



Embassy of Italy
Cairo

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



#VIVERE **ALL'** ITALIANA

From Freedom of Worship to Freedom of Religion and Belief

Fostering the Partnership Between States, the
International Community and Religious
Institutions

Tuesday, 18th February 9:30 | 2020 am – 6:00 pm

Italian Cultural Institute
3, El Sheikh El Marsafi St., Zamalek, Cairo

Registration required
forb2020cairo@gmail.com

من حرية العبادة إلى حرية الدين و المعتقد

تعزيز الشراكة بين الدول والمجتمع الدولي
والمؤسسات الدينية

الثلاثاء ١٨ فبراير ٢٠٢٠ | من الساعة ٩,٣٠ صباحاً إلى ٦,٠٠ مساءً

للتسجيل
forb2020cairo@gmail.com

المركز الثقافي الإيطالي
٣ شارع الشيخ المرصفي، الزمالك، القاهرة



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FROM FREEDOM OF WORSHIP TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF

*Fostering the Partnership between States,
the International Community and Religious Institutions*

Despite being recognized as a fundamental human right in international conventions and national constitutions, freedom of religion and belief (FoRB) still suffers from a lack of a clear understanding of its ultimate contents and manifestations, as well as the risk of being reduced to mere freedom of worship.

Given that FoRB ultimately deals with the relationship between man and divinity, its definition and implementation within national and international legal systems cannot simply rely on secular sources but should rather be the outcome of a continuous dialogue between civil and religious authorities. Such dialogue would enable national legislative and judicial powers to fully appreciate the scope and role of FoRB in a person's or group's life and its evolution across time and space thus identifying and effectively tackling those situations, acts or omissions that directly or indirectly hamper the full enjoyment of this right.

Moreover, in religiously plural societies proper enactment and protection of FoRB not only serve a basic human need, but also act as fundamental prerequisites to peaceful coexistence and fruitful cooperation among religious communities, thereby fostering a public discourse and a culture conducive to acceptance and dialogue. Similarly, FoRB cannot be fully enacted and protected unless States and religious institutions join their efforts and engage, between them and with their own constituencies, in promoting mutual understanding and respect for FoRB for all citizens without distinction.

Italy's foreign policy has always paid particular attention to advancing FoRB, especially in the Mediterranean region as the cradle of the three monotheistic religions, on the belief that only through the effective implementation of FoRB can all citizens fully contribute to the development of their own societies on an equal footing and without discrimination.

This conference aims at exploring how Christianity and Islam conceive FoRB and how international and domestic laws have codified FoRB into legal principles. By analysing the differences that still exist between religious and secular visions of FoRB, the conference seeks to identify possible areas of cooperation between States and religious institutions with a view to fostering a better implementation of FoRB in existing legal systems and within civil society and social relations.



AGENDA

Tuesday, 18th February 2020 – Italian Cultural Institute, Zamalek, Cairo

8:30 - 9:30 am	Registration and Welcome	
9:30 - 10:15 am	Opening Session	Welcome Speeches and Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. GIAMPAOLO CANTINI, Ambassador of Italy to Egypt- H.E. AHMED IHAB GMALEDDIN, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights and International Humanitarian and Social Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt- H.E. MSGR. NICOLAS HENRY THEVENIN, Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt- H.E. QAIS AL AZZAWI, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States for Press and Communication- Dr. NAZIR MOHAMMED AYAD, Secretary General of the Al Azhar Center for Islamic Research- H.G. PAVLY, Auxiliary Bishop, Assistant to the Pope and Responsible for Youth in Alexandria
10:15 - 11:00 am	Keynote Speech One	The Role of FoRB in Fostering Equality in Religiously Plural Societies Speaker: H.E. JÁN FIGEL , Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief Outside the EU (Until November 2019)
11:00 - 11:30 am	Coffee Break	
11:30 am - 01:00 pm	Panel One	FoRB in Contemporary Christian and Muslim Doctrines Moderator: FR. ADRIEN CANDIARD , O.P. - Dominican Institute of Oriental Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- FoRB in Contemporary Christianity Speaker: PROF. AGOSTINO GIOVAGNOLI, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan- FoRB in Contemporary Islam Speaker: DR. NAZIR MOHAMMED AYAD, University of Al Azhar <i>Questions & Answers</i>
01:00 - 02:00 pm	Lunch	
02:00 - 2:45 pm	Keynote Speech Two	The Role of FoRB in Preventing Incitement to Violence and Atrocity Crimes Speaker: H.E. ADAMA DIENG , Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations / Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide
02:45 - 03:15 pm	Coffee Break	
03:15 - 05:15 pm	Panel Two	FoRB in Contemporary International and National Legislations Moderator: AMB. AHMED IHAB GMALEDDIN , Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights and International Humanitarian and Social Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none">- FoRB in International Law Speaker: PROF. SILVIO FERRARI, University of Milano- FoRB in the Italian Law Speaker: PROF. MARCO VENTURA, University of Siena- FoRB in the Egyptian Law Speaker: PROF. AHMAD HAMZA, University of Al Azhar <i>Questions & Answers</i>
05:15 pm	Conclusions	Speaker: DR. KISHAN MANOCHA , Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

