

## **Catholic Union calls for action on Religious Persecution**

The Catholic Union has called on the Government to waste no time in implementing the recommendations of a report into Christian persecution.

The report from the Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, found that 250 million Christians worldwide face persecution because of their faith, accounting for 80 per cent of religiously motivated persecution.

The Catholic Union has written to the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab MP, encouraging him to “provide the leadership and resources necessary to implement the recommendations of the report in full”.

Last month the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, said he was committed to taking forward the recommendations of the report and has recently appointed Rehman Chishti MP as Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief. However, the Government is yet to respond formally to the report.

One of the recommendations of the report was that the Foreign Office should use the UK’s position on the UN Security Council to seek a resolution significantly enhancing the protection of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East. The Catholic Union are calling for this to be a priority for the Government in light of the situation in countries like Iraq and Syria.

Catholic Union Head of Public Affairs, James Somerville-Meikle commented: “The Truro report has highlighted the scale of persecution faced by Christians across the world and produced some excellent recommendations for how our Government can improve things on the ground.

“The report was a great example of what can be achieved by groups and churches working together, and the Catholic Union was pleased to be able support Bishop Mountstephen in his work.

“The initial response from the Government has been encouraging but with so much going on in politics, it is vital that we do not miss this opportunity to improve the lives of people persecuted because of their faith. The Catholic community is looking to the Government to make sure that hard-fought religious freedoms in this country are enjoyed by people around the world”.