

For our sisters and brothers in Mexico

Pray

That through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, all people in Mexico will have the freedom to live out their faith.

Reflect

In Mexico, religious freedom violations have risen recently, with some statistics indicating it continues to be a dangerous country for Catholic priests and lay leaders. Many religious freedom violations are linked to the Law of Uses and Customs, which stipulates that indigenous communities can retain their traditional form of government, allowing the religious majority in local communities to make life difficult for religious minorities. To further complicate the situation, some illegal cartels attempt to force religious institutions to become fronts for money laundering, and to challenge Church programs and teachings that offer alternatives to a life of violence. In 2016, three priests were murdered, and there was an increase in reported extortions, threats, and abductions of religious. The Bishops of Mexico issued a statement in February 2015, calling for all elements of government and civil society to combat corruption in all its forms. They have urged authorities to find comprehensive and inclusive solutions to the violence afflicting so many individuals and families.

Act

Religious freedom is a fundamental right, which should be recognized in all places. The USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace (IJP) works to advance the social mission of the Church on international justice and peace through policy development, advocacy, education, and acts of ecclesial solidarity. Visit the [IJP home page](#), where you can learn more and sign up for newsletters and action alerts!



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