

**Preventing Violent Extremism by building inclusive  
and plural societies: How Freedom of Religion or  
Belief can help**

**Conference Programme**

**19-20 October 2016**

**Locarno Suite, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London**

# Conference Programme Timetable

## Day 1 – Wednesday 19 October

### High level opening sessions – Setting the Scene

#### 0845 – 0915 Arrival and Registration

0915 Why Open, Equitable, Inclusive and Pluralist Societies help guard against extremism

0945 Why Freedom of Religion or Belief is Particularly Relevant

#### 1100 Tea / Coffee Break

1115 How can open and plural societies help in peace-building? Why do we see extremist groups emerge in failed states?

1215 What is the evidence? How are open, equitable societies better economically?

#### 1300 Lunch (sandwiches provided in Locarno Dining Room)

1400 Working with civil society and faith leaders

1515 Working with parliamentarians and international parliamentary networks

#### 1645 Tea / Coffee Break

1700 Working through the Commonwealth

1800 Implementing the UN Secretary General's Action Plan on Preventing Violent Extremism

#### 1900 Reception hosted by Baroness Anelay in the Locarno Suite

# Conference Programme Timetable

## Day 2 – Thursday 20 October

### Expert Level Solutions Workshop

#### 0830 – 0900 Arrival

0900 Interfaith relations – What works?

1000 Working through the UN (Special Rapporteur, UPRs, NGO committee, HRC interactive dialogues etc)

#### 1115 Tea / Coffee Break

1130 The role of Education

#### 1245 Lunch (sandwiches provided in Locarno Dining Room)

1330 Working with the Legal Profession

1415 Working with Youth

#### 1515 Tea /Coffee break

1530 Regional Case Studies (parallel sessions)

- MENA
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia
- South-East Asia

1715 Reconvene in Grand Locarno Room for final closing session

#### 1800 Close of Conference

1830 Optional Nayrouz Service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey (for those who have confirmed their participation in advance). The service will finish at 8:30pm and the drinks reception will finish at 9pm.

# Conference Concept and Panel Sessions

## Context

*“Violent extremism undermines peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.... I am convinced that the creation of open, equitable, inclusive and pluralist societies, based on the full respect of human rights...represents the most tangible and meaningful alternative to violent extremism and the most promising strategy for rendering it unattractive” UN Secretary General, 24 December 2015*

As the international community seeks to understand how best to combat violent extremism it is clear that, to be sustainable, solutions must go beyond counter-terrorism measures to include measures which tackle the conditions that are conducive to extremism. A key part of the answer is to build open, equitable, inclusive and plural societies in which fundamental rights are respected, including **freedom of religion or belief (FoRB), freedom of expression and freedom of association.**

Where people are free to follow their chosen religion or belief, to share it with others and to worship in the company of others, then extremist ideologies are seen in sharp relief as dangerous, anti-social counter-currents to the public good. Conversely, where governments and societies promote or condone discrimination on the basis of religion or belief they create fertile ground which violent extremists can exploit. This can include the development of deep-seated prejudice within society which sets individuals and groups against each other. This mindset leads to individuals abusing the human rights of others on the basis of their religion or belief and is threatening the extinction of Christians in the Middle East in particular.

With this in mind, what can we do to reverse the declining respect for freedom of religion or belief internationally? What is already being done from which we can draw inspiration? How can governments manage hard-line religious sentiment within society and defuse inter-faith hostility? How can we engage with governments and societies around the idea that promoting freedom of religion or belief is a key way of creating the conditions conducive to peace, stability, security and economic prosperity? And that FoRB helps avoid the conditions which are conducive to the rise of violent extremism?

## Conference Objectives

- To consider the link between fundamental freedoms and building resilience against extremism and look at the existing evidence;

- To raise awareness of the current status of freedom of religion or belief internationally;
- To demonstrate the UK's commitment to working on freedom of religion belief and to increasing the religious literacy of our staff;
- To bring together a wide range of individuals (expert and non-expert) from different spheres (government, parliamentarians, media, lawyers, business executives, NGOs) to share best practice ideas and identify opportunities for working together in pursuit of solutions;
- To inspire and equip participants with new ideas to extend and defend the right to freedom of religion or belief and to build resilience against extremism;

## Day One

### High level opening sessions – Setting the Scene

0915      Why Open, Equitable, Inclusive and Pluralist Societies help guard against extremism

*Speakers:* FCO Minister for Human Rights, Rt Hon Baroness Anelay DBE  
Video Message from Commonwealth Secretary General  
Victim of Persecution: Helen Berhane, Eritrea

0945      Why Freedom of Religion or Belief is Particularly Relevant

*Speakers:* Tom Farr, Director, Religious Freedom Project, Berkley Center, Georgetown University  
Lord David Alton, House of Lords  
Andrew Copson, British Humanist Association  
Ambassador David Saperstein, US Ambassador for International Religious Freedom \*

1115      How can open and plural societies help in peace-building? Why do we see extremist groups emerge in failed states?

