## **Advocacy and Religious Freedom in Europe**

Religious freedom is bigger than you think. Although many Christians have become acutely aware of the grave challenges to religious freedom in the world, the situation in the West, and particularly in Europe, remains less well known and harder to advocate for. But using biblical light to understand the contemporary situation of the church in Europe, we will see that God entrusts his people to seek the well-being of their societies. Based on this, we will study together the kind of argument one can build winsomely on behalf of religious freedom in our post-Secular Europe; the kind of argument which churches, organisations, and individuals should use and that is both a strong reflexion of and a platform for the Gospel message in today's Europe, where this "mother of all human rights" is being threatened, too.

Christel Lamère Ngnambi has served for 8 years as the Brussels Representative of the European Evangelical Alliance (EEA), a pan-European movement representing more than 50 national and international evangelical Protestant organisations in Europe, and 20 million citizens in the European Union. The Brussels office of the EEA promotes active citizenship of its constituency and represents it to the European Institutions. Christel's main tasks as Brussels Representative include monitoring decision-making and political trends within the European Union, developing an evangelical Christian approach to a set of issues and being the voice of Europe's 20 million evangelical Christians. A Belgian of Cameroonian origin, Christel studied political science and international relations (Saint-Louis University, Brussels and Université catholique de Louvain). He is currently a political science Ph.D. candidate at the Université catholique de Louvain and Université Paris–Sorbonne, France.

## 1. Seeking God and Seeking the Common Good

a. The church in Europe	e: Jerusalem or Babylon?
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b. Jeremiah: religious freedom and the common good

c. Peter: the church and the common good

2.	<b>Religious freedom</b>	and sustainable	e social development

a. Freedom of conscience and civil society

b. Freedom of conscience and pluralism/diversity

c. Freedom of conscience and democracy

3. Religious freedom advocacy, the failures of European secularism and the potential for mission