

# Gheg Albanians in Belgium



Photo: Anonymous



*"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."*

People Name	Gheg Albanians
Country	Belgium
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	177,000
Language	Gheg Albanian
Religion	Islam
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Gospel Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	3
Workers Reported	0

## INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

The Albanians are believed to be descendants of the Illyrians, who were the original inhabitants of the western Balkan Peninsula. In the sixth century, migrating Slavs began to settle on Illyrian territory and pushed the Illyrians into what is present-day Albania. The Albanians are divided into two major groups, the Gheg and the Tosk, according to which Albanian dialect they speak. The two dialects differ slightly in vocabulary and pronunciation. In the 1950s it was decided that the Tosk dialect would be used in all Albanian publications, since it was the one most widely spoken in Albania. In addition to differences in dialect, the Gheg and the Tosk also have many social differences. The Gheg are a very stern and courageous people while the Tosk are known to be friendly, lively, and talkative. The collapse of the communist regime in 1991 brought on numerous traumatic and rapid changes in Albania, leaving the people with an identity crisis. Some have decided to move to Western European countries like Belgium to make a better living.

## WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Albanians in Western Europe are noted for criminal activity but most work blue collar jobs. The ones who make the headlines are those who are involved with organized crime, giving Albanians a bad name.

## WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Centuries ago, many Albanians were converted to Islam by the Ottoman Turks. However, they practiced a type of "folk Islam," which embraced occult practices such as praying to the dead, seeking cures for sickness, and praying for protection from spirits and curses.

## WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Albanians in Belgium need advanced language skills and educational opportunities so they can thrive in Belgium's highly advanced economy.

## PRAYER POINTS

\* Pray urgently (deomai) for the Lord to thrust out (ekballo) workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Lk 10:2 and Jn 4:35)

\* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

\* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in this people group where Christ is not preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

\* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God

and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

\* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)

## SOURCES

<https://goo.gl/Yav1QR>  
<https://goo.gl/sIQZlx>  
<https://goo.gl/a0DBrb>  
<https://goo.gl/ugy3Hy>