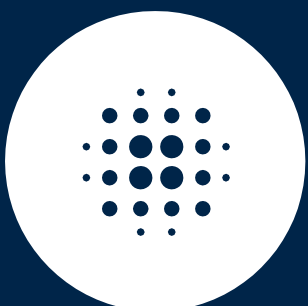


INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ROUNDTABLE



Image courtesy of US Dept of State



MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM **EVENTS PROGRAM**

JULY 23-27, 2018 | WASHINGTON, DC | ifroundtable.org

This events program
was produced independently by the

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
R O U N D T A B L E

Not at government expense.

For info:

irf@themitchellfirm.com

www.irfroundtable.org

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM R O U N D T A B L E

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE STATEMENT

The IRF Roundtable is an informal group of individuals from non-governmental organizations who gather regularly to discuss IRF issues on a non-attribution basis. It is simply a safe space where participants gather, speak freely in sharing ideas and information, and propose joint advocacy actions to address specific IRF issues and problems. In response to various participant-led initiatives regarding the protection and promotion of freedom of religion, conscience, and belief in the U.S. and abroad, all participants have the opportunity to self-select into coalitions of the willing.

The Roundtable meets every three months in the U.S. Capitol and average attendance has grown to 60-75 participants from civil society and government, including senior staff members from the State Department, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S. Helsinki Commission, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, the International Religious Freedom Caucus, members of Congress, and foreign embassies.

The goal of the Roundtable is to reverse the rising tide of restrictions on religious freedom that has been spreading across the world. According to the Pew Research Center's latest annual study on global restrictions on religion, 79% of the world's population lived in countries with high or very high levels of restrictions and/or hostilities in 2015 (up from 74% in 2014; and 68% in 2007).

In this direction, the purpose of the Roundtable is to advance IRF by:

1. Engaging the U.S. government to make IRF a foreign policy and national security priority so:
 - IRF is fully integrated into U.S. foreign policy and national security, including democracy promotion, public diplomacy, counterterrorism, and multilateral strategies.
 - U.S. foreign policy tools are used to advance religious freedom around the world, per the mandate established by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act.
 - The political and cultural institutions necessary to advance religious freedom are continually supported, facilitated, and protected at home and abroad.
 - Global levels of religious intolerance, discrimination, persecution, terrorism, and instability are significantly reduced.
2. Engaging civil society leaders, other governments that protect and promote religious freedom, and multilateral, intergovernmental institutions to coordinate joint advocacy efforts.
3. Engaging in meaningful dialogues with governments that restrict religious freedom, so as to:
 - Politely but persistently push factual reports that document violations of their own constitutions and/or international commitments.
 - Frame the issues in their best interests, and increase mutual understanding and respect of religious communities and dynamics.
 - Agree on a process to resolve differences related to particular situations in their countries.
 - Create a mechanism for improvement of policies and practices, and for verification.

While participants of the Roundtable continue to engage the U.S. government to do more to advance IRF, and work with it when and where it can help, they do not rely exclusively on it to achieve the goal. Rather, participants also reach out directly to other governments. The meaningful dialogues they have opened with ambassadors, embassies, and delegations are designed to grow into results-driven collaborations. Indeed, they are manifestations of "bottom-up" civil society engaging the "top-down" of authoritarian governments, something participants want to model in the context of multiple bilateral relations. To borrow from the lingo of diplomacy, the Roundtable represents a creative intersection of "Track 1" (governmental) and "Track 2" (civil society) – its emerging model is a true demonstration of "Track 1.5" engagement in action, through which strategic partnerships, collaborations, and consultative relationships between governments and civil society organizations might advance peace and prosperity.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of International Religious Freedom
Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, July 24-26

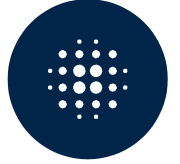
Secretary Pompeo will host the *Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom* in Washington, the first-ever Ministerial to advance religious freedom around the world. This event will focus on concrete outcomes that reaffirm international commitments to promote religious freedom and produce real, positive change. The Ministerial will convene a broad range of stakeholders, including foreign ministers, international organization representatives, religious leaders, and civil society representatives, to discuss challenges, identify concrete ways to combat religious persecution and discrimination, and ensure greater respect for religious freedom for all.

