FOR SA
FOR FAITH & FREEDOM

FOR SA in 2026

A year of standing for faith and freedom

In 2026, a team of just four people helped lead South Africa's response to renewed proposals to bring religion under State regulation, while defending religious freedom across the law, equipping faith communities and building partnerships across Africa and the world. **None of it would have been possible without our partners.**



Senior religious leaders at the Religious Leaders Imbizo in Pretoria, November 2026, discussing faith-led alternatives to the CRL's agenda for State regulation of religion

2026 AT A GLANCE

28,901
verified public submissions mobilised against State regulation of religion, 97% opposed

24+
formal submissions, letters and presentations to Parliament, the CRL and government

28
articles, op-eds and interviews published: one a week since our new website launched in May

3 a week
media interviews on average, on radio, TV and podcasts

6
press releases on the issues that matter to faith communities

5
countries beyond South Africa where we engaged: Zimbabwe, the USA, the UK, the Seychelles and Namibia

Standing against State regulation of religion

- At least **ten submissions, letters and presentations** to the CRL's Section 22 Committee and Parliament's COGTA Portfolio Committee, from our formal submission in April to a consolidated submission in October.
- **28,901 verified public submissions** mobilised with the DearSouthAfrica platform between May and August.
- Every party in the National Assembly asked for its position in October. The **ANC publicly stated** that it has neither called for nor advocated State regulation or control of churches.
- Working with faith leaders on their own **Code of Conduct**, a faith-led alternative to State regulation.



FOR SA presenting to the CRL's Section 22 Committee, setting out our opposition to any framework for State regulation of religion (April)



Senior faith leaders with ANC First Deputy Secretary-General Nomvula Mokonyane, raising concerns about the CRL's push for State regulation of religion (March)

Defending religious freedom across the law

- At least **14 further submissions** to Parliament, government and the SA Law Reform Commission: hate speech regulations, online safety, Labour Law, B-BBEE and Anti-Money Laundering amendments, the Marriage Bill and learner pregnancy regulations.
- Responded to a Home Affairs proposal that could have **delayed burial** for families whose faith requires it to take place promptly.
- Drafted a **Hate Speech Amendment Bill**, which the UDM has undertaken to introduce in Parliament as a private member's bill.
- Continued to **defend parental rights** in education, challenging the DBE's gender teacher-training resource for early childhood with a coalition of faith leaders.

On the ground with faith communities



Addressing young leaders in Pretoria on protecting the constitutional right to religious freedom



Head of Legal Liesl Pretorius presenting to the CRL's Section 22 Committee in Cape Town



Presenting at the Freedom of Religion conference, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein

Building partnerships across Africa and the world

- Took part in forming the **African Freedom of Religion or Belief Observatory (AFORBO)**, launched in the Seychelles in October, after early talks in Harare in January.
- Convened the first meeting in Windhoek to establish a **sister organisation to FOR SA in Namibia**.
- Engaged at the **IRF Summit** in Washington, DC, briefed the **US Commission on International Religious Freedom**, and attended the **ARC conference** in London.
- Spoke at the **G20 Interfaith Forum** in Salt Lake City, and serves on the 2027 Forum's organising executive.



Speaking at the launch of AFORBO in the Seychelles (October)



Windhoek, Namibia: the first meeting to establish a sister organisation to FOR SA (November)

> *I would urge upon you to stand by FOR SA in every way you can, prayerfully and financially. Carol and I do both.*
>
> **Michael Cassidy, founder of African Enterprise**

> *We support FOR SA for the tremendous work that they have done in protecting our rights in the Republic of South Africa.*
>
> **Imboni Dr uZwi-Lezwe Radebe, Founder and President, Inkululeko Yesiswe Association**

Looking ahead to 2027

- The CRL's draft framework, proposing compulsory registration and sanctions, is due in **May 2027** on its way to Parliament. We will be there, with faith communities' own Code of Conduct as the alternative.
- Moving the Hate Speech Amendment Bill forward, and running **"Bulletproof Your Church"** workshops on key compliance issues.
- Continuing to inform and equip faith communities through weekly articles, media interviews and engagement with religious leaders across South Africa and the continent.

Thank you to every church, organisation and individual who partnered with FOR SA in 2026. **For faith & freedom!**