

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

5th March 2018

Jean Constant,

RE: PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the persecution of Christians around the world.

I am extremely concerned about the persecution of Christians worldwide and want to work to a future where children can practice their faith without fear.

I was encouraged that the Prime Minister raised the issue of Freedom of Religion or Belief in her recent Christmas message, reaffirming the UK's determination to stand up for the freedom of people of all religions to speak about and practice their beliefs in peace and safety.

I know that promoting and defending Freedom of Religion or Belief is a foreign policy priority for the Government. This year we will celebrate 70 years of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Freedom of religion, or belief, matters because faith guides the daily lives of more than 80 percent of the world's population. It also matters because promoting tolerance and respect for all helps us to have inclusive societies that are more stable, prosperous, and better able to resist extremism.

The UK recently worked with international partners to sustain consensus on the adoption and implementation of the European Union-sponsored Resolution on 'Freedom of Religion or Belief' and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation-sponsored Resolution on 'Combating Religious Intolerance'.

In his statement in September, at the UN Human Rights Council, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, Lord Ahmad, reiterated the importance of working together towards the full realisation of Freedom of Religion or Belief for all individuals worldwide. The UK also strongly supports the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

with best wishes,

Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
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LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU
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