



Jubilee Campaign Reviews its Events from 2021

Jubilee Campaign wishes a very happy holiday season to you and your family, and we hope that you will find a way to celebrate safely with your loved ones.

In the week leading up to Christmas, we will be updating you on Jubilee Campaign's biggest projects of 2021 and the various successes we made in the realm of international religious freedom. For the first time in over a year, we were able to meet with our colleagues in person at the inaugural IRF Summit in Washington, D.C., where we planned future advocacy initiatives, held an event, and made new friends and partners. We are fully prepared and excited to bring our advocacy plans to fruition in 2022.

International Religious Freedom Summit Event: Free to Choose

At the first annual International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington, D.C. in July 2021, Jubilee Campaign teamed up with four other organizations - Christian Freedom International, Set My People Free, The St. Charles Institute, and Religious Liberty Partnership to form the Abolish Anti-Conversion Laws and Apostasy Penalties Coalition. We hosted a hybrid in-person and virtual event "Free to Choose", featuring survivors of apostasy convictions - Mariam Ibraheem of Sudan, Marziyeh Amirizadeh of Iran, and Cheikh Mkhaitir of Mauritania - as well as US Senator James Lankford and US Representative Jamie Raskin, experts Tehmina Arora, Kamal Fahmi, and Godfrey Yogarajah, and the honorable Ambassador Jos Douma who serves as The Netherlands' Special Envoy for Religion and Belief. Our distinguished speakers all shared one common assertion: all nations, regardless of faith tradition or non-faith tradition, must uphold their obligations under international law to advance religious freedom, including the right to express a wide range of beliefs, renounce a faith, abandon a belief, or convert religions.



Pictured Above (from left): Mariam Ibraheem, Ann Buwalda, Ambassador Jos Douma, Marziyeh Amirizadeh

Regrettably, in some countries, being a religious convert could mean prolonged imprisonment, torture, statelessness, indoctrination, mob violence, and even execution. Iranian Christian convert Marziyeh Amirizadeh shared her experience being sentenced to death by hanging for her faith alongside her friend Maryam Rostampour; in detention, the

two women were pressured to renounce Christianity, were deprived of clean water and sunlight, and were relegated to cramped and unsanitary conditions. Mariam Ibraheem of Sudan shared her story of being arrested during her second pregnancy for allegedly committing apostasy by being a Muslim woman wishing to marry a Christian man; Mariam repeatedly asserted that she had not committed apostasy, as she had identified as Christian her entire life.

UN General Assembly Third Committee Event: On Stemming the Role of Criminal Groups in Contemporary Slavery Within Nigeria

UNICEF reports that criminal gangs have abducted 1,436 Nigerian children, with 16 children having perished as a result of such kidnappings in 2021 alone, and over 200 children still missing and/or in captivity. In October, the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law reported that no fewer than 4,400 Nigerian Christians had been killed by radical Islamic militants between January and September 2021. Jubilee Campaign was honored to co-host a side event to the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee alongside the Sovereign Order of Malta. The event was moderated by His Excellency Professor Michel Veuthey, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to combat and monitor trafficking in persons, and we welcomed a plethora of experts, witnesses, and activists.

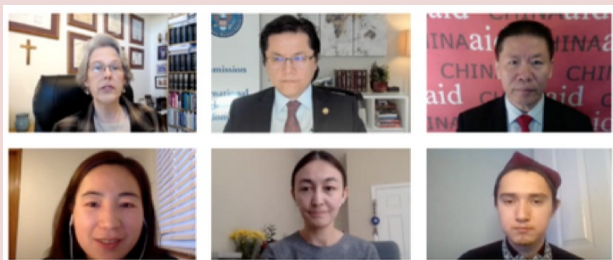


Some of our distinguished speakers raised a myriad of causes of the unending abductions and sexual slavery in Nigeria. Ms. H el ene Fisher highlighted that, as is the case in numerous countries, in Nigeria religious minority women face double vulnerabilities due to both their faith and their gender. While Nigeria's general insecurity, financial struggles, and political tensions certainly play a role in criminal activity, faith and gender play a substantial part in abduction and slavery; there is a reason why a large portion of kidnapped women and girls are of the Christian faith or are moderate Muslims that are considered apostates by radical Islamist groups. Many of our speakers also provided some great recommendations to both the international community and the government of Nigeria. Dr. Gloria Puldu urged the United Nations to place pressure on Nigeria to bring its own domestic laws on the rights and protection of women and girls into line with international standards and conventions; she also highlighted the need for monitoring of the humanitarian situation in Nigeria by the International Criminal Court.

