

	Proposal for Paper at 14th IAMS Assembly, Seoul
Proposed Study Group	DABOH
Proposed Topic	Contested terminology: Challenges in documenting how Christians around the world speak differently about discrimination, persecution and martyrdom
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Abstract	<p>Discrimination, persecution and martyrdom are realities closely linked to Christian mission. Christians of various traditions use diverging language when interpreting it. This paper proposes to report on a research project undertaken by the International Institute for Religious Freedom (which I co-direct) on behalf of the Global Christian Forum for a global interchurch-consultation.</p> <p><i>The purpose of the reflections on language is to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the de facto use of different concepts and terms used regarding discrimination, persecution and martyrdom in various contexts. • Sensitise high-level church leaders to language used that is different from their own as well as to perceptions on advantages and disadvantages of various language use. • Listen to and learn from the use of language by churches directly affected and by others accompanying churches in such contexts. • Seek a more common language where necessary in order to speak with a common Christian voice in responding to the realities of discrimination, persecution and martyrdom. • Demonstrate to suffering churches that the whole Church desires to stand with them in their time of duress by sensitive and appropriate language usage. <p><i>The anticipated outcome is:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comparative glossary, initially mainly in English, which describes the main concepts and terms related to the realities of discrimination, persecution, and martyrdom — terms and concepts that churches and agencies consider helpful, less helpful and unhelpful. • The glossary will show how these terms are differently understood as well as why and in which contexts they are used or avoided. It will include comment on advantages and disadvantages of the various terms as perceived by the different groups.
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Scheduling	NB: I am convening the study group “Freedom of Religion and Persecution” for which I have submitted a different proposal. I expect this group to have few papers and thus only needing few sessions (potentially in the first half of the consultation). If therefore my paper for DABOH (if accepted) could be scheduled in the second half of the DABOH group, a collision of obligations should be avoided