



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Freedom of Belief: Countering Religious Violence

Panel I



Rev. Thomas Reese is chair of the United States Committee on International Religious Freedom. Rev. Reese is a Senior Analyst for the National Catholic Reporter, a position he has held since 2014. Previously, he was a Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center from 2006 to 2013 and from 1988 to 1998. He joined the Center as a Visiting Fellow in 1985. He was Editor-in-Chief of America magazine from 1998 to 2005 and an associate editor from 1978 to 1985. As an associate editor, he covered politics, economics, and the Catholic Church. Rev. Reese entered the Jesuits in 1962 and was ordained in 1974. He also is the author of *Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organization of the Catholic Church*. He received a B.A. and an M.A. from St. Louis University, an M.Div. from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. Father Reese was appointed to the Commission on May 15, 2014, and reappointed on May 12, 2016, by then President Barack Obama for a two-year term expiring in May 2018.

Panel II



Alan Cooperman Alan Cooperman is director of religion research at Pew Research Center. He is an expert on religion's role in U.S. politics and has reported on religion in Russia, the Middle East and Europe. He plays a central role in planning the project's research agenda and writing its reports. Before joining Pew Research Center, he was a national reporter and editor at The Washington Post and a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press and U.S. News & World Report. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1982 and started in journalism at the Berkshire Eagle in

Pittsfield, Mass. He is an author of *Mormons in America*, *Muslim Americans*, the U.S. Religious Knowledge Survey, “Nones” on the Rise and *A Portrait of Jewish Americans*. He also was the primary editor of *Global Christianity and Global Restrictions on Religion*. He has appeared on numerous media outlets, including NPR, BBC, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the NewsHour, NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox, MSNBC and C-SPAN.



Robert P. George is McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. He is also the Herbert W. Vaughan Fellow of the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, and is frequently a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School. In addition to his academic service, Professor George has served as Chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. He has also served on the President’s Council on Bioethics, as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and as the U.S. member of UNESCO’s World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology. He is a former Judicial Fellow at the Supreme Court of the

United States, where he received the Justice Tom C. Clark Award. A graduate of Swarthmore College, Professor George holds M.T.S. and J.D. degrees from Harvard University and the degrees of D.Phil., B.C.L., and D.C.L. from Oxford University. Professor George is general editor of *New Forum Books*, a Princeton University Press series of interdisciplinary works in law, culture, and politics. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and is Of Counsel to the law firm of Robinson & McElwee.



Dr. Kamran Bokhari Dr. Kamran Bokhari is a Senior Analyst with the intelligence firm, Geopolitical Futures and a Senior Fellow with the Center for Global Policy. Dr. Bokhari is a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa's Security & Policy Institute where he teaches National Security & Foreign Policy courses to Canadian Military, Intelligence, Law Enforcement and other government officials. He is also a Fellow at George Washington University’s Program on Extremism in Washington, DC. Bokhari is the author of “Political Islam in the Age of Democratization” (Palgrave Macmillan, December 18, 2013). His core areas of expertise include Countering Violent Extremism; Middle East; South Asia; Central Asia, Counterterrorism & Deradicalization; Islamist & Muslim Moderation; Geosectarianism (a term he coined in the field);

Governance; Democratization; Civil-Military Relations; and Comparative Political Systems. He completed his Doctorate in the Department of Politics & International Relations at the University of Westminster (London) after successfully defending his PhD thesis “Moderations Among Salafists & Jihadists”, with Egypt's Nour Party and Afghanistan's Taliban movement as case studies.