

Study by the Independent Expert on minority issues

Beyond Belief: The rights and security of religious minorities

Expert Group Meeting/Consultation

Date: 6 June 2013

Venue: First floor Conference Room, Palais Wilson

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 6 June 2013

Session 1 (10.00-11.15)

Who are we talking about and why? Introducing the concepts

Speakers

1. Rita Izsák, Independent Expert on minority issues
2. Heiner Bielefeldt, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (via video-conference)
3. Nazila Ghanea

Discussion

Session 2 (11.45-13.00)

Rights of religious minorities – Challenges, violations and examples of good practices in addressing them

Speakers

1. Antti Korkeakivi, Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, OHCHR
2. Waheeda Amien
**Personal laws and the legal recognition of religious minority claims:
Opportunities and challenges**
3. Javaid Rehman
From Recognition to Security and Survival: Rights of Religious Minorities

Discussion

Session 3 (15.00-16.15)

Security of religious minorities – from discrimination to insecurity and violence?

Speakers

1. Anat Scolnicov
Between group rights and individual rights: outlining the spectrum of the rights pertaining to religious minorities
2. Abdul Rashid Ismail
Is there light at the end of the tunnel: Religious issues before civil courts
3. Michael Wiener
Ensuring non-discrimination and security for persons belonging to religious minorities: A brief commentary on the mandate practice of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief since 1986
4. Chris Chapman
Advancing the security of religious minorities in conflict and post conflict situations

Discussion

Session 4 (16.45-18.00)

Ways forward

Speakers

1. Malcolm Evans
Some radical thoughts to prompt some radical new thinking?
2. Johannes van der ven
The Complexity of Religious Minority Rights
3. Diane 'Ala'i
Strengthening our response to violations against religious minorities: How can we better advance their rights?

Discussion and concluding remarks by the Independent Expert on minority issues
Rita Izsák