

Are you ready to be a voice crying out in the wilderness to make a way for the Lord?

# Kuwaiti Shia

## Who are the Kuwaiti Shia?

Kuwait has been a small but important trade and business hub since ancient times when it served as a trading point between Mesopotamia, Persia, and India. Today, though small, it continues to play a large part on the global stage of business. Since oil was discovered in the 1930s, Kuwait's money and global influence have been on the rise. They have moved from being a nation of trading, fishing, and pearl diving to a bustling urban center. They are a country with much wealth and hold the 3rd highest number of millionaires per capita in the world, yet much of the wealth is not distributed and there is still poverty and marginalization.

The nation of Kuwait is populated predominantly by foreigners. Only 1.5 million of the country's 4 million, are Kuwaiti. Kuwait nationals are ~70% Sunni and ~30% Shi'ite. Though religious denominations are a politically sensitive issue, the two factions have learned to coexist peacefully. The Shia minority who are often descendants of Iran or Iraq, however, do face some discrimination. Seventy percent of the Shia are of the Bidoon people (meaning without) who were never legally registered as citizens when the state was formed, making them a stateless people. They are not eligible for passports, most government jobs, and are not allowed to attend public schools. The Bidoon stand in stark contrast to the freedoms the rest of the country hold.

Kuwait is a modernized country with more freedoms for women and cultural expression than many Gulf countries. Women outnumber men in the workforce 53 to 47 and attend university more than their male peers. Kuwait is known as the Hollywood of the Gulf. There is a great love for theater and the arts and they are the largest producer of TV shows in the Arabian Gulf.



Images/AFF/Al-Zayyat



## Quick Facts

Population- 273,000  
Progress- Engaged yet Unreached  
Language- Najdi Arabic  
Bible Translation, Gospel Recordings, and Radio Broadcast- Available  
Jesus Film- Not Available

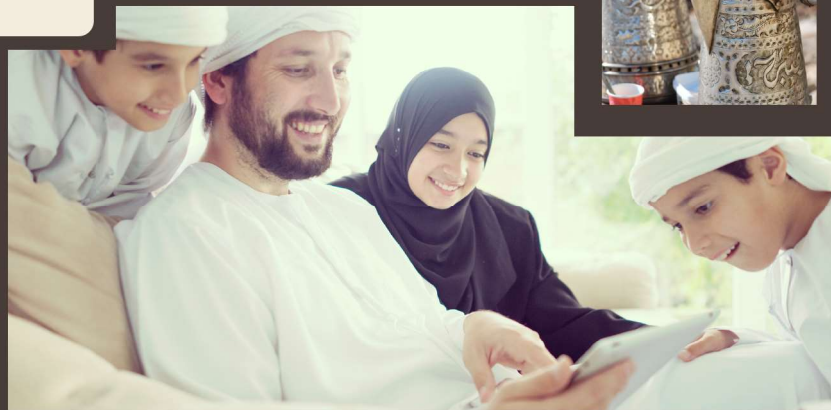
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

— Isaiah 43:19 —

*A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
"Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God...  
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed."  
— Isaiah 40:3,5 —*

## Pray

- Pray for laborers for the harvest. There are few currently and no workers focused on the Bidoon.
- Pray for the new Kuwaiti believers, mostly practicing their faith alone due to fear of persecution, pray that the Lord will raise up a community within their own families and circles of influence to walk in faith together.
- Pray believers would have a passion to reach their own country and not flee to the west.
- Pray the Lord would make His great name known to all Kuwaitis and that the movement would spread beyond their own borders.
- Pray the Lord would use their influence as a media center to spread His truth.
- Pray that their wealth will not be sufficient for them, but they will long for the true treasure of salvation through Isa al Massiah.



## Engage

There is great need for authentic Christian witnesses among Kuwaitis. Engaging with Kuwaitis must be intentional since they make up a minority of the population in their own country. Laborers should come with the intention of building their work and social lives with Kuwaitis.

Those who wish to minister in Kuwait can only maintain a presence with a work residency visa. There are many opportunities in business, health, and education fields to obtain visas. Most secure a professional job from outside the country, before taking up residency. Work can be labor-intensive and laborers must protect themselves from burnout in order to maintain longevity.

Workers should consider spending a year or two studying Arabic before arriving and then continuing with tutors upon arrival. Some who are not able to have a gap in their resume have found success in pre-field online programs followed by language intensives during their breaks.

Kuwait is a modern livable city with all the modern conveniences and many opportunities for children's education, hobbies, and family activities.

**Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of the Middle East? Contact us.  
We would love to help you get there!**

