

ADF INTERNATIONAL

2024 Annual Report



LIVE &

Our MISSION at

ADF International

is to advance every person's

GOD-GIVEN RIGHT

to LIVE and SPEAK

the TRUTH

TRUTH

“This last year saw critical legal victories
with clients vindicated, cases won,
laws reformed, and lives saved.

It may be tempting to look across the globe today and feel discouragement in the face of mounting division, censorship, and persecution. The harsh reality is that in every corner of the world, Christians are being punished and persecuted simply for living out their faith.

Renewed respect for fundamental freedoms – so that all may be free to live and speak the truth – is the great task of ADF International, and one that is formidable.

But as we close out another year of world-changing legal advocacy, I want to convey the hope that permeates our Ministry. With your support, this last year saw critical legal victories with clients vindicated, cases won, laws reformed, and lives saved.

Last year, we told you that we would spend each day contending for the truth, not only defending the

persecuted, but also countering censorship, upholding biological reality, and securing rights for parents – and by God’s grace, that’s exactly what we have done.

At ADF International, we know that while the work that the Lord has called us to is immense, we have not been called to do it alone. We are deeply grateful for your partnership. Your support is crucial for our mission to advance the God-given right of every person to live and speak the truth.

Thank you for your
steadfast commitment
to this mission,



Paul Coleman
Executive Director



Who We Are

Since the launch of ADF International in 2010, our calling as legal advocates has been to contend for the **TRUTH IN LAW, POLICY, and the PUBLIC SQUARE, EQUIPPING OUR ALLIANCE** to do the same. As a legal ministry, we focus on securing **WINS IN FIVE ESSENTIAL AREAS** so that our **FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS** can endure for **GENERATIONS** to come:



Guaranteeing the **right to life** from conception to natural death.



Restoring **religious freedom** as a fundamental right.



Securing **free speech** for all.



Ensuring the law respects **God's creative order for marriage**, the family, and human sexuality.



Upholding the **fundamental rights of parents** to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

Our Global Engagement Model

Over the past 15 YEARS, we have honed our expertise in INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, guided by a COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.



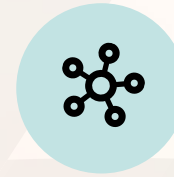
INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

We conduct targeted legal advocacy at the major international institutions, impacting law and policy worldwide.



NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

We champion the rights of our clients in courtrooms around the world and defend fundamental freedoms at national law-making bodies, securing precedent-setting victories that benefit everyone.



A GLOBAL ALLIANCE

We equip and mobilize the leaders of today and tomorrow to work as an effective global alliance, creating lasting change for future generations.

A Global Presence

We envision a world where all are free to live and speak the truth.

As a global organization, we are in a unique position to spot and shape legal trends across regions, ensuring that the right arguments end up in the right hands, in the right place, at the right time.

With a **team of 119**, spread across seven offices, we conduct targeted legal advocacy at the major international institutions, impacting law and policy worldwide with clients across **six continents in 116 countries**.



Jim Demers
📍 North America

United States v. Skrmetti
📍 North America



Isabel Vaughan-Spruce & Adam Smith-Connor
📍 Europe



Youssef Ourahmane
📍 Africa



Censored legislators
📍 South America





Päivi Räsänen
📍 Europe



**Parents in Austria
and Switzerland**
📍 Europe



Reeha Saleem
📍 Asia



Abdulbaqi Abdo
📍 Africa



Christians in India
📍 Asia



Yahaya Sharif-Aminu
📍 Africa



Billboard Chris
📍 Oceania

Countering Global Censorship

State-driven censorship, including in the digital space, is one of the most insidious problems of our age. Everyone must be free to peacefully debate the issues of our time without fear of government punishment.



Billboard Chris with members of the ADF International team.

📍 BRAZIL

Freedom to access the digital public square

In August, the Brazilian Supreme Court ordered the suspension of social media platform X. This came amidst a climate of persistent and escalating censorship, ongoing since 2019, targeting conservative voices.

We petitioned the Inter-American Commission and rallied over 100 global free speech advocates to urge the government to restore free speech. After 39 days, the ban was lifted. We continue to advocate at the highest international legal levels for free speech in Brazil.

📍 EGYPT

Freedom to share the faith

Christian husband and father, Abdulbaqi Abdo, originally from Yemen, was imprisoned for three years for discussing Christian theology in a private Facebook group following his conversion to the faith. All this while he was living as a UNHCR-registered asylum seeker in Egypt after receiving death threats in Yemen for converting to Christianity.

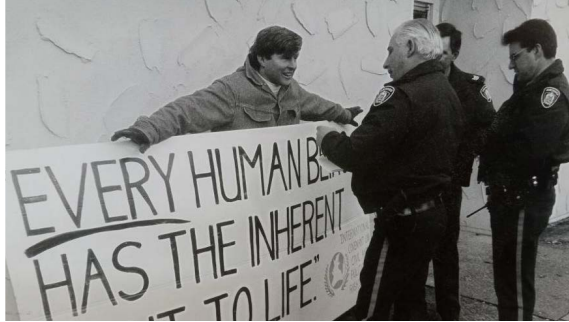
We supported Abdulbaqi's legal defence and helped to coordinate international advocacy to free this courageous Christian.

📍 AUSTRALIA

Freedom to challenge gender ideology

Billboard Chris is a Canadian father and advocate known for wearing a sandwich board reading "children cannot consent to puberty blockers" and engaging in street conversations amplified by viral videos.

Chris has mounted a legal defence of free speech after he was censored by Australian authorities for sharing an X post criticizing the appointment of a transgender activist to a World Health Organization panel. **We are backing his legal challenge, standing with Chris and every person who speaks the truth about gender ideology.**



📍 CANADA

Freedom to champion the right to life

Nearly 20 years ago, Canadian Jim Demers was jailed for seven weeks for holding a sign quoting international law near an abortion facility. Jim had been standing in a censorship zone prohibiting peaceful expression against abortion. He appealed to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which failed to deliver a ruling. **We have revived the case, advocating for a decision that would set a positive precedent for the 35 countries of the Americas.**

I never want to be put in a position where I have to go against what my conscience tells me is the right thing to do. If human beings don't stand up for each other and look out for basic human rights, then we are lost.

Jim Demers

📍 FINLAND

Freedom to share your beliefs

We are continuing to coordinate the legal defence of parliamentarian Päivi Räsänen, now at Finland's Supreme Court after two prior unanimous acquittals. For expressing her Christian beliefs on marriage and sexuality on Twitter with a Bible verse tweet, Päivi was criminally charged with "hate speech".

I consider it a privilege and an honour to defend freedom of expression, which is a core right in a democratic state.

Päivi Räsänen

📍 UNITED KINGDOM

Freedom of thought

We coordinated the legal defence of Isabel Vaughan-Spruce, arrested twice for silent prayer in a "buffer zone" on a public street near an abortion facility in England. In August, she received a settlement of £13,000 from police in acknowledgement of the breach of her human rights.

In October, British family man and army veteran, Adam Smith-Connor, was criminally convicted for silently praying for three minutes within a similar zone. **We are backing his appeal and are committed to defending freedom of thought across the UK following the rollout of national censorship zones around.**

Surely a silent thought cannot be a crime. The government simply cannot be allowed to determine the content of thoughts and prayers.

Adam Smith-Connor

Safeguarding Parents & Children

Parents have the right, enshrined in international human rights law, to raise their children according to their convictions—but parental rights are under attack like never before.

ADF International is committed to supporting the rights of parents to care for their children and protect them from harm.

📍 AUSTRIA

We are backing Austrian parents seeking justice after their young children were subjected to radical “comprehensive sexuality education,” compounded by an egregious failure to act on the part of state authorities.

Our daughter was robbed of her childhood, damaged, and disturbed.

It is unacceptable that primary school children are being subjected to radically inappropriate content and that protective barriers against abuse are failing.

Mother of one of the children

📍 SWITZERLAND

We are serving on the legal team of parents in Geneva who had their teenage daughter taken from them and placed by court order in a government shelter for trying to protect her from gender ideology. At the age of thirteen, she expressed gender confusion, resulting in her school, the medical system, and the state child welfare agency attempting to “transition” her.

