

All participants were in agreement that Canada's status as a middle power; its reputation as an "honest broker"; and its membership in the UN Security Council are all factors which can play a role in advancing the cause of religious freedom internationally.

On such human security issues as the campaign against land mines, we learned that ministerial statements, political pressure and the use of moral suasion are important tools in both raising public awareness and effecting change. With its moral influence on the international stage, we are confident that Canada can play an important role in helping to eradicate the scourge of state-sanctioned religious persecution.

The recommendations that appear at the end of this report represent a consensus of the participants. Although there was widespread agreement on many basic issues, it was impossible to achieve unanimity on a number of others, that were equally important.

Not wishing to exclude any potentially good idea that could not be unanimously agreed on, we decided to offer each participant the opportunity to independently submit their own recommendations reflecting the views of their organization. We believe this gives the report more substance while considering the sensibilities of each individual participant. These submissions can be found in the report's appendix.

From the outset, this endeavour has benefited from the full support of CJC, its executive vice-president Jack Silverstone, and president Moshe Ronen, for which we are all grateful.

The Ottawa Advocacy Centre of Canadian Jewish Congress has been instrumental in this entire process. The efforts of Eric Vernon and Andra Ginsburg are greatly appreciated.

Particularly are we indebted to Ron Singer for his diligence in arranging the conference and for putting together, in a relatively short time, such a cogent report.

We are all of one mind that what was begun on March 17, 1999 must not end with this report. This report should serve as a catalyst for strengthening our collective resolve to address the most pressing issues facing us, and doing so together.

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka
Chair, Religious and Interreligious Affairs Committee
Canadian Jewish Congress