



SEAFORB

SEAFORB Webinar 2: International Initiatives Facilitating Freedom of Religion or Belief

Date: November 23rd, 2021

Time: 12.00-13.30 GMT/19.00-20.30 Bangkok (GMT +7). Find your time zone [HERE](#)

Registration: https://lawbyu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltcu-hpjMrHdS28iM_VbQ6vQRZI7bHYdCk

Over the past several years, a variety of new structures have emerged to facilitate international protection of freedom of religion or belief, and to address new and continuing challenges in the field. The webinar will bring together in a moderated discussion a group of prominent experts and officials who will describe institutions and initiatives that have emerged over the past several years with the aim of fostering FoRB.

It will take into account the more long-standing international structures (e.g., UN Special Rapporteur) and the U.S. institutions (IRFA, Ambassador-at-Large, State Department Office of International Religious Freedom, USCIRF), but will focus even more on the growing number of national and regional institutions working on FoRB, including FoRB offices in various European countries, linkages among executive branch offices in various countries, the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance, parliamentary networks, and so on.

Even more important than a description of the institutions is their perspective on the issues they face and what they are accomplishing. The aim is to enable those working on FoRB issues in the field to have fuller awareness of ways that international developments can facilitate enhanced implementation of FoRB ideals on the ground.

Speakers



Jos Douma is the Special Envoy on Religion or Belief at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and currently holds the position as Chair of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA). He comes from a long diplomatic career from the foreign ministry.



Knox Thames is a visiting expert at the U.S. Institute of Peace and a senior fellow with the Institute for Global Engagement. Thames has a background of 20 years of government service, including at the State Department and two different U.S. government foreign policy commissions. He recently served as the special advisor for religious minorities in the Near East and South and Central Asia at the U.S. Department of State.



Michael Suhr is Ambassador, Special Representative for Religious Freedom and Belief at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. He has a background from diplomacy.



Liv Kvanvig is Director of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPP-FORB) and heads the FORB department at the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. Liv has a background from human rights work at the University of Oslo, the Norwegian Human Rights Fund and the Church of Norway.



Kashturi Patto is a Member of the Malaysian Parliament and is an active member of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR). She is a member of the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Human Rights and Gender Equality and is the Secretary of the Malaysian Chapter of Parliamentarians for Global Action. She is known for fighting for the abolition of the death penalty, ending child marriages, stopping sexual violence, and the right to freedom of religion and belief.

This event is organized by



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The Southeast-Asia Freedom of Religion or Belief (SEAFORB) Network is a coalition of organizations working to protect and promote the Human Right of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in Southeast-Asia. Members come from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, nevertheless they stand together in unity to promote FORB for all.