DR MARTIN PARSONS

SUMMARY EXPERT WITNESS CV

Education

- Ph.D. Christian and Islamic Theology London School of Theology in association with University of Brunel (2004).
- Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) in association with University of Reading, General Linguistics 1 and 2 (1994) and Applied Linguistics with Literacy (1996).
- B.A. Theology (first) and Diploma in Pastoral Studies, London School of Theology in association with University of Brunel (1994).
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Education, University of Hull (1987).
- B.Sc. Geography (upper second), University of Hull (1985).

Membership of learned and professional societies

- The Academy of Experts (elected practising Member – MAE 2021).
- Higher Education Academy (elected Fellow – FHEA 2015).
- Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers (elected Fellow – FRGS 2009).
- Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical Research (elected to membership 1999).

Courses undertaken related to acting as an expert witness

- International Law in Action: Investigating and Prosecuting International Crime (University of Leiden, May 2023)
- Into Court (The Academy of Experts, September 2021).
- Introduction to English Common Law (University of London, September 2020).

Professional experience

- **CEO The Lindisfarne Centre for the Study of Christian Persecution** (Dec 2021-).
- **Independent consultant** – Christianity and Freedom of Religion or Belief, radical Islam (June 2019-Present).
- **Faculty member of Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life**, delivering PhD programme in association with University of Stellenbosch, South Africa (October 2017-May 2019).
- **Head of Research and Director of Studies Barnabas Fund International Headquarters** (international aid agency supporting persecuted Christians with a particular focus on the Islamic world) (October 2015 - May 2019).
- **Research Ethics Project Leader Anglia Ruskin University**, wrote and taught new online course in Research Ethics for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students (January - June 2015).

Research Publications

Books

- *Unveiling God: Contextualising Christology for Islamic Culture* (Pasadena,CA:William Carey Library,2006) 356pp (Christian and Islamic Theology and Mission).
- *Good for Society: Christian Values and Conservative Politics* (Bloomington,In:Westbow,2020) 680pp. (Biblical Theology, History, Public Theology).

Reports

- *Christians at Risk of Genocide: Radicalisation and Traditionalist Islam Among the Fulani: The Religious Background to Fulani Militia Attacks on Christians in Nigeria's Middle Belt* (The Lindisfarne Centre for the Study of Christian Persecution, 2023).

Academic articles

- 'How early did Christianity reach Eastern England? A review of the evidence' *The Essex Journal* (Essex Society for Archaeology and History) 58:2 (2023) 29-34.
- 'Review of Warren Dockter "Churchill and the Islamic World" (New York:IB Taurus,2015)' *Bulletin of the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths* (Australia) (2015/16):115-17.
- 'The Future of Afghanistan' *Bulletin of the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths* (Australia) (2012):43-52.
- 'William St Clair Tisdall (1859-1928) and the Use of Historical Criticism' *Centre for Islamic Studies Newsletter* 10 (2001) 9-10.
- 'Karl Pfander (1803-1866) and the Direct Approach' *Centre for Islamic Studies Newsletter* 9 (2000/2001).
- 'Alexander Duff (1806-1878) and the Educational Approach' *Centre for Islamic Studies Newsletter* 8 (2000) 6-7.
- 'Claudius Buchanan (1766-1815) and the Great Experiment' *Centre for Islamic Studies Newsletter* 7 (1999) 8-9.
- 'Christian Influence on Ibn Arabi' *Centre for Islamic Studies Newsletter* 7 (1999) 6-7.
- 'William Carey (176101834) and Henry Martyn (1781-1812): Bible Translation in Mission To Muslims' *Centre for Islamic Studies Newsletter* 6 (1999) 8-9.
- 'A Biblical and Exegetical Response to "What Must One Believe About Jesus"' *Seedbed* 14 (1999) 3-6.
- 'New Approaches to Contextualisation: A Response' *Centre for Islamic Studies Newsletter* 5 (1998-99) 9-10.

Recent research impact publications

- 'Will Syria's Christians really be safe under HTS?' *The Critic* 27 December 2024.
- 'Iran shows what full Hezbollah control would mean for Lebanese Christians' *Premier Christianity* 14 November 2024.
- 'Nigeria's climate of terror: militant religion not just climate change is fuelling the violence in Nigeria' *The Critic* 18 April 2023.
- 'The freedom to live out your faith: Qatar proves we need a new definition of freedom of religion' *The Critic* 19 December 2022.
- 'The UN must not ignore Afghan religious minorities: they live under threat of elimination' *The Critic* 28 July 2022.
- 'The truth about the Grand mufti's visit to the UK: Shakwi Allam speaks the language of religious tolerance to western audiences, but sanctions persecution within Egypt' *The Critic* 21 May 2022.
- 'I lived in Afghanistan when the Taliban were last in power: Here's what Christians can expect' *Premier Christianity* 23 August 2021.
- 'The consequences for Afghan Christians of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan' Published by All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief, 18 August 2021 (less than 48 hours after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban)

- ‘As the four hundredth anniversary of the Mayflower approaches, has the UK forgotten its significance?’ *Technical Politics* August 2020.

Examples of judicial comments relating to instruction as an expert witness

Rev Dr William Philip and 26 others v the Lord Advocate [2021] CSOH 32

(Judicial review by the Court Session of the Scottish government’s closure of churches under Covid regulations). In his judgement Lord Braid specifically stated that he accepted that I had the necessary experience and expertise to act as an expert witness

> *“[60] In support of their respective positions, I have been presented with a welter of material on behalf of the petitioners, and the additional party. The material founded upon by the petitioners includes a report by Martin Parsons (number 6/4 of process), who I accept has the necessary experience and expertise to be an expert witness*.”

He then went on to quote affirmatively and at some length from the independent expert report, particularly in relation to the historical background to the constitutional issue of freedom of religion in Britain (s.66-67).

Mrs Mary Onuoha v Croydon Health Services NHS Trust [2021]

(Catholic nurse disciplined for wearing a small cross).

> “[*180] The tribunal was presented with Dr Parsons’ written report…*
> *[181] We make the following findings based upon it:..”*

The judge then listed 10 points drawn directly from the expert report relating to the importance of the symbol of the cross, and the importance of manifesting faith for Christians.

K (anonymity directive) v The Secretary of State for the Home Department [2022]

(retrial ordered by Upper Tribunal of Immigration and Asylum Chamber – Middle Eastern Christian lady and her family)

> [42] *The point of such reports, is…to provide an assessment of the evidence available about such relevant matters from a variety of sources, and provide an opinion to the Tribunal that can assist with the issues in dispute. In my judgment, Dr Parsons has done just this, and I find that the contents of his report are fair, balanced and substantiated throughout. He has not attempted to provide opinion on matters which are outside of his expertise, and made it clear when questions on such matters, even when asked by me during the hearing, were matters on which he could not properly assist, whilst complying with his duties as an expert witness. I am satisfied in those circumstances, that Dr Parsons has not only declared his duty to the Tribunal, but has demonstrated that he clearly understands his duty and has applied it throughout his reports when providing his opinion. I find that the evidence from Dr Parsons is worthy of considerable weight.*