



THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

November 2019

Religious Liberty Lecture and Conference 2019

The University of Notre Dame Australia's School of Law, Sydney, will hold its third annual Conference on Religious Liberty on Friday 29th November to coincide with the week of Red Wednesday - an initiative of Catholic charity, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), that raises awareness of religious persecution.

This year the theme of the conference will be "Religious freedom and inclusivity – compatibility, conflict and the future", asking what the term "inclusivity" means, how it is employed and how it can co-exist with religious liberty, which is usually structured around differences rather than homogeneity. While the focus will be on the developing and fluid contemporary situation for religious freedom in Australia, scholarly works on the central theme in relation to experiences in other jurisdictions may also be explored.

Joining Dean of the School of Law, Sydney, Michael Quinlan, as speakers on the day will be Associate Dean Keith Thompson and School of Law academics Iain Benson, Anna Walsh, Michael Stokes, Robert Pelletier and Paul Taylor, as well as Kevin Wagner (School of Philosophy & Theology, Sydney). Other visiting academics include Alex Deagon from Queensland University of Technology and international guest Shaun DeFreitas, Professor at the University of the Free State, South Africa, who will be speaking on the subject of "Interpreting laws to include religious believers in civil society".

Asha Towers, advisor to leader of NSW One Nation Mark Latham MLC, will also be speaking about inclusion in the proposed NSW Religious Discrimination Act.

The conference will be preceded by the University's eighth annual Religious Liberty Lecture on Thursday 28 November, at 6pm, which will be presented by Monica Doumit. Monica is a writer and public speaker on issues of faith and its intersection with public life and currently the Director of Public Affairs and Engagement for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Prior to entering the world of communications, Monica was a senior lawyer in the financial services sector and holds degrees in Medical Science and Law, and a Masters of Bioethics.

Event details

Conference on Religious Liberty: Religious freedom and inclusivity - compatibility, conflict and the future

When: 9am-5pm, Friday 29 November 2019

Where: St Benedict's Building, Room 301
The University of Notre Dame Sydney, 104 Broadway, Chippendale NSW

Registration is required. Please RSVP [here](#).

Interview with select speakers available upon request.

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