*Speakers:* Raffaello Pantucci, Royal United Services Institute  
Rt Rev & Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury  
Archbishop Ben Kwashi, Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria

1215 What is the evidence? How are open, equitable societies better economically?

*Speakers:* Brian Grim, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation  
Prof Philip Booth, St Mary's University, Twickenham  
Farad Azima, CetroMed Group  
Kamran Malik, Ernst & Young

**Putting Ideas into Action: What can we do about it? What tools are available?  
Who can we work with?**

1400 Working with civil society and faith leaders  
*How faith and civil society leaders can change the narrative about the role of religion in sanctioning violence and foster cohesive and diverse communities which reject extremism*

*Speakers:* Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah, Forum for Promoting Peace, UAE  
Bishop Michael Nazir Ali, Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy & Dialogue  
Yousif Al-Khoei, Al Khoei Foundation  
Bishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK

1515 Working with parliamentarians and international parliamentary networks  
*How parliamentary networks can help to raise awareness of the way that open, plural societies serve as a valuable alternative to extremism*

*Speakers:* Gavin Shuker MP, Co-Chair, UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief  
Abid Raja, Norwegian Parliament – International Panel of Parliamentarians on FoRB  
Luke Waggoner, International Republican Institute  
Mervyn Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, CSW  
Lisa Pearce, Chief Executive Officer, Open Doors

1700 Working through the Commonwealth  
*How the Commonwealth can support its members to build open, plural societies which help render extremism unattractive*

*Speakers:* Josephine Ojiambo, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth  
Baroness Elizabeth Berridge – Commonwealth Parliamentary Initiative  
Virginia McVea, Chair, Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

1800 Implementing the UN Secretary General's Action Plan on Preventing Violent Extremism  
*How UN action and national action plans on PVE can promote full respect for human rights. How national PVE action plans can deliver human rights objectives. How the international community can support.*

*Speakers:* Mona Rishmawi, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Ambassador Dr Martin Kimani, Kenya  
Khalid Koser, Chief Executive, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

## **Day Two – Expert Level Solutions Workshop**

0900 Interfaith relations – What works?  
*How do we ensure that interfaith initiatives are not simply a gathering of like-minded individuals discussing the points on which they can agree? How can they be designed to deliver a real change in relations between groups and to make a positive contribution to wider society?*

*Speakers:* Archbishop Sebastian Shaw, Catholic Archbishop of Lahore  
Josh Cass, Three Faiths Forum  
Dr Ed Kessler, Founder Director, Woolf Institute

1000 Working through the UN (Special Rapporteur, UPRs, NGO committee, HRC interactive dialogues etc)  
*How UN mechanisms can be used to raise awareness of the way that open, equitable, inclusive and pluralist societies help build resilience against extremism. What lessons can be learnt from the way that the UN has galvanised action against torture and the death penalty?*

*Speakers:* Dr Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on FoRB  
Prof Sir Malcolm Evans, Bristol University  
Elizabeth O'Casey, IHEU, Vice Chair, FoRB Working Group, Geneva  
Diane Ala'i, Bahai International Office, Geneva

1130

The role of Education

*How building acceptance of different faiths or beliefs among children can act as a defence against extremism. What is the role of governments in ensuring education is not used to propagate hatred and extremist views?*

*Speakers:* Prof Cole Durham, Brigham Young University  
Tina Ramirez, CEO, Hardwired Global  
Emman El-Badawy, Tony Blair Faith Foundation  
Sheelagh Stewart & Amina El-Abed, British Council

1330

Working with the Legal Profession

*What is best practice in international human rights law in providing the legislative framework for open and plural societies? How can such a legal basis limit the space for extremism?*

*Speakers:* Brett Scharffs, Brigham Young University  
Nazila Ghanea, Oxford University

1415

Working with Youth

*How can young people proactively help combat extremism? How does bringing young people of different faiths together help? What best practice is there?*

*Speakers:* Ian Jamison, Tony Blair Faith Foundation  
Huda Nassar, Awareness Foundation Middle East  
Erin Saltman, Institute for Strategic Dialogue



1530 **Regional Case Studies (parallel sessions)**

*Each regional session will consider to what extent open and plural societies currently exist and look at some of the problems faced in building these as well as some of the approaches being taken to tackle these. Participants will then consider which of the possible approaches presented in the above conference sessions might be applicable in each region.*

