

Annual Report 2017



INSTITUTE *for* GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

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The Institute for Global Engagement



info@globalengage.org
1.703.527.3100

PO Box 12205
Arlington, VA 22219-2205

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the IGE team and our partners around the world, we are deeply grateful for supporters like you. Thank you for taking a stand on behalf of those persecuted for their faith. Because of you, we are seeing real results on the ground – both on the part of providing relief to victims as well as influencing the mindsets of government officials. You have made the following accomplishments in 2017 possible:

- In **Iraq**, Assyrian Christian families who were forced out of their hometowns on the Nineveh Plains by ISIS are now returning. Your assistance is rebuilding homes and ensuring the continuing presence of Christians, Yazidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.
- In **China**, your support is giving Christians, Tibetans, and Muslims a seat at the table in dialogues with Chinese officials over policies that will affect their communities. As the government's religion policy grows increasingly repressive, IGE's dialogues are one of the rare platforms in China where people of faith have a voice.
- In **Vietnam**, IGE signed a new 5-year agreement with the government to conduct religious freedom trainings for local officials and faith leaders. IGE will also jointly develop a curriculum for a law school class on religious freedom with Vietnam National University.
- In **Myanmar**, there has been a serious deterioration in relations between the country's ethnic and religious communities. Your support made it possible for IGE to hold a religious freedom training program in Mandalay, the Buddhist capital of the country. The training program brought together local Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, and Hindu faith leaders, academics, and officials to address critical issues related to religious and ethnic policies, laws, and governance.
- In **Laos**, your support helps IGE to hold groundbreaking religious freedom education seminars throughout the country. These seminars bring together government officials and faith leaders and educate them on Lao citizens' religious freedom rights.
- Your support is helping 10 extraordinary women of faith from around the world working on peace building build their leadership skills. IGE's **Center for Women, Faith, & Leadership** launched its second Fellowship program with Christian and Muslim women from Burundi, Canada, the Caribbean, China, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, Syria, and the U.S.

We constantly give thanks and praises to God for working through supporters like you to make all these amazing accomplishments a reality. Thank you for standing with us and our partners as we catalyze freedom of faith throughout the world.

Sincerely,

James Chen
Executive Director





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Dear Friends,

The Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) was founded in 2000 by Robert and Margaret Ann Seiple to bring hope to people of faith around the world who had been victimized, overlooked and marginalized. Our purpose today remains consistent with our founding; to catalyze freedom of faith throughout the world. We do this when we help societies and governments understand the benefit that accrues to the whole collective body when freedom of religion and universal citizenship are elevated. In countries or issues in which we take an active role, we promise to promote the opportunity to live what you believe by building on our three pillars: the teachings of Jesus, relational diplomacy, and religious freedom.

Over the last 18 years, IGE has done just that, developing innovative diplomatic, educational, and relational initiatives in some of the most needed places on earth. IGE has also been a pioneer and thought-leader in the global community of advocates and scholars focusing on issues of faith, freedom, and human flourishing. The world is at a moment of great need, and great opportunity—and IGE is better positioned than ever to lead for long-term change.

While 2017 was a year of re-assessing our strengths, abilities and reach, 2018 is a year we are looking forward to expanding and replicating our successful model in new countries and regions. Cultivating the legal and cultural conditions for religious freedom requires long-term commitment and hard work. It requires ongoing investment by leaders with the resources and vision for a lasting legacy. We thank you for your interest in and support of our Initiative. While our name is the Institute for Global Engagement, it is the continuing initiative to forge ahead to protect the freedom of conscience for those of faith that drives all we do.

Very Sincerely,

John L. Creswell
Chairman of the Board



INSTITUTE *for* GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Who we are, what we do, and why you should care

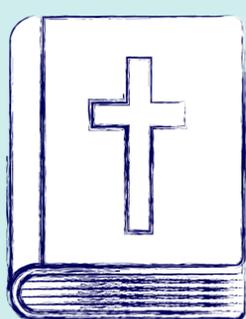
YOUR CHEAT SHEET FOR SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT IGE

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF IGE?

The purpose of IGE is to catalyze freedom of faith worldwide...

