



## **Set My People Free Intervention**

### **Working Session 12: Fundamental freedoms I, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief**

#### **Set My People Free**

We are working on abolishing apostasy and blasphemy laws in Islam.  
1.3 billion Muslims do not have the freedom to change religion.

#### **Apostasy laws in Islam criminalise leaving Islam**

In 12 countries there is death sentence, in 14 other countries it is illegal. To have no freedom to leave a religion does not make sense, because if your faith does not come from your heart, God will not accept it.

#### **Blasphemy Laws in Islam is any objection to the authenticity of Islam, its laws or its prophet.**

If I say I do not believe in Muhammad as a prophet of God, it is considered blasphemy. It is ridiculous because if I believe Muhammed is a prophet of God I would have become a muslim, but I am not.

The Grand Mufti of Alzhar confirmed the death sentence for Apostates and Blasphemers after his return from Germany.\*

#### **Apostasy and Blasphemy laws in Islam contradict with Article 18 of the Universal declaration of Human Rights.**

The article gives freedom of thought conscience and belief and this includes the right to change ones belief.

Without the freedom to change belief there is no religious freedom.

#### **Apostasy and blasphemy motivated crimes:**

- Honour crimes
- The murder of the Charlie Hebdo journalists
- The murder of the Father Jacques Hamel at the age of 85

All are motivated by apostasy and blasphemy laws in Islam, carried out in OSCE states.

The laws endanger the lives of former muslims living in the OSCE, many of whom are under 24-hour protection.

**“Our dream is that the International community criminalises the application of Islamic apostasy and blasphemy laws, and decriminalises its victims and the ones who are trying to abolish it.”**

“If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

— **George Washington**

\* “An apostate must be pressed upon to repent within a variable period of time or be killed,” El-Tayyib stated, reiterating Islam’s traditional position during a 16th June episode of a daily TV program featuring him.

[Full Al-Azhar statement](#)