



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Religion and development: making better policy to make a bigger difference in Africa

Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 May 2015 | WP1400

To be held in Cape Town

Following on from the Wilton Park event on Religion, Foreign Policy and Development in February 2014, this event aims to focus on how development policies can be of the most benefit and long term impact across Africa.

Policy makers at governmental and inter-governmental levels including the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations are increasingly aware of the value gained from engaging religious actors in support of development and human rights programmes. In 2000 the World Bank created a small unit for DDVE, Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics. Its purpose was to contribute to analytical work, capacity development and dialogue on issues related to values and ethics. This included acting as a focal point on the intersection of faith and development. More recently the US State Department created an office focused on engagement with faith-based communities. This came less than a year after the publication of DFID's 'Faith Partnership Principles', and is indicative of the recognised need to strengthen policy making processes by engaging with religious actors and institutions across the full range of functions and regions, including Africa. The contested nature of some faith-based provision, including healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa, highlights the need to better inform policy in order make a bigger difference.

This event will bring together policy makers, representatives of different religions and faith-based organisations, as well as related public policy and civil society or development organisations, the media, academics and other stakeholders. This conference aims to;

- Draw policy makers, diplomats/international practitioners and religious actors into dialogue about the best interface between religion, human rights and development.
- Survey current and emerging institutional arrangements for engagement with religion and faith-based organisations [FBOs] within Africa in order to identify current and emerging good practice.
- Strengthen policy machinery within government, NGOs and FBOs by improved information sharing and co-ordination about engagement with religious actors in support of human rights and societal transformation.

In association with:

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
LAW AND RELIGION STUDIES
AT
BYU
BRIGHAM YOUNG

(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes to be confirmed)

Wednesday 20 May

1600

Participants arrive, tea and coffee available

1700

1. Welcome and introduction

Why is religion an important topic in the contemporary international arena? What role can religion play in development and human rights programmes in Africa? How does the role of religion differ in contexts across the continent? Do we ignore religion and religious identity to the detriment of making better policy and a bigger difference in development contexts?

Gary Wilton

Canon Emeritus of Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Brussels; Vicar of All Saints, Ecclesall and Visiting Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1730-1900

2. Overcoming institutional incapacity for religious engagement: governmental and intergovernmental perspectives

What are the key inhibitors to developing coherent and robust governmental and intergovernmental capacity for engagement with religion, religious actors and Faith Based Organisations (FBO's) in Africa? How do we overcome them? Where is good practice starting to emerge? What are the risks, challenges and benefits for policymaking?

Michael Battcock

Governance Coordinator, Civil Society Team, Department for International Development (DFID), London

Peter Kwame Yeboah

Executive Director, Christian Health Association of Ghana, Accra

***Manuel Fernando**

National Director for Religious Affairs (INAR), Angola

1900

Conference photograph

1930

Drinks reception followed by dinner

Thursday 21 May

0800-0915

Breakfast

0915-1045

3. Challenging the barriers, minimising the risks and maximising the benefits of engagement with religion and religious actors within development or transitional contexts

What are the barriers and risks for governments in engagement with religion, religious actors and FBOs in different contexts across Africa? How can these be challenged, removed or worked with? What are the opportunities and challenges of building government capacity to work with FBOs in support of development processes, including the promotion of human rights? How can government reach out to grass roots FBOs?

Abdulmumini Adebayo Oba

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin

Eunice Kamaara

Professor, Department of Philosophy, Religion and Theology, Moi University, Eldoret

João Paulo de Sousa

Journalist and Producer, Angola National Radio, Luanda

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1245

4. Engaging with religion and religious actors in situations of tension and conflict in support of social cohesion, conflict resolution and peace building

What are the specific challenges associated with situations of tension and conflict where religion is one of the factors? How can FBOs contribute to conflict resolution or peace building? What are the risks, challenges and opportunities of involving religious actors or FBOs in conflict mediation?

Mustafa Y. Ali

Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children Director, Arigatou International, Nairobi

Musa Khalil

Vice Chair, Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative, Uganda

Gerald Musa

Lecturer, Catholic Institute of West Africa, Port Harcourt

1300-1430

Lunch

1500-1630

5. Assessing the challenges and risks for FBOs when they engage with public policy-making processes? How can they contribute more fully in support of making a bigger difference in development contexts?

What are the risks and challenges for FBOs in engagement with government and international organisations? What inhibits their making a full and effective contribution to development and the promotion of human rights? How do grass roots FBOs need to change or build the capacity and confidence to contribute to policy development? How can FBOs work with government without compromising their confessional position?

Abamfo Ofori Atiemo

Senior Lecturer, Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Accra

Yoram Siame

Advocacy and Public Relations Manager, Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ), Lusaka

Lucy V. Moore

Senior Policy Advisor, Conflict Transformation and Fragile States, HROD Division, Islamic Relief Worldwide, London

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

6. Confronting the contextual issues that inhibit religion, religious actors or FBO's from being active contributors to development policy processes?

How do different secular or theocratic approaches to government impact on development processes? How do faith based and or grass roots perspectives on gender and sexuality impact FBO contributions to policy development, including human rights? How helpful or not are international initiatives related to Freedom of Religion or Belief?

Obed Kealotswe

Senior Lecturer Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana, Gaborone

Ulrich Nitschke

Head, Sector Programme Values, Religion and Development, German Society for

International Cooperation, Bonn

1930

Reception followed by Conference dinner

Friday 22 May

0800-0915

Breakfast

0915-0930

eQuestionnaire completion

0930-1045

7. Engaging with political actors who bring overt religious identity to development processes: what are the challenges and prospects?

What are the specific challenges of working with political groups who have an ideological or normative basis drawn from a particular religion? What have been the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches adopted by government and NGOs? How does religious-political identity impact on development processes and the promotion of human rights?

Achmat Sedick

Vice-President, Muslim Judicial Council, Athlone

Merete Bilde

Policy Advisor, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Muhammed Haron

Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana, Gabarone

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1230

8. Looking ahead – What creative linkages can be made between domestic and international policy? What does mainstreaming of engagement with religion look like? How do we make better policy to make a bigger difference?

Should governments and intergovernmental organisations make distinctive provision for policy engagement with FBOs? What are the downsides to such proposals? What might mainstreaming look like? How might relationships between government and religious actors develop in the next decade?

Scott Thomas

Senior Lecturer, Politics of Developing Countries and International Relations, University of Bath

Katherine Marshall

Executive Director, World Faith Development Dialogue; Visiting Professor and Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University, Washington DC

Mohamed Kheirou Aden

Director General, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Federal Government of Somalia, Mogadishu

1230

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

Enquiries about participation or the programme to: Susan Bruce, Project Manager

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