

SISTERHOOD FIGHT CLUB

#MIDDAYBABYMIDDAY #SETYOURALARM #BETHECHANGE #PRAYINGFORTHEWORLD

#6: NORTHERN & SOUTH EAST ASIA

- CHINA
- HONG KONG
- JAPAN
- MONGOLIA
- REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
- CAMBODIA
- INDONESIA
- MALAYSIA
- MYANMAR
- PHILLIPINES
- SINGAPORE
- THAILAND
- TIMOR-LESTE
- VIETNAM
- REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



THE REGION

The Greater Mekong Subregion boasts a wealth of natural and cultural riches. It's resources position it as a frontier of Asian economic growth and the region has the potential to be one of the world's fastest growing areas. Despite infrastructure and regulatory challenges Southeast Asia has experienced significant economic growth over the past 13 years and represents a thriving trade and economic hub. With a population of 1.4 billion, China in recent years has become the second largest economy and plays an important and influential role in the global economy.

KEY STATISTICS

- » The Rohingya Muslim minority continues to face statelessness and systematic persecution.
- » Thailand is a key destination for human trafficking, in addition to being a source and transit country for forced labour and sex trafficking.
- » An estimated 30-40% of migration in the region is through undocumented channels and carries significant risk of labour exploitation.
- » Open Doors World Watch List has North Korea listed as #1 with the most severe Christian persecution, with 7 other countries in this region also in the top 50.

THE CHALLENGES

China remains a one-party authoritarian state that systematically curbs fundamental rights. Human rights defenders continue to endure arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and enforced disappearance.¹ North Korea still remains one of the world's most repressive countries with basic freedoms severely restricted. In 2017, for the fourth consecutive year, the UN Security Council put North Korea's egregious human rights violations on its formal agenda as a threat to international peace and security.² The transition from military to civilian rule in Myanmar has slowed and reversed in some places. Despite a more positive environment for freedom of expression, the government's commitment to human rights in key areas has faltered or failed. The Rohingya Muslim minority continues to face statelessness and systematic

persecution. Rohingya are a stateless Muslim ethnic group viewed by the United Nations as one of the world's most persecuted minorities. More than 14,500 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh between January and November 2018 to escape ongoing persecution and violence in Myanmar, joining almost 1 million others from 2017 and previous years in precarious, overcrowded camps.³

Human trafficking in South East Asia has been described as "an economic whirlwind of substantial force" caused in part by the juxtaposition of extreme poverty and new opportunities for economic exploitation opened by globalization. South East Asia is a significant origin region for victims who are trafficked across much of the world. In the Mekong basin region the share of child victims of trafficking is relatively high. Human trafficking has damaged Thailand's reputation and feeds into transnational organised crime.⁴ In addition to being a source and transit country for forced labour and sex trafficking, irregular migration is a common trend in meeting the labour demands of low-skilled employment sectors. An estimated 30-40% of migration is through undocumented channels. Malaysia and Thailand are the primary destinations, hosting approximately 3 million undocumented migrants.⁵

Southeast Asia's overall record in growth and poverty reduction has not been uniform. Nearly three-fourths of the population in Southeast Asia live in rural areas, the majority of which are dependent on agriculture. The Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia account for around 72% of Southeast Asia's population and approximately 50% of the poor. 25.8% of children under five in South East Asia are stunted, while 8.4% and 7.2% of children under five are wasting and overweight, respectively. In addition to poverty, other contributing factors include traditional diets that lack food with sufficient nutrients, poor infant feeding practices, inadequate clean water and sanitation, and limited agricultural crops.⁶

Persecution of the Christian Church also occurs in this region. According to the World Watch List created by Open Doors, eight countries total in this region are in the top 50 countries with the most severe Christian persecution with North Korea at #1 on the list.⁷

SO WHAT DO I PRAY FOR?

PRAY FOR STABILITY AND FREEDOM OF CHOICES.

We pray for economic stability that people might be able to flourish and live healthy and safe lives, that they might have the ability to choose wisely for their children and protect their future. Isaiah 60:1-3, Isaiah 61:4

PRAY AGAINST CORRUPTION.

We pray against greed and political corruption that robs this region of its resources and potential. We pray that just leaders will be birthed and elected. We pray that military conflict will cease allowing nations to be restored. Psalm 7:9, Psalm 2:10-11, Jeremiah 22:3

PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE AND OPPRESSED.

We pray against abuse and domestic violence. We pray against racism and discrimination and for marginalised and vulnerable groups to have equal access to education, healthcare and protection under the law. We pray against the effects of illegal drug use, manufacturing, and sale. We pray for health and healing, provision of food and shelter for those in need, and hope for those who are discouraged. Psalm 82:3-4, Isaiah 40:29, Luke 19:10, Jeremiah 31:17, Psalm 91

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH.

We pray for the Church, for those who are facing persecution for the name of Jesus. We pray that those being persecuted will be strengthened, and those who are persecuting will be convicted, repent, and receive salvation. Isaiah 55:7, Romans 5:6-8, 2Timothy 2:25, Psalm 94:16, Proverbs 31:8, Matthew 9:37-38

REFERENCES

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/china-and-tibet>

² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/north-korea>

³ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/burma>

⁴ <https://www.safekildthailand.org/sites/default/files/Child-Trafficking-in-the-Sub-Mekong-Region-Safe-Child-Thailand-web.pdf>

⁵ <https://aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi401>

⁶ <https://theaseanpost.com/article/malnutrition-southeast-asia>

⁷ <https://www.opendoors.org.au/persecuted-christians/world-watch-list/>

I BELIEVE THAT THE WEAPON
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
MUST BRING TO THIS CURRENT
GLOBAL TABLE OF UNREST AND
CRISIS IS PRAYER. IT'S A WEAPON
THAT MANY OUTSIDE OF FAITH
MAY NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND
NOR EVER APPRECIATE - BUT
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY
DO OR DON'T PRAYER IS WHAT
ENGAGES THE SPIRITUAL REALM
THAT IS SO OFTEN AT THE CORE
AND CAUSE OF TODAY'S
PROBLEMS."

*Bobbie Houston
excerpt Chapter Twenty-one
The Sisterhood*

BRAVE WOMEN

Run in Our Family

Among those who are championing the cause of women in this region is Ryma Sok. She has a degree in business and management and extensive training and counselling. Ryma serves on the board for Mother's Heart Cambodia, an organisation whose mission is "To empower, equip, and educate women and their families facing a crisis pregnancy, through counselling, support services, medical care and community involvement so that they can choose the best future for themselves and their babies." For over eight years, she served as a counsellor with Hagar Cambodia, helping women and children who were abused and trafficked.

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The Sisterhood Fight Club is all about letting prayer do the heavy lifting as we turn our attention to a world that is broken on many levels and in need of restoration. Our world is a place of beautiful and challenging complexity. We do not claim to be experts, nor to understand or represent this complexity fully. This is a brief collection of information and examples based on our research.

Through prayerful reflection we seek to learn, empathise, add our support to the efforts of brave women everywhere, and continue to grow in our understanding through the help of the Holy Spirit. Let our churches and homes be known as "a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7).

Join us! Set your alarm at #middaybabymidday and pray with us for the world.



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 The Colour Sisterhood

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