

Statement at the 2020 Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief

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Hi, this is Joseph WU, Taiwan's minister of Foreign Affairs. On behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, I am honored to take part in the 2020 Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief. I would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland for hosting this important event.

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right. However, in the past few years, the world has seen rapid erosion of religious freedom. While many countries have been occupied fighting COVID-19, authoritarian regimes have used the opportunity to impose their will on religious minorities. For example, we have seen Muslims in Xinjiang undergoing unspeakable horrors, including displacement, physical abuse, and emotional torture. Our freedom is undergoing unprecedented challenges.

Here in Taiwan, religious freedom is enshrined in our Constitution and has become part of our daily life. I am proud to say that Taiwan is standing with like-minded partners to defend the freedom to believe, and to help victims of intolerance. We are planning another regional forum with civil society on securing religious freedom next year in Taiwan, to show that we care about what is happening in other parts of the world.

In times of difficulty, we must choose solidarity.

I am confident that this Ministerial will strengthen international efforts to safeguard religious freedom. Once again, I'm honored to share Taiwan's progress toward creating a better world. And I wish this conference every success.