

# PERSECUTION



In the *Oxford English Dictionary*, persecution is defined as 'hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs; oppression; persistent annoyance or harassment'.

Persecution can take many different forms, which could include

- Being made fun of in public
- Being banned from meeting with others
- Being subjected to torture
- Being removed from your job
- Being evicted (forced out of your house)
- Being executed
- Unfair or biased media coverage

*Which of the points in this list do you think are 'persecution'?*

*For those which you didn't choose, how would you describe them?*

*How do you respond when you feel that you are being picked upon unfairly?*

Christians believe that the Bible helps them to understand persecution, both if they themselves are being persecuted and when they see others being persecuted. It encourages them to find the support of God in their troubles, and it also gives them teachings about how they should respond to it.