
Freedom of Religion or Belief in the Balkans and South Caucasus

Workshop for Members of Parliament

15 – 17 June 2018, Bucharest, Romania

Friday, 15th June

12:00 **Arrivals and registration**

Saturday, 16th June

10.00 AM **Official Welcome**

H.E. Lise Nicoline Kleven Grevstad, Ambassador of Norway to Romania, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova, **TBC**

Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, MP South Africa, Chairperson African Parliamentarians Association for Human Rights (AfriPAHR)

Kishan Manocha, Senior Advisor on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Human Rights Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

11.00 AM

Session 1

Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Conceptual and Legislative Framework

Facilitator: **Ed Brown**, Coordinator IPPFoRB

12.00 PM

Constitution Quiz

2:30 PM

Session 2

Freedom of Religion or Belief in the Balkans and South Caucasus: Security Issues and the recognition, registration and legal personality of religious or belief communities (Part 1)

Discussion Group 1 – Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Threat to Security, or a Means of Enhancing It?

Facilitator: **John Kinahan**, Forum 18

Discussion Group 2 – Recognition, registration and the legal personality of religious or belief communities – concepts and general principles

Facilitator: **Kishan Manocha**, Senior Advisor on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

4.15 PM

Session 3

Freedom of Religion or Belief in the Balkans and South Caucasus: Security Issues and the recognition, registration and the legal personality of religious or belief communities (Part 2)

Venue: Colorado & Arizona Meeting Rooms, 1st Floor

Discussion Group 1 – Recognition, registration and the legal personality of religious or belief communities – concepts and general principles

Facilitator: **Kishan Manocha**, Senior Advisor on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Discussion Group 2 – Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Threat to Security, or a Means of Enhancing It?

Facilitator: **John Kinahan**, Forum 18

5.30 PM

Session 4

Closing reflections and thoughts

Facilitator: Ed Brown

Sunday, 17th June

9.00 AM

Session 5

Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Role of Parliamentarians

Panelists

Chiora Taktakishvili, Former MP, Georgia, Member of United National Movement, IPPFoRB Alumni

Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, MP South Africa, Chairperson African Parliamentarians Association for Human Rights (AfriPAHR)

Kelly Block, MP Canada, Co-Chair of CANFoRB (via video conference)

Rachada Dhnadirek, Vice Chair Democrat Party of Thailand, IPPFoRB Alumni

Facilitator: **Ed Brown**, Coordinator IPPFoRB

10.00 AM

Session 6

Responding to the challenges

Discussion Group 1: Religion in Vulnerable Contexts: Education, Military, Public Institutions

Facilitator: **Lene Wetteland**, The Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Discussion Group 2: Majority – Minority Relations: Fostering Inclusive Societies

Facilitator: **Mine Yildirim**, The Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Discussion Group 3: FoRB and Gender

Facilitator: **Chiora Taktakishvili**, Former MP, Georgia, Member of United National Movement, IPPFoRB Alumni

Discussion Group 4: Identity Politics / State – Religion Relations

Facilitator: **Katherine Thane**, UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief

Discussion Group 5: Hate Speech – Free Speech Continuum

Facilitator: **Mikayel Hovhannisyan**, Eurasia Partnership Foundation

12.00 AM **Session 7**

Report back from Discussion Groups

Facilitator: **Ed Brown**, Coordinator IPPFoRB

12.45 AM **Session 8**

Closing reflections and thoughts

Facilitator: **Ed Brown**, Coordinator IPPFoRB

This International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief Workshop is organized by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee in cooperation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) with financial support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs