

# **The Third Caribbean Symposium of Religious Freedom** ***“Promoting Mutual Respect, Human Dignity, and Peace”***

***May 6-8, 2026***  
***Punta Cana, Dominican Republic***

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**

**14:00 – 19:30 REGISTRATION**

**17:30 – 19:15 OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

**Room: Ballroom B**

### **Welcoming Remarks**

**Gary B. Doxey**, Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, United States

### **Greetings**

**Jonathan Palatz**, Director, Pontifical Catholic University Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), Dominican Republic

**Milcíades Franjul**, Pastor, Christian Liaison Office of the Executive Branch of the Dominican Republic

**Octavio Lo Prete**, President, Latin American Consortium for Religious Liberty, Argentina

### **Keynote Panel:**

**“Pathways of Faith toward Mutual Respect, Human Dignity and Peace”**

### **Panelists:**

**Elder Ahmad S. Corbitt**, General Authority Seventy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, United States

**Rev. Emerson Boyce**, Ambassador - Strategic Partnerships, Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC), Trinidad and Tobago

**Stacey Mitchell**, Chairperson, Jamaica Council for Interfaith Fellowship, Jamaica

**Pandit Atmanand Ramcharan**, President, Interreligious Council of Suriname

**19:15 – 19:30 Group Photo**

**19:30 – 21:00 Group Dinner – Sensazioni**

## **THURSDAY, MAY 7**

**8:00 – 16:30 REGISTRATION**

**9:00 – 10:15 SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

**Room: Ballroom B**

**“Religious Freedom as a Tool for Peacebuilding and the Protection of Other Fundamental Rights”**

Moderator:

**Octavio Lo Prete**, President, Latin American Consortium for Religious Liberty, Argentina

Panelists:

**Newton George Alexander Dixon**, General Secretary, Jamaica Council of Churches, Jamaica

**Gary B. Doxey**, Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, United States

**Milciades Franjul**, Pastor, Christian Liaison Office of the Executive Office of the Dominican Republic

**M. Elena Pimstein Scroggie**, Director, UC Center for Law and Religion, Chile

**10:15 – 10:30 Coffee/Tea Break**

**10:45 – 12:00 First Concurrent Sessions**

**Room: Ballroom B**

**Judicial Panel: “Promoting Mutual Respect, Human Dignity and Peaceful Societies through the Rule of Law”**

Moderator:

**Denise Posse Lindberg**, District Judge, State of Utah Judiciary (retired) and Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, United States

Panelists:

**Samuel Arias Arzeno**, Justice, the Supreme Justice Court and Judiciary of the Dominican Republic

**Yokaurys Morales Castillo**, Judge, Third Chamber of the Court of Appeals of the National District, Dominican Republic

**Arelis Ricourt**, Presiding Judge, Civil and Commercial Chamber, Court of Appeals, Judicial Department of La Vega, Dominican Republic

**Room: Studio II**

**“Human Security and the Rule of Law: How Religion and Religious Actors Can Make a Difference”**

Moderator:

**Scott Isaacson**, Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, United States

Panelists:

**Neil Zahir Bacchus**, Secretary, Interreligious Organizations of Guyana

**Betsy Bennion**, Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, United States

**Feliciano Lacen Custodio**, President, Dominican Confederation of Evangelical Unity - CODUE

**Room: Studio IV**

**“How to Promote Interreligious Harmony without Ignoring Differences?”**

Moderator:

**Jonathan Palatz**, Director, Pontifical Catholic University Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), Dominican Republic

Panelists:

**Reynaldo Franco Aquino**, President, Forum for Christian Dialogue and Representation, Dominican Republic

**Suleiman Bulbulia**, Chaplain, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

**Marsha Nathalee Martin**, formerly Jamaica Council of Churches, Jamaica

**Elías Szczytnicki**, Director, Religions for Peace, Latin America and the Caribbean, Peru

**12:00 – 13:30 LUNCH**

**13:30 – 14:45 THIRD PLENARY SESSION**

**Room: Ballroom B**

**“The Relationship between the State and Religion: Comparative Experiences”**

Moderator:

**Cynthia Juárez Lange**, President, FIDELA – Interreligious Forum of the Americas, United States

Panelists:

