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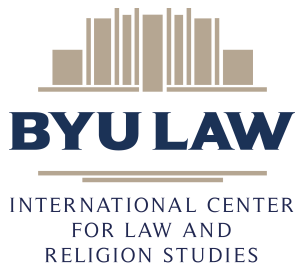
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International Religious Freedom:

Toward a Model of Transatlantic Cooperation

October 8, 2015
9:00 AM – 5:15 PM
Copley Formal Lounge,
Georgetown University

Event Description

Over the past five years or so, several European countries, the European Union, as well as Canada have taken up religious freedom in their foreign policies in one way or another, thus following the precedent set by the US Congress in passing the International Religious Freedom Act in 1998. The potential exists, then, for significant transatlantic cooperation in promoting international religious freedom.

However, differences in approaches among Western democracies are significant. They stem from varying understandings of the meaning and reach of religious freedom, especially in its public and political manifestations. These variances derive from differing histories, views on church-state relations, and ongoing internal religious freedom controversies. There are also inevitable difficulties attendant on the need for multilateral coordination. Finally, there are divergent views (within and between Western democracies) over the potential effects of religious freedom on other goods, such as democratic consolidation, economic development, intellectual vitality, stability, and international security.

The purpose of the two-day policy dialogue is to identify and explore these differences, and to find ways to accommodate or overcome them in order to build transatlantic bridges in the urgent task of advancing international religious freedom. This event is part of a semester-long exploration of the Global Future of Governance, under the auspices of Georgetown University's Global Futures Initiative.

This policy dialogue began as a partnership between two major initiatives. The first is a year-long series of events on policy associated with the International Religious Freedom Act, which will produce a revised edition of *The Future of U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy*. This series is sponsored by the Religious Freedom Project at Georgetown University (together with its partner, the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University), *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* at the Institute for Global Engagement, and the Institute on Culture, Religion & World Affairs at Boston University.

The second is a "Bridging Voices" grant from the British Council, awarded to the Center for Civil and Human Rights of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Sussex, in partnership with the European University Institute and the University of Milan, to foster a transatlantic partnership on religious freedom. This will be the second of two policy dialogues on the subject, the first having taken place at Wilton Park, United Kingdom in February 2015. Generously co-sponsoring the dialogues are the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (BYU) and McGill University's Birks Forum on the World's Religions.

October 8-9 Schedules

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:00-9:15 a.m. | Welcome

9:15-10:45 a.m. | Keynote Address: Toward a New Paradigm on Religion and Modernity

10:45 -11:00 a.m. | Break

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Panel 1: The Case for Religious Freedom Policy

12:15-12:45 p.m. | Lunch

12:45-2:15 p.m. | Keynote Conversation: Overcoming Differences Between Western Democracies in Developing a Common Religious Freedom Policy

2:15-2:30 p.m. | Break

2:30-4:00 p.m. | Panel 2: How Can Western Democracies' Religious Freedom Policy Advance National and International Security?

4:00-4:15 p.m. | Break

4:15-5:15 p.m. | Keynote Address: US Religious Freedom Policy: What Lessons Should Other Western Democracies Learn From It?

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 – CLOSED SESSIONS*

9:00-10:30 a.m. | Panel 1: The Broader Middle East and the Question of Violent Religious Extremism

10:30-10:45 a.m. | Coffee Break

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Panel 2: India and the Far East

12:15-1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00-2:30 p.m. | Panel 3: Eastern Europe and Orthodoxy

2:30-2:45 p.m. | Coffee Break

2:45-4:00 p.m. | Closing Conversation: Prospects for Transatlantic Cooperation: Policy Recommendations

*If you are interested in attending the closed sessions, please speak with a conference organizer.

October 8 Speakers

9:00-9:15 a.m. | Welcome



THOMAS BANCHOFF is vice president for global engagement at Georgetown University. He is also founding director of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs and a professor in the Department of Government and the School of Foreign Service.

DANIEL PHILPOTT is a professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, the director of the Center for Civil and Human Rights at Notre Dame, and an associate scholar with the Berkley Center's Religious Freedom Project.



THOMAS FARR is the director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs and a visiting associate professor of religion and international affairs at Georgetown's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.

9:15-10:45 a.m. | Keynote Address: Toward a New Paradigm on Religion and Modernity



PETER BERGER is a senior research fellow and professor emeritus of religion, sociology, and theology at Boston University. He previously served as the founding director of the Institute on Culture, Religion & World Affairs at Boston University.

DAVID BROOKS has been an op-ed columnist for the *New York Times* since September 2003 and is currently a commentator on *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS. He has been a senior editor at the *Weekly Standard*, a contributing editor at *Newsweek*, and a contributor to *Atlantic Monthly*.



WALTER RUSSELL MEAD is the James Clark Chase Professor of Foreign Affairs and Humanities at Bard College and editor-at-large/online director of *American Interest*. From 1997 to 2010 he was the Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow for US Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations.

10:45-11:00 a.m. | Break

11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. | Panel 1: The Case for Religious Freedom Policy

Moderated by Daniel Philpott

MUSTAFA AKYOL is the opinion editor and columnist for *Turkish Daily News*, Turkey's foremost English-language daily. His articles have appeared in other major publications, including the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*.



