killed in Nigeria, with an average of 14 Christians killed every day.

Likewise, Article 7 of the ICCPR declares that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." However, Christian women and girls in Nigeria, such as Leah Sharibu or the Chibok girls, are often kidnapped, raped and enslaved by extremist groups, as part of a deliberate strategy to terrorise the wider community. Furthermore, 89% of Christians who are abducted or kidnapped for faith-related reasons globally go missing in Nigeria.

Finally, Article 18 of the ICCPR guarantees that "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." However, while freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed in the Nigerian Constitution, Christian minorities in many northern Nigerian states are unlawfully accused of blasphemy, leading to severe repercussions such as economic or social discrimination or even death.

Given these urgent threats to Christians in Nigeria, we hope that the Irish Government will use the upcoming UPR process to make constructive recommendations to the Government of Nigeria. In particular, we would urge the Irish Government to recommend that the Nigerian Government:

- Increase efforts to uphold security and prevent violence against Christians in Nigeria, investigating the perpetrators and holding them accountable in the justice system
- Continue efforts to liberate those held hostage, including young Christian girls such as Leah Sharibu and the Chibok girls who are still held captive
- Ensure that Christians living in every state of Nigeria are afforded their full rights to freedom of religion or belief without discrimination, as guaranteed in the Nigerian Constitution.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, please join us in urging the Irish Government to use this opportunity to support human rights in Nigeria through the UPR process.



Yours sincerely,

{Your first and last name}

{First line of address}

{Postcode}