

Towards

ROME 2018

MED

MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUES

MED is the annual high-level initiative promoted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and ISPI, aimed at drafting a "positive agenda" for the Mediterranean region.



INTERRELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF (FoRB) A NEW POLICY APPROACH FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN **LONDON, 12 JULY 2018**

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, PALACE OF WESTMINSTER,
COMMITTEE ROOM 6

Engagement with religious actors and interreligious collaboration are crucial policy tools to promote FoRB and combat intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief. Thus, a change in the dominant policy approach adopted by governments and international organisations in response to the global crisis of FoRB is required. Religious actors should not only be seen by policy makers as either the victims or the perpetrators of FoRB violations, but as partners in building long-term strategies to advance FoRB for all and foster pluralism, social cohesion and sustainable peace.

2.00 PM - 2.30 PM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chaired by

Rt Hon Stephen Lloyd

Member of Parliament & Officer of the APPG FoRB

and

Fabio Petito

Director of Freedom of Religion & Foreign Policy Initiative, University of Sussex

INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS

Arturo Varvelli

Co-Head MENA Centre, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

Salvatore Martinez

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Emanuela Claudia Del Re

Minister of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

ORGANISED BY

All Party Parliamentary
Group for International
Freedom of Religion or Belief



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ISPI
ITALIAN INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL
POLITICAL STUDIES

2.30 PM - 4.00 PM PANEL 1

BENEFITS, CONDITIONS, CHALLENGES AND RISKS OF INTERRELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT (DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION) FOR FoRB: A NEW POLICY WAY FORWARD?

How can engagement with religious actors, and interreligious collaboration, contribute to promoting FoRB for all and to combatting intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief? To what extent can bottom up approaches to interreligious engagement complement top down approaches to promote FoRB? What are the benefits, challenges and risks of interreligious engagement (dialogue and collaboration) in advancing FoRB?

Under what conditions can interreligious engagement be an effective strategy and what is the appropriate role for governments and international organizations (i.e. promotion, support, facilitation or something else)?

Adama Dieng

Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, United Nations

Jan Figel

Special Envoy for FoRB outside the EU, European Commission

Kishan Manocha

Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, OSCE ODIHR

Katherine Marshall

Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University

Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin

Special Representative for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Discussant

Silvio Ferrari

Professor of Law and Religion, University of Milan

4.00 PM - 4.50 PM AFTERNOON TEA SERVED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS' ATTLEE ROOM
hosted by **Lord Wallace of Saltaire**

4.50 PM - 6.00 PM PANEL 2

DISCUSSING CASES OF INTERRELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE FoRB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Are there Mediterranean experiences, cases and good practices of interreligious engagement (dialogue and collaboration) helping to effectively combat intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief and to promote FoRB? What can we learn from these experiences and how could they be amplified or moved forward?

Is there a practical, or even prophetic, role that dialogue and collaboration among the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) can play to address the FoRB challenges in the Mediterranean region?

Chaired by Rt Hon Stephen Timms, Member of Parliament & Labour Party's Faith Envoy

Mohammed Abu-Nimer

Senior Adviser, KAICIID

Fadi Daou

Chair and CEO, Adyan Foundation

Edward Kessler

Founder Director of the Woolf Institute

Jean-Christophe Peaucelle

Advisor for Religious Affairs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sharon Rosen

Global Director, Religious Engagement, Search For Common Ground

Discussant

Malcolm Evans

Professor of International Public Law, University of Bristol

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