SOFIA LEMMETYINEN is the program manager at the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights' unit of the European Commission's Directorate for Development Cooperation, where she is in charge of issues relating to freedom of religion or belief.

ALLEN HERTZKE is Presidential Professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma and faculty fellow in religious freedom for OU's Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage. He is an associate scholar with the Religious Freedom Project.



12:15-12:45 p.m. | Lunch

12:45-2:15 p.m. | Keynote Conversation: Overcoming Differences Between Western Democracies in Developing a Common Religious Freedom Policy

Moderated by Timothy Samuel Shah

TIMOTHY SAMUEL SHAH is associate director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs and visiting assistant professor in the Government Department at Georgetown University.



SILVIO FERRARI is professor in the law faculty of the University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano) and president of the International Consortium for Law and Religious Studies. He is one of the experts on the legal status of Islam in Europe.

AHMET KURU is an associate professor in Political Science at San Diego State University. He is also the director of the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies.



ANNE LEAHY is a former Canadian diplomat and current adjunct professor in McGill University's Catholic Studies Department. Her regular media commentary addresses domestic and foreign policy issues concerning secularism and religion.

THOMAS FARR is the director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs.



2:15-2:30 p.m. | Break

2:30-4:00 p.m. | Panel 2: How Can Western Democracies' Religious Freedom Policy Advance National and International Security?

Moderated by Thomas Farr

PASQUALE FERRARA an Italian diplomat, is currently the Secretary General of the European University Institute in Florence. He was head of the Ministry's Policy Planning Unit from 2009 to 2011.



NILAY SAIYA is an assistant professor of Political Science and director of international studies at the State University of New York, Brockport. His research concerns the influence of religion on global politics.

SUE BREEZE is a career diplomat. Her most recent posting was as the UK's deputy ambassador to Venezuela. She now works on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral policy desks in the Foreign Commonwealth Office.



MONICA DUFFY TOFT is professor of Government and Public Policy at Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government. She previously was the director of the Initiative on Religion in International Affairs at Harvard from 2007 to 2012.

4:00-4:15 p.m. | Break

4:15-5:15 p.m. | Keynote Address: US Religious Freedom Policy: What Lessons Should Other Western Democracies Learn From It?



AMBASSADOR DAVID SAPERSTEIN has been serving as the US ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom since December 2014. Saperstein also co-chairs the Coalition to Preserve Religious Liberty and serves on the boards of the NAACP and the People for the American Way.

October 9 Speakers

9:00-10:30 a.m. | Panel 1: The Broader Middle East and the Question of Violent Religious Extremism

Moderated by Timur Kuran



TIMUR KURAN is professor of Economics and Political Science and Gorter Family Professor in Islamic Studies at Duke University, as well as an associate scholar with the Religious Freedom Project.

CHRIS SEIPLE is president of the Institute for Global Engagement. He is also a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute and a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.



FARAHNAZ ISPAHANI served as a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan from 2008 until 2012. She later served as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and remains active as a scholar and author.

NABIL FAYYAD is a Syrian intellectual and journalist. He is an expert in comparative religion and biblical criticism. He is the current chief of the Academic Center for Research.



10:30-10:45 a.m. | Coffee Break

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Panel 2: India and the Far East
Moderated by Rebecca Shah

REBECCA SHAH is an associate scholar with the Religious Freedom Project. Shah is the project leader of a research initiative entitled “Holy Avarice: Religion and the Re-enchantment of Modern Capitalism.”



LIU PENG is the founder and director of the Beijing Pu-Shi Institute for Social Sciences. His current work includes drafting and providing legal justification for legislation on religion in China.

FENGANG YANG is a professor of Sociology and the director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University. Yang is among the world’s leading scholars of religion in China and of immigrant religion in the United States.



MUN'IM SIRRY is a professor of Theology at Notre Dame University. His research interests include political theology, modern Islamic thought, Qur'anic studies, and interreligious relations.

FAIZAN MUSTAFA is the vice-chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. He was the founder and vice-chancellor of National Law University, Orissa. Mustafa holds a Ph.D. in copyright law.



12:15-1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00-2:30 p.m. | Panel 3: Eastern Europe and Orthodoxy
Moderated by Chris Seiple



KARRIE KOESEL is an associate professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame and an associate scholar with the Religious Freedom Project, specializing in contemporary Chinese and Russian politics, authoritarianism, and religion and politics.



VICTOR YELENSKY is a senior researcher at the Philosophy Institute of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences and president of the Ukrainian Association for Religious Freedom.

CHRIS MARSH is a professor National Security and Strategic Studies at the US Army School of Advanced Military Studies, where he teaches courses in the areas of operational art, counterinsurgency, international security and strategy, and morality and war.



2:30-2:45 p.m. | Coffee Break

2:45-4:00 p.m. | Closing Conversation: Prospects for Transatlantic Cooperation: Policy Recommendations

Moderated by Daniel Philpott



COLE DURHAM is the director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, a research center based at Brigham Young University, where he is also the Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law at the J. Reuben Clark Law School.

THOMAS FARR is the director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs.



FABIO PETITO is a senior lecturer in International Relations at the University of Sussex and has taught at SOAS in London, the ESCP-EAP in Paris and at 'L'Orientale' in Naples.

KNOX THAMES is the special advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South and Central Asia at the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom. Previously, he served as director of policy and research at USCIRF.



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