

CONFERENCE AGENDA

SHAPING A WORLD OF FREEDOMS:
75 YEARS OF LEGACY AND IMPACT OF THE
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

How Will Human Rights Shape the Future?

DECEMBER 11 - 12, 2023



CONFERENCE

d e s c r i p t i o n

Over the past 75 years, the effort to uphold universal human rights and religious freedom has evolved into a delicate balancing act between lofty ideals and harsh realities. Since its adoption in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has stood as a pivotal document, leaving a distinctive mark on global legal, political, and social landscapes. Guided by an orientation for equality and dignity, nations worldwide have gathered within the United Nations to protect and promote fundamental principles of human rights and contribute towards inclusion, non-discrimination, and the protection of all people's rights. However, reflecting on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we may recognize that our aspirations are still far from being realized. Emerging challenges and ever-changing landscapes encourage us to strengthen universal human rights and religious freedom for future generations.

The fourth edition of the conference will take place around Human Rights Day, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The main focus will be on analyzing the profound impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in various areas, including the advancement of human dignity, fundamental freedoms, human security, civil and political rights, including the freedom of religion or belief, law, human development, health, humanitarian rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, social justice, equality, and non-discrimination, among other related subjects.

- 4:30 – 8:00 AM SESSION 1 US Eastern Time (ET)
WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
- ROMA WIJAYA - Syubbanul Wathon Islamic College, Indonesia
Millennial Generation as Agents of Religious Tolerance
- SHUBHRA SETH - University of Delhi, India
Human Rights as we 'Move' - UDHR and Forced Migration
- PRIYA BHALLA - University of Delhi, India
Human Rights and Inequality: Exploring the Economic Perspective
- HOUSSINE SOUSSI - University of Ibn Zohr, Morocco
Unity in Diversity: Morocco's Journey in Upholding Human Rights Through Cultural Richness
- ADITYA BHALLA - Netaji Subhas University of Technology in New Delhi, India
Limits to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: Exploring the Human Rights Perspective
- JOTIKA JUDGE - Chitkara University, Punjab, India
Exploring Empathy, Altruism and Forgiveness among Police Personnel
- SOLOMON BONDLA - Jazan University, Saudi Arabia
Preamble for Peoples: Securing Social Justice through Education - A Critical review
- MAJA MAČINKO - Ivan Cankar School, Zagreb, Croatia
Empowering Girls in STEM: Insights from the S-Team Project
- CORDEIRO, CARLOS, TAIEB ABDULRAHMAN, OZSOY TAHA - Prime Technical Institute, Portugal
Rice's Salty Battle: Safeguarding Global Food Security Amidst Climate Change
- VIKTORIA PITULEI - Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, Ukraine
Freedom and Responsibility of Personality in the age of Globalization
- DAMIAN HERATYM - Christian Theological Academy of Warsaw, University, Poland
Religious Freedom on the Example of the Legal Situation of the Polish Catholic Church
- MARCO MARSILI – Cà Foscari University of Venice, Italy
Universal Declaration of Human Rights: An Inspirational Charter
- MIROŚLAW A. MICHALSKI - Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, Poland
Freedom of Conscience and Religion in the Constitution in Poland



AGENDA

of the Conference

DECEMBER 11, 2023

US Eastern Time (ET)

8:00 – 12:45 PM Keynote Speakers

NELU BURCEA

Liaison of the Seventh-day Adventists & IRLA to the United Nations

BILL KNOTT

Director of Government Affairs for the Seventh-day Adventists, Washington, D.C.

ORLAN JOHNSON

Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the North American Division

NICHOLAS P. MILLER

Professor of Church History, Andrews University, USA
Director, International Religious Liberty Institute

TERESA FLORES CHISCUL

Director of the Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America – OLIRE

JONATHAN SCRIVEN

Associate Director of the Honors College at Washington Adventist University

DENISE E. BURRILL

Assistant Professor, Fitchburg State University, USA

MARIAN GH. SIMION

President of the IPSEC at Harvard Divinity School, USA

THIERRY VALLE

President, Coordination of Associations and Individuals for
Freedom of Conscience, France

PAULO MACEDO

Secretary-General, International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty

TINA RAMIREZ

Founder and President, Hardwired Global

ABRAHAM BAKARI

PARL Director of Seventh-Day Adventist Church, West And Central Africa Region

TITUS CORLĂȚEAN

Legal Scholar, Diplomat, Lawmaker, and Former Minister of Justice
and of Foreign Affairs

JENNIFER WOODS

Lake Union Director and Legal Counsel

SUE RHEEM

Presbyterian Ministry at the UN, Mission Specialist for International Advocacy

12:45 – 1:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

AGENDA

of the Conference

DECEMBER 12, 2023

- 4:30 – 8:00 AM SESSION 1 US Eastern Time (ET)
WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
- MEENU SHARMA - Chitkara University, India
Mental Health - A Universal Human Right
- LAKSHAY SHARMA, SALINEETA CHAUDHURI - CHRIST Deemed to be University, India
Exploring the Economic Consequences of Child Labour in Informal Economies in India
- POOJA PANT - Amity University, India
A Critical Analysis of Protection of Human Rights in India
- SHAHI SHAIKA - Amity University, India
Human Rights Violation Against Children: Case Study of Gaza-Hamas War
- KOUSIK DAS MALAKAR - Central University of Haryana, India
Strengthening Human Rights Protection in Climate Disasters Vulnerable Communities: The Case of Indian Sundarbans
- SEEMA AGNIHOTRI - Amity Institute of Education, India
Exploring Possibilities to Achieve Human Rights Through Education
- PRINCE CHUKWUNEME ENWEREJI - University of South Africa
Municipal Internal Control System and Its Impacts on the Principles of Good Governance
- RAMYA H. P., DR. DEEPAK R. - Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, India
Human Rights and Empowering Indian Women: Investigating the Significance of Financial Education in Attaining Financial Freedom and Socioeconomic Empowerment
- OLAYINKA AKANLE - University of Ibadan, Nigeria/University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Youth Exclusion, International Migration and Rights of Migrants in Contemporary Societies
- AYANTAYO JOSHUA SUNDAY, ADEKUNBI ENIOLA AKINTOLA - Federal College of Agriculture, Nigeria
Linguistic Representation of Religious Intolerance in Online Nigeria Newspapers
- ADRIANA CAROLINA SILVA ARIAS, JAIME ANDRÉS SARMIENTO ESPINEL, MILTON MAURICIO HERRERA RAMÍREZ - Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, Colombia
Migration and Food Security in Latin America
- NICOLETA HEGHES - Romanian Academy, "Andrei Rădulescu" Legal Research Institute
The Importance of the Principle of Presumption of Innocence
- GUILHERME BRASIL DE SOUZA - Princeton Theological Seminary, USA
The Ultramontane Roots of the Hegemonic Concept of Religion in Brazil (1824–1945)



AGENDA

of the Conference

DECEMBER 12, 2023

US Eastern Time (ET)

8:00 – 1:00 PM Keynote Speakers

NELU BURCEA

Liaison of the Seventh-day Adventist Church & International Religious Liberty Association to the United Nations

MICHAEL WIENER

Human Rights Officer, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

FERNAND DE VARENNES

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
(August 2017-November 2023)

JANET EPP BUCKINGHAM

Director of Global Advocacy for the World Evangelical Alliance,
Professor of Political Studies Law, Trinity Western University, Canada

FLOYD MORRIS

Director of the Centre for Disability Studies, University of the West Indies,
Member and Past President of the Senate of Jamaica

AMAL NAGAH ELBESHISHI – United Nations Economic Commission
for Africa (UNECA) - Office for North Africa, Rabat, Morocco

LUCILE SABAS

Associate Dean, College of Professions, Program Director, Ph.D. in Business
Administration, Associate Professor, Economics & Finance

RYAN J. KOCH

Director, Public and International Affairs,
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

FRANCESCA EVANGELISTI

National Secretary of the International Association for the Defense of
Religious Freedom (AIDLR) in Italy



AGENDA

of the Conference

DECEMBER 12, 2023
US Eastern Time (ET)

SILVIA BALDASSARRE

Research Fellow At The University Of Florence, Italy

JONATHAN K. AMMONS

President of the NGO Committee on FoRB, New York

IVY KOEK

Representative to the UN for Soka Gakkai International (SGI), New York and
Focal Point for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

DAN G. ŞERB

PhD(c) in Religious Studies at the University of South Africa

JULIA M. PUASCHUNDER

PhD, Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, USA

12:45 – 1:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

SPEAKERS



Nelu Burcea serves as the Liaison of the Seventh-day Adventist Church & International Religious Liberty Association to the United Nations. He was the Director of Hope Channel Media Center in Romania (2003-2009) and producer of the TV program “The Right to Hold an Opinion” with the purpose of promoting religious freedom and human rights. He has been involved in academic research since 2011 by organizing international scientific conferences. He was the founder and editor of the Journal for Freedom of Conscience. Dr. Burcea has a PhD in Economics specializing in Business Ethics and Human Dignity, a Master’s degree in Business Development, and a Theology degree. He has also completed postgraduate study in Media and Marketing and Diplomatic Protocol and Communication and a Postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University focusing on religious freedom.



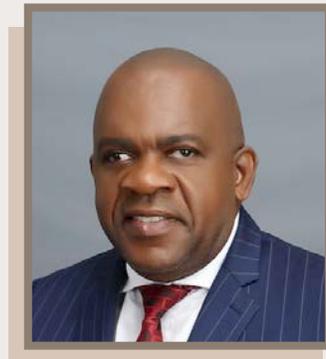
Bill Knott is associate director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, and responsible for the Church’s interface with the U.S. Congress, the White House, and the international diplomatic corps. He brings to his new role a wealth of experience gleaned from more than 25 years of networking and connecting with thought leaders and faith communities in the metropolitan D.C. region, including six years during which he completed his doctoral degree at George Washington University in the heart of the District. Before joining the PARL team in January 2023, Knott was the editor and executive publisher of Adventist Review and Adventist World. Bill had served for 18 years as a pastor in congregations ranging in size from 6 to 1800, including as senior pastor of the Walla Walla University Church. He earned a B.A. in English and Religion from Atlantic Union College (1979); a M.Div. from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (1983); and a Ph.D. in History from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. (2006).



The Rev. Dr. Liberato C. Bautista is the President of CoNGO—The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. Bautista teaches, writes and lectures extensively in a variety of fields, including international affairs; NGO and civil society dynamics; social and political ethics; theology and religion; ecumenism and religious liberty; human rights and human dignity; indigeneity and indigenous peoples; and peace, justice, and social transformation. He has taught politics and civil society at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea, and dynamics of society and community organizing at Saint Andrews {Episcopal} Theological Seminary in the Philippines. Bautista studied political science, history, and international studies at the University of the Philippines in Manila which in 2000 awarded him the “Most Outstanding Alumnus in the Social Sciences.” His doctoral studies at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey focused on religion and social and political ethics.



Michael Wiener has been working at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights since 2006. He co-organized the expert workshops that led to the adoption in 2012 of the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. Since 2017 he has worked on the design and implementation of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”. Since 2011 he also has been a Visiting Fellow of Kellogg College at the University of Oxford, and during summer 2022 he was Senior Fellow in Residence at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.



Floyd Morris completed his PhD at the UWI in 2017 and is the Director for the Centre for Disability Studies at UWI. Floyd Morris was called to national duties in 1998 when he became the first blind person to be appointed to the Senate. He distinguished himself and was promoted to a Minister of State in 2001. He was assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Floyd Morris was re-appointed to the Parliament of Jamaica in 2012 where he served as a government Senator for four years. He was promoted to the President of the Jamaican Senate in 2013. He was also the host of a radio show, *Seeing From A Different Perspective*. He is the 2012 recipient of the Prime Minister’s Life-Time Award for Excellence in Disability Reform. In 2017, he was the RJR-Gleaner Communications Group Education Personality of the Year Awardee. In 2018 he was appointed as CARICOM’s Special Rapporteur on Disability. In 2020 he was selected as the UWI Vice Chancellor Awardee for Excellence in Public Service, and, on November 30, 2020, he was elected to serve a four year term on the United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In February 2021, he was selected as the Ansa Caribbean 2020 Laureate for Excellence in Civic and Public Service.



Prof. Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi is an Economist for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) - Office for North Africa, Rabat- Morocco. She is also a tenured Professor of Economics at Faculty of Commerce- Mansoura University, Egypt [on sabbatical leave (national assignment) to work for ECA]. Prior to joining ECA in 2005, Ms. Elbeshbishi lectured at universities in Bahrain, Egypt and the United States of America. She has also worked with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the Egyptian Cabinet’s Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC). Ms. Elbeshbishi is the author/co-author of many research papers and books on several economic and social development issues. She holds a Master’s and a Ph.D. degree in Economics from Fordham University- New York, United States of America; and a Master’s degree in Economics from Mansoura University, Egypt.



Lucile Sabas is Assistant Dean of the College of Professions & Associate Professor of Finance & Economics at Andrews University, in Michigan. Lucile Sabas has been Associate Professor of Economics at the College of Professions since 2011 and Assistant Dean of the same College since 2021. Prior to this, she was professor of Economics and Financial Administration and research Director at the School of Administration at Montemorelos University in Mexico, university president of COSENDAI Adventist University in Cameroon, and principal of the Guadeloupe Adventist Conference High School in the French West Indies-Guadeloupe. She has served as the Head of the Education Department at the Guadeloupe Conference, and managed a medium-sized business with 45 employees. Sabas speaks French, English, Spanish and Creole, and has traveled and worked across the globe. Her work and numerous research, especially on questions of economic development have led her to participate in international conferences in more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, the Caribbean, South America and Australia.



Tina Ramirez serves as the Founder and President and brings to Hardwired 20 years of experience as an educator, foreign policy expert and authority on international human rights law and religious freedom. Previously, she served as a policy advisor for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a foreign policy advisor for the U.S. Congress, where she founded the bi-partisan International Religious Freedom Caucus, and as former Director of Government Relations and International Programs at Becket Law. Tina has published extensively and is the author of *Iraq: Hope in the Midst of Darkness* (2017), a contributing author and editor of *Human Rights in the United States: A Dictionary and Documents* (2010 and 2017) and author/editor of *Human Rights: Great Events From History* (2019). Tina has worked in more than 30 countries, spoken before the United Nations and the African Union, and testified before the U.S. Congress. She holds a certificate from the International Institute for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, a MA in Education from Vanguard University, and a MA in International Human Rights from the University of Essex, UK.



Dan G. Şerb holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and a Doctorate in Multicultural and Multi-ethnic Ministry through Andrews University, Michigan, USA. He is currently completing research for a PhD in Religious Studies through the University of South Africa, with special reference to the field of human rights and religious terrorism. Having previously worked as a lecturer, researcher, and minister of religion, Dan is currently serving as a church administrator. Dan G. Şerb is originally from Romania. After living and working for almost twenty years in South Africa, he currently resides with his family in Dublin, Ireland.



Teresa Flores Chiscul is a Lawyer graduated from the Catholic University Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo, Peru. Master's degree completed in Constitutional Law and Human Rights by the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos – Peru. Diploma in Religious Studies by the Catholic University of Chile. With experience in research and the study of religious freedom in the region. Intern at the Latin American Center for Human Rights – CLADH in Mendoza, Argentina. Junior researcher of the Gender and Family division of the Center for Advanced Social Research – CISAV in Querétaro, Mexico. Teresa Flores Chiscul gives lectures on issues related to hostilities against the right to religious freedom in different academic and political forums in Mexico, Peru and Colombia. She is currently working as director of the Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America – OLIRE, a research, training, and advocacy program whose mission is to promote religious freedom and highlight the restrictions on this right throughout the region.



Nicholas Miller is Professor of Church History at Andrews University and Director of the International Religious Liberty Institute. Nicholas Miller received his B.A. in theology from Pacific Union College and a J.D. from Columbia University Law School, where he was a Stone Scholar and an editor of the Columbia Law Review. He also has a Ph.D. in American Religious and Legal History from the University of Notre Dame, where he received the award for the best dissertation of the year for 2010 from the History Department. Dr. Miller has argued many church/state cases in state and federal courts, has appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Mitchell v. Helms*, and is the author of more than thirty scholarly and professional journal articles and book chapters dealing with issues of church, state, and society. His book on the development of religious freedom in America, *The Religious Roots of the First Amendment* was published by Oxford University Press in the summer of 2012, and he edited the Andrews University Press book on *Homosexuality, Marriage, and the Church* (2012).



Francesca Evangelisti holds a bachelor's in Anthropology curriculum science of religions from the "Alma Mater Studiorum–Università di Bologna," and a master's in "Religious Freedom, Freedom of Conscience, Rights and Geopolitics of Religions" at the "Facoltà Avventista di Teologia Villa Aurora" in Florence. She works for the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department of the Italian Union of Seventh-day Adventist Christian Churches in Rome. She is National Secretary of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Freedom (AIDLR) in Italy and Secretary of the Interreligious Table in Rome. She is also a member of the Globalization and Environment Commission (GLAM) of the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy, the scientific committee of the Center for the Study of Freedom of Religion Belief and Conscience (LIREC), the group Women of Faith in Dialogue of Religions for Peace Italy.



Abraham Bakari currently serves as Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, West and Central Africa Region. He holds a Master's Degree in Communication. He has also completed several courses in Semiotics and Strategies - Semiotics of Advertising. He is currently a graduate student in Digital Humanities at Harvard University. He is a micro-influencer on social media with experience in communications over the past thirty years. He began advocating for religious freedom in the early 2000s. He has also made significant contributions to the promotion of religious freedom and regional integration within NGOs. He has often been consulted by the government of Cameroon on religious freedom issues. He played a major role in organizing the 3rd African Congress on Religious Freedom in 2013 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This Congress mobilized over 1,500 participants from across Africa and was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Cameroon.



Titus Corlăţean, Ph.D., is a legal scholar, diplomat, lawmaker and educator. He holds a B.A. and a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Bucharest, and has conducted advanced studies in International Relations and Diplomacy at the International Institute for Public Administration in Paris, and at the National Defense College in Bucharest. He is the author of several books and numerous scientific papers in the fields of international law, human rights, and post-Soviet secessionism. He is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Administration of "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University in Bucharest, Romania and also at the National University of Defense, where he teaches the International and European protection of Human Rights, International Law, Diplomatic and Consular Law. Dr. Corlăţean is a former visiting scholar at Harvard University/ the Center for the Study of World Religions. In terms of political activity, Titus Corlăţean is a member of Social Democratic Party. Since 2020, he has been Vice-President at national level. From 2004 until present, he has won a mandate of deputy and four consecutive mandates of senator. Dr. Corlăţean served as Romania's Minister of Justice, and as Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Currently, Dr. Corlăţean serves as a Romanian Senator, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Romanian Senate. In terms of foreign policy positions, he served as President of the Romanian National Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2017-2018) and also Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Currently, Senator Corlăţean, member of the Romanian Parliamentary Delegation to the PACE, fulfills the position of Chairman of the Committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights.



Silvia Baldassarre holds a PhD in Law from the University of Padua; she is qualified to exercise the legal profession. Since 2018, she has been a research fellow at the University of Florence. She has participated in numerous national and international conferences and written scientific publications focusing on the issues of religious freedom and the rights of minorities of religion/belief. She is a member of the Scientific Committee of the journal "Coscienza e Libertà."



Marian Gh. Simion is a political scientist and a religious historian with a wide array of expertise ranging from social sciences and humanities to policymaking and management. He holds a PhD in international politics, policy, and law from Northeastern University in Boston and completed postdoctoral work at Harvard University in religion and diplomacy. Dr. Simion is a Cambridge University author, a coeditor of volume 9 of "Edinburgh Companions to Global Christianity," and author of several books and papers in his field. As a practitioner, Dr. Simion has a strong experience in international conflict transformation, human rights, and international public policy; working in countries. Currently, he splits his time on three continents working as a Field Education Supervisor and President of the Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, as visiting professor at Fitchburg State University, as a Senior Fellow at the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution, at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution of George Mason University, as honorary Foreign Affairs Advisor at the Parliament of Romania in Bucharest, and as Associate Fellow at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.



Denise Burrill Simion, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the School of Business at Fitchburg State University, USA, and Associate Researcher at the Corhis Research Center of Paul Valéry University Montpellier 3, in France, where she received her PhD. Dr. Burrill Simion is a co-founder and Chair of the Board of Trustees of IPSEC. She holds a Masters from Harvard University. Her research focuses on information systems management, business data analytics, business technology's impact on the global society, and leadership and communication in culturally diverse organizations. She has more than fifteen years of experience working in the financial and technology sectors. She is a coeditor of several volumes and of several peer-reviewed papers.



Julia M. Puaschunder is a post-doctoral researcher in the Interuniversity Consortium of New York at Columbia University. For the academic year 2023/24, she joins a European Law and Economics Programme at the University of Haifa, Hamburg University and Aix-Marseille University sponsored by the European Union. Previously, she was a faculty associate at Harvard University. Julia Puaschunder holds PhDs in Economics and Natural Sciences from the University of Vienna, Vienna University of Economics and Business as well as the Interuniversity Consortium of New York. Julia's research interests are Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence Ethics, Environmental Economics, Financial Social Responsibility and Intergenerational Equity. She authored 13 books on Resilient Finance, Responsible Investment, Behavioral Economics and Finance Leadership, Governance and Climate Justice, as well as Intergenerational Equity. She currently works on a monograph on Digital Inequality and Human Rights Online.



Thierry Valle has been an active advocate for human rights for more than two decades. He has extensive experience concerning freedom of religion and belief around the world. He organized numerous symposiums on religious freedom in France. Thierry has been a participant of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for the last ten years, speaking on issues relating to freedom of religion and restrictions on human rights as they relate to anti-terrorism laws in Europe. He has also written numerous reports for the OSCE. The Coordination of the Associations and the People for Freedom of Conscience is an European NGO with United Nations Consultative Status, created two decades ago and dedicated to protect the Right of Freedom of Religion and Belief. Developing their expertise for 20 years, defending religious minorities against discrimination, they produce reports on religious freedom issues and organize events, conferences, meetings to unite minority religions to counter discrimination in Europe and worldwide. Thierry also takes part in the European platform for Fundamental Rights, for which he has made numerous reports on violations of religious freedom in Europe.



Paulo Macedo is Secretary General of the International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty (IADLR), Switzerland. Mr. Paulo Macedo holds a degree in International Relations and a master's degree in Strategic Communication. Paulo Macedo's has develop his service, during the last 20 years, in Portugal, where he has advocated the promotion of freedom of conscience, worship and religion, as well as the relationship between the state and the churches.



Orlan Johnson is the Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church where he directs the Division's outreach in the area of religious liberty for all people, interacts with public officials and represents the church's viewpoint to policy makers in both the public and private sectors. He is also the Host and moderator for the nationally aired TV Show Faith & Politics which airs every Sunday evening at 6pm Eastern Time on Hope TV Channel 368 on the Direct TV or our YouTube channel at Faithandpolitics.tv. Prior to joining the NAD, Mr. Johnson practiced law for over twenty-five years and has been blessed to serve in numerous positions. Mr. Johnson is a former Senior Partner and member of Saul Ewing's Business and Finance Department, where he was co-chair of the Securities Transactions and Regulations Practice Group and Chairman of the firm's Diversity Committee. After serving as one of the original members of Senator Barack Obama's National Finance Committee, Mr. Johnson was appointed by President Obama and Confirmed by the United States Senate to be Chairman of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, the lead organization responsible for the investigation and recovery process for account holders of failed brokerage firms such as Lehman, Madoff Securities and MF Global. Under Mr. Johnson's leadership, the agency during the Madoff proceeding, recovered the largest single asset forfeiture in United States history of \$7.2 billion. Mr. Johnson graduated from Andrews University with Honors with a Degree in Economics and a Minor in French in 1984. He is a graduate of Howard University School of Law where he was a 2-year member of the Howard Law Journal and former professor there for over 10 years.



Jennifer Gray Woods is currently Legal Counsel and Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty at the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She previously served for 7 years at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, first in the role of Associate General Counsel (where she focused on the areas of copyright, trademark and data privacy), and later as Associate PARL Director and Director of Government Affairs. Before working for the denomination, she was an attorney for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C and at a health care law firm in Los Angeles, California. Jennifer is a graduate of Oakwood College (B.S. in Biology), Johns Hopkins University (M.P.H.), and Harvard Law School (J.D.).



Prof. Dr. Janet Epp Buckingham lives in Ottawa, Canada and has served as the Director of Global Advocacy for the World Evangelical Alliance since July 2021. Dr. Buckingham has a doctorate in Public Law from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. She is a Professor of Political Studies Law at Trinity Western University, in British Columbia, Canada, with a research focus on religious freedom law in Canada and internationally. She published a book on the history of religious freedom in Canada, *Fighting over God*, in 2014. Dr. Buckingham has a B.A. in history from Western University, an LL.B. from Dalhousie University and a doctorate in public law from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. Dr. Buckingham is an academic advisor to the International Institute for Religious Freedom and the executive editor of the *International Journal of Religious Freedom*. She is also the Co-Director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (Vancouver).



SunHwan Kim was the Associate Secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division from 2021 to 2022. Starting from August 2022, he is the Adventist Mission Director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Since 2019, he has also been the Coordinator of the Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) of the Northern Asia Pacific Division. From 2012 to 2014, SunHwan Kim was an Executive Secretary of SDA Language Institute.



Ryan Koch was appointed Director of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Public and International Affairs Office in New York City in 2014. In this capacity, Ryan oversees the Church's outreach to the diplomatic communities in New York and at the United Nations, including representing Latter-day Saint Charities, the Church's humanitarian arm. Ryan is also responsible for directing the work of the Church's offices at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Prior to his work for the Church of Jesus Christ, Ryan spent 11 years as a Public Diplomacy Officer for the U.S. State Department. During this time, he served abroad at the U.S. Embassies in Manila, Philippines; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Stockholm, Sweden. He also spent three years in Washington, where he was heavily involved in the State Department's social media efforts. Within the Church of Jesus Christ, Ryan has served as a Bishop and twice as a Branch President. Ryan has a degree in International Relations from Brigham Young University and speaks Swedish, German and Russian. The son of an Air Force pilot, Ryan has lived at thirty-five different addresses, but has finally found his home in New Jersey.



Ivy Koek is a Representative to the UN for Soka Gakkai International (SGI) based in New York and Focal Point for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Engaged in SGI's work in gender justice, sustainability and climate change, peace, disarmament, and human rights mainly through its nonformal education approach since joining in 2013. She is currently the Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY) and has served on the Executive Committee since 2014 serving various roles including the Co-chair of the Young Professionals Subcommittee. Ivy's prior work has taken her from her home in the U.S. to Venezuela and Japan in the fields of education, study abroad, editing and translation. Some of her past projects included issues such as women peacebuilders as well as child labor. Ivy is passionate about young women's leadership, building a culture of peace, bridging divides, creating inclusive civil society spaces and interfaith collaboration.



Dr. Jonathan Scriven is the Associate Director of the Honors College at Washington Adventist University and a faculty member in the Department of Political Studies, where he teaches courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, and U.S. Foreign Policy. Dr. Scriven also leads the university's Model United Nations program, including a yearly conference for high school students called CAPITALMUN. Before going to WAU, he spent 13 years living and working in France. While in Europe, he received his doctorate degree at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations in Geneva, Switzerland.



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