

RIGHTS OR RESTRICTIONS? THE NEXUS BETWEEN FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

CHRISTIANSBORG
(the Danish parliament) Room: ProD
FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2016
FROM 9.30 to 14.30

You are kindly invited to attend the inaugural public conference held by the Danish Inter-Parliamentary Network on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Theme: *Freedom of religion often appears to be in conflict with women's rights – but is the relationship between the two inherently problematic? Or can the promotion of freedom of religion or belief in fact contribute to strengthening women's rights? This conference sets out to explore the relationship between freedom of religion or belief and women's rights, identifying clashes and compatibilities between the two. Presenting perspectives from human rights experts, politicians, scholars and civil society representatives, the conference opens up for a constructive debate on the theoretical, legal, policy and practical aspects of this relationship.*

Organizers: The Danish Inter-Parliamentary Network on Freedom of Religion and Belief, chairperson: Daniel Toft Jakobsen (MF, Soc. Dem.) together with Danish Institute for Human Rights and Danish Mission Council.

Registration: Please register to Filip Buff Pedersen, fbp@dmr.org, no later than Tuesday 22nd November

Entrance: Please enter Christiansborg through the visitors' entrance in 'Proviandhuset' situated across the square from the main entrance. Please allow ample extra time for security check when entering the building. The event will be in room ProD.

PROGRAM

Part I: THE NEXUS BETWEEN FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS: TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- 09:30 Welcome
Daniel Toft Jakobsen, Chair of the Inter Parliamentary Network on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Member of Parliament for the Social Democrats
- 09:45 Opening Remarks
Kristian Jensen, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 10:00 Freedom of Religion or Belief and Women's Rights: Possibilities and Pitfalls
Heiner Bielefeldt, Professor of Human Rights, Erlangen University, and former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief

- 10:30 Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Intersection between Sexual and Cultural Equality
Maleiha Malik, Professor of Law, King's College London
- 10:50 Women's Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief: A Perspective from the EU
Ján Figel, Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief Outside the EU (tbc)
- 11:10 Panel debate
- 12:00 Sandwich

Part II: THE NEXUS BETWEEN FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN PRACTICE: THREE CASE STUDIES

- 12:30 Women's rights, Freedom of religion or belief and Islam - practical experiences from Egypt
Rasha Dewedar, NOON Centre
- 12:50 'Side by Side: A global faith movement for affirmation of gender justice – An example from development programming in Uganda'.
Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen, Secretary General, Dan Church Aid
- 13:00 Women's rights, bodies and sexualities, and freedom of religion - dilemmas and snapshots from the ground and at the UN
Tania Dethlefsen, Deputy Director, The Danish Family Planning Association.
- 13:20 Panel debate

Part III: THE WAY FORWARD

- 14:10 Working together for women's rights and freedom of religion or belief
Mette Gjerskov, Chair of the Danish Parliament Interparty Network on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Member of Parliament for the Social Democrats (tbc)
- 14:20 Concluding remarks
Daniel Toft Jakobsen, Chair of the Danish Inter Parliamentary Network on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Member of Parliament for the Social Democrats
- 14:30 Coffee and goodbye

Final program will be distributed to the participants before the event