



Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council's COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL HARMONY & VIGILANCE

Pastoral Orientation Centre (POC), Palarivattom, Vennala PO, Kochi - 682 028

Ph: 0484 2996812, +91 7594900555; E-Mail: kcbschvc@gmail.com

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KCBC Vigilance (Jagratha) Commission Strongly Condemns the Arrest of Nuns and Alarming Rise in Religious Intolerance

The KCBC Vigilance Commission expresses deep anguish and strongly condemns the unjust arrest of two Catholic religious sisters from Kerala - Sr. Vandhana Francis and Sr. Preethi Mary - by the police in Durg, Chhattisgarh, on July 25, 2025. This action was reportedly prompted by false and baseless allegations of religious conversion and human trafficking made by members of the Bajrang Dal.

This distressing incident is part of a broader and deeply troubling pattern of increasing hostility toward Christians and missionary personnel across various Indian states. The weaponization of anti-conversion laws by extremist groups is not only unjust but poses a serious threat to the constitutional rights of religious minorities in the country.

We affirm that Catholic missionaries do not engage in forced conversions. Our service to society - particularly in the fields of education, healthcare, and social welfare - is driven by compassion and a commitment to the common good.

Furthermore, the freedom to choose and practice one's religion is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution of India. Any attempt to criminalize or suppress this right is a direct violation of constitutional values and undermines the very principles of India's secular democracy.

We demand that those responsible for these false accusations and the arbitrary arrest of the sisters be held accountable under the law, and that necessary legal and administrative action be taken to prevent such misuse of power in the future.

In light of the growing number of violent incidents, targeted harassment, and vandalism against Christians, we urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Union Minister of Home Affairs, and the Union Minister of Minority Affairs to act swiftly and decisively. The Central Government must not remain silent but must act as a guardian of constitutional rights, communal harmony, and justice for all citizens, regardless of their religious background.

We call upon the Government to adopt firm measures to curb religious fanaticism, prevent mob violence, and ensure that India remains true to its democratic, secular, and inclusive identity.

For the Commission:

Rev. Dr. Michael Pulickal

(Secretary, KCBC Commission for Social Harmony and Vigilance)

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Catholic Bishop's House,
Kottapuram - 680 667

SECRETARY

Dr. Michael Pulickal CMI

POC, Palarivattom
Vennala PO, 682028
Email: kcbschvc@gmail.com