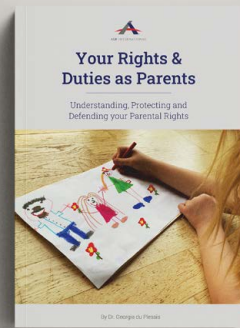
As a parent you want to protect your children. The state should not have the power to criminalize loving parents who want the best for their child.

Father of the young girl

USA

Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court, urging the court to let state legislatures protect children from experimental medical procedures. In the case, heard by the Supreme Court on December 4, the state of Tennessee is defending its law that protects children from harmful, unnecessary, and high-risk medical procedures that alter their bodies to make them look like the opposite sex.

The highest protections for parental rights are the key to ensuring children are safe from harm and can flourish.



Resource for Parents

We launched a White Paper and Parents' Rights Charter at our European Summit on Parental Rights, successfully bringing together key allies to advance our advocacy on this front.

DOWNLOAD HERE:



A Year in Impact



Q1 January - March

World Health Organization Pandemic Treaty

Successfully advocated for the removal of censorship language from the draft WHO Pandemic Treaty, which would have created a new international legal basis for suppressing speech deemed “mis- or disinformation”.

British Censorship of Christians

Challenged UK police for discriminating against street preacher Dia Moodley on religious grounds, obtaining justice for him after his rights were violated when they attempted to silence him for his Christian views.



Q2 April - June

Free Speech Battle in Brussels

Mounted a rapid response legal challenge against the censorial efforts of Brussels’ authorities to shut down the National Conservatism conference, resulting in the reinstatement of the event.

Forced Conversion and Marriage in Pakistan

Obtained justice for Reeha, a young Christian kidnapped at 16 and forced to convert to Islam, marry, and live in anguish, who is now free from her forced “marriage” and free to live out her Christian faith.

Assisted Suicide at European Court of Human Rights

Intervened when a Hungarian national sought legalization of assisted suicide in Hungary; the Court rejected the bid to create a right to assisted suicide in line with our legal argument that states are bound to protect life.

2024



Q3

July -
September

German University Campus' Freedom of Assembly

Backed pro-life student groups on university campuses in Germany that were denied accreditation, resulting in one group being permitted to move forward as we continue to support the others.

Irish "Hate Speech" Bill

Conducted critical legal advocacy against a proposed dangerous censorship law that could have landed an offender in prison for five years, making Ireland among the worst violators of free speech in the West. The Irish government dropped the criminalization of "hate speech" from the proposed legislation.

Our hope is that the international community will turn its attention to this critical issue – ensuring women and girls can pursue sporting opportunities should they desire AND protecting female athletes from harm and indignity.

Kristen Waggoner, Alliance Defending Freedom CEO, President, and General Counsel

Q4

October -
December

Religious Symbols in Public Buildings in Brazil

The Brazilian Supreme Court rejected an attempt to ban religious symbols such as crucifixes from public spaces on the basis of "hurt emotions," in line with ADF International's legal brief.

Correct Religious Identification in Pakistan

Sufyan Masih, a 24-year-old Pakistani Christian, suffered the fraudulent misidentification of his religious identity as Muslim on his National Identity Card by his employer, with severe repercussions for his life. Masih's identity card has been correctly changed after a four-year-long legal ordeal.

Protecting Women and Girls in Sports at the United Nations

Convened a high-level UN meeting featuring our CEO Kristen Waggoner, athlete and ADF client Lainey Armistead, Olympian Sharron Davies, and key UN and government officials to highlight a groundbreaking new UN report detailing the human rights abuses suffered by female athletes when men are allowed to invade their sports and spaces.

Defending the Persecuted

ADF International is committed to providing the strongest legal defence for the persecuted.

I am concerned about the persecution that Christians in my country face for simply choosing to follow Jesus and live out their faith. And that's why I am asking all who are able to join me in advocating for true religious freedom in my country.

Pastor Youssef Ourahmane

ADF International client before the
Algerian Supreme Court

📍 ALGERIA

The Algerian government limits religious freedom through laws that target the rights of Christians and religious minorities.

This has resulted in a crisis of religious freedom with **only a handful of Christian churches remaining open and over 50 pastors and church members arrested.**

We are supporting two appeals at Algeria's Supreme Court involving pastors who have been criminally convicted and sentenced to prison for the so-called crime of "illegal worshipping".

