

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SABBATH

JANUARY 23, 2016

Public Affairs & Religious Liberty Department | General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Resources

We invite you to use, adapt, and share the following ideas for commemorating Religious Liberty Sabbath within the local church setting.

Sermon Video

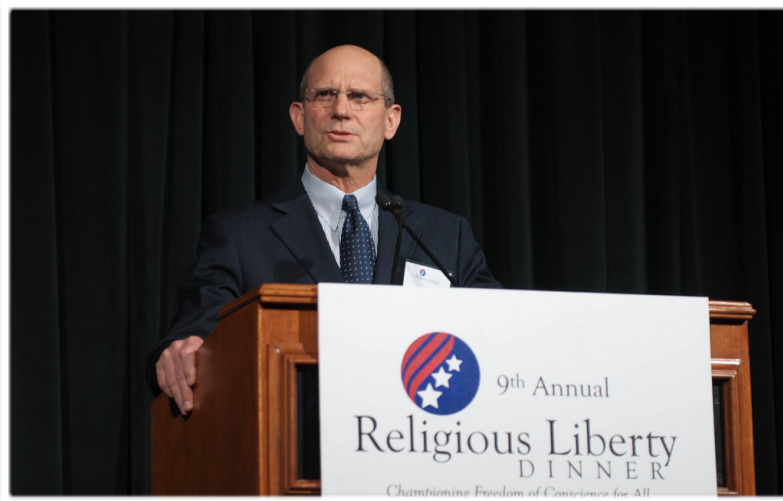
What drives our church's commitment to the cause of religious freedom? Dr. Ganoune Diop, General Conference PARL director, explores this theme in a **15-minute video presentation**. Find the video at www.adventistliberty.org.

Sermon Notes

Need help preparing a special Religious Liberty Sabbath presentation? **Dr. Diop's sermon notes** can be found at: www.adventistliberty.org.

Inspirational Video

Download a **moving 3-minute video** highlighting current global challenges to religious liberty. <https://youtu.be/K8gPtME4tPQ>.



Celebrate Our Most Precious Freedom

"We serve a wonderful and mighty God who cherishes religious liberty and grants each individual the right to believe or not to believe in harmony with the dictates of their own conscience."

Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference President

It's often been said that "religious liberty is part of the DNA of the Seventh-day Adventist Church." And it's true. From the very beginning of our church's history, we became known as people who cared about religious freedom—not just for ourselves, but for every person, no matter what their faith.

Every year on the third Sabbath in January, Seventh-day Adventists around the world take time to remember the God-given gift of religious freedom. We pause to consider why this value runs so deep within our heritage as a people, and we remember the many millions of men, women, and children who continue to suffer harassment, discrimination, and even physical harm, because they choose faithfulness to God, no matter what.



“Religious freedom is central to every other human freedom. As such, we must do everything we can to promote and protect this foundational right.”

Dr. Ganoune Diop, Public Affairs & Religious Liberty director, General Conference

Connect

Find out more about the worldwide work of the Public Affairs & Religious Liberty Department. You can stay up to date on your church's religious liberty activities by liking us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/irla.hq, by visiting us at www.irla.org or www.adventistliberty.org, or by following us on Twitter at [@irla_usa](https://twitter.com/irla_usa).

We especially invite you to download a free manual for all Religious Liberty leaders, called ***Church Ambassador: A Practical Guide for All Who Represent the Church and Its Institutions***. Go to www.adventistliberty.org and click on “Resources.”

Did You Know?

- ♦ More than **76 percent of the world's population** lives in countries where either legal or social restrictions on religious freedom are rated “high” or “very high.” (Pew Forum Study 2015)
- ♦ The Adventist Church has a **United Nations liaison** who attends meetings in New York and Geneva, as well as a **liaison in Washington, D.C.**, who works with the US Congress, the White House, and Washington's diplomatic community.
- ♦ The International Religious Liberty Association, chartered by the Adventist Church in 1893 and operated from the GC PARL department, is **the world's oldest religious freedom organization**.
- ♦ Every five years, the church organizes a major international religious freedom event that brings together more than 800 academics, advocates, public officials, and religious leaders from five continents. **We invite you to attend the 8th World Congress for Religious Freedom, to be held near Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, August 22-24, 2017.** For more information, go to www.irla.org, or visit the Congress Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/8thworldcongress.

