

International Panel of  
Parliamentarians for  
Freedom of Religion or Belief



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung

## **Multinational Efforts to Promote Freedom of Religion or Belief**

*Joint Action for the Common Good*

**New York, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

The International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung take great pleasure in inviting you to an international consultation, *Multinational Efforts to Strengthen Freedom of Religion or Belief*, to be held in New York, USA on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

International commitments under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are clear that freedom of religion or belief is a fundamental right to be enjoyed by all. Yet these rights are increasingly violated around the world with devastating human consequences. This consultation, organised in the margins of the UN General Assembly, will provide a platform for key stakeholders to identify ways to increase their international cooperation in defence of this basic human right. We would be delighted if you would join this effort.

The consultation will start with a reception at the German Mission to the United Nations on the evening of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September to which you are invited. The main public event will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September with a range of interactive discussions. There will then be time reserved for parliamentarians to meet in closed sessions that afternoon and on the morning of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the particular challenges and opportunities they face in safeguarding the right to freedom of religion or belief for all.

Accommodation will be provided for the nights of 17 and 18 September. If you require financial assistance with travel then we ask that you complete the attached form and return it as soon as possible by email ([contact@ippforb.com](mailto:contact@ippforb.com)) to the Secretariat of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief. The Secretariat is very happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the aims and purpose of this consultation. We very much hope we will have the opportunity to welcome you to New York City in September.

Yours,

**Baroness Elizabeth Berridge of the Vale of Catmose**  
**International Panel of Parliamentarians on Freedom of Religion or Belief**

**Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering**  
**President of the European Parliament ret.**  
**Chairman of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung**