
Committee Stage: Wednesday 24 April 2024

International Freedom of Religion or Belief Bill (Amendment Paper)

This document lists all amendments tabled to the International Freedom of Religion or Belief Bill. Any withdrawn amendments are listed at the end of the document. The amendments are arranged in the order in which it is expected they will be decided.

This document should be read alongside the Chair's provisional Selection and Grouping, which sets out the order in which the amendments will be debated.

Fiona Bruce

1

Page 1, line 1, leave out Clause 1

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes clause 1. NC1 includes the material currently in clause 1.

Fiona Bruce

2

Page 1, line 19, leave out Clause 2

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes clause 2. NC1 includes the material currently in clause 2.

Fiona Bruce

3

Clause 3, page 2, line 8, leave out "International Freedom of Religion or Belief Act 2023" and insert "Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief Act 2024"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment adjusts the Bill's short title so that it refers specifically to the special envoy.

Fiona Bruce

NC1

To move the following Clause—

“Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief

- (1) There continues to be a special envoy called the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.
- (2) The special envoy is to be appointed by, and may be removed from office at any time by, a Minister of the Crown.
- (3) The special envoy must act with a view to—
 - (a) promoting freedom of religion or belief abroad, in particular by working with the government of the United Kingdom, with other governments and their representatives (including special envoys), and with organisations outside government;
 - (b) raising awareness of cases in which people abroad are persecuted or discriminated against on the grounds of religion or belief and advocating for the rights of such people.
- (4) The special envoy must from time to time give a report about their work to the Prime Minister.
- (5) A Minister of the Crown may give the special envoy directions about the exercise of their functions.
- (6) A Minister of the Crown—
 - (a) must provide the special envoy with such staff, accommodation, equipment and other facilities as the Minister considers necessary for the carrying out of the special envoy’s functions;
 - (b) may pay allowances or other payments to or in respect of the special envoy.
- (7) The special envoy’s functions are exercisable on behalf of the Crown.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause is intended to replace clauses 1 and 2. It includes largely the same material as those clauses but with several drafting and clarity-related changes.

Fiona Bruce

4

Title, line 1, leave out from beginning to end of line 3 and insert “require the continued appointment of a special envoy for freedom of religion or belief and make provision about the special envoy’s functions.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment adjusts the Bill’s long title to reflect its contents more clearly. It is consequential on NC1.