...so that everyone has the opportunity to live what they believe, free from persecution.

What are the pillars of our approach?



THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

We believe, share and live what Jesus taught us—love, acceptance and reconciliation lived in a way that compels engagement and understanding for all.



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Committed to universal human dignity, we work for a future when all people, of any faith or no faith, have freedom of belief and equal citizenship. We spread the truth that religious freedom is integral to a flourishing society and a stable state.

Our programs are proven to be successful and we leverage extensive connections with government officials, religious leaders and citizens.



RELATIONAL DIPLOMACY

We overcome obstacles of culture and religion by creating and nurturing mutually beneficial relationships, inviting all viewpoints to the table, working together as partners for the common good.



2017 AT A GLANCE



Institute for Global Engagement
 FY2017 Statement of Income at December 31, 2017

Income

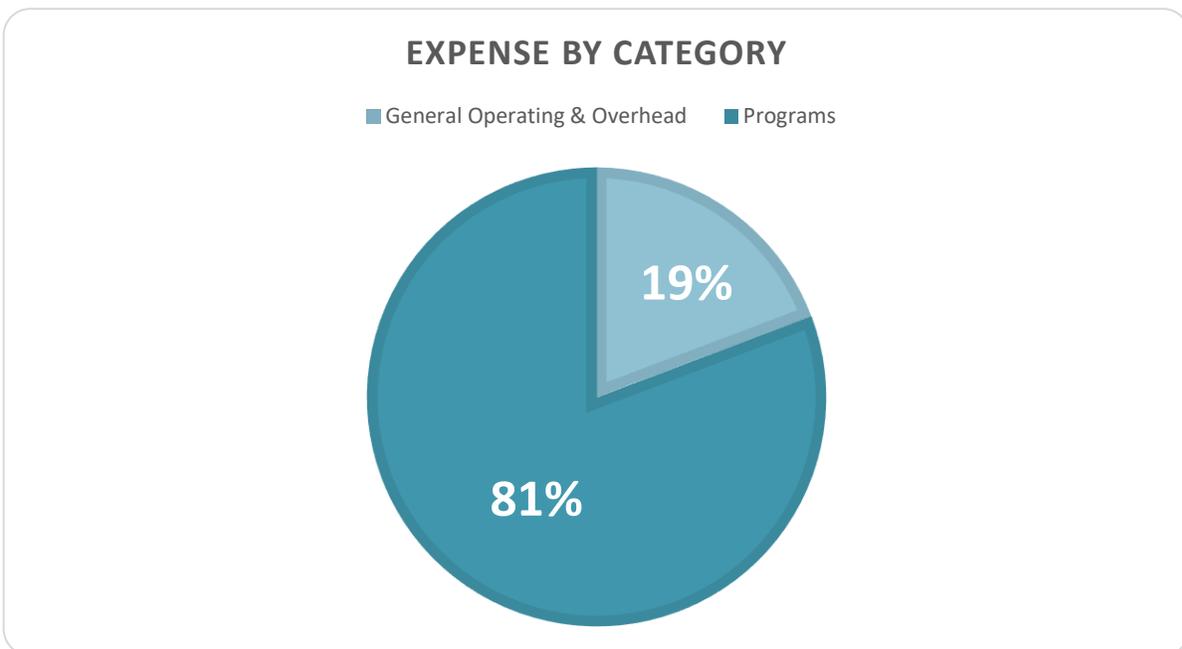
Contributions Income	464,285
Grant Income	968,179
Other Income	12,861
Interest/Dividend Income	72
Total Income	1,445,396

Expense

Salary, Taxes, and Benefits	447,700
Professional Fees	124,248
Associates and Honoraria	76,284
General Office Expenses	40,233
Promotion and Publication	198,774
Travel, Food, and Accommodations	109,421
Telephone, Fax, and Internet	15,150
Partner Expenses	458,083
Depreciation and Amortization	7,543
Other Expenses	4,408
Total Expense	1,481,845
Net Income (Loss)	(36,449)

Expense by Category

General Operating & Overhead	285,178
Programs	1,196,667



This report is not yet audited. IGE's independent audit takes place each year between April and June.