Pictured Above (from left): Ann Buwalda, H.E. Prof. Michel Veuthey, Special Rapporteur Tomoya Obokata, H el ene Fisher, Teyei Pam, Fatima Njoku, Father Joseph Bature Fidelis, Dr. Gloria Puldu, Dr. Oluwasayo Ajiboye

UN Human Rights Council 46 Event: Grant Every Child Every Right

Pictured Below (from left): Ann Buwalda, USCIRF Commissioner Nury Turkel, Dr. Bob Fu, Esther, Kalbunur, Arfat



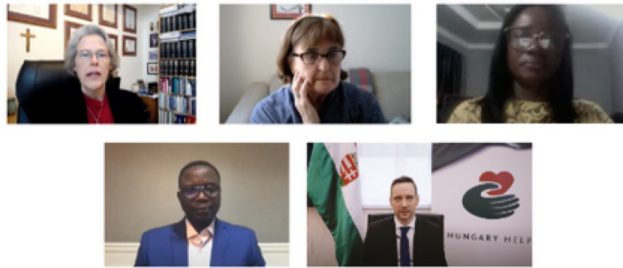
In early 2021, Jubilee Campaign hosted four virtual parallel events to the United Nations Human Rights Council's 46th Session. In "Grant Every Child Every Right", we welcomed numerous distinguished speakers, including four witnesses of persecution - Esther, Cindy, Kalbinur, and Arfat - as well as experts Dr. Bob

Fu of ChinaAid and USCIRF Chair Nury Turkel. As was raised by each of our speakers, the Chinese government has embarked on a ruthless campaign to forcibly assimilate and suppress the religious, spiritual, linguistic, and cultural traditions of its ethnic and faith minorities, including Uyghurs, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners, and more. Regrettably, children bear the brunt of this persecution, as they are banned from entering houses of worship and are rebuked for their own beliefs in school. At the same time, children of faith whose parents are imprisoned face tremendous emotional turmoil as a result of family separation. separation. Cindy, whose father was imprisoned for eight years for his identity as a Falun Gong practitioner, tearfully recalled seeing her father's beaten and battered body after his release and only being with him for a mere thirteen days before he passed away from his injuries. Arfat, a Uyghur, was studying abroad in the US in 2018 when he learned that both of his parents had been detained for their beliefs in Xinjiang. During our event, Arfat implored, " How many more children have joined the stolen generation? Imagine the psychological pain children are subjected to as they are suddenly separated from their family [...]"

UN Human Rights Council 46 Event: Justice & Accountability in Nigeria

Pictured Below (from left): Ann Buwalda, Baroness Caroline Cox, Alheri Magaji, Stephen Enada, Tristan Azbej

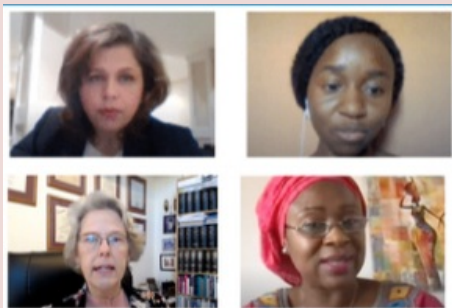
In "Justice & Accountability in Nigeria" Jubilee Campaign welcomed the honorable Baroness Caroline Cox (Member of UK House of Lords; Member of UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief; Founder of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust), Tristan Azbej (Hungary



State Secretary on Aid of Persecuted Christians), Stephen Enada (Executive President, International Committee on Nigeria), and Alheri Magaji (Co-founder, Resilient Aid Dialogue Initiative) to speak about the decades-long slaughter of Nigerian Christians and peaceful Muslims by groups such as Boko Haram, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), and Fulani militants. During Jubilee's virtual event, our speakers highlighted the need for justice and accountability for perpetrators - this would send a clear message that such criminal violence will not go unpunished, and it paves the way for recovery and rehabilitation. We recommend the establishment of an independent, impartial commission of inquiry to investigate atrocities and crimes against humanity, as it would be the first crucial step towards recognizing genocidal violence, providing reparations to victims and survivors, identifying and prosecuting perpetrators, and kickstarting peacebuilding and reconciliation.

