

Libertà di  
RELIGIONE  
CREDO  
COSCIENZA  
CENTRO STUDI



## WEBINAR

### Freedom of Religion:

## From the USCIRF Report on Persecutions in Russia to Violations in Europe

January 29, 2021

3 p.m. Rome Time

**ZOOM LINK (no registration needed):**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83402143961?pwd=a2VOWk9ZMWttN1ArcGVRZ01heWIrZz09>

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The webinar will present and discuss the recent annual [USCIRF report](#), by the Policy Analyst Jason Morton, on the violations of religious freedom worldwide.

The report has confirmed the concerns of LIREC, and other NGOs, for the persecution against religious minorities as Jehovah's Witnesses, in Russia and elsewhere, carried out by some controversial anti-cult organizations. This is a problem that LIREC formerly brought to the attention of OSCE/ODIHR in 2013, when Italy was the object of recommendations due, precisely, to these associations' legal and media-related activism.

On the one hand, the USCIRF Report will hopefully allow for a greater international engagement in support of human rights in those areas; on the other hand, however, some anti-cult organizations like FECRIS (European Federation of Centres for Research and Information on Sectarianism), whose methods and purposes have been censured by the US commission, keep on carrying out its activities undisturbed in Europe.



# PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

**RAFFAELLA DI MARZIO**

**Director of the Center for Studies on Freedom of Religion Belief and Conscience  
(LIREC)**

**Greeting address of LUIGI LACQUANITI (Former MP)**

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## SPEAKERS

**JASON MORTON, Policy Analyst (USCIRF)**

*The Anti-cult Movement and Religious Regulation in Russia and the Former Soviet Union*

**M. INTROVIGNE, Director of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) -  
(Italy)**

*Anti-Cultism as Ideology: Intolerance, Discrimination, Persecution*

**M. PERDUCA, Former Senator in Italy (2008 to 2013), coordinator Science for  
Democracy**

**W. FAUTRE', Director and Co-founder of Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) -  
(Belgium)**

*The Activities of FECRIS in the European Union*

**T. VALLE, President of the Coordination of Associations and Individuals for Freedom of  
Conscience (CAP) - (France)**

*FECRIS Is Almost Entirely Financed by the French State: GONGO or NGO?*

**C. MARIN, Deputy Director of Soteria International (Denmark)**

*Challenges for Freedom of Belief in our society: Institutional discrimination*

**Y. SIVULSKY, Representative of the European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses**

*The Sad Consequences of the Persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia*

**RAFFAELLA DI MARZIO**

**CONCLUSION**