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CENTRAL EUROPE



Preserving Identity in the Face of Oppression: Religious Freedom and National Identity in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia

Date: 1 pm – 5 pm, February 2, 2023

Venue: International Meridian Center, White-Meyer House, Washington, D.C.

Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia is a region that has been shaped by religious freedom and the interplay between religious and national identities. This panel will explore the ways in which these identities have been maintained or challenged in the face of ideological oppression, particularly during the 20th century. The panel will focus on specific case studies from Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Romania and Armenia, highlighting the diverse paths of religious freedom and identity in the region. The role of religion in preserving cultural and national identities will be emphasized.

Arrival (1 pm – 1:30 pm)

Keynotes (1:30-2pm)

Eric Patterson, PhD (Executive Vice President of the Religious Freedom Institute, Washington DC, Research Fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs)

George E. Bogden, PhD (Helmut Schmidt Fellow, German Marshall Fund, Member, Freedom & Identity in Central Europe): “Comparing Approaches: Freedom of Religion and Identity in the U.S. and CEE Region”

Panel presentations (2-3:30 pm)

1. **Marek Chodakiewicz, PhD** (Professor, Director of the Center for Intermarium Studies, Institute of World Politics): “Religion and National Identity in Poland: 966-Now”
2. **Lilla Nóra Kiss, PhD** (Visiting Scholar and Adjunct Faculty, George Mason University, Founding Member, Freedom & Identity in Central Europe): “Limiting Freedom and Persecuting Churches: The Impact of Soviet Dictatorship on Religious Practice in Hungary”
3. **Emese Latkóczy** (Director, Hungarian Human Rights Foundation): “The Forgotten Religious Injustice in Romania: 33 Years of Failed Property Restitution”
4. **Peter Burns** (Executive Director, International Religious Freedom Summit): “Transcending the Chains of Communism: The Evolution of Religious Identity in Armenia”
5. **Mónika Palotai** (Visiting Fellow, Hudson Institute, Founding Member, Freedom & Identity in Central Europe): “Role of the Russian Orthodox Church in the War against Ukraine” (moderator)

Q&A (3:30-4 pm)

Closing remarks (4-4:15 pm)

Paul Coyer, PhD (Vice President, Common Sense Society, Professor, Institute of World Politics)

Reception (4:15-5 pm)

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