



International
Religious
Liberty
Association

14th IRLA Meeting of Experts

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
August 20-22, 2012

**INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
ASSOCIATION**

14TH MEETING OF EXPERTS

An International Think Tank on Religious Freedom

***Models of Secularity and Religious Freedom: Canada,
the United States of America, and Europe***

**Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
August 20-22, 2012**

Monday, August 20

Topic I. Religion and Freedom of Expression in Secular Societies

7.45 Steering Committee at Hotel (Azure Restaurant)

8.45 Bus Departs for University

9.30-10.00 Chair: John Graz
Welcome: John Graz
Introduction to 14th Meeting of Experts: John Graz
Introduction of Theme: Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes
Information: Dwayne Leslie

10.00-11.00 Session I
Chair: Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes
Secretary: Nicholas Miller
Lecture 1: Jeremy Gunn – *Origins of the Terms
Secularism, Secularization, Laïcité, and the
Separation of Church and State in Europe and
The United States*
Discussion

11.00-11.30 Break

11.30-12.30 Session II
Chair: Jaime Contreras

Secretary: Nicholas Miller

Lecture 2: Blandine Chelini-Pont – *Evolution of Freedom of Conscience and Respect of Religious Convictions in France in 2011-2012*

Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 Session III

Chair: Karnik Doukmetzian

Secretary: Nicholas Miller

Lecture 3: Barry Bussey – *Why Protect Religious Expression?*

Discussion

Lecture 4: Natan Lerner – *From Defamation of Religion to Incitement to Religious Hatred*

Discussion

16.00-16.30 Break

16.30-18.00 Session IV

Chair: Mitchell Tyner

Secretary: Nicholas Miller

Lecture 5: W Cole Durham – *Comparative Approaches to Offensive Religious Expression*

Discussion

Tuesday, August 21

Topic II. Freedom of Conscience in the Workplace

7.15 Steering Committee at Hotel (Azure Restaurant)

8.15 Bus Departs for University

9.00-11.00 Session V

Chair: Delbert Baker

Secretary: Nicholas Miller

Lecture 6: Jaime Rossell – *Religion and Non-discrimination in the Workplace: The European Directive 2000/78*

Discussion
Lecture 7: Todd McFarland – *Secularity and the
False Promise of Equality in the United States*
Discussion

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.30 Session VI
Chair: Blandine Chelini-Pont
Secretary: Nicholas Miller
Lecture 8: Raimundo Barreto – *Religion and Global
Civil Society: the Resurgence and Importance of
Religion in Contemporary International Politics*
Discussion
Information from Statement Committee

12.30-13.45 Lunch

Tuesday Afternoon: FREE TIME

Wednesday, August 22

Topic III. Religious Freedom in Schools

7.15 Steering Committee at Hotel (Azure Restaurant)

8.15 Bus Departs for University

9.00-10.00 Session VII
Chair: Barry Bussey
Secretary: Nicholas Miller
Lecture 9: Benjamin L Berger – *Schooling Pluralism:
Education, Community Formation, and the
Structural Limits of Religious Freedom*
Discussion

10.00-10.30 Break

10.30-11.30 Lecture 10: Shauna Van Praagh – *From Secondary
School to the Supreme Court of Canada and
Back: Dancing the Tango of “Ethics, Culture
and Religion”*
Discussion

- 11.30-12.30 Session VIII
 Chair: Dwayne Leslie
 Secretary: Nicholas Miller
 Lecture 11: Natasha Bakht – *Religious Practice in the face of Islamophobia: Canadian Curtailments of Niqab Wearing Women*
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 Session IX
 Chair: John Graz
 Secretary: Nicholas Miller
 Lecture 12: Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes – *Rethinking Secularism and Religions*
 Lecture 13: Jaime Contreras – *Rethinking Secularism and Religions*
 Discussion
 General Remarks
- 15.30-16.00 Break
- 16.00-17.45 Session X
 Chair: David Little
 Secretary: Nicholas Miller
 Statement Committee Report
 John Graz: IRLA Information; 2013 IRLA Meeting of Experts—Venue & Theme
 Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes: The IRLA Meeting of Experts—What have we accomplished? What should be the next step?
 John Graz: Closing Remarks

COMMITTEES

Statement Committee: Nicholas Miller (Chair), Barry Bussey, Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes, Ganoune Diop, David Little, Todd McFarland, Shauna Van Praagh

Steering Committee: John Graz (Chair), Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes, Ganoune Diop, Dwayne Leslie, Todd McFarland, Barry Bussey

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Experts and Friends,

What a great honor and privilege it is to welcome all of you to the 14th IRLA Meeting of Experts. We are very pleased to welcome university professors from Canada and to have back with us Professors Nathan Lerner and Jeremy Gunn.

