



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY  
OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION  
OR BELIEF

ISFORB is  
a research  
institute of



## ***“Freedom of Religion in Europe Today: Under Critical Investigation”***

**ISFORB Conference, 6-7 May 2021**

### ***Call for Papers***

Some have argued that religion will leave Europe. But its presence today is beyond dispute, and it is more diverse than ever before. Also visible is a growing discomfort with (particular forms of) religious presence in the public sphere. The discomfort with, disinterest in and/or lack of understanding of religion also leads to a lack of interest in the protection of freedom of religion or belief (FORB).

On 6 and 7 May 2021, the ETF Leuven *Institute for the Study of Freedom of Religion or Belief* (ISFORB) organizes an international conference on **“Freedom of Religion in Europe Today: Under Critical Investigation.”** The conference aims to draw up a state of affairs on FORB research in Europe. Attention goes not only to **conceptual discussions on FORB in Europe** today, but **three key challenges to FORB in Europe** have also been identified to receive particular attention: **(a) (inter)national crisis situations; (b) religious nationalism and (c) secular discomfort with religion.**

Four plenary papers will introduce these topics. This **multi-disciplinary call for papers** warmly welcomes you to contribute to our conversations, giving attention to these themes on the local, national or European level. We draw particular attention to the vulnerability of members of minority religions/worldviews and their rights and experiences. Other suggested subthemes are regulation and protection policies; the place of religious voices in public debate; the relation between FORB and liberal secular values; pressure of or from religion (or FORB lobbying groups); social integration strategies of religious migrants; etc.

**Please send your abstract (200-300 words) before 1 February 2021 to [isforb@etf.edu](mailto:isforb@etf.edu). You will be notified of acceptance before 1 March 2021.**

Quality papers of the conference will afterwards be brought together in an appropriate academic publication.