Religious Freedom

Leadership Development Team
Religious freedom is important to the rule of law and essential to a civil society

• “Religious freedom is more than just the freedom to believe what you want. It’s also the freedom to talk about and act on your core beliefs without interference from government or others, except when necessary to protect health and safety. It also allows people with similar beliefs to form religious organizations that govern their own affairs.”

(www.lds.org/religious-freedom)

“Religious Freedom in Mexico” Conference, Monterrey Mexico
“We must not stay quiet, but actively defend religious freedom and protect families.” Elder Paul B. Pieper, LDS Area President
IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

“[R]eligious freedom is indeed under attack,” Elder Christofferson told an audience in the Marriott Center at Brigham Young University. “I am convinced that those who question the value or even the legitimacy of religious freedom do not understand that it is woven into the very soul of America.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson, Provo, Utah, June 26, 2016

“Law, Religious Freedom and Liberty of Conscience” Conference, Puebla Mexico JRCLS Chapter, Tecamachalco, Puebla
200 attendees including law students, faculty members, and attorneys from the local university
Main Speaker: Manual Rojas, Federal Magistrate & JRCLS Chair
**People of Faith Must Protect Religious Freedom**

“People of faith must be at the forefront in protecting religious freedom — a freedom from which many other essential freedoms emanate,” explains Elder Cook. “Freedom of religion and freedom of speech are both at the heart and the foundation of representative democracy. Freedom to believe in private and to exercise belief and speech in the public square are essential to protecting inalienable rights.”

Elder Quentin L. Cook, Sydney, Australia, May 27, 2015

“Religious Freedom Forum,” Tuxtla Gutierrez Mexico JRCLS Chapter
Attended by all Mexico JRCLS Chapter Chairs, the LDS Area President, the President of the State Congress, the Chief Justice for the State of Chiapas, and the Secretary of State as a representative of the Chiapas governor, as well as hundreds of attendees, including religious leaders from all over the country, attorneys, and government employees, media, newspapers, and TV News
RELIGION & HUMAN RIGHTS

- Religion must “be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate.”

  James Madison
CHAPTERS AROUND THE WORLD PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Across the globe from Moscow, Russia, to Sydney, Australia, and from Washington, D.C., to Chiapas, Mexico Chapters have held religious-liberty conferences and other activities to strengthen religious freedom for all.
RECENT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONFERENCES

- 7th Annual International Religious Liberty Award Dinner, Mid-Atlantic JRCLS Chapter, Washington D.C.
- Law, Religious Freedom and Liberty of Conscience, Puebla Mexico JRCLS Chapter
- Interfaith Dialogue with the Muslim Communities, Mexico City Mexico JRCLS Chapter
- Human Rights, Religious Freedom, and Liberty of Conscience, 2nd Conference, Puebla Mexico JRCLS Chapter
- Conferencia de Libertad Religiosa América Central
- Religious Liberty Forum, Tuxtla Gutierrez Mexico JRCLS Chapter
- Religious Liberty Luncheon, Denver JRCLS Chapter
- Religious Freedom in Mexico, Monterrey Mexico JRCLS Chapter
- Annual BYU ICLRS Religious Freedom Annual Review, Provo, UT
COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Your Chapter can hold conferences and other activities to educate your community’s leaders and citizens regarding religious-freedom issues and encourage them to support religious-liberty laws and policies.
- Other Chapters have done this with great success and can share their materials with you.
- When your Chapter decides to hold a religious-liberty conference, contact Morris Linton, JRCLS Leadership Development Team
TRAINING MATERIALS

A list of activities promoting religious freedom is included in your copy of the JRCLS Training Manual. You may also benefit by looking at the materials available on the following websites:

- JRCLS website: http://www.jrcls.org/?folder=religious_freedom&page=home
- Stanford University’s Religious Liberty Clinic, https://law.stanford.edu/religious-liberty-clinic/#slsnv-students-work
- Religious Freedom, site hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, https://www.lds.org/religious-freedom
Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me if you want more information on organizing an activity to support religious freedom.

Morris D. Linton
morrisdlinton@gmail.com
(801) 455-5280