📍 NICARAGUA

We conducted global advocacy for the release of Bishop Álvarez, sentenced to 26 years in prison for preaching in defence of human rights in Nicaragua. And, **with our support, 11 pastors and ministry leaders from Evangelical group Puerta de la Montaña are now safely out of the country** after being sentenced to millions in fines and 10+ years in prison on sham charges.

The state of religious persecution in Nicaragua is dire, and **we will continue to advocate for the right to religious freedom** for all Nicaraguans.

📍 INDIA

Christians in India face increasing persecution due to religious nationalism. Anti-conversion laws and targeted violence contribute to a hostile environment, despite constitutional protections for religious freedom.

This past year, the **team in India secured the release of 628 Christians imprisoned for peacefully living out their faith.** The team obtained 18 acquittals directly allowing 62 believers to go free. While persecution remains intense, the church continues to show great resilience under fire.



“My lawyers stood by us right from the beginning to the present. I pray that God will bless each and every one that supported in one way or another.”

Rhoda Jatau

Christian mother of five

Living out their Christian faith can be a life-or-death situation for many of the Nigerian clients that we help. Sean Nelson, ADF International Legal Counsel, traveled there in June to meet with these brave Christians.

📍 NIGERIA

We work at the highest legal levels to end Christian persecution in Nigeria, among the most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian. “Never in my life as a lawyer did I think I would see churches destroyed and the horrible sight of mass graves. I thought I understood the immense value of religious freedom. That is until I witnessed the horror and heard congregants crying out to God after losing their loved ones to unspeakable violence.”

Currently pending before Nigeria’s Supreme Court, we are backing the case of Yahaya Sharif-Aminu. Yahaya was sentenced to death under a blasphemy law for a WhatsApp message peacefully expressing his religious beliefs. **We raised the importance of freeing Yahaya and ending blasphemy laws at both the European Parliament and the United Nations.** Yahaya’s Supreme Court appeal could end blasphemy laws across northern Nigeria,

paving the way for their abolishment throughout the Muslim world.

Christian mother of five, Rhoda Jatau, was imprisoned after being accused of blasphemy for a WhatsApp message condemning the brutal killing of a university student who was stoned to death for sharing her Christian faith. **With our legal support, Rhoda received a robust legal defense, was released on bail, and was fully acquitted in December 2024.**

Advancing Our Alliance

We equip, mobilize, and bring together the leaders of both today and tomorrow to create lasting change for future generations. Through our world-class training program, Areté Academy, and strategic networking events we bring together a global alliance for the advancement of fundamental freedoms, including lawyers, communicators, academics, policymakers, and civil society leaders.



I applied for Areté Academy because I share the fundamental values that ADF International stands for and I wanted to be trained to gain the essential skills and tools needed to effectively engage in the public sphere and make an impact in society. Thanks to being an Areté Delegate, and a mentor a year later, I added leadership skills to my experience in academia, research, advocacy and legal aid and am now in training to enter the Foreign Service.

Josiah Bagayas

Phillipines, Associate Professor of Law at the Mariano Marcos State University, Areté Delegate 2023, Areté Mentor 2023 (Asia)



Areté Academy helped me understand the importance of friendship, partnership, and trust when it comes to working towards a long-term vision. This unique experience confirmed my commitment to living out my Christian faith in society, and I regularly work with the ADF International alliance to globally promote the Casablanca Declaration to abolish surrogacy.

Bernard Garcia Larraín

Chile/France, Founder of the Casablanca Declaration, Areté Delegate 2023 (Europe)



Areté Academy helped me to discern my own mission. Now I work to prevent euthanasia and encourage hope across Canada and around the world through my own organization called ‘Dying to Meet you’. The tremendous investment made in us was palpable at every moment and instilled in me a deep awareness of my own dignity and responsibility. Having benefited from such ennobling expectations, this is now something I seek to cultivate in others.

Amanda Achtman

Canada, Founder of Dying to Meet You, Areté Delegate 2022, Areté Mentor 2023 (Europe)

Our Alliance in Action

ADF International has a dedicated team that ensures our alliance of Areté Delegates, allied lawyers, and advocacy leaders have ongoing support and opportunities to make key connections with each other. We host strategic events for our alliance partners in every region of the world in-person and via our Global Advocacy Alliance online platform.

