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**Subject:** ACN Advocacy: Contact your MP, and help suffering Christians in Africa  
**Date:** 2 October 2023 at 19:16  
**To:** Fr Kevin McLoughlin Holy Name Fazakerley [holyname@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:holyname@rcaolp.co.uk)



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

**Advocacy**  
Take action now



## **Contact your MP, and make a difference for persecuted Christians across Africa**

Over the past two years, there has been a dramatic escalation of conflict in Africa where increased numbers of Christians and other minorities have come under attack from extremists, bandits and other militant groups.

Christians are suffering as never before. Many people are scared, homeless and hungry. They feel abandoned.

We need your help getting our parliamentarians to take action as a cycle of violence, displacement and religious persecution threatens the lives of so many people across the continent.

On Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) will be at the UK Parliament in Westminster to launch our new report: **Religious Freedom in the World 2023 'Africa Update'**.

**We invite you to write to your local MP asking them to attend our event**

~~We invite you to write to your local MP, asking them to attend our event,~~  
and to hear first-hand accounts of the suffering which Christians and religious minorities are facing.

The 'Africa Update' draws on our previously published [Religious Freedom in the World](#) report, and describes "an explosion of violence", especially in sub-Saharan Africa, over the past two years.

The update report highlights the sheer scale of displacement across Africa, caused by conflicts and atrocities committed by extremist organisations. In Chad alone, more than **one million people have been displaced by extremist groups**.

**Speaking at our event will be Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Maiduguri, north-east Nigeria, who for 14 years has led his people living in the epicentre of extremist violence carried out by Boko Haram and others.**

It's estimated that the conflict initiated by Boko Haram in 2009 has resulted in more than 350,000 deaths since 2009.

A direct consequence of this atrocious violence is an unprecedented level of displacement: of the almost 6 million inhabitants in Makurdi Diocese in Nigeria's Benue State, 2 million are internally displaced. Most of them are from Christian farming communities.

The UK Government has the ability to make real, meaningful and lasting change for the countless persecuted faithful in Nigeria and across the whole of Africa. But to do that, they need to be made aware of the scale of the problem.

By lifting up your voice, and urging your local MP to attend our event, you can play a part in raising awareness of our report, and of the sheer scale of suffering which Christians and other religious minorities across the African continent face on a daily basis.

Please support us by heading to our website, and contacting your MP through our advocacy form:

**TAKE ACTION NOW**





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