THE IGE TEAM

Board of Directors



John Creswell
Chairman



Emily Yoo
Vice Chair



Julie Shimer
Board Member
since 2013



Keith Wright
Board Member
since 2017



Daniel Philpott
Board Member
since 2017

Board of Advisors



Amb. Robert Seiple
Chairman Emeritus



Chris Seiple
President Emeritus



Angela Wu Howard
Former Board
Member

THE IGE TEAM

Staff



James Chen
Executive Director



Meagan Carner
Operations
Manager



Lindsay Kuntz
Director of
Strategic
Partnerships



Kristen Lundquist
Program Director,
Center for Women,
Faith & Leadership



Hien Vu
Program Manager



Seng Mai Aung
Program Officer



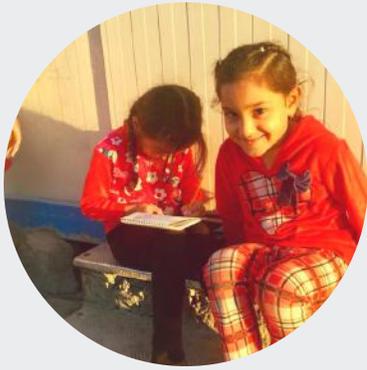
Steve Bailey
Program Officer



Courtney Brode
Program Officer



Dennis Hoover
Senior Fellow



TESTIMONIAL

“The people are happy to return but they are traumatized and scared for their future. They are not a people who express their emotions... The children are the most impacted as they have no sense of normal, no clear rules for what society is since seeing it destroyed before them...”

-Abuna George of the Syriac Catholic Church



WHAT'S NEXT?

IGE will continue to help those returning to rebuild spiritually, emotionally, and physically. If you have a heart for the people of this region, the persecuted who are now returning to their ancient homelands, we encourage you to pray and to give.

MIDDLE EAST

OVERVIEW

In the Middle East, IGE seeks to rescue, restore, and return Middle Eastern Christians and other religious and ethnic groups to their homes where they can practice their faith free from fear. We identified and vetted multiple local organizations to come alongside and multiply the efforts that were already ongoing and producing concrete results. Through these partners, we have impacted **128,080** lives through our “3R strategy”: Rescue: Delivering emergency relief supplies such as food, fuel, and clothing; Restore: Supporting educational opportunities for children; providing trauma healing and counseling, particularly for female survivors of ISIS’ atrocities; and, Return: Enabling displaced families to return home and live in safety and security.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

We believe a strong and vibrant presence of Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities is essential for the long-term transformation of the region into one that is peaceful, vibrant, and embracing of diversity; our partners (and the communities they represent) are devoted to doing what it takes to rebuild from the ashes. Accordingly, IGE’s 2017 focus has been to support the return and rebuilding of Christian communities in northern Iraq:

- We traveled to Iraq to meet with ISIS survivors, government officials, and religious leaders in the Nineveh Plain and in Baghdad to better understand their situation and needs of those in the region.
- We continued our trauma healing projects using a community-based, integrative, holistic, adult-learning approach where participants explored their own trauma and learned how to help others do the same.
- We funded the complete rebuilding of homes on the Nineveh Plains for those who were displaced by ISIS.

IGE ACCESS AND IMPACT

RESCUE. RESTORE. RETURN

How Can the Wounds of Trauma Be Healed? By ...
 Planning to Improve Local Trauma Healing

Top Left: Healing Wounds of Trauma (HWT) initial equipping session fler
 Top Right: Volunteers and case managers being trained on how to lead support groups at the new women's center.
 Bottom Left: Sometown Kurdish families like this may be able to study both scripture and HWT in their own language.
 Bottom Right: Women respond well to the art lesson; this woman found comfort in taking the pain in her heart to the cross of Jesus causing the hard things to seem to fly away.



