

	<p><b>Proposal for a Paper at the 14th Assembly of IAMS in Seoul/South Korea</b></p>
<b>Proposed Study-Group</b>	<p>Study Group „Religious Freedom and Persecution“.</p> <p>Prof Christof Sauer is convenor of the study group, I myself am the co-convenor.</p>
<b>Proposed Topic</b>	<p><b>“Strengthening the identity of converts from Islam in the face of verbal assaults”</b></p>
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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The vast majority of converts from Islam to Christianity is confronted with verbal assaults alongside other types of persecution. In Muslim countries like Turkey, converts are perceived and blamed as traitors of their nation, as being on their way to hell, as agents of CIA, as weak characters, as being cheated and bribed by Western missionaries.</p> <p>As these assaults are an attempt to demonstrate the evil or at least doubtful identity of the converts, it is a paramount responsibility of Christian theology and pastoral counseling to define and strengthen the real identity of these new Christians. On the background of my experience with converts in Turkey and with special focus on the First Letter of Peter I will describe the different types of verbal discrimination against converts and examine different approaches to strengthening the Christian identity of converts.</p> <p>After laying a theological foundation for such approaches, some practical considerations for applying these principles to the convert’s life will follow.</p>
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