

# SISTERHOOD FIGHT CLUB

#MIDDAYBABYMIDDAY #SETYOURALARM #BETHECHANGE #PRAYINGFORTHEWORLD

## #9: SOUTHERN ASIA

- AFGHANISTAN
- BANGLADESH
- BHUTAN
- INDIA
- MALDIVES
- NEPAL
- PAKISTAN
- SRI LANKA



### THE REGION

Southern Asia is a region that is full of diversity. From the Himalayan Mountains, most famously Mount Everest in Nepal, to one of the premier honeymoon destinations the Maldives, this region offers rich historical context for the many cultures and people groups found here. The prominent

### KEY STATISTICS

- » India and Pakistan each have a recorded 1,000 “honour” killings per year
- » Children in South Asia are some of the most at-risk in the world for malnutrition
- » Approximately 63 million girls in India are “missing” and 21 million are “unwanted”
- » After years of unrest Afghanistan still has no peace in sight
- » All 8 of the countries in this region rank in the Top 50 of Open Doors World Watch List of Christians facing persecution in their nation with Afghanistan ranking second <sup>4</sup>

## THE CHALLENGES

South Asia as a region is reeling from the effects of war and terrorism. After years of war and unrest Afghanistan still struggles with power between the Taliban, the Afghan government and international troops still on the ground. Although peace talks come and go there seems to be no end in sight with near daily attacks still occurring.

Another issue in this region is “honour killings”. India and Pakistan have both recorded rates of honour killings of around 1,000 per year, although numbers remain difficult to confirm due to the cultural implications of this crime.

Every year, 3.1 million children die of malnutrition, resulting from a dietary lack of vitamins and minerals. Children in South Asia have one of the highest rates of “wasting” or being too thin for their height due to starvation, disease, or both. It tends to impact poorer families who cannot afford high quality, nutritious food. Another issue affeting children in this region is infanticide, specifically gender-specific infanticide. More value is placed on giving birth to boys over girls, so families are choosing to end the lives of their girls. In India it has become illegal to find out the sex of the unborn child to prevent gender-specific abortions but

Persecution of the Christian Church in this region is an issue. All 8 of these countries rank on Open Doors’ World Watch List, a list of the top 50 countries with the most persecutions against Christians. Some of the countries see Christianity and more so “conversion” as a direct insult to Islam (the most common religion in this region) and is thus not tolerated. In the Maldives, those who convert from Islam to Christianity must hide their faith or risk loss of citizenship, while being found owning a bible can result with a prison sentence. In Afghanistan, those whose faith is uncovered can face severe consequences. They could be excluded from their community, have their home destroyed, be admitted to a mental institution or be killed for following Jesus.

# SO WHAT DO I PRAY FOR?

## PRAY FOR FAMILIES.

We join in prayer against violence against women in this region. We pray against infanticide. We pray against honour killings and declare justice and peace for victims and families. We believe for restoration of families. We pray against child marriages and for protection of children. We pray for policies to reinforce the rights of women and the innocent. Isaiah 1:17

## PRAY AGAINST WAR.

We pray against war and terrorism in this region. We pray for the oppressors to be brought to justice and to have their authority and influence removed. We pray for peace and for those dispossessed by war to find rest, find shelter, and find home. John 16:33, Jeremiah 22:3, Psalm 138, Isaiah 16:4

## 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. We pray against malnutrition. We declare a wealth of food and provision will flood into this region. We pray for legislation to be passed to protect the vulnerable from harm and displacement. Psalm 140:12, Psalm 23:1, Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:19, Isaiah 60:1-3, Isaiah 61:4

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH.

We pray for those being persecuted for the name of Jesus. We pray for God’s protection for those attempting to reach the lost in this region. Matthew 5:1-16, Matthew 9:37-38, Psalm 37:20, Psalm 37:39-40, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

## PRAY FOR UNITY.

We pray against racism, segregation, and the dehumanization of ethnic groups. We pray that the people in this region will have access to fair and adeequate education so that a generation of just leaders would be elected to power. Psalm 133, Romans 15:5-7, 1 Peter 3:8

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 PEOPLE

### Run in Our Family

Among those who are working to see a bright future for children in this region is Biju and Secuda Thampy, founders of Vision Rescue in Mumbai, India. "Vision Rescue is about providing practical help to hurting situations but also to ultimately restore one's ability to find their purpose, increase their capacity to enjoy their rights, and be equipped to live with dignity." Vision Rescue provides education, meals, healthcare, sports outreach, and other programs that reach out to those who are most marginalised in society.

## #SISTERHOOD FIGHT CLUB

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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.



Address: c/o Hillsong Church, PO BOX 1195 Castle Hill NSW 1765, Australia  
Web: [www.thecoloursisterhood.com](http://www.thecoloursisterhood.com) Email: [coloursisterhood@hillsong.com](mailto:coloursisterhood@hillsong.com) Phone: +61 2 8853 5353

 @coloursistahood

 The Colour Sisterhood

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## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.unicef.org/resources/data-snapshot-of-migrant-and-displaced-children-in-africa/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.worldhunger.org/africa-hunger-poverty-facts-2018/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.opendoors.org.au/persecuted-christians/world-watch-list/>