TESTIMONIAL

“ IGE is one of the most effective organizations in the world for opening and maintaining critical dialogue on some of the most sensitive political and human rights issues in potentially volatile regions. I have personally participated in IGE’s efforts to facilitate dialogue and advance religious freedom have had a greater effect than any U.S. Government effort I have seen. IGE has earned an international reputation as a platform to bring parties together to address issues ranging from democracy promotion, human rights, and religious freedom. Moreover, as a Christian, I believe IGE’s approach models the humility, love, and boldness of true Christian faith and Biblical principles. IGE has become a quiet resource to help government leaders in various nations find a way to begin talking when formal politics may prevent such efforts. IGE is the one organization I know that is an Ambassador of Reconciliation, and is often more effective than almost all government and diplomatic efforts I have seen in my 40 years of military, government, and community service. ”

-Geoff Davis, Member, House of Representatives (ret.) and IGE Sino-U.S. Counterterrorism Dialogue participant

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2018, IGE will continue to push forward on ensuring that the voices of persecuted religious minorities are included at the table with Chinese leaders.

CHINA

OVERVIEW

Since 2004, IGE has worked with Chinese government and civil society partners to bring together key stakeholders from within and outside of China that would not otherwise meet, facilitating strategic and candid dialogue that leads to respect, reconciliation, ultimately resolution of issues of critical importance related to religious freedom and ethnic and religious minorities.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Amidst an increasingly tense and adverse political environment in China, especially for religious groups, IGE remains the only religious freedom NGO that maintains ongoing collaborative projects with Chinese government and civil society partners.

In 2017, IGE conducted its fourth Sino-U.S. Counterterrorism Dialogue in Beijing. This unique platform convenes high-level government, military, and civil society leaders from China and the U.S. to engage in both candid and friendly dialogue over issues related to terrorism, religion, governance, America’s lessons learned, and China’s Muslim communities.

IGE also co-sponsored the launch of a Tibet Governance Lab initiative in Washington, DC which convened the next generation of young Tibetan scholars and social activists that are actively engaged in on-the-ground work in Tibet. This was the first ever gathering of its kind and is essential to cultivating a network of the next generation of community leaders and changemakers from Tibet.

IGE ACCESS AND IMPACT



From August 3-6 IGE led a delegation of U.S. scholars and practitioners to participate in The Fourth Annual Sino-U.S. Counterterrorism Dialogue in Beijing. The dialogue explored holistic and multidisciplinary approaches that address not just the symptoms of violent extremism, but also its root causes.



TESTIMONIAL

During a meeting at the U.S. embassy in Hanoi with the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam and his political officer, IGE asked how we could support the U.S. government's efforts at improving religious freedom in Vietnam. They responded,

“Your bread and butter programs are making real impact on the ground, so please keep doing them!”

WHAT'S NEXT?

Looking ahead, IGE is excited to be working on a law school course on the legal protection of freedom of religion—the first course of this kind offered in Vietnam! IGE will also hold its 7th certificate training program on “Religion and Rule of Law” in the Mekong Delta region, one of the major hotspots of religious freedom violations in the country.



VIETNAM

OVERVIEW

Since 2004, IGE has worked with both national leaders and the people of Vietnam to build religious freedom. Our unique and innovative programs are changing mindsets, equipping and building a network of reformers, and educating government officials on the legal protection of religious freedom for all. Thanks in part to IGE and our Vietnamese partners' perseverance, the nation has made significant progress in religious freedom over the past 15 years.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

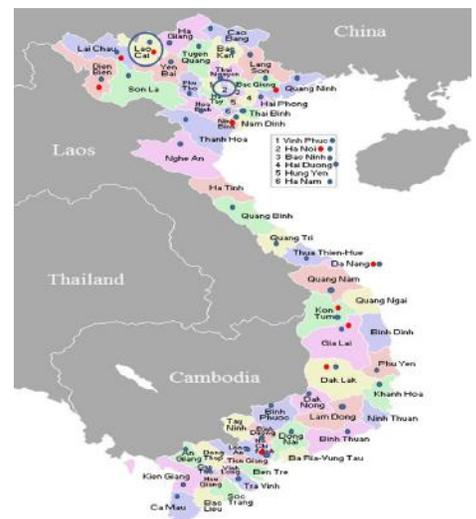
In 2017, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association held an unprecedented gathering in Vietnam which drew tens of thousands of people. This event is indicative of the expansion and access for religious organizations and communities that IGE has worked to achieve in Vietnam. In addition, 2017 saw other notable accomplishments:

