

International Panel of
Parliamentarians for
Freedom of Religion or Belief



Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung

CDU CSU
Fraktion im Deutschen Bundestag

An Embattled Right: Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief

12 – 14 September 2016, Berlin, Germany

- Save the date -

Last year, the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB), the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag hosted the First International Parliamentarians' Conference on "Multinational Efforts to Promote Freedom of Religion or Belief". Nearly 100 parliamentarians from over 45 countries participated in this conference that took place in New York in September 2015.

The IPPFoRB, the KAS and the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group have the honour to invite you to the Second International Parliamentarians' Conference on the promotion of Religious Freedom or Belief. The conference will be held under the title "An Embattled Right: Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief" and will take place from 12 to 14 September 2016 in Berlin, Germany.

International commitments under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) are clear that freedom of religion or belief is a fundamental right to be enjoyed by all. Yet these rights are increasingly under pressure. The conference will focus on multifaceted approaches for parliamentarians to defend and enhance Freedom of Religion or Belief. Speakers of the conference will be parliamentarians, renowned experts in the field of religious freedom or belief as well as representatives of civil society, academia and the media.

During the conference in New York in 2015 and the preceding IPPFoRB-founding event in Oslo in 2014, participants underlined the importance of Article 18: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance". In order to continue on this road, we assume that all participants of this year's conference support the entire meaning of Article 18 and are supportive of the IPPFoRB's founding charter enclosed.

The organisers will be able to grant assistance with travel and accommodation for a limited number of participants from non-OECD countries. In making their decisions on grant assistance the organisers will work to ensure geographical and religious diversity. Please let the IPPFoRB Secretariat (contact@ippforb.com) know when registering for this event if you need financial assistance with travel and accommodation.

We very much hope we will have the opportunity to welcome you to Berlin in September!

Yours

**Baroness Elizabeth Berridge of the
Vale of Catmose**
International Panel of
Parliamentarians on Freedom of
Religion or Belief

D. Hans-Gert Pöttering
President of the
European Parliament ret.
Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung

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