Expanding the Conversation: On July 24, we will equip and empower civil society organizations, including organizations working on religious freedom, to understand better how to access U.S. financial support for their efforts. Civil society, including religious organizations, are vital to protecting and promoting religious freedom. During this session, experts will explain to participants the U.S. grant making process and answer their questions. Then, senior U.S. government officials will provide an overview of foreign policy goals in relation to international religious freedom. Finally, philanthropic and private sector organizations will share best practices for civil society organizations to link their efforts to improve religious freedom with private sector initiatives and resources.

Civil Society Lessons Learned: On July 25, members of civil society groups, including religious leaders and survivors of religious persecution, will convene to tell their stories, share their expertise, and ultimately unite on a path to greater religious freedom in our societies. We have invited more than 175 civil society representatives and more than 100 religious leaders representing every corner of the world to participate. The program will include breakout sessions on the intersections between religious freedom and women's rights; religious freedom and countering violent extremism; religious freedom and economic prosperity; confronting legal challenges to religious freedom; advocating for equal rights for all; preserving cultural heritage; and providing support and care to victims of religious violence or persecution. The Secretary will host an evening reception with foreign government delegations and authorities, select civil society and religious community participants, U.S. government officials, and Members of Congress.

Role of Government: On July 26, government and international organization representatives will participate in plenary sessions focused on: (1) identifying global challenges to religious freedom, (2) developing innovative responses to persecution on the basis of religion, and (3) sharing new commitments to protect religious freedom for all. We have invited authorities from over 80 countries that have a demonstrated record for advancing religious freedom and are committed to promoting Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or that recently have taken meaningful steps to begin to do so. We also have invited representatives from international organizations to participate. Survivors or close relatives of those who suffered persecution due to their religious beliefs will share their stories. We ask delegations to announce at the Ministerial new actions to protect and promote freedom of religion or belief.

FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 1 | [MAP](#)

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

EXPANDING THE CONVERSATION

By Invitation ONLY – Civil Society

Location: US State Department
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Preview: *The goal of the sessions held today is to equip and empower civil society organizations to access U.S. financial support. There will be an overview of foreign policy goals concerning IRF, and best practices to improve religious freedom will be discussed.*

DAY 2 | [MAP](#)

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

CIVIL SOCIETY LESSONS LEARNED

By Invitation ONLY – Civil Society

Location: US State Department
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Preview: *The goal of this day's meetings is to tell stories, share expertise, and ultimately unite on a path to greater religious freedom.*

RECEPTION HOSTED BY SECRETARY POMPEO

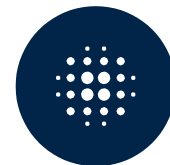
By Invitation ONLY – Civil Society & Government

Location: US State Department
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Preview: *The Secretary will host a reception with foreign government delegations, select civil society and religious community participants, U.S. government officials and Members of Congress.*

FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 2 | [MAP](#)

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

RECEPTION HOSTED BY UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

By Invitation ONLY – Civil Society & Government

Location: US Institute of Peace

2301 Constitution Ave NW

Washington, DC 20037

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Preview: *In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the International Religious Freedom Act, the members of USCIRF will host this reception in support of the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. “Past, Present, and Future: Unprecedented Challenges and New Opportunities.”*

DAY 3 | [MAP](#)

Thursday, July 26, 2018

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

By Invitation ONLY – Government

Location: US State Department

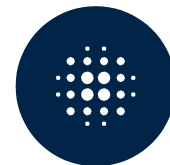
2201 C St., NW

Washington, DC 20520

Time: 9:00 am- 5:00 pm

Preview: *Plenary sessions focused on: (1) identifying global challenges to religious freedom, (2) developing innovative responses to persecution on the basis of religion, and (3) sharing new commitments to protect religious freedom for all*

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



PRE-
MINISTERIAL
MAP

Monday, July 23, 2018

IRF ROUNDTABLE OPENING LUNCH: RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN CHINA

Co-Sponsored by: IRF Roundtable, CESNUR, ORLIR

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: 385 Senate Russell Office Building

Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Preview: **Opening event of Ministerial week.** *Remarks by Massimo Introvigne, CESNUR: "Deprogramming One Million Chinese: Persecution, Xie Jiao, and New Re-Education Camps in China"; Rosita Šorytė, ORLIR: "Fleeing China: Why Some Countries Are Refusing Religion-Based Asylum to Chinese Refugees"; Alex Amicarelli, European Federation for Freedom of Belief: "Litigating for Freedom in Geneva: Arbitrary Detention Cases and China's Universal Periodic Review"; stories from religious communities who are victims of persecution: Dr. Larry Liu, Falun Gong; Nury Turkel, Uyghur Human Rights Project Ms Zhen Qing, Church of Almighty God; and a discussion of solutions that will include Terri Marsh of HRLF.*

