



MINISTRY OF HUMAN CAPACITIES
DEPUTY STATE SECRETARIAT FOR THE AID OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

**International Consultation on Christian Persecution – Finding the
Appropriate Answers to a Long Neglected Crisis
(Budapest, October 11-13, 2017)**

**Venue: Corinthia Hotel Budapest
(1073 Budapest, Erzsébet körút 43-49.)**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER

7.00 am Opening and Dinner

Venue: Monte City Rendezvénypalota (1051 Budapest, Dorottya u. 2.)

Welcome Speech by Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog

THURSDAY, 12TH OCTOBER

9:00 to 10:20 am Inauguration

(Venue: Corinthia Hotel, 1073 Budapest, Erzsébet körút 43-49).

Host of the Conference: Minister of Human Capacities Mr. Zoltán Balog

Opening Speeches:

- *Msgr. dr. András Veres, Bishop of Győr, President of the Hungarian Catholic Bishop's Conference*
- *Testimony of Nigerian Scholarship Holder John Oluwafemi Oni*
- *Bishop dr. István Szabó, Danubian District of the Reformed Church in Hungary*
- *Testimony of Iraqi Scholarship Holder Husam Banno*
- *Prime Minister of Hungary Mr. Viktor Orbán*

- *Keynote speech by Minister of Human Capacities Mr. Zoltán Balog*

10:20-11:20 am – Accounts by Accounts by Middle Eastern Christian Church leaders:

- *His Excellency Bashar Matti Warda, Chaldean Archbishop of Erbil*



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- *His Holiness Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East and Supreme Head of the Syriac Orthodox Church;*
- *His Beatitude Ignatius Youssef III Younan, Patriarch of the Syriac Catholic Church*

11:20-11:50 am Coffee Break

11:50 am – 12:20 pm – Plenary Sessions

- *US Congressman **Chris Smith**'s Video Message*
- *EU Special Envoy of Religion and Religious Belief Outside the EU **Mr. Ján Figel***
- *Co-chair of the EPP Group Working Group on Interreligious Dialogue at the European Parliament **Mr. György Hölvényi***

12:20-13:00 pm - Introductory Presentations of the Eastern and Western Churches

- *His Eminence **Metropolitan Hilarion**, Metropolitan of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations*
- *Adviser to the Cardinal **Mr. Manuel Maan Baghdi** reads out the message of His Eminence **Christoph Schönborn**, Cardinal of Vienna*
- *His Eminence **Emmanul Adamakis**, Metropolitan of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*
- *General Director of the Migration Research Institute **Dr. Balázs Orbán** presents the 'Budapest Report 2017'*

13:00-13:10 pm – Group photo for the Press at the Grand Staircase of the Hotel

13:10-14:20 pm - Lunch

14:20-16:00 pm - Panel Discussions

- *International Guarantees as Potential Means and the Foreign Policy of the EU with regards to the Fight against Persecution of Christians*



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(Director of ACN France Mr. Marc Fromager, H.H. Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East and Supreme Head of the Syriac Orthodox Church, EU Special Envoy Mr. Ján Figel', Executive Director of Religious Freedom Institute in Washington, DC Mr. Kent Hill)

- ***Possible Fields of Cooperation of State and Non-state Actors in the Fight against Persecution of Christians*** *(Paul Coleman L.L.M, Executive Director of ADF International, His Excellency Bashar Matti Warda, Chaldean Archbishop of Erbil, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus Mr. Carl A. Anderson, Rev. Fr. Imre Kozma OH, President of Vatican Foundation International Center Family of Nazareth Dott. Salvatore Martinez)*
- ***Long term Perspectives of Co-habitation in Regions Afflicted by Persecution of Christians*** *(President of International Catholic Legislator's Network Dr. Christiaan Alting von Geusau, H.E. Mar Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf, Metropolitan of Mosul, Kirkuk, Kurdistan Region, Co-chair of the EPP Group Working Group on Interreligious Dialogue at the European Parliament György Hölvényi)*
- ***The Most Urgent Tasks in the Fight against Persecution of Christians*** *(Thomas Schirrmacher, H.B. Ignatius Youssef III Younan, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East of the Syriacs, Senior Fellow and Director, Hudson Institute, Center for Religious Freedom Ms. Nina Shea, Fr. Benedict Kiely)*

16:00-16:30 pm - Coffee Break

16:30-17:30 pm - Continuation/Closing of Panel Discussions

17:30-18:30 - Christians on the Niniveh Plain

- *Director of the Niniveh Reconstruction Project Mr. Stephen M. Rasche*
- *Senior Fellow and Director, Hudson Institute, Center for Religious Freedom Ms. Nina Shea*



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18:30 pm - Transfer to the Hungarian National Museum

19:00 pm - Visiting of the Exhibition 'Cross in Fire' (Kereszt-tűzben)

- *General Director of the Hungarian National Museum Mr. **Benedek Varga** welcomes the Guests*
- *Dinner at the Museum*

FRIDAY, 13TH OCTOBER

09:00-10:30 am - Plenary sessions

*Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. **Péter Szijjártó**: 'Christian Values in Foreign Policy Strategy'*

*Parliamentary State Secretary Mr. **Bence Rétvári**'s presentation: 'Added Value of State Level Engagement in the Aid to Persecuted Christians'*

*Hungary Helps Ambassador-at-Large Mr. **Péter Heltai**'s introduction of the Hungary Helps Initiative*

10:30-11:00 am - Coffee break

11:00 am -12:30 pm - Summary of Panel Discussions

*Accounts of Panel Leaders, in 5 minutes each. Debate and Amendments to the Declaration, Adoption of the Text; moderator: President of the International Catholic Legislators' Network Mag. **Dr. Christian Alting von Geusau***

12:30-13:00 pm - Short break

13:00-13:20 pm - Closure

*Summary, Concluding Remarks by Deputy State Secretary for the Aid of Persecuted Christians Mr. **Tristan Azbej***

14:00 pm - Lunch



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Departure of Delegations