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Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

Sent by email only.

22 November 2021

Dear Secretary of State

Re: Implementing the recommendations of the Truro Report

I'm writing to bring your attention to the urgent need to fully implement the recommendations of the Bishop of Truro's report into Christian persecution.

The report was commissioned by Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, when he was Foreign Secretary, and found that 250 million Christians around the world face persecution because of their faith.

The Catholic Union welcomed the report and the commitment from the Prime Minister to implement the 22 recommendations it contained. While some of the recommendations have been implemented, a number remain outstanding, and it's clear that Christian persecution remains a very real problem in countries around the world.

As you may know, 24 November marks Red Wednesday. It's an annual event, organised by Aid to the Church in Need, to highlight Christian persecution and the need for religious freedom. This year's event is focusing on persecution faced by Christian women and girls. I hope that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be supporting Red Wednesday, as the Department has done in previous years.

It would be wonderful if you were to use the opportunity of Red Wednesday to reaffirm the Government's manifesto commitment to implement the recommendations of the Truro report and provide an update on the progress made so far.

As you may remember, religious freedom was something raised with you by our Head of Public Affairs, James Somerville-Meikle, at Conservative Party Conference last month and you kindly agreed to meet representatives from the Catholic Union to discuss it.

We would be delighted to take you up on this offer and would very much like to invite colleagues from Aid to the Church in Need to join this. We would really appreciate the opportunity to discuss these important matters with you, and how we might be able to help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Nigel Parker
Director
The Catholic Union of Great Britain
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cc. John Pontifex, Aid to the Church in Need

The Catholic Union of Great Britain: The Voice of Catholics in Public Life

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