- IGE signed a new 5-year Memorandum of Understanding with our main government partner in Vietnam. This agreement affirms Vietnam's recognition of IGE's work in the country and looks ahead to the following: build the capacity of government officials and faith leaders as they implement Vietnam's new law on religion; enhance the positive role of women of faith in their communities; and, promote cooperation between academic institutions in the US and worldwide with those in Vietnam to perform joint research on religion and religious freedom.
- IGE has now trained over 4,000 Vietnamese scholars, government officials, policy advisers, and military personnel on good governance and religion, religious rights, international standards of religious freedom, religious freedom in Vietnam, and the implications of Vietnam's new law on religion and belief.
- IGE's network of alumni have produced a growing body of Vietnamese language scholarship on religious freedom. They are also making religious freedom and rule of law regular topics of study and practice at academic and government institutions across the country.

LOCATIONS IGE HAS ENGAGED IN VIETNAM

Red= Provinces that IGE and its delegations have made visits to in the last decade.

Blue = Provinces with government officials and/or faith leaders who have participated in IGE's Religious Freedom Programs





TESTIMONIAL

“ I feel very privileged that I am here with IGE to serve Myanmar through religious freedom and human rights which I strongly believe are the fundamental needs of all human beings. I appreciate IGE’s approach of listening to the local needs and creating a safe space for the leaders and peace makers of the country to meet and connect to share their concerns and care in order to work together towards a peaceful and sustainable future. ”

-Seng Mai Aung
Myanmar Program Officer



MYANMAR

OVERVIEW

At the invitation of religious groups in Myanmar, IGE started its work there in 2012, just as the country’s political transition was taking place. Since then, IGE has held a series of groundbreaking conferences and training programs that have highlighted challenges and opportunities in Myanmar’s governance, rule of law, and relations between the country’s diverse religious and ethnic communities.

2017 HIGHLIGHT

In 2017, IGE held its second “Religion & Rule of Law” training program in Mandalay. The program was carefully designed with input from both international and Myanmar experts to explore the building blocks of good governance and sustainable peace in a multifaith and multiethnic context. The program also equipped participants with critical knowledge of global comparative approaches to religious freedom and rule of law.

IGE'S UNIQUE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Following our Religion & Rule of Law program, local partners expressed their happiness with the feedback from the participants and shared how impressed they were by the international professors. Some people who had doubts leading up to our conference—for fear of an international organization taking advantages of them—began to open their hearts as they experienced how our program was designed based off of their advice and detailed requests, not telling them what to do. The local partners were impressed with IGE’s approach and international experts’ expertise and dedication.



LAOS



TESTIMONIAL

During one seminar, a security official in attendance apologized to a local religious group for threatening to arrest them for gathering together!

WHAT'S NEXT?

IGE signed a new agreement with the Lao government to continue IGE's religious freedom and education seminars. Looking ahead to 2018, several will be conducted throughout the country. There are also new opportunities to work with local media outlets to educate the general public about religious freedom in Laos.



OVERVIEW

The Institute for Global Engagement began its work in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the late 1990s and partners with both the government and religious communities to advance freedom of faith. Misunderstandings about religious freedom have been the norm in Laos, but IGE's programs have brought about greater mutual understanding and peace between religious and government leaders.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2017, IGE convened stakeholders from the government and religious communities at the provincial and district levels to educate and equip them on religious freedom as a human right and Lao government policy on religious activity.

The gatherings also encouraged greater dialogue between religious and government leaders. Oftentimes, during these events local officials are reading and understanding the constitutional and policy rights of religious minorities to believe and practice their religion for the first time ever. Many are shocked to realize that the Lao government does not sponsor any particular religion (they normally assume it sponsors Buddhism) and that all officially recognized religions in Laos may operate. New relationships of cooperation and understanding emerge after each seminar.

As a result, religious freedom is slowly expanding in Laos and the awareness IGE brings has been vital.