RSVP: glayton@themitchellfirm.com

ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA'S CURRENT STATUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sponsored by: International Christian Concern (ICC)

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Church of Scientology National Affairs Office 1701 20th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Preview: *ICC will host a roundtable on Nigeria's current status on Religious Freedom as well as threats posed by non-state actors to its and the region's stability*

RSVP: advocacy.dir@persecution.org

BRIEFING ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN SYRIA

Co-Sponsored by: Law and Liberty Trust, Jubilee Campaign, Others

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

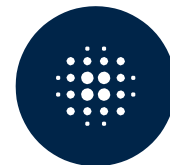
Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20045

Time: 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Preview: *Briefing focused on: (1) Pluralistic Model for Religious Freedom in Northern Syria's Democratic Self-Administration; (2) Devastation in Afrin by Islamist Forces; (3) US and International Military and Diplomatic Policy to Support Religious Freedom Following Defeat of Daesh. Confirmed Speakers: Lauren Homer, President Law and Liberty Trust, Bassam Ishak, President Syriac Democratic Council of Syria, Sinam Mohamad, US Representative of Syrian Democratic Council. Invited: Mervyn Thomas, President, CSW (formerly Christian Solidarity Worldwide), Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Assyrian Church of the East.*

RSVP: lauren@lawandlibertytrust.org

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



PRE-
MINISTERIAL
MAP

Monday, July 23, 2018

RALLY FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN ASIA

Sponsored by: Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: United States Capitol West Side

Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Preview: *Ethnic representatives of the captive nations of Asia will offer remarks, including Dolkun Isa, President of the World Uyghur Congress, who will speak about the plight of Uyghur Muslims in China and Pastor Chinh, recently released prisoner of conscience from Vietnam, who will speak about the plight of Christians in Vietnam. It will take place on July 23 at 4PM in front of the U.S. Capitol. Members of Congress, including Chairwoman McMorris Rogers, will also offer remarks.*

RSVP: kristina.olney@victimsofcommunism.org

IRFA AT 20 AND WORLD OF FAITH AND FREEDOM AT 10: WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHAT IS CHANGING? AN INQUIRY INTO U.S. INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM POLICY AND RECEPTION

Co-Sponsored by: Religious Freedom Institute / 21 Wilberforce

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

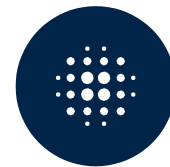
Location: Room G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Preview: *As the United States prepares to convene the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, leading practitioners and former officials who have been at the heart of the U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy consider what has changed and what is changing in the implementation of that effort. Twenty years since the passing of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) and ten years since the publishing of *World of Faith and Freedom: Why International Religious Liberty is Vital to American National Security* by Thomas Farr, the arguments put forward in that book that religious freedom is good for security and undermining religion-related violence and promoting societal flourishing seem more incisive than ever. Join leading figures in the global effort to advance religious freedom for this pre- Ministerial event to consider what can be done.*

RSVP: jeremy.barker@religiousfreedominstitute.org; or
<http://bit.ly/IRF-Kickoff>

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 1 | MAP

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

BREAKFAST WITH AMBASSADOR SAM BROWNBAC

*Co-Sponsored by: Liberty Counsel & Faith and Action in the Nation's Capital
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

Location: Faith and Action in the Nation's Capital : 109 2nd Street NE, Washington, DC 20002

Time: 7:30 am

Preview: *A breakfast discussion on religious freedom with Ambassador Brownback and like-minded delegates from countries in the Americas.*

RSVP: ctbovell@gmail.com

ENGAGING TRANSFORMATIVE RELIGIOUS NARRATIVES FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*Co-Sponsored by: Office of the Special Representative for Religious Freedom or Belief, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and Muslims for Progressive Values
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government. Space is Limited.*

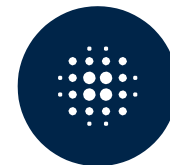
Location: Kathwari Amphitheater at the United States Institute of Peace
2301 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC 20037"

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Preview: *The event seeks to create a space that fosters discussion of the relationship between fundamentalist and extremist narratives of religion or culture and multifaceted forms of violence against women and girls, including of the positive role religious leaders, actors and organizations can have in tackling gender injustice and eliminating violence against women and girls. It will also give space to the discussion on the importance of the critical analysis of religious narratives and strategies to address and ultimately transform the structures and attitudes that sustain patriarchal and misogynistic gender stereotypes and gender-based violence.*