MENA

*Moderator:* Knox Thames, US State Department

*Speakers:* Daniel Hoffman, Middle East Concern  
Camille Melki, Heart for Lebanon  
Mehrézia Labidi-Maiza, Member of Assembly of Representatives of People, Tunisia

Sub-Saharan Africa

*Moderator:* Cynthia Tai, The Law Offices of Cynthia T. Tai

*Speakers:* Mohaned Mustafa and Osman Mobarak, Sudan  
Dr Mohamed Elsanousi, Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers  
Rev Yunusa Nmadu, CSW Nigeria

South Asia

*Moderator:* Julia Bicknell, World Watch Monitor

*Speakers:* Tehmina Arora, Alliance Defending Freedom, India  
Azhar Hussain, Peace and Education Foundation, Pakistan

South-East Asia

*Moderator:* Benedict Rogers, CSW

*Speakers:* Bob Fu, China Aid  
Ahmad Suadi, Abdurrahman Wahid Centre for Inter-faith Dialogue  
Kyaw Win, Burmese Muslim Association

## Getting to the Conference

### Venue:

Locarno Suite  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

### Closest tube station:

Westminster exit 6

### Closest train station:

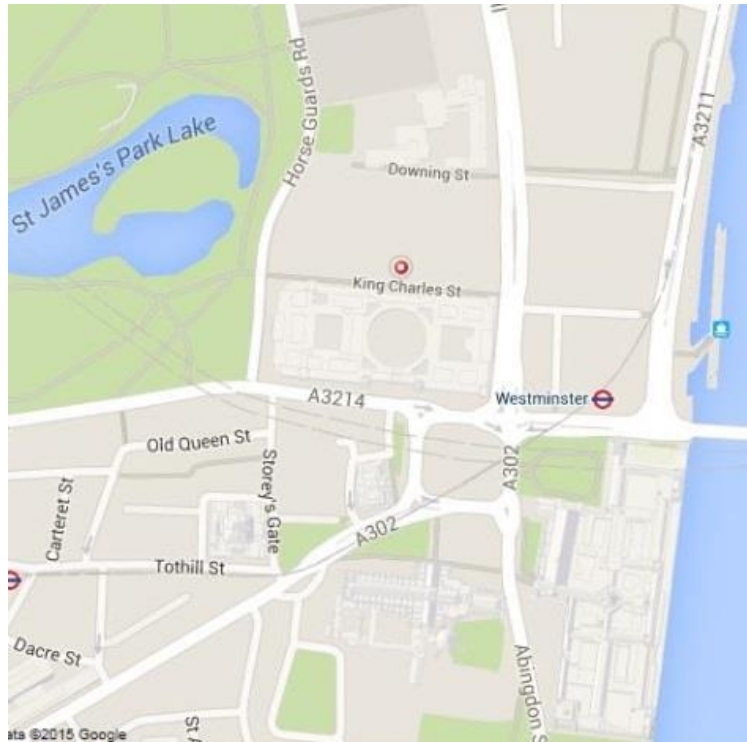
Charing Cross Station

### Arrival time:

08:45 19 October

08:30 20 October

To allow time to pass security and  
be escorted from FCO reception



### Contact for event:

Sue Breeze: +44 20 7008 6479 / +44 7785 608238

Hala Bouguerne: +44 20 7008 1257 / +44 7469 125417

Email: [HRDD.Events@fco.gov.uk](mailto:HRDD.Events@fco.gov.uk)

[Google Map Link](#)

We regret that no parking will be allowed at the FCO. Only those from London Diplomatic Missions can park in King Charles Street.

### Useful information

**Public Transport:** Information on travelling on Public Transport in London visit [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

**Taxis:** Black cabs

**Uber:** Download the app to have access to Uber taxis in London

**Addison Lee:** To book a taxi we recommend Addison Lee, the contact number is 020 7350 5960 and their website is [www.addisonlee.com](http://www.addisonlee.com)

### **Suggested Hotel Accommodation:**

[The Park Plaza County Hall](#) (0.5 miles approx 10 minutes walk)

[DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Victoria](#) (1.4 miles approx 20 minutes walk)

# Communications Plan

## Social Media

Please follow us on Twitter on **@FCOHumanRights** and **@JoyceAnelay**.

The dedicated hashtag for the conference is:

## #FoRBvsExtremism

To ensure we create a powerful online impact around the conference and raise the profile of open and plural societies as part of the solution to violent extremism, please also share your own information, stories and pictures about the state of FoRB around the world.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/foreignoffice/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ukforeignoffice/?hl=en>

## Podcasts

Audio podcasts of speeches will be made available to download following the conference on audioboom/ itunes.