IGE ACCESS AND IMPACT



The photo above was taken in October 2017 from a seminar in Phongsaly Province, one of the most remote provinces in Laos. This was the first time that a seminar on religious freedom had taken place there.



TESTIMONIAL

One of IGE's CWFL Fellows, Ghada Ghazal, is an educator from Syria who has lived abroad since 2012 due to the ongoing civil war. In Syria, she taught Islam and Arabic at the Al-Anduluse Institute for Islamic Studies, the only institute of its kind that works to empower Muslim women to work for social change.

“What is happening now in Syria is beyond all of our imaginations and it is breaking my heart...if women are not educated and empowered they will not have the ability to play a role in rebuilding security and peace. I believe the CWFL Fellowship offers me the opportunity to increase my capacity and leadership skills. Through this Fellowship, I am becoming a difference-maker, both in analyzing problems and implementing practical solutions. I am at an important crossroad in my life, my prayer is that I will have the opportunity to learn and grow during this time of challenge and uncertainty, and I believe that IGE's Center for Women, Faith & Leadership Fellowship Program will be a part of answering that prayer.”

WHAT'S NEXT?

If you would like to become a part of this growing CWFL network and community, connect with us today!

CENTER FOR WOMEN, FAITH & LEADERSHIP

OVERVIEW

IGE's Center for Women, Faith & Leadership (CWFL) supports and equips women of faith to assume and advance in leadership roles and influence decision making in global affairs, with particular emphasis in areas where women are most affected yet have had the least influence—religious freedom, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- Achieving both our 2-year and 5-year strategic objectives for the Center!
- Launching the CWFL Resource Website which features an 800+ page leadership development toolkit!
- Holding an online webinar series on “Lean In to Your Faith: Meeting Professional Challenges with Spiritual Resources.”
- Video documentation of the life stories of women-of-faith in leadership, religious freedom, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. These videos have educated younger women-of-faith on the importance of seeking leadership on these issues.
- Facilitated 65 focus groups through the Religion, Gender, and Identity Initiative to document the impact of religion and gender on identity formation for women from different regions and faith backgrounds, and how it contributes to their resilience in the face of conflict. This data has been used to educate policymakers on the importance of including women in peace and security efforts.
- Successful completion of the inaugural 2-year CWFL Fellowship, and the launching of the second cohort. The Fellowship program focuses on the leadership development of women of faith from diverse faiths, cultures, nationalities, sectors, and disciplines – empowering them to advance their leadership on conflict resolution and peacebuilding. As a result of the program, CWFL Fellows have received invitations to speak at major international conferences, been appointed to advanced leadership positions, asked to provide policy recommendations, and published in several media outlets.

2017-2018 CWFL FELLOWS





TESTIMONIAL

“ *The Review of Faith & International Affairs is the leading forum for thoughtful yet practical discussion on questions of religion and foreign policy, and it's a pleasure to work with my IGE colleagues to keep the journal at the forefront of that discussion.* ”