RSVP: <https://religiousnarrativesevaw.eventbrite.com/>

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 1 | MAP

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

PROTECTING INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FROM THE POLITICIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

*Co-Sponsored by: The Heritage Foundation & Concerned Women for America & ADF International
Open Invitation to Government & Civil Society*

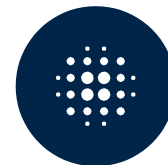
Location: 2456 Rayburn House Office Building
Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Preview: *Dr. Aaron Rhodes' new book "The Debasement of Human Rights: How Politics Sabotage the Ideal of Freedom" identifies a dangerous trend in the international human rights movement. Increasingly, the natural rights of individuals, like religious freedom, are being conflated with manufactured rights which are the social and economic policy priorities of particular groups and governments. Natural rights protect the fairness of the political process by ensuring that individuals are free to think, speak, and act according to their convictions, including their religious beliefs. However, when governments and social groups can transform their economic and social policy goals into "human rights," this undercuts the moral legitimacy and persuasive power of natural rights like religious freedom. The panelists will discuss how robust protection of religious freedom will ultimately lead to economic prosperity and why natural rights are best protected when they are protected for all, not for members of particular identity groups. Please join us for this discussion on the future of international religious freedom and the human rights movement.*
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2uRaerU>

A VIGIL TO HONOR THE VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE IN BURMA

*Sponsored by: Faith Coalition to Stop Genocide in Burma
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

Location: Edward J. Kelly Park - The corner of 21st and Virginia NW, Washington
DC 20245
Time: 5:00 pm
Preview: *Join in a moment of silence to remember those suffering the brutality of a Genocide. Come and pray for victims. Learn how you can take action.*
RSVP: nicolee@ambrose-group.com

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 1 | [MAP](#)

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

THE FIGHT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE VATICAN (Wine Reception from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm)

Co-Sponsored by: Religious Freedom Institute & The Center for Religious Liberty at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Rayburn House Office Building: Room 2060, 45 Independence Ave SW,
Washington, DC 20515

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Preview: *Please join us in a discussion of Vatican efforts to advance international religious freedom, and of U.S.-Vatican cooperation in those efforts. Remarks by: Amb. Callista Gingrich, US Ambassador to the Holy See; Rep. Francis Rooney (FL-19), Former US Ambassador to the Holy See; Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Vatican Secretary for Relations with States; Thomas Farr, President of the Religious Freedom Institute; William Saunders, Co-Director of the Center for Religious Liberty at the Catholic University of America*

RSVP: <https://www.religiousfreedominstitute.org/rfievents/ministerial-vatican>

RECEPTION AND FILM SCREENING: LETTER FROM MASANJIA

Sponsored by: Falun Dafa Association of Washington DC Open

Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Foreign Service Association's Conference Room, 2101 E St, NW, Washington, DC

Time: 5:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Preview: *5:15 - 5:45pm, reception (light refreshments provided);
5:45 - 7:00pm, film screening;
7:00 - 7:30pm, discussion.*

An Oregon woman finds an SOS message from a Falun Gong practitioner in a package of Halloween decorations from Kmart, making international headlines and setting off a chain of events that would shut down the labor camp system in China and ignite the letter-writer's dangerous quest to expose a deadly persecution. Watch trailer at LetterFromMasanjia.com

RSVP: <http://www.LaborCampLetter.EventBrite.com>

MULTI-FAITH PRAYER SERVICE

Co-Sponsored by: Rabbi David Saperstein, Imam Mohamed Magid, Pastor Bob Roberts, Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Jack Morton Auditorium on the campus of George Washington University
805 21st Street (10 minute walk north of State Department)"

Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Preview: *A multi-faith prayer service for all faith traditions. The service will specifically be focused on praying for persecuted believers from around the world.*

RSVP: bobroberts@northwoodchurch.org

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

DAY 1 | [MAP](#)

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

Sponsored by: Human Rights Watch Washington Office

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Human Rights Watch, 1640 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Washington, DC

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:15 pm

Please join us for hors d'oeuvres at 5:30PM. The panel will begin at 6:15PM.

