

Humanist participation in the Ministerial on FoRB

Who do we have attending?	2
Invited to the main programme, QEII fringe, and exhibition	2
Invited to the QEII fringe, and exhibition	2
Taking part in fringes virtually	3
1. Main programme	3
5 Jul 10-11: Opening Plenary: 'FoRB: A right for everyone, everywhere'	3
5 Jul 13:30-14:45: Beyond the constitution: building blocks and incentives for effective protection	4
6 Jul 14-15:15: Civil society as a driver for change	4
6 Jul 14-15:15: Engaging the next generation	4
Further events to be confirmed	5
2. Government events off-programme	5
5 Jul 9-10: Lord Ahmad touring exhibition stands	5
6 Jul 10:50-11:20: Lord Ahmad and Fiona Bruce MP roundtable with next generation delegates	5
6 Jul 12:45-14:00: Lord Ahmad lunch with select main programme speakers	5
3. Fringe events – Parliament	5
5 Jul 9:45-11: Preventing Violence, Promoting Freedom of Belief	5
5 Jul 12:45-13:45: The impact of COVID-19 on International Freedom of Religion or Belief, and what can be learned from international responses	6
5 Jul 15-16: Free to Believe... or Not: End Criminalisation of Apostasy and Blasphemy	6
5 Jul 17-18: Freedom of Religion or Belief in Nigeria	6
4. Fringe events – QEII	7
6 Jul 9:30-10: Learning FoRB: the role of schools and education	7
6 Jul 14-14:30: Religion and the state: secularism and FoRB	7
6 Jul 15-15:30: Measuring freedom: quantifying progress and warning signs for FoRB around the world	8
5. Other events of note	8
4 Jul 18:30-20:00: PM's Special Envoy on FoRB Welcome Drinks Reception	8
4 Jul 20:00-: Dinner for Humanists International/other main programme delegates	8
6 Jul 16:00-17:00: Main programme closing plenary panel discussion: reflections and the way forward	9
6 Jul 18:00-19:30: US Embassy reception: 'Building Coalitions for the Freedom of Religion or Belief'	9

Who do we have attending?

Invited to the main programme, QEII fringe, and exhibition

- Humanists UK personnel:
 - Andrew Copson, Chief Executive (also President, Humanists International)
 - Richy Thompson, Director of Public Affairs and Policy
 - Boyd Sleator, Northern Ireland Coordinator – 6 July only (so restricted to Parliament 5 July)
 - Nicole Shasha, Coordinator, Young Humanists UK
 - Ajay Jeevathol, Young Humanists UK
 - Hari Parekh, Faith to Faithless
- Humanists International members:
 - Roslyn Mould, Humanist Association of Ghana
 - Fraser Sutherland, Chief Executive, Humanist Society Scotland
 - Lily Holdsworth, Young Humanists Scotland
 - Pol Wirtz, AHA Luxembourg
 - Nada Peratovic, Founder, Center for Civil Courage, Croatia
 - Florian Zimmermann, German Humanist Association
- Penny Phillips (might be fringe and exhibition only), humanist lead, Faith and Belief Team, Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities, UK Government – 6 July only

Invited to the QEII fringe, and exhibition

- Humanists UK staff:
 - Laura Newlyn, Public Affairs Officer
 - Rachel Taggart-Ryan, Senior Campaigns Officer
 - Sophie Castle, Communications and Development Executive
 - Tallulah Gordon, Humanist Marriage Campaigner
 - Ruth Wareham, Education Policy Researcher
 - Nathan Stilwell, Assisted Dying Campaigner
 - Rob Cann, Education Campaigns Manager
- Emma Wadsworth Jones, Humanists at Risk Coordinator, Humanists International
- Non-humanist speakers:
 - Debora Spini, faculty at New York University, Florence
 - Commissioner Fred Davie, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
 - Yasmin Ahmed, UK Director, Human Rights Watch
 - Naomi Green, Northern Ireland Coalition for Inclusive Education/Belfast Islamic Centre
 - Ed Pawson, Deputy Chair, Religious Education Council of England and Wales

Taking part in fringes virtually

- Gulalai Ismail, founder, Aware Girls, and global ambassador, Humanists International (Pakistan)
- Leo Igwe, Founder, Nigerian Humanist Association
- Gita Sahgal, writer and documentary filmmaker

1. Main programme

5 Jul 10-11: Opening Plenary: 'FoRB: A right for everyone, everywhere'

QEI Conference Centre

Andrew Copson will deliver one of six short (4-5 minute) messages from leaders of religion and belief groups. Each will talk about the importance of FoRB from the perspective of their faith or belief group, and why respect for all religions and beliefs has a broader importance. Together the messages will add up to a collective message of unity.

