

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON THE

BAHÁ'Í FAITH



**The Rt Hon Baroness  
Anelay of St Johns  
DBE**

Minister of State at the  
Foreign &  
Commonwealth Office  
and Prime Minister's  
Special Representative  
on Preventing Sexual  
Violence in Conflict.

**Professor Brian J Grim**

President of the Religious  
Freedom & Business  
Foundation (RFBF) and a  
leading expert on  
international religious  
demography and the  
socio-economic impact of  
restrictions on religious  
freedom.



**Dr Nazila Ghanea**

Associate Professor of  
International Human  
Rights Law at the  
University of Oxford and  
Member of the OSCE  
Advisory Panel on  
Freedom of Religion or  
Belief.



SEMINAR ON

**Freedom of  
Religion and  
Economic  
Prosperity**

2 March 2016

MacMillan Suite, Portcullis House

09.00 am – 1.00 pm

For more information please contact  
the Office of Public Affairs:  
[receptions@bahai.org.uk](mailto:receptions@bahai.org.uk)

Religious freedom, or the lack of it, has emerged as one of the major challenges to human rights in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

International developments including intra-state conflict, state-sponsored repression and terrorism have increased as drivers for religious intolerance across the world and particularly in territories affected by the conflicts that have intensified in recent years. In an increasingly interdependent world, the transnational links between religious communities and diasporas allows hostilities from conflicts in one part of the world to increase tensions in other lands.

These events have infused momentum for the protection and promotion of the rights of freedom of religion or belief, including for those of no faith.

Whilst religious diversity is being denuded from some parts of the planet, it is growing in other parts of the world, including Europe and North America. Tensions between religious minorities and host communities are posing questions of what model any given society should pursue towards greater social cohesion and integration.

This seminar will examine assumptions underpinning the concept of freedom of religion or belief and identify barriers to the full acceptance of this right at the level of a universal value. Throughout the event, innovative ideas that equip business communities with tools, which have the potential to enhance awareness and to support religious freedom will be shared.

The seminar aims to offer a contribution to the wider discourse on freedom of religion or belief, and how this relates to economic prosperity.