

Faith and a Future campaign

"Why does my faith mean I can't go to school?"

CSW everyone
free to believe



To Omar Fayad Meneses, Governor of Hidalgo State, Mexico

I'm shocked and saddened to learn that religious minority children like Raquel are unfairly missing out on an education because of their faith, including at least 40 children in one area who are being blocked from attending school unless they and their families convert.

Moreover, some children are forced to participate in religious activities and in some cases, if they refuse on account of their religious beliefs, they are discriminated against by receiving lower grades. Please do all you can to ensure that children in Hidalgo have fair access to education.

Schoolgirl in Hidalgo State

NAME AND TITLE (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	EMAIL	YEAR OF BIRTH	CHURCH	PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ME BY*		DO NOT CONTACT ME
						POST	EMAIL	
<i>Mrs. Ann Sample</i>	<i>1 Any Street, Any Town, Any County</i>	<i>AB12 3CD</i>	<i>ann.sample@hotmail.com</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>Any Church</i>	✓	✓	

Please sign and send this petition back to: **CSW, Freepost, PO Box 99, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3YF by 18 January 2019**

*If you would like to keep in touch and receive news about our work and how you can support it, please let us know by ticking the box above. If you would like to change how you hear from us in the future or opt out of further communications, **get in touch on 020 8329 0010** or **email admin@csw.org.uk** For further details, please see our privacy policy at csw.org.uk/privacy Information you include may be visible to the recipient of this petition.

NAME AND TITLE (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	EMAIL	YEAR OF BIRTH	CHURCH	PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ME BY*		DO NOT CONTACT ME
						POST	EMAIL	
<i>Mrs. Ann Sample</i>	<i>1 Any Street, Any Town, Any County</i>	<i>AB12 3CD</i>	<i>ann.sample@hotmail.com</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>Any Church</i>	✓	✓	

Please sign and send this petition back to: **CSW, Freepost, PO Box 99, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3YF by 18 January 2019**

*If you would like to keep in touch and receive news about our work and how you can support it, please let us know by ticking the box above. If you would like to change how you hear from us in the future or opt out of further communications, **get in touch on 020 8329 0010** or **email admin@csw.org.uk** For further details, please see our privacy policy at csw.org.uk/privacy Information you include may be visible to the recipient of this petition.



Raquel's story

Raquel* and several other children from her village have been blocked from going to school because of their faith. They've been told they can only attend once they and their family convert to the majority religion.

Raquel's parents are worried about Raquel and their other children, as resuming an education will be difficult once they're behind in their studies. But they also don't want to bow to pressure and renounce their faith.

*Not her real name

F.A.Qs

When will the petition be handed in?

We aim to present the petition on International Children's Day, Wednesday, 20 November 2019.

Why should I sign?

Because no child should miss out on an education because of their faith or that of their parents. The Faith and a Future campaign seeks to raise awareness of this serious but neglected issue, and inspire action to address it.

How will this petition make a difference?

On Children's Day, 30 April 2019, we brought Alma, an 18-year-old student who has also missed out on completing her education because of her faith, to share her story with Mexican government officials. Tania Ramírez Hernández, of the National Council to Prevent Discrimination told Alma: "We owe you an apology, this country owes you an apology... We have certainly failed in the process but we are here to protect you, so that your trajectory in life is what you want it to be."

For Alma to receive an apology was an important step. But if we want to see this situation change for so many children across Mexico, we also need to apply pressure at the local level. Which is why the next stage of the Faith and a Future campaign is to target state governments, beginning with Hidalgo State, where there are so many cases like Raquel's.

What is the majority religion in this case?

The majority religion in Mexico, including in this case, is Catholicism. Often the majority religion is a syncretistic blend of Catholic and pre-Columbian beliefs.

Raquel's family are Protestant Christians. Conflict between traditionalist and/or syncretistic Catholics and non-Catholics is common in Mexican states where there are large indigenous populations. As Christians, we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.

What else can I do?

Send a letter to the Mexican embassy. Find out more at [csw.org.uk/campaigns](https://www.csw.org.uk/campaigns)

CSW everyone
free to believe