Preview: *The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is an important part of the human rights framework. As part of that framework, religious liberty is strongest when the rights of all people are respected and protected. In this side event, speakers will look at how religious liberty coexists with other human rights guarantees, particularly those protecting the liberty and equality of marginalized groups. Speakers will examine how international law understands the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion and how it can support – and be supported by – a strong defense of vulnerable groups. Speakers: Amanda Klasing, Senior Researcher for Human Rights Watch; Sophie Richardson, China Director for Human Rights Watch; Omair Paul, United Nations Representative for Muslims for Progressive Values*

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/religious-freedom-in-the-human-rights-framework-tickets-48279874404>

LATEST PEW RESEARCH CENTER FINDINGS ON GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGION: DISCUSSION AND RECEPTION

Sponsored by: Pew Research Center

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

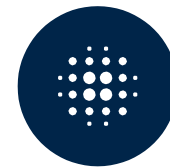
Location: Pew Research Center, 1615 L St NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036

Time: 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Preview: *Pew Research Center invites you to join a presentation and discussion of the Center's latest findings on nationalism in Europe and global religious restrictions, exploring public attitudes toward multiculturalism and how nationalist parties and organizations have played an increasing role in harassment of religious minorities. The event will feature two brief presentations on "Restrictions on Religious Freedom in 2016: A Focus on Nationalism in Europe" and "Attitudes toward National Identity and Religious Minorities in Europe". The presentations will be followed by a discussion with the audience and a reception. Presenters: Dr. Katayoun Kishi & Dr. Neha Sahgal.*

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/J2rAEHZhqS4A1CIE3>

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 1 | [MAP](#)

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

THE PEOPLE OF THE CROSS EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION

*Sponsored by: Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

Location: U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, North Congressional Meeting Room, East Entrance, First St NE, Washington, DC 20515

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Preview: *Join us for a reception and exhibit of The People of the Cross. Light hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer will be served in one of Washington, D.C.'s premier event spaces. This powerful exhibit shows what millions of people experience simply because they follow Jesus Christ including: violence, rape, murder, torture, imprisonment, loss of property and exclusion from civil society. The perpetrators often go unpunished and some state actors continue receiving U.S. government aid despite their complicity in this persecution of Christians.*

RSVP: <https://stpc-exhibit-072418.eventbrite.com/>

DAY 2 | [MAP](#)

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

PRESS CONFERENCE: HOW THREE COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ARE LEADING THE WORLD IN FORB EDUCATION

Sponsored by: Hardwired Global

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government. Space is Limited.

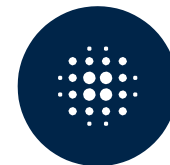
Location: 340 Cannon House Office Building

Time: 7:45 - 8:45 am

Preview: *Hardwired Global Founder and President, Tina Ramirez, will release a groundbreaking study, "Protecting Children from Violent Extremism," which demonstrates the organization's ability to re-train, reeducate, and recondition the mindset of youth to counter religious intolerance and extremism and advance greater respect for the dignity of others. We invite you to join Hardwired for the release of this powerful study and hear from Members of the Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus and Officials from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) who have been invited to discuss the importance of teaching children to value the rights and freedoms of people of different religions and beliefs to overcome intolerance, violence, and recurrent cycles of conflict in the world.*

RSVP: hardwiredglobal.org/registration/

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 2 | [MAP](#)

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

A NEW ERA FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN UZBEKISTAN

*Co-Sponsored by: The Embassy of Uzbekistan & The Institute for Global Engagement
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

Location: The National Press Club, Holeman Lounge Room, 529 14th Street NW,
Washington, DC 20045

Time: 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Preview: *Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Republic of Uzbekistan has carried out several unprecedented political, economic and social reforms, as well as reforms in its approach to religious freedom. These reforms have garnered widespread attention, encouragement, and support from the international community. The Embassy of Uzbekistan and the Institute for Global Engagement will co-host a conversation about this new direction with senior leaders from Uzbekistan, with particular emphasis on Uzbekistan's religious freedom roadmap, which seeks to protect and promote freedom of conscience and belief while integrating people of all beliefs as equal citizens under the transparent rule of law.*

RSVP: Please RSVP by July 23rd with your first name, last name and affiliation to: a.fayzullaev@mfa.uz

ARE RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURES A SOURCE OF CONFLICT OR HARMONY?