UN Human Rights Council 46 Event: No One Left Behind

Pictured Below (from left): Gada Melek, Fatima Njoku, Ann Buwalda, Hon. Mama Fatima Singhateh, (not pictured) Hon. Mangla Sharma



In Jubilee Campaign's parallel event " No One Left Behind" , our speakers discussed the unfortunate reality that in many nations, religious minority girls are kidnapped, married against their will to their abductors, and forced to renounce their faith. The honorable Mangla Sharma, Member of the Pakistan Hindu Council and the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, shared how in Pakistan, radical Muslim men will abduct young Christian and Hindu girls, falsify their age to 18 years, marry them, and force them to

convert to Islam; such is the case of 13-year-old Arzoo Raja, who has fortunately been rescued and is safely housed in a government-run facility. Her parents, however, continue to seek prosecution for Arzoo's abductor who has been released on bail. Across the world in Egypt, Ghada Melek of Coptic Solidarity reveals, Coptic Christian women and girls have been routinely surveilled, abducted, and forcibly married to adult men; regrettably, the Egyptian government dismisses these cases by falsely claiming that the girls had eloped willingly. And in Nigeria, which Fatima Njoku of Stefanos Foundation addresses, Islamist militants such as Boko Haram and ISWAP kidnap schoolgirls, force them to convert to Islam, and use them as domestic and sexual slaves. ISWAP continues to hold 18-year-old Christian girl Leah Sharibu captive four years after abducting her as she refuses their demands to renounce her faith.

Jubilee Campaign Newsletter: 2021 Events



International Religious Freedom Summit 2021

FREE TO CHOOSE

In July 2021, Jubilee Campaign participated in the inaugural International Religious Freedom Summit which took place in Washington, D.C. In addition to attending numerous side events hosted by our partners in human rights and religious freedom advocacy, we hosted our own event. Jubilee Campaign teamed up with Christian Freedom International, Set My People Free, The St. Charles Institute, and Religious Liberty Partnership to form the Abolish Anti-Conversion Laws and Apostasy Penalties Coalition. We hosted a hybrid in-person and virtual event "Free to Choose", featuring survivors of apostasy convictions - Mariam Ibraheem of Sudan, Marziyeh Amirzadeh of Iran, and Cheikh Mkhaitir of Mauritania - as well as US Senator James Lankford and US Representative Jamie Raskin, experts Tehmina Arora, Kamal Fahmi, and Godfrey Yoganath, and the honorable Ambassador Jos Duuma who serves as The Netherlands' Special Envoy for Religion and Belief. Our distinguished speakers all shared one common assertion: all nations, regardless of faith tradition or non-faith tradition, must uphold their obligations under international law to advance religious freedom, including the right to express a wide range of beliefs, renounce a faith, abandon a belief, or convert religions. Regrettably, in some countries, being a religious convert could mean prolonged imprisonment, torture, statelessness, indoctrination, mob violence, and even execution. Iranian Christian convert Marziyeh Amirzadeh shared her experience being sentenced to death by hanging for her faith alongside her friend Maryam Rotampour; in detention, the two women were pressured to renounce Christianity, were deprived of clean water and sunlight, and were relegated to cramped and unsanitary conditions. Mariam Ibraheem of Sudan shared her story of being arrested during her second pregnancy for allegedly committing apostasy by being a Muslim woman wishing to marry a Christian man. Mariam repeatedly asserted that she had not committed apostasy, as she had identified as Christian her entire life.

It's very scary to see the things that have happened to people, including enforced disappearance, detainment, imprisonment, house arrest [...] It's going to be a really critical test of the progress of our enlightenment as a civilization whether we can get rid of these laws which are such a danger...

US REPRESENTATIVE JAMIE RASKIN (D-MD)

Pictured Above (From left): Mariam Ibraheem, Ann Elawad, Ambassador Jos Duuma, Marziyeh Amirzadeh

Numerous recommendations were made at "Free to Choose". For example, while abolishing apostasy and anti-conversion laws is a necessary step towards advancing religious freedom in repressive nations, it must be accompanied by legal protections for the free practice of faith and belief, societal movements promoting interfaith harmony, and also the repeal of blasphemy laws. Nations that refuse to repeal apostasy laws should immediately be disqualified for membership in the UN Human Rights Consultative Group; meanwhile, freedom-loving countries should review and adopt Magnitsky Acts or other relevant sanctions regimes and implement them to sanction judges, legislators, government officials, and other state actors who apply apostasy laws to criminalize religious conversions and the peaceful manifestation of one's beliefs.

Jubileecampaign.org A VITAL VOICE FOR THOSE SUFFERING IN SILENCE 5

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Please consider making a Christmas or year-end financial donation to Jubilee Campaign so that we can continue our crucial religious freedom and human rights advocacy in 2022!

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jubileecampaign.org

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