

FIONA BRUCE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Pontifex
Head of Press & Public Affairs
Aid to the Church in Need (UK)
12-14 Benhill Avenue
Sutton SM1 4DA

29th June 2023

Dear John,

Thank you for your work on the ACN Nigeria petition and for presenting it to me.

I understand the pressing need for requesting the UK Government to call on their Nigerian counterparts to do more to bring to justice the perpetrators of genocidal attacks and other atrocities committed against Christians in the country and agree strongly with calls for the arrest of terrorists and compensation for the destruction of livelihoods.

As you are aware, on Monday 6th June 2022, the day after the attack in Owo, I called an Urgent Question in the House of Commons to ask the Foreign Secretary to make a statement on the massacre and on wider issues of violence against religious groups in Nigeria. The Government Minister who responded stated "*I publicly express the UK Government's condemnation of this heinous act and stress the importance of those responsible being brought to justice in accordance with the law.*"

Reports of recent killings demonstrate the need for this issue to be taken even more seriously. Let us all hope that the new President of Nigeria will do more to serve justice for persecuted Christians and help prevent further devastating attacks.

Therefore, I am planning to present Aid to the Church in Need's Nigeria Petition to the Foreign Secretary, in my capacity as Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, at the earliest opportunity.

I look forward to being able to share any updates on what is being done to address the request outlined in the petition.

Thank you for all the valuable work you and your colleagues at Aid to the Church in Need do.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Bruce MP
Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief

Serving communities across Alsager, Astbury, Betchton, Brereton, Church Lawton, Congleton, Cranage, Elworth, Ettiley Heath, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, Moston, Mount Pleasant, Mow Cop, Rode Heath, Sandbach, Scholar Green, Smallwood, Somerford, Swettenham, Twemlow, Wheelock and the surrounding areas

Westminster Tel: 0207 219 2969 • Constituency Tel: 01260 274 044
Email: fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk • www.fionabruce.org.uk