

WINTER 2020

# JUBILEE CAMPAIGN USA

A YEAR IN REVIEW: 2019

*A vital voice for those suffering in silence*



## What we do

Jubilee Campaign is a non-profit organization which promotes the human rights and religious liberty of ethnic and religious minorities such as those in Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Nigeria, China, North Korea and others. We assist individuals and families seeking asylum in the West from religious based persecution as well as promoting the care and well-being of larger groups of refugees fleeing religious persecution.



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## Jubilee Campaign Events in 2019

Throughout 2019, thanks to you, Jubilee Campaign was able to host events on a multitude of topics regarding religiously motivated persecution and violence, refugees, and more. In late February, Director Ann Buwalda gave a testimony to the Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs in which she outlined the plethora of obstacles that Pakistani religious minority asylum seekers face when applying for asylum in Thailand. One individual in particular, Michael D'Souza, was denied asylum by the UNHCR in Thailand, and returned to Pakistan after spending many months suffering the

overcrowded and unsanitary conditions of the immigration detention facility in Bangkok. In July during ministerial week, Jubilee Campaign teamed up with Save the Persecuted Christians to present a panel discussion on the increasingly violent attacks by extremist Fulani militants on Christian farmers in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria, emphasizing the religious overtones of a conflict that



has left many dead. Later in the year, in September, Jubilee Campaign and ChinaAid teamed up to hold a parallel event at the Human Rights Council 42nd Session, regarding the persecution and violation of human rights of minorities in China such as the Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Falun Gong, Christians, North Korean defectors, and citizens.



## Prisoners of Conscience Working Group

Within the International Religious Freedom Roundtable based in Washington, D.C., Jubilee Campaign coordinates with other non-profit and civil society organizations to visit our congressmen and women and ask them to 'adopt' a religious prisoner of conscience. Religious prisoners of conscience are individuals who are detained for peacefully practicing their religious beliefs. By 'adopting' a prisoner, a representative can advocate for his or her release, often leading to improvements in prison conditions for the prisoner or even a full acquittal of their charges and subsequent release. Two such

prisoners that we have worked to raise the voices of are Pakistani Christian couple Shafqat Emmanuel and Shagufta Kausar. In 2014, the couple was accused of sending blasphemous texts in English to a Muslim leader. Despite that the claims are false- Shagufta and Shafqat are not only illiterate in their native language, but they also don't speak English - the Courts convicted them of blasphemy and sentenced them to death. Shagufta and Shafqat remain in prison to this day.

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# Prayer Points

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## Nigeria

For an end to the violence

## Iran

Iranian authorities continue to arbitrarily arrest Christian converts - pray for their release and comfort for their families.

## Pakistan

Pray for the release of Christians and others in Pakistan who are jailed for their belief by virtue of blasphemy laws.

## China

Pray for those persecuted for their faith in China. For a halt to China's crackdown on religious freedom and religious groups.

## Upcoming advocacy

### CSW Side-events in New York

Side-events at the UN on Nigeria and North Korean Women Refugees

### Geneva 2020

Side-event at the UN Human Rights Council calling for "No Penalty for Apostasy"



# 2019 REPORTS

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## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

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Reviewing the human rights situation in the countries focusing on: *religious freedom, refugee rights and treatment of women and children.*

EGYPT

KYRGYZSTAN

IRAN

LAOS\*

IRAQ

LIBERIA

KAZAKHSTAN

LIBYA

TURKEY\*

\*Joint submission

## WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

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- ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS IN NEPAL
- ARBITRARY DETENTIONS IN PAKISTAN
- HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES
- ARBITRARY DETENTIONS IN IRAN
- STATELESSNESS OF HMONG CHRISTIANS IN VIETNAM

## UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ADVOCACY

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- TWO REPORTS ON NORTH KOREAN WOMEN AND REFUGEES AND ONE SIDE-EVENT.
- A SIDE-EVENT ON WOMEN IN NIGERIA.

# Looking Forward: Advocacy in 2020



## UN CSW 64 Parallel Events

**Title:** Impact of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on Rural Women

**Date:** 10 March 2020

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Location:** 4 W 43rd Street

**Room:** Green Room

**Topic:** This event will focus on exploring the awareness of the Beijing Platform for Action among rural women, as well as its effects on their views and lives.

**Title:** 25 Years of Repression and Regression for North Korean Women

**Date:** 10 March 2020

**Time:** 6:15 p.m.

**Location:** 4 W 43rd Street

**Room:** Aqua Room

**Topic:** In accordance with our 2020 UN CSW 64 written contributions regarding the status of North Korean women's rights in both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China, this event will discuss both the DPRK and PRC's failure to meet the requirements of the Beijing Platform for Action and the UN Sustainable Development Goals regarding women's rights, equality, and protection.

## UN HRC 43rd Session Parallel Event

**Title:** No Penalty for Apostasy

**Date:** 17 March 2020

**Tentative Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** TBD

**Topic:** This event will focus on the harmful effects of apostasy or anti-conversion laws which unjustly restrict an individual's freedom of religion or belief and disproportionately target women. Christian converts and survivors of these laws will share their testimonies. This event will also present the positive impacts of 'no penalty for apostasy' on women's equality and well-being.