

C.I.D.A.C.

Commission of Inquiry into
Discrimination Against Christians



Guide to Filling out the Consent Form

SECTION 1

BASIC PARTICULARS

In sub-section A, you are asked to provide your personal data. Your date of birth, residential address, phone number(s) and e-mail will remain confidential. If you agree for your age to be made known, your date and month of birth will remain anonymous.

If you are called to a hearing, the Inquiry would like to address you by your name, so we ask if you are happy for your full name to be public. If you don't want your full name to be known publicly, we can agree to call you by another name, and you will also need to make prior adjustments to your Zoom screen, ensuring that your name and location are not shown.

In sub-section B, you are asked to select your ethnicity. Following this, you are asked which denomination best describes you, and you're then asked two inter-related questions: do you attend a church, and if so, does this reflect your denomination? Your denomination may be the same or different from the church you are currently attending.

SECTION 2

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

In sub-section A, choose one or more of the options that applies. The Inquiry would like to make your employment status known, if relevant, and also your job title and job description.

In sub-section B, you are asked if the Inquiry can use publicly all of your employment data, none of it or only parts of it. If you ask for only parts to be used, you must specify which parts of your employment data from the previous section the Inquiry can make known publicly.

SECTION 3

WAYS OF GIVING TESTIMONY

In this section, the Inquiry wants to establish which method you want to use to give your testimony. This tells the Inquiry which parts of your identity, general data and case material will necessarily be public.

What does “public” use of your data mean in the Consent Form? The Inquiry may use your data through their website, publications, social media, and any other platforms. Likewise, your data may be used by Voice for Justice UK, through their website, publications, blog, social media, and any of their other public digital platforms.

There are four ways of giving your testimony. Options 1, 2 and 4 are public. Option 3 is private but a transcription may be made public in part or in whole. Video, audio and in-camera hearings will be conducted on the basis of witnesses being interviewed by an Inquiry Panel.

1. **Video:** you will be seen and recorded over Zoom and questioned about your case before a Panel of Commissioners. Your hearing will be seen and heard before a muted public gallery;
2. **Audio only:** your voice will be heard and will be recorded over Zoom, and you will be questioned about your case before a Panel of Commissioners. Your hearing will be heard before a muted public gallery;

3. **In-camera:** your testimony will be heard in private before an online Panel of Commissioners. It will be videoed but only for consideration by the Panel. The video or audio version won't be broadcast but a transcription of your testimony may be made in whole or in part for public use by the Inquiry. If you want some parts of your testimony to remain confidential, you should speak to the Commission Secretary before your hearing;
4. **Pre-submitted written testimony:** The only data that becomes public is what you include in your written statement. Confidentiality can be requested by you in relation to specific parts of your data or case details. For testimony given in the form of a pre-submitted written statement, you must read our [Guidelines and Information](#).

SECTION 4

ANONYMITY

If you want to stay anonymous, you must tell us. If you say nothing, we will assume you do not want to be anonymous.

If you want to be anonymous, please indicate what method you wish to use when giving your testimony. Anonymity may include things like: not giving your real name, not showing your face, not allowing your voice to be heard, not revealing your job title, which firm or company you work for, etc.

Prospective witnesses are reminded that even if the Inquiry grants anonymity, the Inquiry Panel *must* be notified of your actual name, including other information that otherwise remains private. Individuals may then be called to a hearing, held online but in private before a Commissioner's Panel.

To avoid doubt, the Inquiry is not responsible for the decisions you make about which information should or should not be included in your public testimony.

SECTION 5

EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR CASE

Not everyone will have evidence to support their case, but if there is evidence, the Inquiry would like to see or hear it.

There are two main types of supporting evidence you can give to the Inquiry. First, any written or graphic material (letters, emails, texts, videos, social media posts, etc). You don't need to offer all these but some evidence is better than none. Second, people who are happy to give evidence in support of your case (either written or through one of the recorded forms).

Check that your chosen supporting witness is happy for their name and contact details to be shared with the Commission Secretariat, who, in due course, will contact them. If you believe more than one supporting witness should be called in your support, this will be considered at the discretion of the Inquiry.

SECTION 6

MY CASE SUMMARY

In the space provided, please provide a summary of how you believe you have been discriminated against, with dates of all relevant events. Please ensure that your account is arranged in an orderly format. In addition to the events that have happened, please explain how you have been personally affected (including, if relevant, the impact on others).

Please state whether a lawyer has previously worked, or is currently working, on your case and whether your case is settled or ongoing. Have you been offered a remedy of any kind? You don't need a lawyer to give evidence to the Inquiry, but if a lawyer is involved, you should first consult him/her about your wish to submit evidence.

We suggest that you first write a draft of what has happened to you and, once you have gathered all the relevant information and feel confident that it accurate, that you then include it in the form and email it to the Commission Secretariat.

If you need more space, you may continue on a separate sheet(s), in which case we ask you to use office Microsoft Word. Avoid writing about your case within the email itself but use the form itself and any additional Word attachment.

Once we have received your case summary, we may ask you for more information.

Please note: the Inquiry is unable to advise you on whether you should submit evidence at this time. You are ultimately responsible for any decision to approach the Inquiry.

SECTION 7

AUTHORISATION OF USE OF MY DATA

In this section, you are being asked to authorize the use of your data, in support of the work of the Inquiry. Your data includes a number of items such as the information you have provided in this consent form, the content of your testimony given to the Inquiry, including the format you have chosen (whether video, audio, written or based on an in-camera transcription). For more details about what is covered by 'data', see Consent of Data Form, Definitions, p.1. As the data to be used is particularly sensitive, we require your explicit consent to its use. You may view our Privacy Policy on Data Protection online [here](#). By signing this form, you also agree that Voice for Justice UK may use your data in exactly the same way as the Commission. If your data or case information changes between your submission of this form and your hearing date, you must notify the Commission Secretariat in writing (office@cidac.org.uk).

Your authorization indicates that you will cooperate with the Commission Secretariat to make any changes deemed necessary to update your evidence. The consent given in this form will extend to any such changes, unless otherwise agreed.

Disclaimer

When you sign a consent form, this agreement is subject to all regulatory, public, and statutory, legal requirements and obligations. Nothing in this agreement

shall prevent the Commissioners from complying with such requirements and obligations, inter alia, from reporting a suspected serious criminal offence.