Last year our meeting was held at the University of Sydney, School of Law. It was a great meeting, but also a sad one, as we lost one of our friends and colleagues, Karel Nowak, just before the start of the meeting. His successor, Liviu Olteanu, will be with us in Toronto.

When I look back at the history of the Meeting of Experts, I am impressed and very grateful. I am impressed by the work that has been done. The IRLA Meeting of Experts has met at some prestigious universities and has been blessed by the contribution of top experts in the fields of human rights and religious freedom. Over the years it has become a group of friends who defend the same value—Religious freedom should be available for all people everywhere. I am grateful for those who have faithfully attended the meetings for 14 years, or most of those years, and for those who have just joined us the past few years.

The 14th meeting will be the second one on the theme of *Secularism and Religious Freedom*. This was also the theme of our 7th IRLA World Congress held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on April 24 to 26. It is now time to produce a significant document. At the conclusion of this meeting, a declaration or statement will be approved and then published in *Fides et Libertas*. Several of the papers presented during this meeting will also be published in our journal.

During this meeting we will choose the location for the 2013 meeting, and we will spend some time thinking about the future. The IRLA Meeting of Experts has become one of the most

important annual international think tanks on religious freedom.
What direction should it take for the next five years?

Thank you to all our faithful members, thanks to Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes and Ganoune Diop for the organization of the academic program, to Barry Bussey for his help in bringing the meeting to Canada, to Dwayne Leslie for arranging the logistics, and, of course, to our support team Gail Banner and Carol Rasmussen.

May God bless this 14th IRLA Meeting of Experts.

Dr John Graz
Secretary General

PARTICIPANTS

Dr Delbert Baker – IRLA Vice President, Vice President of General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; former President of Oakwood University

Professor Natasha Bakht – Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa

Dr Raimundo Barreto – Director, Division of Freedom and Justice, Baptist World Alliance

Professor Benjamin Berger – Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Attorney Barry Bussey – Vice President for Legal Affairs, Canadian Council of Christian Charities; former Secretary of United Nations NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Professor Blandine Chelini-Pont – Professor of History, Law and Religion, Université Paul Cézanne

Attorney Gerald Chipeur – Partner, Miller Thomson LLP, Calgary; Contributing Editor, *Charter and Human Rights Litigation Quarterly*

Attorney E Isaac Collie – IRLA Secretary General for the Atlantic Caribbean region.

Professor Jaime Contreras – Professor and Vice Rector of the University of Acala, Spain; Vice President of the Association Hispano-Italiana of Modern History

Dr Ganoune Diop – IRLA United Nations Liaison

Attorney Karnik Doukmetzian – IRLA Vice President; General Counsel of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Professor W Cole Durham Jr – Director of the Brigham Young University International Center for Law and Religious Studies at the J Reuben Clark Law School.

Dr John Graz – IRLA Secretary General; Secretary, Conference of Secretaries of the Christian World Communions

Professor T Jeremy Gunn – Associate Professor, International Studies, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco

Professor Natan Lerner – Former professor at Tel Aviv University; teaches international law, human rights, and law and religion, at the Interdisciplinary Center at Herzliya, near Tel Aviv

Attorney Dwayne Leslie – IRLA Deputy Secretary General and Congressional Liaison

Dr David Little – Professor Emeritus of the Practice in Religion, Ethnicity and International Conflict, Harvard Divinity School

Attorney Grace Mackintosh – IRLA Secretary General for Canada

Professor Rosa Maria Martinez de Codes – IRLA Vice President; Professor on the Faculty of History of the Complutense University in Madrid, Spain; former Vice Director of Religious Affairs in Spain's Ministry of Justice

Attorney Todd McFarland – IRLA Legal Advisor

Dr Nicholas Miller – Director of the International Religious Liberty Institute at Andrews University

Attorney Liviu Olteanu – Secretary General, International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty, Berne, Switzerland

Professor Jaime Rossell – Professor of Law, Universidad de Extremadura

Attorney Mitchell Tyner – Former IRLA Legal Advisor; former Associate General Counsel, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Professor Shauna Van Praagh – Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University