



Fundraising activities

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
voice
of Persecuted Christians



Fundraising

Release International benefits greatly from the creative fundraising efforts of our volunteers and supporters. From bike pilgrimages to a sponsored head-shave, groups and individuals regularly take the initiative to raise the voice of our persecuted brothers and sisters and contribute to their needs through fundraising.

Could you join in? How might you be able to use your ideas, skills, passions and sheer effort to make a difference?

In this A-Z booklet we have suggested lots of ideas to help spark your imagination. The list is by no means exhaustive and we'd also love to hear about any other ideas you have.

If you would like to go ahead with a fundraising event or activity please let us know so we can help support your efforts. We can provide you with donation forms, *Voice* magazines, bookmarks, film clips, digital images, information for your online fundraising page, or other material you might want to share. Further details and resources are available at releaseinternational.org/fundraise.



Auction

Invite people to donate various items such as concert tickets, sports or music memorabilia, a car wash, or a night out. Then organise a fun evening with drinks, snacks and music and auction your items off to the highest bidder.





Bake a cake

Everyone loves baking. Ask all those top bakers you know to prepare a selection of goodies and invite people together to enjoy them. You could sell the cakes individually for take away or charge an entry ticket and make it a help yourself.

Why not try baking our favourite Basbousa cake which is enjoyed by our brothers and sisters in Egypt.



Christmas market

Christmas markets are a great way for churches to engage with their local community. Decorate your building, serve hot chocolate, organise some carollers, sell Christmas crafts, food, art, and whatever else you can make and collect.



Dinner party

Prepare a top quality 3-course meal for some friends and ask them to make a contribution based on how much they would normally pay for a restaurant meal. You could get together with a group of friends and each take a turn to cook. You could even get competitive with scores for the best food.



Esther experience

Release International has created a ladies' network event called the *Esther Experience*. This involves food, nail bar, crafts and story-telling and can be adapted to suit your setting. Request a free resource pack and start organising your event.



Film night

Organise a film night in your home or church. Set a ticket donation price and prepare snacks and drinks. Show one of Release International's high quality and impactful films, *Tortured for Christ* or the prequel *Sabina*, which tell the story of our foundations in the lives of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand. Request a free DVD or link to stream the film.



Games night

Get your board game enthusiast friends round for a night of fun competition. Set a donation price to compete, decide on a prize, choose the game and see who the winner will be. You could even turn it into a tournament with multiple games over multiple nights.



Hazaq Coffee morning

Invite people to donate various items such as concert tickets, sports or music memorabilia, a car wash, or a night out. Then organise a fun evening with drinks, snacks and music and auction your items off to the highest bidder.



International food night

Food is an important part of fellowship and tasting national dishes can offer a window of experience into some of the countries where Christians experience persecution. It could be plov from Central Asia, kim chi from Korea or chicken curry from Pakistan. Research some recipes and get cooking. Ask your guests to make a donation and as they enjoy the different tastes you can introduce them to the stories of our persecuted brothers and sisters.



Jewellery making

Get crafty. You could buy a simple jewellery-making pack or repurpose old jewellery to create some interesting new designs. You could sell them to family and friends or at a church or local community fare.





Knitting

Are you a knitter? Whether it's scarves, hats, jumpers, or something more decorative, why not use your skills to raise some funds?



Live stream class

What valuable skills do you have that you could share with others on Facebook, etc? Whether it's cooking, crafts or fitness, you could set up an online class to share your knowledge and techniques. Ask people to make a donation when they register and explain what motivated you to fundraise.



Music night

Maybe you're a talented musician or an eager roadie. You could organise a concert, an acoustic night or even a battle of the bands. Sell tickets and take the opportunity to profile Release International's work during the show.



No treats

What could you go without for a week or a month?

Coffee, chocolate, dinner out? Whatever it is, you could donate the money you save. You could encourage some friends to join in for mutual support and multiply your fundraising efforts.



Open house

Are you a good host? You could have an open house day where you invite your friends to drop by for coffee, cakes and a catch up. Pick a summer's day and extend it to your garden. You could ask for donations and give your guests a *Voice* magazine to take away.



Photo calendar

Personalised photo calendars are very popular. You could use your own photos of people, landmarks, or scenery, or you could create a church calendar with images of your various activities taken throughout the year. Sell the calendars and donate the proceeds.



Quiz night

The classic quiz night. There are many variations and you won't fail to attract a crowd. Charge an entry fee per team or make a call for donations at an appropriate time. You could also take the opportunity to profile Release International's work during a break or include a round with questions about some of the countries where we work.



Run

Whether it's a 5k, a marathon or a full-on iron man, give yourself a running challenge and ask your family, friends and church to sponsor you. We can help you promote your activity too.





Sponsor me

We've covered running and walking but the options are endless. Release International supporters have abseiled and cycled, and some have even bench-pressed the weight of a blue whale! Ask for a sponsor form or create an online fundraising page. Set a date for your activity and let people know.





Treasure hunt

Organise a treasure hunt in your town or village. Choose a prize and charge an entry fee. Get creative with your hiding places and cryptic with you clues. You could even link the theme to some of the countries where Release International works.



Upcycle

Do you have any items of tired furniture you are tempted to throw out, or maybe you have seen something interesting on a recycling website? Why not blow the dust off, sand it down, polish it up, paint it, or whatever you need to do to inject a new lease of life, and sell it on.



Vintage clothes

Is there something stylish in your wardrobe you very rarely wear? Quality second-hand clothes are becoming increasingly popular. Look yours out and sell them online or ask your friends to join in and organise a special sale event in your church.



Walk

Is there an epic walk you've always wanted to do: a coastal path? the West Highland Way? Mount Snowdon? Get your boots on and ask your family, friends and church to sponsor you. We can help you promote your activity too.





Xbox gaming night

Mobilise your digital gaming friends to make a difference. It could be an online tournament or an in-person play-off. Set a donation price to compete, decide on a prize, choose the game and see who the winner will be.

X



YouTube night

Why not hold a fundraising event on YouTube? Gather your friends from all over the country and get together to pray and share about our persecuted family. Share it to YouTube or post on your YouTube channel and let us know. We can also boost your event on Release International social media channels.



Zero energy day

Could you go without gas and electricity for 24 hours? Keep an eye on your smart meter and see how much money you save compared to a normal day. Multiply it by 5, 10 or 100 and donate the funds. You could also encourage some friends to join in to increase your fundraising efforts.

www.releaseinternational.org

Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 4RT

Tel: 01689 823491 Email: info@releaseinternational.org

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