

## THE APPG FOR INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF (FoRB) WORK HIGHLIGHTS (JAN – MAR 2020)

### 21 New Members

Tim Farron MP  
Sir Iain Duncan-Smith MP  
Robert Halfon MP  
Carla Lockhart MP  
The Bishop of Leeds Nick Baines  
Imran Ahmad Khan MP  
Baroness Stroud  
Matthew Offord MP  
Lord Green  
Lord Alderdice  
The Bishop of Carlisle James Newcome  
Baroness Smith  
Lord Rennard  
Lord Griffiths  
Lord Rowe-Beddoe  
Lord Hunt  
Lord Hylton  
Lord Loomba  
Lord Polak  
Kirsten Oswald MP  
Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP

### Positive outcomes:

[FCO organised Wilton Park Conference on Nigeria](#)

### 2 Full Debates organised:

[Main Chamber - Persecution of Christians](#)  
[Westminster Hall – Freedom of Religion or Belief](#)

### 12 Oral Questions including:

[FoRB and International Development](#)  
[Coronavirus and Uighurs Muslims](#)  
[Coronavirus and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon](#)

### 16 Parliamentary meetings including:

Meeting with Nigerian President's Chief of Staff  
APPG FoRB Inaugural Meeting  
APPG Stakeholder Meeting  
APPG Joint Advocacy Stakeholder Meeting on Trade  
Meeting with Al-Azhar University Delegation  
Meeting with Rebecca Sharibu's Mother  
UNHCR and Lebanon Panel

### 3 Speeches for Debates:

[Persecution of Christians](#)  
[FoRB](#)  
[China's Policy on Uighurs](#)

### 3 Briefings for other debates and questions including:

Briefing for Nigeria Chief of Staff Meeting  
[Briefing for Oral Question on China](#)  
[Briefing for FoRB and Int Development Question](#)

### 3 Media Appearances including:

[The Telegraph](#)  
[Cumberland Lodge Dialogue and Debate Podcast and Webinar](#)  
[Politics UK](#)

### 1 Key Document:

APPG 2020 Strategy

### 4 Early Day Motions including:

[Death Sentence for Junaid Hafeez \(Pakistan\)](#)  
[Int. Women's Day and FoRB](#)

### 2 Advocacy Letters including:

Letter to FASC about FoRB Inquiry

### 2 Conferences Attended:

Cumberland Lodge Emerging Int Leaders  
FCO Wilton Park Nigeria

### 5 Panels/Presentations including:

Cumberland Lodge Emerging Int Leaders Programme  
Forward Thinking - Pathways to Politics  
Never Again – Genocide Awareness Event

### 2 Stakeholder Tours to Parliament organised:

Brigham Young University Class  
Global Education Network Students Visit

### 2 Newsletters, 12 Monitoring Emails and 530 Tweets

Roundups of FoRB Issues in Parliament and Articles on FoRB circulated to APPPG Database.



(Bringham Young University Class meet with APPG in Parliament)

## OVERVIEW

- Following the General Election of December 2019, the APPG had to be re-established for the new Parliament. Thus, the beginning of 2020 was predominantly spent preparing for the APPG's inaugural meeting, recruiting new members, electing officers and developing the APPG Strategy Document for the year with members and stakeholders. The total number of members is now 121 and the list of these members and officers can be found [here](#).
- One of the key objectives for the year is to ensure that the new Government implement's the recommendations of the Bishop of Truro's review. As such, Jim Shannon MP made repeated requests to the Leader of the House of Commons for a debate on Persecution of Christians. This was granted and took place in the Main Chamber on Feb 6th. The APPG also organised a debate on FoRB generally on Mar 12th to raise the issue of the persecution of many different religious and belief groups. APPG members also asked many oral questions on FoRB issues, including questions on how COVID-19 will impact vulnerable groups.
- In February, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Wilton Park organised an international conference on the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria following the APPG's inquiry on the issue and the Bishop of Truro's report. The President of Nigeria's Chief of Staff also specifically requested a meeting with the APPG to discuss this issue. The report of the APPG's inquiry is currently being reviewed by members and will be finalised soon.