



**Enhancing the effectiveness of international, regional and national
human rights mechanisms in protecting and promoting
the rights of religious minorities**

**Expert Seminar
22-23 May 2012**

Vienna Diplomatic Academy, Favoritenstraße 15A, 1040 Vienna, Austria

AGENDA

Day 1	Tuesday, 22 May 2012 <i>Chair: H.E. Ambassador Christian Strohal, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva</i>
9.00-9.30	Registration
9.30-10.15	Session I Introductory remarks Achievements and challenges under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and avenues for the strengthening of its implementation <i>Mr. Johannes Kyrle, Secretary General, Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria</i> <i>Ms. Marcia V.J. Kran, Director, Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR</i> <i>Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief</i> <i>Ms. Rita Izsák, UN Independent Expert on minority issues</i>
10.15-11.15	Global trends in the human rights situation of religious minorities <i>Prof. Brian Grim, Senior Researcher, Director of Cross-National Data, Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life</i> Discussion
11.15-11.30	Coffee break

11.30-13.00	<p>Session II</p> <p>Protection of religious minorities under international human rights standards: synergies, achievements and obstacles</p> <p>Religious minorities under the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, ICCPR Article 18 on freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and Article 26 on non-discrimination</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, <i>UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief</i></p> <p>Commentator: Ms. Nazila Ghanea, <i>Lecturer in International Human Rights Law, University of Oxford</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
13.00-14.00	Lunch (<i>at the expert seminar venue</i>)
14.00-16.00	<p>Contribution of the minority rights standards in the protection of religious minorities: UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and ICCPR Article 27 on the rights of persons belonging to minorities</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Rita Izsák, <i>UN Independent Expert on minority issues</i></p> <p>Commentator: Mr. Asbjørn Eide, <i>Prof. Emeritus, Norwegian Center for Human Rights</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
16.00-16.15	Coffee break
16.15-17.45	<p>Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms in the protection of religious minorities</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Jane Connors, <i>Chief, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR</i></p> <p>Commentator: Mr. Mark Lattimer, <i>Executive Director, MRG International</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
18.00-19.00	<p>Reception hosted by the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs (<i>at the expert seminar venue</i>)</p>

Day 2	Wednesday, 23 May 2012 <i>Chair: Ms. Marcia V.J. Kran, Director, Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR</i>
9.30-10.50	<p>Session III</p> <p>Regional human rights mechanisms and other initiatives protecting the rights of religious minorities at the European level</p> <p>The nexus between minority rights standards and the protection of religious minorities within the OSCE and the Council of Europe</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Zdenka Machnyikova, <i>Legal and Political Adviser, Initiative on Quiet Diplomacy</i></p> <p>Commentator: Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, <i>Director, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities</i></p> <p>Commentator: Mr. Ralf-René Weingärtner, <i>Director of Human Rights and Antidiscrimination, Directorate General II – Democracy, Council of Europe</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
10.50-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.00	<p>Freedom of religion and religious minorities within the European Union context</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Pia Lindholm, <i>Equal treatment legislation unit, Directorate-General for Justice, European Commission</i></p> <p>Commentator: Mr. Alan Phillips, <i>former president of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
12.00-13.00	Lunch (<i>at the expert seminar venue</i>)
13.00-14.30	<p>Session IV</p> <p>Implementation at national level of recommendations flowing from international and regional mechanisms</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Antti Korkeakivi, <i>Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR</i></p> <p>Commentator: Ms. Eva Lang, <i>Equal Treatment Ombud, Austria</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
14.30-15.00	<p>Chair's Summary</p> <p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Mr. Helmut Tichy, <i>Legal Advisor, Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria</i> Ms. Marcia V.J. Kran, <i>Director, Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR</i></p>