HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership: Tomorrow

Thomas G. Walsh
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HJ International
GRADUATE SCHOOL for
PEACE and PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Building Effectiveness in Ministry and Public Leadership



HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership is delighted to invite you to join us for a special program to commemorate **Constitution Day** on **Thursday, September 24, at 2 pm New York Time.**

As we honor the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, we also honor the 239th Anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution on September 17, 1787, and the 235th Anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment on December 15, 1791.

The First Amendment reads as follows:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

While the basic thrust and content of the First Amendment has been emulated and adopted by many nations across the world, it remains the case that religion is under threat in many parts of the world. In this webinar, experts in the field of religious freedom will reflect on the importance of religious freedom and the challenges it faces.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, President of HJI, will be the program host and will be joined by guest speakers **Ambassador Sam Brownback**, Co-Chairman of the International Religious Freedom Summit, **Dr. Massimo Introvigne**, Managing Director of CESNUR, and **Dr. Michael Jenkins**, President of UPF North America.

View Amb. Sam Brownback bio
View Dr. Massimo Introvigne bio

We look forward to seeing you there!

Register

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Ambassador Sam Brownback



Ambassador Brownback is currently the Co-Chairman of the International Religious Freedom Summit. He serves with his Co-Chair, Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, who recently received an Honorary Doctorate at HJI last May.

Sam Brownback was sworn in as Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom on February 1, 2018 and served until January, 2021. He served as Governor of Kansas from 2011 to 2018. Previously he served as a U.S. Senator (1996-2011) and a U.S. Representative in the House of Representatives (1995-1996) from Kansas. While a member of the Senate, he worked actively on the issue of religious freedom in multiple countries and was a key sponsor of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. He also served as Kansas Secretary of Agriculture (1986-1993) and was a White House Fellow in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (1990-1991). Prior to his public service, Ambassador Brownback was a private attorney in Kansas and taught agricultural law at Kansas State University, co-authoring two books on the subject. He earned a B.S. from Kansas State University and a J.D. from the University of Kansas. He has recently published an excellent book on Religious Freedom titled "China's War on Faith."

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Dr. Massimo Introvigne



Dr. Massimo Introvigne is an Academician. He earned his B.A. in Philosophy from Rome's Gregorian University in 1975, and in 1979 his Dr. Jur. from University of Turin. He worked for the law firm Jacobacci e Associati as an intellectual property attorney, specialized in domain names. In 1972, he joined the conservative Catholic group Alleanza Cattolica. From 2008 to 2016 he has served as vice-president of the group. In 1988 he co-founded CESNUR and has since served as the group director.

In 2011, he served as the "Representative on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, with a special focus on discrimination against Christians and members of other religions" of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

He taught, until 2016, at Pontifical Salesian University, also accredited by the Vatican, serving as a professor of Sociology of Religious Movements and Sociology of Religions. He currently teaches courses at the University of Turin and the University of Pisa. In June 2012, Introvigne was appointed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as chairperson of the newly instituted Observatory of Religious Liberty, created by the Ministry in order to monitor problems of religious liberty on a worldwide scale. Beginning in 2018, Introvigne was editor-in-chief of the daily magazine on religion and human rights in China, **Bitter Winter**, which is published by CESNUR. Introvigne is a proponent of the theory of religious economy developed by Rodney Stark.

He is the author of 70 books in the field of Sociology of Religions, mostly devoted to new religious movements among which are **Brainwashing: Reality or Myth** (2022), **Satanism: A Social History** (2016), **The Plymouth Brethren** (2018), **Inside The Church of Almighty God: The Most Persecuted Religious Movement in China** (2020), and others. ,

Dr. Massimo was the main author of the **Enciclopedia delle religioni in Italia** (Encyclopedia of Religions in Italy). He is a member of the editorial board for the University of Pennsylvania Press' "**Nova Religio**", and for the **Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion**. He is also a consultant on intellectual property rights. He has also written hundreds of articles, both in daily newspapers and in religious and secular periodicals.

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