

# - FORUM - THE FUTURE OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Borromeo Palace, Rome | 11 December 2018



To examine the challenges and the prospects concerning religious minorities in the war-torn Middle East, and to advocate for the respect of their fundamental human rights, first of all religious freedom. These are the major goals of the Forum "The Future of Religious Minorities in the Middle East" promoted by the Center for Studies on the Middle East of the Fundación Promoción Social, and the Religion & Security Council. The Forum will take place in Rome on Tuesday 11 December 2018, from 15 to 19 hours, at the Embassy of Italy to the Holy See (Borromeo Palace, Viale delle Belle Arti, no. 2), and will bring together institutional authorities and personalities from the political, religious, diplomatic, and academic field; officials of international organizations; researchers of think tanks and study centers; representatives of the civil society and the media. The proceedings will devote particular attention to the Middle East Christian communities, interreligious dialogue in conflicts resolution, and the role of the international community in the protection of minorities.

#### PARTNERS:



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## AGENDA

### 15.00 OPENING SESSION

#### WELCOME REMARKS

**H.E. Amb. Pietro SEBASTIANI**

Ambassador of Italy to the Holy See

**Ms. Jumana TRAD**

President, Fundación Promoción Social

### 15.30 FIRST SESSION

#### RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN AREAS OF CRISIS: CHALLENGES & PERSPECTIVES

**Rev. Fr. Rachid MISTRIH OFM**

Regional Minister for Syria, Lebanon, and  
Jordan, Custody of the Holy Land

**H.E. Hon. Pascal WARDA**

Former Minister of Immigration and  
Refugees, Iraq

**Prof. Nadim SHEHADI**

Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean  
Studies, Fletcher School of Law and  
Diplomacy, Tufts University

**Prof. Francesco ZANNINI**

Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic  
Studies

**Introduction and Moderation**

**Mr. Roberto FONTOLAN**

"Stand Together" Project

### 16.30 SECOND SESSION

#### INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE & CONFLICTS RESOLUTION: WHAT ROLE FOR CHRISTIANS?

**Prof. Fr. Laurent BASANESE SJ**

Director of the Centre for Interreligious  
Studies, Pontifical Gregorian University

**Prof. Elie AL HINDY**

Notre Dame University-Louaize

**Mr. Abdellah REDOUANE**

Secretary General, Cultural Islamic  
Center of Italy

**Prof. Ambrogio BONGIOVANNI**

Pontifical Urbaniana University

**Introduction and Moderation**

**Mr. Emiliano STORNELLI**

Chairman of the Religion & Security  
Council

### 17.30 THIRD SESSION

#### MINORITY PROTECTION: WHAT ROLE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY?

**H.E. Sen. Paola BINETTI**

Member of the Senate of the Republic

**H.E. Prof. Agostino BORROMEO**

Lieutenant General, Equestrian Order of  
the Holy Sepulcher

**Ms. Pascale DEBBANE**

Regional Coordinator for the Middle  
East - Migrants & Refugees Section,  
DIHD, Holy See

**Couns. Ms. Michela CARBONIERO**

Head of Human Rights Office,  
Directorate General for Political Affairs  
and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation

**Introduction and Moderation**

**Ms. Marta PETROSILLO**

Spokesperson of ACN Aid to the Church  
in Need-Italy

### 18.30 CONCLUSIONS

**H.E. Hon. Antonio TAJANI**

President of the European Parliament

#### PARTNERS:



ORDO EQUITRIS  
SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI



800 YEARS  
of Franciscan Presence  
in the Middle East