This ever-growing alliance is impacting law and culture in over 80 countries, significantly increasing our global efforts in defence of fundamental freedoms.

ADF International has been a real blessing for me personally and professionally. Personally, I have found a community of wonderful people courageously committed to the search for and dissemination of truth. Professionally, being part of this alliance has made it possible for me to be part of a network that is growing every day, and that represents a concrete and substantial support in the defence of our common values in Colombia and Latin America.

Juana Acosta

Litigator at the Inter-American Court, Law Professor, La Sabana University (Colombia); Areté Academy Faculty (2022, 2023, 2024)

Religious freedom litigation is lonely, high-pressure work. We are often out-funded and out-resourced. Having fellowship and drawing heavily on the longstanding experience and connections of ADF International is a wonderful blessing. It allows for much-needed encouragement, spiritual recharging and sharing of strategies to fight the good fight in our local context. Within weeks of Billboard Chris' X post being suppressed by Australia's eSafety Commissioner, ADF International connected him with us at Human Rights Law Alliance and we were able to take on the case.

John Steenhof

Principal Lawyer, Human Rights Law Alliance (Australia); Areté Academy Faculty (2022, 2023, 2024)





Regional Summit

ADF International team and legal allies at a parental rights summit in Vienna, Austria.

Impact in Numbers

980+ | **76**
ONGOING ADVOCACY MATTERS | COUNTRIES

87%
Win rate

ALL TIME WINS

39 & **282**
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS | NATIONAL COURTS

129

NEW ARETÉ DELEGATES

— JOINED —

A GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF

658

7700+

ALLIES TRAINED

— AT —

183

TRAINING EVENTS

WE SUPPORTED

89

CASES

— THROUGH —

LEGAL ALLIES IN

34

COUNTRIES



MEDIA INFLUENCE

15 Million

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



131

MEDIA APPEARANCES

INCLUDING Fox News, BBC News, GB News

75

**AUTHORED ARTICLES PLACED
IN MEDIA OUTLETS**

INCLUDING Newsweek, The Spectator, The Times

PROTECTING THE CHURCH



628

CHRISTIANS FREED FROM PRISON



31

CHURCHES REOPENED

Get Involved and Support our Mission:



PRAY

for our work that we may see success in our efforts to safeguard life, defend religious freedom, secure free speech, protect marriage and the family, and guarantee parental rights.

www.ADFInternational.org



LEARN

more about our legal advocacy work and keep up to date with our current cases by signing up to receive our newsletter and following us on social media.

[/subscribe](#)



GIVE

a financial gift to support our worldwide advocacy efforts. Your generosity allows us to provide legal support at no cost to our courageous clients.

[/donate](#)



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our Amicus Team and become a monthly supporter, equipping us to undertake more high-impact projects, thanks to monthly financial stability.


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Looking Ahead

As we enter our 15th year, we look forward with excitement to what the Lord has planned.

We aim to secure major wins on freedom of speech, pushing back against mounting censorship evident across the world. And our goal is to continue fortifying parental rights, eradicating gender ideology from every institution.

Among the many plans we have for broadening our reach, we will increase collaboration with allies in Asia, in addition to in the countries of the Commonwealth, hosting our first Areté Academy in London for future leaders from across the Commonwealth.

We also plan to grow our Global Religious Freedom team's reach into sub-Saharan Africa, where burdensome restrictions against Christianity are on the rise.

We know we're called to boldly walk into the wind, relying on the Holy Spirit.



ADF INTERNATIONAL

Together, we can envisage and actualize a strategic legal response to the great challenges facing Christians today.

As we step into the next year advancing our God-given freedoms, will you join us in supporting the right of every person to live and speak the truth?



I have dedicated my life to sharing the Gospel as a pastor in Nicaragua. **And for living out my faith in my country, I was persecuted and imprisoned by the Nicaraguan authorities,** spending most of the last year in a cell without the right to visits.

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right that belongs to everyone and it must be protected. No person should be punished, much less imprisoned, for living their faith.

I am able to continue proclaiming the name of Jesus to the world thanks to the efforts of ADF International. It is because of their time and dedication that I am reunited with my family today, enjoying the freedom that God gave us.

Walner Blandón

Religious Leader, Missionary
with Puerta de la Montaña and
client of ADF International