*Sponsored by: Center for Pluralism
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

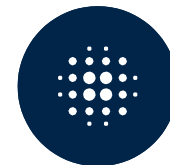
Location: Longworth House Office Building, Room 1540-A

Time: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Preview: *The absence of freedom to see God as a creator of all humanity has become a significant source of conflict. Each religious group acts as if they own God exclusively and is not available to others. Each one believes that God has made a deal with them behind other's back, they also think that God has given exclusive brokerage to their messenger and denied others. Is that our God? God is more significant than we have made him out to be. A symposium on scriptures from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Can a Rabbi, Pastor, Imam, Pundit and a Bhikkhu have the religious freedom to universalize their respective scriptures?*

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/are-religious-scriptures-a-source-of-conflict-or-harmony-tickets-48138380191>

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



DAY 2 | [MAP](#)

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

ENHANCING THE DIPLOMAT'S TOOLKIT: BEST PRACTICES IN ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sponsored by: Religious Freedom Institute

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Religious Freedom Institute 1050 30th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20007

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Preview: *Diplomats are working on the frontlines of governmental efforts to address these challenges, but often are not provided with the training or resources to effectively address the situations. Sharing from their experience and research, veteran diplomats and religious freedom advocates will share best practices and insight into tactics, mechanisms, strategies, and resources for advancing religious freedom.*

RSVP: <https://www.religiousfreedominstitute.org/rfievents/ministerial-diplomat-training>

IRF ROUNDTABLE AFTER-PARTY RECEPTION

Sponsored by: IRF Roundtable Congressional Working Group

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Hive Bar Rooftop, 2224 F St NW, Washington, DC 20037

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Preview: *Following the big receptions at the State Department (hosted by the Secretary of State) and the U.S. Institute of Peace (hosted by USCIRF), please join this after party to network with additional NGOs and Government Partners while enjoying dutch-treat cocktails or light food. (please note: this event allows you to get your own food and drink)*

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/LKSOiCqIcOQbnof43>

DAY 3 | [MAP](#)

Thursday, July 26, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST WITH MIDDLE EAST FAITH LEADERS

Sponsored by: In Defense of Christians

By Invitation ONLY

Location: United States Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room
South (CVC 217)

Time: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Preview: *Roundtable Discussion | Breakfast Served -- "A Private Discussion between U.S. Policymakers and Middle Eastern Church Leaders" - IDC President Toufic Baaklini*

RSVP: peter@indefenseofchristians.org

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

DAY 3 | [MAP](#)

Thursday, July 26, 2018

SURVEILLANCE, SUPPRESSION, AND MASS DETENTION: XINJIANG'S HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

Hearing of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Preview: *The hearing will look at the serious and deteriorating human rights situation faced by Uyghurs; examine the Chinese government's efforts to build the world's most advanced police state in the XUAR, and explore policy options to address these issues within U.S.-China relations. Uyghurs and other primarily Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have been subjected to arbitrary detention, torture, egregious restrictions on religious practice and culture, and a digitized surveillance system so pervasive that every aspect of daily life is monitored—through facial recognition cameras, mobile phone scans, DNA collection, and an extensive and intrusive police presence. There are credible reports that as many as a million people are or have been detained in what are being called “political reeducation” centers, the largest mass incarceration of an ethnic minority population in the world today. There are recent reports of deaths in custody including suicides. This past year, under intrusive “home stay” programs, XUAR officials have also sent nearly a million Communist Party cadres and government workers to live with ethnic minority families in their homes for certain periods of time, carry out political indoctrination, and monitor their daily activities.*

No RSVP necessary.

LESSONS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA: STATE AND NON-STATE THREATS TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Co-Sponsored by: Southern Baptist Convention ERLC & Religious Freedom

Institute & Boat People SOS

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Senate Visitors Center Room 212-210

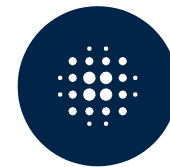
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Preview: *The event will feature two panels and a wide range of experts from Malaysia, Vietnam, and the religious freedom policy space more broadly. The first panel will focus on the role of religious registration systems in restricting religious freedom for religious orders and individuals. The second panel will be focused on the rising threat of non-state actors in Southeast Asia. Both panels will draw lessons from the region for the rest of the world. The event will also premier a short film produced by ERLC titled *Malaysia: A Fight for Freedom and Identity*. Refreshments will be provided.*

RSVP: For security purposes, please RSVP no later than 5:00pm EST on Tuesday, July 24, and a photo ID is required for entry:

<https://erlc.com/upcoming-events/lessons-from-southeast-asia>

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



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Thursday, July 26, 2018

IRF ROUNDTABLE WORKING LUNCH

Co-Sponsored by: Participants of the IRF Roundtable

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: 902 Hart Senate Office Building

