



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Multilateral Policy Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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13 February 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0060-18

Thank you for your email of 17 January asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

'please can I request the response of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to the Report "Persecuted and Forgotten?"

Please can I also ask for details of any projects that the Foreign & Commonwealth Office are currently funding under the Magna Carta initiative specifically in Egypt, Pakistan, China, North Korea and Eritrea to support freedom of religion and belief.'

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold information relevant to your request on the FCO response to the Report "Persecuted and Forgotten?", published by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) in October 2017.

I can confirm that the FCO does hold information relevant to your request on projects which the FCO is currently funding from the Magna Carta Fund specifically in Egypt and Pakistan, to support freedom of religion and belief (FoRB). They are as follows:

- **Defending Freedom Of Religion Or Belief In South And Central Asia:** This project supports Human Rights Defenders in a number of countries including Pakistan and aims to raise awareness at the national, regional and international level of the unique challenges which Human Rights Defenders campaigning for FoRB face in South and Central Asia. It also aims to advocate for better protection for them and to provide them with key advocacy training, with the wider aim of strengthening civil society in South Asia and Central Asia.
- **Creating advocates for Freedom of Religion or Belief in developing countries (including Egypt and Pakistan).** This project has promoted FoRB issues (such as increased understanding of religious pluralism by March 2018) with overseas students in the UK, who are able to act as informal advocates for human rights, including FoRB, after they return to their home countries.

- **Upholding freedom of expression and promoting stable pluristic societies in the MENA region** (including Egypt). This project aims to strengthen civil society to build consensus on institutional, legislative and policy change, engage with international human rights mechanisms and prevent intolerance and hate speech.

The FCO's Magna Carta Fund does not currently fund projects in China, Eritrea and North Korea to support freedom of religion or belief and therefore does not hold information in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

MPD Human Rights



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