-Judd Birdsall

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. CONGRESS

Thomas F. Farr and Dennis R. Hoover

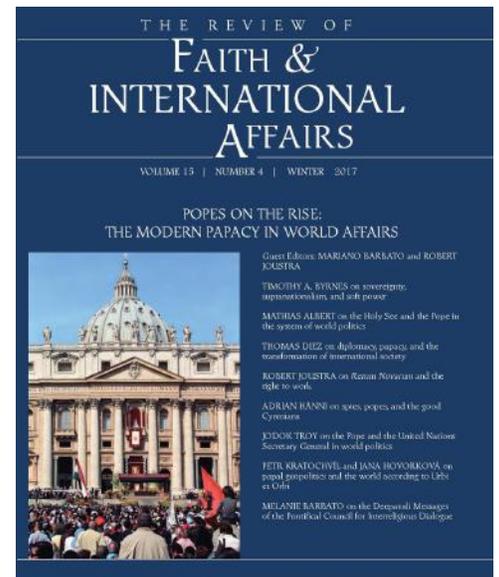
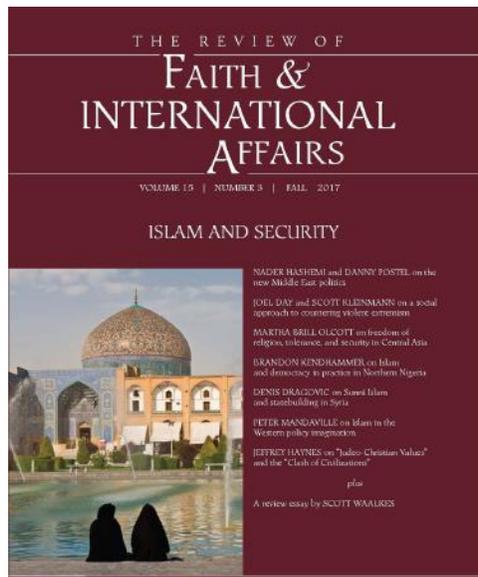
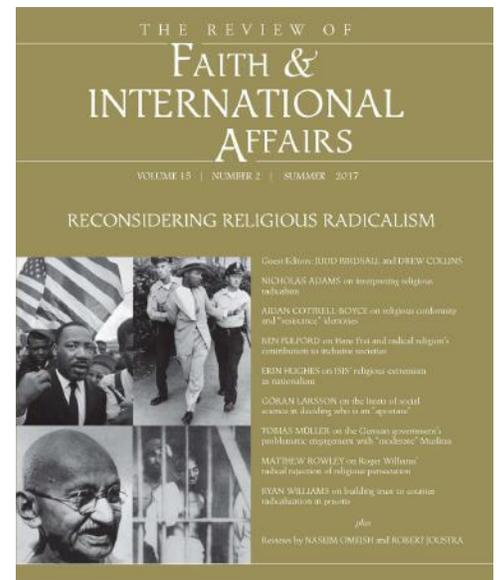
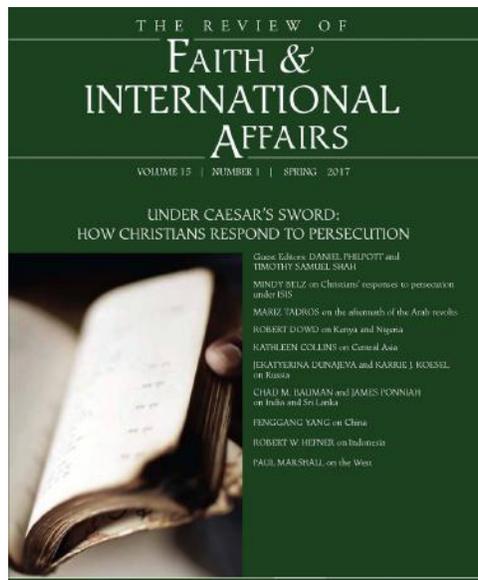


PUBLICATIONS

OVERVIEW

IGE's research and publications arm, the Center on Faith & International Affairs (CFIA), equips scholars, practitioners, policymakers, religious leaders, and students with a balanced understanding of the role of religion in public life worldwide. CFIA publishes a quarterly journal, *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, books, monographs, policy reports, op-eds, courses, conferences, and lectures. *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, published by Routledge, is the first and only scholarly journal devoted exclusively to analysis and commentary regarding the role of religion—for good or ill—in global affairs.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS



NEXT STEPS

How YOU Can Stay Connected to the IGE Family



TWITTER

@engageyourworld

Follow IGE and engage with our content.
We share insights daily!

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/instituteglobalengagement/>
Like our page
Share with a friend
Engage with our daily posts!



E-UPDATES

goo.gl/Dp9mTQ

Subscribe to receive our monthly "Global Horizons" emails right to your inbox.
[Religious freedom updates and what IGE is up to]



PRAYER

goo.gl/btQt5y

Subscribe to receive our monthly prayer updates right to your inbox.
[Contextualizing situations on the ground with practical prayer points]



HOST A DINNER

Introduce IGE to your network over a meal. You provide the venue and the invites, we do the rest!

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PO Box 12205 Arlington, Virginia 22219-2205



**Thank you for
standing for those
persecuted for their
faith around the
world! We welcome
your continued
partnership in 2018.**

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Arlington, VA 22219-2205**