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Preview: *Parallel to the Ministerial working lunch for government representatives that will be held at the State Department on this date and time, we are organizing a working lunch for civil society representatives and partners on Capitol Hill. **Featuring: leaders of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief.** We are planning two moderated discussions, serving the dual purpose of an accurate summary and a call-to-action: 1. What did we hear and learn this week at the Ministerial and the side events around it? 2. What are we going to do now, where & when? In answering the second question, we will discuss the IRF Roundtable vision and plans to establish a global, interlocking network of multi-faith religious freedom/policy roundtables and coordinate its actions with the global network of governments (per the International Contact Group for Freedom of Religion or Belief) and the global network of legislators (per the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief). We will also discuss the regions and countries that are most likely to embrace, respect and work with multi-faith roundtables.*

RSVP: irf2018@themitchellfirm.com

HOW TO PROTECT INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FROM THE POLITICIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Co-Sponsored by: The Heritage Foundation & Concerned Women for America

Open Invitation to Government & Civil Society

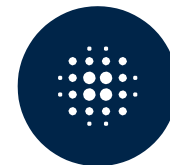
Location: The Heritage Foundation's Lehrman Auditorium

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Preview: *Dr. Aaron Rhodes' new book "The Debasement of Human Rights: How Politics Sabotage the Ideal of Freedom" identifies a dangerous trend in the international human rights movement. Increasingly, the natural rights of individuals, like religious freedom, are being conflated with manufactured rights which are the social and economic policy priorities of particular groups and governments. Natural rights protect the fairness of the political process by ensuring that individuals are free to think, speak, and act according to their convictions, including their religious beliefs. However, when governments and social groups can transform their economic and social policy goals into "human rights," this undercuts the moral legitimacy and persuasive power of natural rights like religious freedom. The panelists will discuss how robust protection of religious freedom will ultimately lead to economic prosperity and why natural rights are best protected when they are protected for all, not for members of particular identity groups. Please join us for this discussion on the future of international religious freedom and the human rights movement.*

RSVP: <https://herit.ag/2mtU6c9>

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



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Thursday, July 26, 2018

FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN CHINA

*Sponsored by: Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

Location: Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Preview: *An event on the practice of forced organ harvesting in China used with the intent to persecute and eradicate the religious belief system of Falun Gong — two decades of a cold genocide*

RSVP: Editor@dafoh.org

U.S. GOVERNMENT GRANT WORKSHOP

*Sponsored by: The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
Open Invitation to Civil Society*

Location: USCIRF, Government Publishing Office Building

732 North Capitol Street, N.W., Harding Hall, Washington, DC, 20401

Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Preview: *Speakers from the U.S. State Department and USAID will provide training on how to apply for U.S. government funding.*

RSVP: Required: training@uscirf.gov

RUSSIA: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN PERIL

*Co-Sponsored by: Church of Scientology National Affairs Office & International Christian Concern (ICC) & Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union (UCSJ)
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

Location: Church of Scientology National Affairs Office 1701 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Time: Symposium: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Reception: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Preview: *The situation in Russia with regards to religious freedom continues to worsen on a weekly basis with religious adherents being held in pre-trial detention for inhumane lengths of time, government raids on faith buildings conducted, and a long list of false charges leveled against many minority faiths simply for the peaceful practice of their religion. The panel will discuss the current scene, what is being done from the US and Europe, and the hope that the current Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom will bring.*

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/russia-religious-freedom-in-peril-tickets-47971680588>

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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Thursday, July 26, 2018

PARENTAL RIGHTS: A MATTER OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?

*Co-Sponsored by: James Dobson Family Institute & ADF International
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

Location: Museum of the Bible

Time: 4:00pm - Museum of the Bible Complimentary Tour
5:00pm - Panel Discussion and Q&A
6:30pm - Reception

Preview: *Parental Rights: A Matter of Religious Freedom?*

Issues surrounding the fundamental human right of parents to provide care, custody, and control of their children includes questions of religious and philosophical convictions. To what extent and at what point should a State intervene or even override parents' decisions or objections? Join religious liberty and parental rights experts at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. to discuss. Event includes a complimentary tour of the museum and a reception following the panel discussion.