**Saskia Ochoa Perez Contreras**, Coordinator, Executive Branch Liaison Office to the Christian Community, Dominican Republic

**Juan Navarro Floria**, Professor, Argentine Council for Religious Freedom (CALIR), Argentina

**Juan Francisco Puello Herrera**, Director, Law Firm Puello Herrera & Alies, Dominican Republic

**14:45 – 15:00 Coffee/Tea Break**

**15:00 – 16:15 SECOND CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Room: Ballroom B**

**“Legislation on Religious Freedom”**

Moderator:

**Daniel S. Day**, Area Legal Counsel, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Panelists:

**Zeneida Gomez**, Attorney and LLM, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Dominican Republic

**Scott Isaacson**, Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, United States

**Jorge Duarte Reynoso**, Pastor, Dominican Evangelical Confraternity, CONEDO, Dominican Republic

**Laura Ivette Feliz Taveras**, Lawyer, Christian Action, Dominican Republic

## **Room: Studio II**

### **“Religious Freedom in the Context of Education: Comparative Experiences”**

Moderator:

**Neil A. Lindberg**, Senior Fellow, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, United States

Panelists:

**Elvira Vargas Henriquez**, Attorney and Psychologist, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Juan Elías Colomé Reynoso**, Attorney, Director of Religious Liberty, Southeast Dominican Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Dominican Republic

**Fernando Pacheco Valcourt**, Professor, Pontifical Catholic University, Puerto Rico

## **Room: Studio IV**

### **“Human Dignity as the Basis for Freedom and Equality”**

Moderator:

**Juan Navarro Floria**, Professor, Argentine Council for Religious Freedom (CALIR), Argentina

Panelists:

**Williams Arias**, Professor Master of Law, PUCMM – Pontifical Catholic University Madre y Maestra, Dominican Republic

**Dennis Lange Beltrán**, Executive Officer, FIDELA – Interreligious Forum of the Americas, United States

**Isabel Consuelo Paulino de Gross**, Attorney, Defense of Life and the Constitution, Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**José Darío Marcelino Reyes**, Professor, School of Law and Political Science, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

## **FRIDAY, MAY 8**

**8:00 – 13:00 REGISTRATION**

**9:00 – 10:15 FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**

**Room: Ballroom B**

**“What are the social conditions that promote religious freedom, and how can they be strengthened?”**

Moderator:

**Nathalie Abreu Patxot**, Attorney, CLA, Dominican Republic

Panelists:

**Kirtie Algoe**, Associate Professor, Anton de Kom University of Suriname

**Ángel Canó**, Lawyer, Archdiocese of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Octavio Lo Prete**, President, Latin American Consortium for Religious Freedom, Argentina

**10:15 – 10:30 Coffee/Tea Break**

**10:30 – 11:30 THIRD CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Room: Ballroom B**

**“Rights and Limitations: What is and What Isn’t Religious Freedom?”**

Moderator:

**M. Elena Pimstein Scroggie**, Director, UC Center for Law and Religion, Chile

Panelists:

**Carlos Ulloa Concepción**, Professor, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Fidel Merán**, President, Foundation for Equity and Social Justice, Dominican Republic

**Nathalie Abreu Patxot**, Attorney, CLA, Dominican Republic

**Room: Studio II**

**“What can Religious Actors do to Promote Mutual Respect and Decrease Contention?”**

Moderator:

**Elías Szczytnicki**, Director, Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean, Peru

Panelists:

**Nadia Balthazar**, Public Notary, Religions for Peace - Haiti

**Lorenzo Mota King**, Executive Director, Social Service of the Dominican Churches

**Lloyd Mukram Sirjoo**, First Vice-President, Interreligious Organization of Trinidad and Tobago

**11:30 – 12:30 CLOSING PLENARY SESSION**

**Room: Ballroom B**

Moderators:

**Cynthia Juárez Lange**, President, FIDELA – Interreligious Forum of the Americas, United States

**Dennis Lange Beltrán**, Executive Officer, FIDELA – Interreligious Forum of the Americas, United States

Reflections from selected speakers

**12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH**

This lunch marks the end of the Third Caribbean Symposium on Religious Freedom. Participants are free to enjoy the hotel facilities for the rest of their stay. Check out is on Saturday, May 9, 2026.