1000	Moderator (Emily Buchanan, BBC) welcome and introduction: Musical performance by the Citizens of the World choir
1005	HRH Prince of Wales (video – 5 mins 22 secs)
1010	Welcome from Lord Ahmad – what FoRB is/conference aims (Lord Ahmad to introduce PM video)
1015	The Prime Minister (video – to be filmed on 4 July)
	<i>Religion and belief leaders</i>
1022	Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
1026	HE Sheikh Mohammad al Issa, Secretary General, Muslim World League (video)
1031	Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
1035	His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (video – 5mins 11 secs)
1040	Mrs Trupti Patel, President, Hindu Forum of Britain
1044	Mr Andrew Copson, President of Humanists International
1048	Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, Spiritual Leader and Chairman of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jutha
1052	Foreign Secretary Keynote speech
1102	Emily Buchanan – conference outline and admin

5 Jul 13:30-14:45: Beyond the constitution: building blocks and incentives for effective protection

Whittle room – third floor, QEII Conference Centre

This session will look at the implementation gap and why the right to FoRB is not protected in practice, despite constitutional guarantees. It will cover points such as: legislative building blocks beyond the constitution that protect FoRB, policy frameworks and accountability strategies, as well as behavioural change. The session will look to identify specific action that countries can take to put these building blocks in place and how we can incentivise better protection of FoRB.

Moderator: Professor Nazila Ghanea, University of Oxford

Confirmed speakers:

- Andrew Copson, President, Humanists International
- Thiago Alves Pinto, University of Oxford (re: Oslo coalition)
- Susan Kerr, ODIHR
- Yamini Ravindran, Sri Lankan Human Rights lawyer

6 Jul 14-15:15: Civil society as a driver for change

Fleming room – third floor, QEII Conference Centre

Examples of civil society initiatives that are making a real difference on the ground; - This session will look at some outstanding examples of civil society initiatives that are tackling FoRB challenges and build understanding about how and why they are making a difference. The session will cover examples of civic work to

Moderator: David Burrowes, Deputy Special Envoy on FoRB, UK

Confirmed speakers:

- Mervyn Thomas, Chair, UK FoRB Forum – Civil society organisations working with faith or belief leaders and governments to deliver change. influence Government policy and delivery, as well as outputs delivered directly by civic actors.
- Wade Kusak, Love Your Neighbour Community
- Khataza Gondwe, CSW
- Filip Buff Pedersen, Political Advisor, Center for Church Based Development
- Roslyn Mould, Humanists International (Ghana)

6 Jul 14-15:15: Engaging the next generation

Windsor room – fifth floor, Queen Elizabeth II Conference centre

This session will look at some specific youth activists and a range of current initiatives around the world that are galvanising youth to explore FoRB related issues in different contexts, including:- building understanding across faith, belief and social groups; supporting political inclusion; and challenging anti FoRB narratives. The session will give youth representatives and scheme instigators the opportunity to share how the

schemes work, what they are delivering and what lessons they hold for wider international efforts to inspire and harness youth efforts. The session will also enable audience members to ask youth panellists about their perspectives on issues raised throughout the conference.

Confirmed speakers:

- Alavari Jeevathol, Young Humanists UK
- David Trimble, Religious Freedom Institute (Statesmanship & Religious Freedom conference with youth)
- Sam Rushworth, LDS Church

Moderator: Ed Brown, Stefanus Alliance.

Further events to be confirmed

2. Government events off-programme

5 Jul 9-10: Lord Ahmad touring exhibition stands

6 Jul 10:50-11:20: Lord Ahmad and Fiona Bruce MP roundtable with next generation delegates

Olivier Room, Second Floor, QEII Conference Centre. Invitees Roslyn Mould, Hari Parekh, Florian Zimmermann, Nicole Shasha.

6 Jul 12:45-14:00: Lord Ahmad lunch with select main programme speakers

Roslyn Mould invited.

3. Fringe events – Parliament

5 Jul 9:45-11: Preventing Violence, Promoting Freedom of Belief

Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

In collaboration with member organisations of the Gender and FoRB working group of the UK FoRB Forum.

A panel discussion on why gender & youth matters.

Speakers:

- Surale Rosen (Jewish, Israel)
- Dr Rhoda Udanyi (Christian, Nigeria)
- Khalida Bakr Khalaf (Yazidi, Iraq)
- Gadir Hani (Muslim, Israel-Palestine)
- Gulalai Ismail (Humanist, Pakistan) (online)

- Roslyn Mould (Humanist, Ghana)

5 Jul 12:45-13:45: The impact of COVID-19 on International Freedom of Religion or Belief, and what can be learned from international responses

IPU room, House of Commons

Organised by the Freedom Declared Foundation.

Governments have taken several measures during the Covid pandemic, some of which have infringed on the fundamental human right of freedom of religion or belief. This event will explore some serious infringements of FoRB around the world and how the pandemic has further impacted these infringements.

Speakers include:

- Chair: Andrew Bowie MP
- Emma Wadsworth-Jones, Humanists at Risk Coordinator, Humanists International
- Others TBC

5 Jul 15-16: Free to Believe... or Not: End Criminalisation of Apostasy and Blasphemy

IPU room, House of Commons

In collaboration with the Jubilee Campaign and Set My People Free.

