

**Multinational Efforts to Promote Freedom of Religion or Belief**

*Joint Action for the Common Good*

**New York, 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2015**

**Twitter: #nycforb**

**Thursday, 17 September**

**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

*Reception - By invitation only*

St. Bartholomew's Church  
109 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
(between Park Ave and Lexington Ave)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022

**Friday, 18 September**

*Morning session open to public. Advance registration required.  
Space is limited.*

*Coffee, tea, water and light refreshments will be available in front of  
the conference rooms.*

**7:30 AM**

*Registration*  
Governor's room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

One UN Hotel  
1 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

Conference room: Diplomat Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Screening room with live stream: Manhattan Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Prayer room: Metropolitan View Room, 28<sup>th</sup> floor  
Available 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

8:30 AM – 9:10 AM

*Opening*

- Baroness Elizabeth Berridge, Member of the Parliament, House of Lords, United Kingdom

*Welcoming Remarks*

- Volker Kauder MdB, Chairman of CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag
- Abid Raja, Member of Parliament for Norway and member of the IPPFoRB Steering Group
- Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament ret. and Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany

9:10 AM – 9:30 AM

*Greetings*

Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary General

*delivered by:*

Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, The High-Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

*Keynote*

Ivan Šimonović, United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights

*Introductory Remarks*

High Representative Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser United Nations Alliance of Civilizations - UNAOC

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

*Our Common Challenge: Developing a Multinational Effort to Deliver Freedom of Religion or Belief for All*

*Moderator*

- Dr. Robert George, Chair, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom - USCIRF

*Panelists*

- Peter Henne, Research Associate, Pew Research Center
- Ambassador David Saperstein, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, U.S. State Department, United States
- Ambassador Petter Wille, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

10:30 AM – 10:55 AM

*Coffee Break*

10:55 AM – 11:35 AM

*Our Common Responsibility: Enhancing Global Cooperation between Parliamentarians in Defense of the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief for All*

*Moderator*

- Dr. Aykan Erdemir, Former Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Panelists*

- Peter van Dalen, Member of the European Parliament and Co-Chairman of the Intergroup on Religious Freedom in the European Parliament, Netherlands
- David Anderson, Member of Parliament (2000-2015), House of Commons, Canada, presently running for re-election
- Leonardo Quintao, Member of Parliament, Brazil
- Marit Nybakk, Vice Speaker and Member of Parliament, Norway
- Assiya Nasir, Member of National Assembly, Pakistan

11:35 AM – 12:45 PM

*Our Shared Dignity: Intensifying Multi-religious Cooperation to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief for All*

*Moderator*

- Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General, Religions for Peace, United States

*Introductory Remarks*

- Ayatollah Seyed Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad, Head, Islamic Studies Department, The Academy of Sciences, Iran
- H.E. John Cardinal Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja, Archdiocese of Abuja, Nigeria

*Panelists*

- H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel, Vice President, Conference of European Churches, France
- Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism, United States
- Dr. Vinu Aram, Director, Shanti Ashram, India
- Djermana Seta, President of the Commission for freedom of Religion at the Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina
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- Reverend Kyoichi Sugino, Trustee, Rissho Kosei-kai International Engaged Buddhism Center in New York

*12:45 PM – 1:00 PM*

*Closing Reflections*

- Baroness Elizabeth Berridge, Member of Parliament House of Lords, United Kingdom

*1:00 PM*

*Walk to Permanent Mission of Germany*

*Photo ID needed! Participants will have to pass through security*

*1:15 PM – 3:00 PM*

*Lunch – By invitation only. Not open to public.*

*Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN  
German House  
871 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017*

*3:00 PM*

*Sessions*

*Parliamentarians meet in closed session (Not open to public)  
German Mission to the UN.*

Registered NGOs and civil society  
Bahai'i International Community  
UN Office at 866 United Nations Plaza

Governments participating in the inter-governmental Contact Group  
for Freedom of Religion or Belief  
Canada House, 1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

*6:00 PM – 7:30 PM*

*Reception – By invitation only. Not open to public.*

*Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations  
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza  
The building is accessible from either 47<sup>th</sup> or 48<sup>th</sup> Street.*

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September**

*Morning session (closed)*

*Photo ID needed! Participants will have to pass through security.*

*Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN*

*German House*

*871 United Nations Plaza*

**9:00 AM – 11:00 PM**

*Implementing the New York Resolution for Freedom of Religion or Belief*

- David Anderson, Member of Parliament (2000-2015), House of Commons, Canada, presently running for re-election

*Agenda*

- Agreeing to the text of the New York Resolution
- Discussing actions parliamentarians can take
- Planning for the future

**11:00 AM**

*Session open to registered civil society, government representatives and media.*

**11:00AM – 11:30 AM**

*Readout from parallel sessions: IPPFoRB, Civil Society and ICG FoRB*

**11:30 AM – 11:45 AM**

*Hearing from victims of religious persecution*

**11:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

*Reading of the New York Resolution for Freedom of Religion or Belief and signing.*

*Open to members of the press.*

- Media availability

**12:15 PM**

*Meeting formally adjourned*

**12:30 PM**

*Lunch – By invitation only.*