

International Freedom of Religion or Belief Day

House of Lords 27th October 2016

12.30 – 2.30pm

12:30 – Arrival

12:35 – Stephen Timms MP (Introduction)

12:40 – Dr Fabio Petito (Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Sussex)

12:47 – Jan Figel Video Interview (EU Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the European Union)

12:55 – Chian (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)

13:00 – Baroness Berridge (IPPFoRB)

13:05 – Sapna Patel (CIFoRB)

13:10 – Jim Shannon MP/Katharine Thane (APPG for IFoRB)

13:15 – Discussion open to the floor

Main Panellists

Dr Fabio Petito

Dr Fabio Petito is Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Sussex. He received his PhD in IR from the LSE, where he was also editor of the journal Millennium. Among his publications: Religion in International Relations (2003), Civilizational Dialogue and World Order (2009) and Towards a Postsecular International Politics (2014). Recent articles include 'Encounter, Dialog, and Knowledge: Italy as a Special Case of Religious Engagement in Foreign Policy', The Review of Faith and International Affairs, with S Thomas, 13, no 2 (2015) and "An Italian foreign policy of religious engagement: challenges and prospects", The International Spectator, with P. Ferrara, 51, no 1, (2016). He has been the principal investigator of the 'Bridging Voice' British Council-sponsored policy dialogue on 'FoRB and Foreign Policy: A transatlantic dialogue for a multilateral approach to religious freedom' (2014-16) and he is the Scientific Co-ordinator of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-ISPI initiative on 'Religions and International Relations'.

Jan Figel – EU Special Envoy to protect and promote the Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the EU

Since May 2016 Jan Figel was nominated by the European Commission as the first Special Envoy for promotion of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) outside the European Union. Mandate represents a new task to engage in this sensitive area mainly through international cooperation and development aid policy of the EU. Figel often underlines that FoRB is an essential value for human dignity everywhere, for peace and justice in the world. His role is to work closely with other institutions within the EU (EEAS, Council, Parliament) and Member States especially in most critical countries. He named several regions as his priority: Middle East, especially Iraq and Syria, Northern and Central Africa, South Eastern and Southern Asia. Mandates includes Special Envoy's reporting within the regular dialogue of the EU with churches and religious communities based on Art. 17 of the Lisbon Treaty. Jan Figel is experienced Slovak and European politician. He was Slovakia's Chief Negotiator and the first EU Commissioner responsible for education, culture and youth policies and Deputy Prime Minister and Vice-president of the National Council.

Chian Yew Lim - Human Rights Officer in the Protection, Religion, Accountability and Human Security Section at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Conference Call)

Baroness Berridge

Baroness Berridge is Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief. She began co-directing the Commonwealth Initiative for Freedom of Religion or Belief (CIFoRB) in October 2015. This three-year project aims to equip parliamentarians across the Commonwealth to address issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief through advocacy, education and research. Since 2012, Elizabeth has become a key voice in the deepening worldwide discussion on freedom of religion and belief as defined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2014 saw the beginning of a partnership between the British APPG and United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which resulted in the launch of an International Panel of

Parliamentarians (IPPFoRB), whose pledge is to work together to end belief based persecution worldwide. Baroness Berridge sits on the Steering Group of this panel.

Sapna Patel – Executive Officer for CIFoRB

Sapna recently worked at the University of Birmingham as an executive officer supporting HR. She has also worked in Organisational Development supporting leadership programmes at the University, with a focus on supporting early career academics, senior leaders and more recently programmes supporting the career development for women in science. She previously completed her PhD in Microbiology at the University of Nottingham, investigating *Helicobacter pylori* infection and disease.

Jim Shannon MP/Katharine Thane - APPG