

# Religious Freedom & State Recognition of Belief

## Invitation to Participate in Doctoral Research

Dear [Participant Name],

I am writing to invite you to participate in an interview that will form part of my doctoral research project titled *Religious Freedom & State Recognition of Belief* conducted at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK. Your participation in the interview will be central to the success of my research.

### **Outline of study:**

My study explores the intersection between religious freedom and state recognition, namely how the latter has the power to both enhance as well as inhibit the former. At the basis of my research is the idea of recognition of religion or belief (or RoRB, as based on the acronym FoRB; link: <https://www.cometan.org/recognition-of-religion-or-belief>). RoRB is the principle that state and social forms of recognition are key factors in determining conditions for FoRB overall. In studying which religions and beliefs are recognised in different countries and how the processes of both recognition and legal registration differ between countries, I realised that recognition as a tool is severely misused around the world with detriment to FoRB. I then wanted to understand how this problem could be solved so firstly, I looked at what proposals had already been made by others in the field to tackle the issue and secondly, I intended to create my own theory to help solve this issue which in turn will form my research's unique contribution to knowledge. This approach to human rights is what I call recognitionism and my specific theory for dealing with issues in RoRB I call facilitationism.

### **Schedule:**

I am hoping to conduct the first wave of interviews for my research between **January and March 2022**. If you are able to participate, please do let me know with an email response and I will send across some potential dates that we should be able to whittle down to a date and time that suit the both of us. You will have the opportunity to change the date and time of the interview if so required.

### **Participant Information Pack:**

Please see attached to this email your Participant Information Pack (PIP) which will provide more information about my study, what you can expect if you choose to participate, and details on how information from the study will be stored and used. Your participation will entail a 1 hour semi-structured interview with myself during which I will ask some preset questions to ignite our conversation (you can view these questions in the PIP) alongside spontaneous secondary questions that emerge during the interview itself. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the interview will take place remotely and will be conducted over a programme called Microsoft Teams as per university policy.

If you may consider participating in the study, please respond to this email at your earliest convenience, this will allow me to compose a list of confirmed participants and will help me with the matter of scheduling interviews. If within one month of your receipt of this email you have not responded, I will presume that you are not able to participate.

However, I do hope you will be available to participate in this exciting research taking place in a field of mutual interest. If you need to ask any questions or require further information before confirming your participation, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Brandon Reece Taylorian,**

(a.k.a. **Cometan**)

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