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parental-rights-a-matter-of-religious-freedom-registration-48007661207>

INDIA, DEMOCRACY IN DIVERSITY

*Co-Sponsored by: Hindu American Foundation
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government*

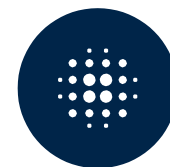
Location: Capitol Visitor Center North, Room 268, Washington DC

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm (reception to follow presentations)

Preview: *A briefing on the state of religious freedom in India for US lawmakers, government officials, NGOs, policy analysts and experts, and the general public. As the most religiously diverse democracy in the world with a long history of providing refuge to persecuted religious minorities from across Asia, India is uniquely positioned to provide a civilizational perspective on pluralism for the modern world. HAF will be officially releasing its new publication, India: Democracy in Diversity. Panelists from key religious minorities are invited to share their perspectives on pluralism in India. Also featured will be experts on India's domestic and foreign policy to further expound upon the country's diversity and implications on current trends in the world's largest democracy. Speakers: The Honorable Ngodup Tsering Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in the United States; Brig. Behram Panthaki Evram (Priest) of the Zoroastrian Community; Nissim Reuben Representative of the Indian Jewish Community; Vijay Sazawal, PhD Representative of the Kashmiri Pandit Community; Other panelists are expected.*

RSVP: jay@hafsite.org

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



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Thursday, July 26, 2018

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN IRAN AND YEMEN, USING THE BAHA'IS AS A CASE IN POINT

Co-Sponsored by: Baha'is of the United States & Religious Freedom Center at the Freedom Forum Institute/Newseum

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Newseum - 8th Floor

Time: 6:00 pm

Preview: *6 pm reception (hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks).*

7 pm welcome and panel discussion on religious discrimination in Iran and Yemen, using the Baha'is as a case in point.

The evening will include the U.S. premier of Maziar Bahari's 25-minute film, "The Cost of Discrimination." Richard Foltin will moderate the panel.

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/religious-persecution-in-iran-and-yemen-the-case-of-the-bahais-tickets-47972203151> - Password is HOPE, all caps.

U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM RECEPTION

Sponsored by: US Holocaust Memorial Museum

By Invitation ONLY -- Civil Society & Government

Location: US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place NW, Washington, DC

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Preview: *Marking the conclusion of the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. We are honored to have Ambassador Nikki Haley, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, join us and provide remarks. The Museum's permanent exhibit on the Holocaust will be open to tour, as will our contemporary exhibit on Syria.*

TECH AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Co-Sponsored by: UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations & ByteCubed

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: 1800 Massachusetts Ave NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20036

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Preview: *Dinner and Discussion: How can new tech strengthen religious and civil liberty protections? What is the role of private industry and the tech sector?*

RSVP: sarah.elkhatib@bytecubed.com

SIDE EVENTS ON THE MARGINS OF THE MINISTERIAL TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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Friday, July 27, 2018

SECURITY AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: HOW DO WE PROTECT BOTH?

Sponsored by: Religious Freedom Center at the Freedom Forum Institute/Newseum

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Newseum -- Enter C Street Entrance

Time: 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Preview: *Doors will open at 8am. The event will begin at 8:30am with a welcome, introduction, and panel discussion. One of the most pressing questions in the world today is how best to protect both security and robust rights to religious freedom. Following the event, there will be an opportunity for those attending the event to take a Religious Freedom Tour of the Newseum. Asma Uddin will moderate the panel. Brian Grim and Haroon Azar are panelists.*

RSVP: <https://secure2.convio.net/newseu/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=100761>

THE IMPACT OF WAR ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sponsored by: The Committee for Responsible Foreign Policy

Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room G-50

Time: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Preview: *Special Guest Ambassador Sam Brownback; Rod Dreher, Panel Moderator - American Conservative; Dr. Peter Petkoff, Panel Moderator - Senior Lecturer in Law, Brunel University, London; Dr. Daniel Mark, Professor at Villanova and former Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; Dr. Tom Farr, President - Religious Freedom Institute; John L. Allen Jr., Author of the Global War on Christians and editor at Crux; Steve Gumaer, Partners Relief & Development (England); Kristina Arriaga, Vice Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; Heinrich Arnold, Pastor - Bruderhof Communities*

RSVP: Info@ResponsibleForeignPolicy.org

FAITH AND FRAGILE STATES: POLITICAL STABILITY AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Co-Sponsored by: United States Institute of Peace & Search for Common Ground & International Republican Institute

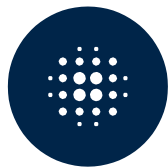
Open Invitation to Civil Society & Government

Location: United States Institute of Peace

Time: 11:00 am - 2:30 pm

Preview: **Closing event of Ministerial week.** *In two parts: The first part of the event will be on religious engagement in CVE; the second part of the event will be on interfaith peacebuilding and freedom of religion or belief.*

RSVP: <https://www.usip.org/events/faith-and-fragile-states-political-stability-and-religious-freedom>



www.irfroundtable.org