Today over 70 countries criminalise blasphemy and 22 criminalise apostasy. Of these, 13 maintain the death penalty for apostasy or blasphemy. Even where the death penalty is not applied the law has a chilling effect on the legitimate exercise of fundamental human rights as noted by the UN Secretary General in his report on the death penalty. Many countries see extrajudicial murders for blasphemy and apostasy. This session will focus on these harms and the need to see all such laws repealed.

Speakers:

- Joel Voordewind, former Member of Parliament of the Netherlands
- Chiara Porro, Ambassador of the Australian Embassy to the Holy See
- Gulalai Ismail, founder, Aware Girls, and global ambassador, Humanists International (online)

Chair: Lord David Alton, Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief.

5 Jul 17-18: Freedom of Religion or Belief in Nigeria

Committee room 5, House of Commons

In collaboration with CSW and Tearfund.

Nigeria's Federal Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion or belief and guarantees freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief to all citizens, including the right to change religion or belief. But in practice, and particularly in the Shari'a states north and centre of the country, constitutional provisions protecting the right to freedom of religion or belief are frequently disregarded, with individuals from religious and belief communities regularly experiencing restrictions of their right to FoRB, which also limit their enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms stipulated in national and international legislation, including freedom of expression, property rights, and equality before the law.

Speakers:

- Dr Leo Igwe, Founder of the Nigerian Humanist Association (online)
- Rev Yunusa Sabo Nmadu, CEO of CSW Nigeria, and General Secretary of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA)
- Reuben Buhari, CSW Nigeria Press Officer
- Haleemah Oladamade Ahmad, Senior Research Associate and Chief Editor, Da'wah Institute

Chair: Lord Collins of Highbury.

4. Fringe events – QEII

6 Jul 9:30-10: Learning FoRB: the role of schools and education

Ground floor, Churchill, QEII conference centre

Outside of the family, schools and other educational settings are the major influence on our attitudes, beliefs, and values. They can do a lot of damage to freedom of religion or belief but can also play a role in advancing this human right. School structures, the school curriculum, and other aspects of school ethos can all play a part in supporting freedom of religion or belief for all. This session will explore that.

Speakers:

- Gulalai Ismail, founder, Aware Girls, and global ambassador, Humanists International (online)
- Naomi Green, Northern Ireland Coalition for Inclusive Education/Belfast Islamic Centre
- Ed Pawson, Deputy Chair, Religious Education Council of England and Wales

Chair: Andrew Copson, President, Humanists International

6 Jul 14-14:30: Religion and the state: secularism and FoRB

Ground floor, Churchill, QEII conference centre

Freedom of religion or belief is a key component of secularism as a political idea, together with equal treatment, and religion-state separation. But how healthy is secularism today and how successful are secular states in practice at securing freedom of religion or belief? Considering states from the US to Norway, France, the UK, and India, this session will examine the impact of secularism on FoRB.

Speakers:

- Debora Spini, faculty at New York University, Florence
- Commissioner Fred Davie, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
- Gita Sahgal, writer and documentary film maker (online)

Chair: Andrew Copson, President, Humanists International and author, *Very Short Introduction to Secularism*

6 Jul 15-15:30: Measuring freedom: quantifying progress and warning signs for FoRB around the world

First floor, Pickwick, QEII conference centre

If we want to make progress on freedom of religion or belief and target our resources and attention, we need ways of assessing and measuring freedom in different countries. Measurements can tell us how well different states are doing, and give early warning signs if standards are going backwards. This session will examine different ways that implementation of freedom can be measured, comparing them with the instruments used to measure other human rights.

Speakers:

- Emma Wadsworth Jones, Humanists At Risk Coordinator, Humanists International
- Yasmin Ahmed, UK Director, Human Rights Watch

Chair: Andrew Copson, President, Humanists International

5. Other events of note

4 Jul 18:30-20:00: PM's Special Envoy on FoRB Welcome Drinks Reception

Jubilee Room, Parliament. Invite-only. Andrew Copson, Roslyn Mould, and Richy Thompson invited.

Roslyn invited to speak about her witchcraft project in Ghana.

4 Jul 20:00-: Dinner for Humanists International/other main programme delegates

Venue/details TBC.

6 Jul 16:00-17:00: Main programme closing plenary panel discussion: reflections and the way forward

Venue TBC, QEII. Main programme invitees only.

Speakers:

- Lord Ahmad
- Fiona Bruce MP, UK FoRB Special Envoy
- Kemi Badenoch MP, Faith Minister
- Professor Sir Malcolm Evans, Bristol University
- Mervyn Thomas, Chair, UK FoRB Forum
- Professor Nazila Ghanea, University of Oxford
- Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on FoRB

6 Jul 18:00-19:30: US Embassy reception: 'Building Coalitions for the Freedom of Religion or Belief'

Wychwood House. Invite-only. Andrew Copson and Richy Thompson invited.

Speakers:

- Mr. Matthew A. Palmer, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the United States of America
- The Honorable Rashad Hussain, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom