

PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

**Challenges and Opportunities:
Religious Freedom Development in the Sphere of Law**

Yerevan, Armenia

May 14-16, 2015

Sponsored by

**International Center for Law and Religion Studies
Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah, USA)**

**Coordinating Counsel for CIS and Baltic Countries
on Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Religious Studies
(Kyiv, Ukraine—Moscow, Russia)**

May 14, 2015

Opening plenary, American University of Armenia (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Hovhannes Hovhannisyan and Elizabeth Clark, moderators

Welcomes

Representative of American University of Armenia

Representative of Coordinating Counsel for CIS and Baltic Countries on Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Religious Studies

Vice-Minister of Justice of Armenia, Arman Tatoyan

W. Cole Durham, Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law and Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies - Evolution of freedom of religion or belief: perspectives on 25 years of change

Professor Nikolay Shaburov - From Hobbes to Locke and Back to Hobbes

11:45-12:00 Break

12 – 1p.m. Continuation of Opening plenary (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

Viktor Yelensky, Member of Ukrainian Parliament and Chair of the Subcommittee on Religion - Religious freedom and de-secularization in Ukraine

Dr. Hranush Kharatyan, Institute of Ethnography and Archeology - Religious Developments in Post-Soviet Armenia

1 p.m. Transport to hotel, lunch

2:45-4:00 p.m. Breakout sessions at Erebuni Business Center

Erebuni Room (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

ARMENIA AND THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA

Vladmir Vardanyan and Armine Davtyan, moderators

Dr. Davit Mikayelyan, Chief Specialist at the Department for Ethnic and Religious Minorities under the Government of Armenia - Information Society and Religious Institutions

Dr. Dorota Zietek, Assistant Professor, Institute for the Study of Religions, Faculty of Philosophy Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland - Impact of changes in the law on the Armenians in Poland: Opportunities and the development of their religious freedom

Chairman Stepan Danielyan, Collaboration for Democracy - The convergence processes between Armenian Apostolic Church and the State

Secretary Armen Lusyan, World Life Church - Classification of Religious Association of the Republic of Armenia

Urartu Room (session in Russian only)

RELIGION, POLITICS, AND LAW IN UKRAINE

Victor Yelensky and Oleksandr Sagan, Moderators

Director Andriy Yurash, Department for Religious Issues and Nationalities - Religious Politics of Contemporary Ukraine

Dr. Nikolay Mitrokhin, Research Centre for East European Studies, Bremen University - Ukrainian Orthodoxy in the time of Russian- Ukrainian conflict and perspective of development of United Manorial Church

Maksym Vasin, Institute of Religious Freedom - Ensuring the freedom of conscience under the conflict between Russia and Ukraine

Arame Room (session in English only)

CONCEPTUALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Vanja Savic and Roman Lunkin, Moderators

Ferrer Sanchez, Dialogue and Mediation for the Right to Religious Freedom

Dr. Elena Maksimova, Deputy Head of Department of Culture Studies, the Chair of Cultural Studies, Novgorod State University - Freedom of worship in modern Christian cultures

Martin Farek, Head of Department for the Study of Religions, University of Pardubice - Religious Freedom as Value and Norm: Law, Politics and Media in the Czech Republic

Marieta Bazinyan, Yerevan State University - Abdullahi Ahmed An-Nai'im, - Freedom of expression in Islamic context

4-4:15 p.m. Break

4:15-5:30 p.m. Breakout sessions

Erebuni Room (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

SECULARISM AND IDENTITY IN EASTERN EUROPE

Jose Ferrer Sanchez and Henryk Hoffman, Moderators

Dr. Carmen Garcimartin, Associate Professor, University of A Coruña - Religious freedom and secularity in Eastern European Constitutions

Dr. Galina Shirokalova, Head of Department of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences of the Nizhny Novgorod State Academy of Agriculture - Russia: Between Secularity and Clericalism

Assistant Professor Vanja Savic, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb - Law and Traditional Identity in Central and Eastern Europe

Dr. Elena Miroshnikova, Tula State Tolstoy Pedagogical University - Challenges and Opportunities: Religion and Law in Russia

Urartu Room (session in Russian only)

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND TOLERANCE IN RUSSIA

Olga Kazmina and Mikhail Zherebyatyev, Moderators

Dr. Vladimir Storchak, Professor at National Economy Russian Academy and State Service under the President of Russia - Ethno-confessional situation and problems of freedom of conscience in modern Russian

Daria Krasnikova, Department of Ethnic and Religious Relations, Russian Ministry of Culture- Impact of inner political factors on religious organizations

Professor Ekaterina Elbakian, Professor of Sociology and Management of Social Processes, Moscow Academy of Labor and Social Relations - Violation of the principles of freedom of conscience in relation to Russian religious minorities: an overview of a scholar in religious studies

Mikhail Sitnikov - Religious Tolerance in contemporary Russia: Theory and Practice

Arame Room (session in Russian only)

MINORITY RELIGIONS

Anita Soboleva and Professor Nikolai Shaburov, Moderators

Dr. Alla Aristova, National Transport University - Discrimination of Christian Minorities and Problems of Advocacy

Roman Lunkin, Institute of Europe - Evangelical churches in Russia

Dr. Lev Simkin, Russian State Institute of Intellectual Property - Foreign missionaries in Russia

May 15, 2015

Erebuni Business Center (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

9:30a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Plenary Session, Erebuni Room

Professor Cole Durham and Dr. Nikolai Mitrokhin, Moderators

Professor Eileen Barker, Professor Emeritus of Sociology of Religion - New Religious Movements: The Changing Scene

