

Invitation

2. International Parliamentarians' Conference **An Embattled Right: Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief**

Dear Sir or Madam

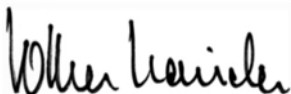
It is an honour and a privilege to invite you to participate in the political conference that marks the final day of this year's International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Freedom of Religion or Belief -IPPFoRB.

After two days of intense debates and deliberations, whereby only parliamentarians will be participating, the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag will host a public and high-level political event to present the current debate on Religious Freedom to the general public. This political event, to be opened by Germany's head of government, Dr. Angela Merkel, will bring together voices from international leadership, leading academic figures and, most importantly, parliamentarians from all over the world. The event aims to sum up the current debate and, of course, highlight the necessity to further defend and promote a crucial human right.

We all agreed in New York in 2015 that there was the need to intensify cooperation in this area and to continue our debate on this subject. In Berlin, we will now have a chance to do exactly this.

The event will take place on **Wednesday, 14th September 2016**, from **11.30 am** until **7.00 pm** in the German Bundestag, Reichstag building, Room **3N001**, Berlin. The CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag is looking forward to welcoming you in the Reichstag building.

Yours sincerely



Volker Kauder MdB

Chairman of CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group
in the German Bundestag



Programme

2. International Parliamentarians' Conference **An Embattled Right: Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief**

The event will take place on **Wednesday, 14th September 2016**, from **11.30 am** until **7.00 pm** in the German Bundestag, Reichstag building, Room **3N001**, Berlin

The conference will be covered live at www.cducsu.de/veranstaltungen on the internet.

- 11:30 am **Opening**
Volker Kauder MP
Chairman of the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group
in the German Bundestag
- 11:40 am **Note of Welcome und Statement**
Dr. Angela Merkel MP
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
- 12:00 am **Welcoming Address**
Johannes Singhammer MP
Vice President of the German Bundestag
- 12:10 am **Welcoming Address**
Baroness Elizabeth Berridge of the Vale of Catmose, MP
Abid Q. Raja, MP
Steering Committee IPPFoRB
- 12:20 am **Welcoming Address**
Ambassador Roald Næss,
Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief
Norwegian Government

- 12:30 am **Keynote**
Freedom of religion as a part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: A report on the UN Realities
Dr. Ahmed Shaheed
UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Designated UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief
United Nations
- 1:00 pm **Lunch**
- 2:00 pm **Keynote**
Religious Freedom as an individual human right and a founding pillar of the democratic constitutional order.
Prof. Dr. Christian Walter
Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität, Munich
- 2:30 pm **Intervention**
Protecting Article 18 through governments' actions
David Saperstein
United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom
Ján Figel
Special Envoy for the promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief Outside the EU
- 3:00 pm **Podium 1**
The challenge of religious freedom – a chance for parliamentarians from religious minorities
Asiya Nazir MP
Pakistan (Christian)
Vian Dakhil MP
Iraq (Jesidi)
U Shwe Maung former MP
Myanmar (Muslim)
Johannes Singhammer MP
Vice President of the German Bundestag
- 4:00 pm Coffee-Break

4:30 pm

Podium 2

The challenge of religious freedom – regional parliamentarians' networks as a chance for parliamentary foreign policy

Charles Santiago MP

ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR)

N.N.

South American Parliamentarians' Association for Religious Freedom

Theodora Bakoyannis MP

Former Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Franz Josef Jung MP

Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag

5:30 pm

Podium 3

The challenge of religious freedom – lessons learned

Baroness Elizabeth Berridge of the Vale of Catmose

House of Lords, United Kingdom

Mr. David Anderson MP

Canada

Abid Raja MP

Norway

Leonardo Quintao MP

Brasil

Prof. Dr. Heribert Hirte MP

Chairman of the Stephanus-Circle of the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag

6:30 pm

Closing Statement

Volker Kauder MdB

Chairman of the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag

6:40 pm

Reception

Moderator

Tanja Samrotzki, Journalist

Further Information: www.cducusu.de/veranstaltungen