Vladimir Vardanyan, - The Paradigm of the Freedom of Speech in the Age of Globalization: From Classic Views to Surrealistic Approaches

Anita Soboleva, Member of the President's Human Rights Council - Freedom of arts and religious rights: the search for balance

10:45 – 11 a.m. Break

11:00 – 12:15 Breakout sessions

Erebuni Room (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

ART, SPEECH, AND RELIGION

Dr. Merlin Kiviorg and Chairman Stepan Danielyan, Moderators

Ara Ghazaryan -Forms of Legal Means against Hate Speech in Armenia

Dr. Ksenia Kolkunova, Faculty of Philosophy, Lomonosov University - Theatrical performances and law on blasphemy: Russian case

Dr. Olga Sibireva, SOVA center for information and analysis - Russian legislation on religious feelings and their application

Anna Ksiazek, Assistant Professor at the Institute for the Study of Religions, Faculty of Philosophy, Jagiellonian University - Insult of Religious Feelings According to Polish Law

Urartu Room (session in Russian only)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND LEGISLATION IN RUSSIA

Anatoly Pchelintsev and Dr. Lev Simkin, Moderators

Dr. Olga Kazmina, Deputy Dean School of History, Moscow State University - Dynamics of Conceptual ideas within the framework of religious freedom in Russian through religious laws

Mikhail Zherebyatyev, Modern Humanities Academy - Legislative gaps in the regulation of state-religion relations in post-Soviet Russia

Vladimir Ryakhovsky, President's Human Rights Council, Russian Federation - The current problems of realizing freedom of conscience in contemporary Russia: the perfection of legislation strengthening state control of the activity of religious associations

Arame Room (session in Russian only)

CONTEMPORARY UKRAINE AND BELARUS

Maksim Vasin and Oleksandr Zaiets, Moderators

Natalia Kutuzova, Associate Professor, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus - Religious Organizations in the Public Environment in Belarus: Opportunities and Legal Restrictions

Dr. Anatoly Kolodny, Religious Studies Department, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine - Issues of Religious Freedom under the Revolution of Dignity

Professor Lyudmilla Fylypovich, Religious Studies Department, National Academy of Sciences - Ukraine's legislative initiatives in the field of freedom of religion under the new socio-political conditions

12:15-1:45 Lunch

1:45-3:00 Breakout sessions

Erebuni Room (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

Dr. Carmen Garcimartin and Vladimir Ryakhovsky, Moderators

Dr. Merlin Kiviorg, Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law, University of Tartu Faculty of Law - Conscientious Objection: Challenges in the European Anti-discrimination Framework

Anatoliy Pchelintsev, Slavic Centre for Law and Justice - Military Oaths and Religious Beliefs: Legal Solutions

Elizabeth A. Clark, Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School - Conscientious Objection and a Pluralistic Society

Professor Henryk Hoffman, Jagellonian University Institute of Religious Studies - Actual Problems to Ensure the Right for Freedom of Conscience in Poland

Urartu Room (session in Russian only)

RUSSIAN CULTURE, MEDIA, AND TOLERANCE

Dr. Vladimir Storchak and Mikhail Sitnikov, Moderators

Andrey Melnikov - Mass Media become the main target for the clergy in Russia

Olga Ganina, Assistant Professor of the Chair of Philosophy and Cultural Studies, Volga region State University of Service - The problem of tolerance from the standpoint of Russian Orthodoxy

Professor William Schmidt, Department of Ethnic and Federative Relations, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration - Religious traditions and institutions,

Arame Room (session in English only)

REGULATION OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Professor Eileen Barker and Dean Martin Farek, Moderators

Nino Sukhishvili, EMC Human Rights Education and Monitoring Centre - State Agency for Religious Affairs of Georgia as a Religious Policy Instrument

Dr. Simon Yin, Legal Studies Department at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary - Religion and Law in Central and Eastern Europe: Focus on Religious Group Registration

Nino Atabegashvili, Ombudsman Office of Georgia - Freedom of Religion in the Last Annual Report of the Ombudsman of Georgia

3-3:15 **Break**

3:15-5 **Breakout sessions**

Erebuni Room (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Dr. Davit Mikayelyan and Dr. Alla Aristova, Moderators

Armine Davtyan, Collaboration for Democracy NGO - Phenomenon of "Spiritual Person" as a Goal for Spiritual-Educational Process

Saule Sarkenova, Senior Lecturer, Karaganda University "Bolashak" Department of Law - Attitudes of Young People to Kazakhstan's Legislation on Religion

Isabella Sargsyan, Eurasia Partnership Foundation - Challenges Children and Youth from Religious and Ethnic Minority Groups Face in Armenia

Urartu Room (session in Russian only)

LEGAL REGULATION AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN UKRAINE

Professor Lyudmila Fylypovich and Professor Ekaterina Elbakian, moderators

Dr. Oleksandr Sagan, Head of the History of Religion Department, H.Scovoroda Philosophy Institute of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences - Features of legislative regulation for issues of national security in the religious sphere and legal protection of equality for churches

Dr. Dmytro Vovk, Assistant Professor of the Yaroslav the Wise National Law University - Balancing religious freedom against public order: Jurisprudence of Ukrainian Courts

Oleksandr Zaiets, Public Council of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on Matters of Cooperation with Churches and Religious Organizations and the Public Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Matters of Cooperation with Religious Organizations - Perspective of development of religious freedom in the legislation of Ukraine under the context of state-confessional dialogue

5-5:30 **Final plenary, Erebuni Room (translation into Armenian, English, and Russian)**

Moderators: Professors Cole Durham and Ekaterina Elbakian