

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 4106 804806 · Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: bq@bucer.de · <http://www.bucer.de/bq.html>

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BQ 536 – No. 19/2018

Schirmacher thanks Federal Minister emeritus, Hermann Gröhe, for the “most momentous rebuke in all my life”

(Bonn, 25.06.2018) Thomas Schirmacher published his speech at the opening of the religious freedom chair at the Gießen School of Theology (Freie Theologische Hochschule Gießen). In it he thanks the vice-chair of the CDU/CSU in the German Parliament and former health minister, Hermann Gröhe, for the “most momentous rebuke in all my life”.

To quote from the speech: “I especially welcome the former federal minister and leading member of our parliament, Mr. Hermann Gröhe. He has in 1999 – at that time still in the opposition – initiated the first discussion of our theme in the German Parliament and was outraged afterwards, seeing the thin and unreliable data provided by us. His sentence ‘That must change’ had the effect, that professor Sauer and I founded the IIRF, which today has offices on all continents.

Dear Mr. Gröhe, my deepest thanks for this most momentous rebuke in all my life, which, in the last analysis, was the key factor for the establishment of this professorial chair. And also the new office of the Federal Government Commissioner for International Freedom of Religion, which is held by Mr. Markus Grübler, whom I warmly welcome in our midst as well, has its final origin in this instance.”

Links to the complete speech by Thomas Schirmacher as well as to photos from the introductory event of the “professorship for religious freedom and research on persecution of Christians” at Giessen School of Theology (FTH) can be found below.



(from left) Hermann Gröhe, Heiner Bielefeldt and Thomas Schirmacher at the opening of the religious freedom chair at the Gießen School of Theology (Freie Theologische Hochschule Gießen)
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Text & Technology:
Titus Vogt (ViSDP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de



A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
www.bucer.org

missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

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Downloads and Links:

- Welcoming address of the World Evangelical Alliance on the opening of the new professorial chair “Religious Freedom” at the Freie Theologische Hochschule in Gießen, Germany, on May 18th 2018 ([pdf](#))
- [Photo 1](#): (from left) Hermann Gröhe, Heiner Bielefeldt, Thomas Schirmacher © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 2](#): Hermann Gröhe at his lecture (close-up) © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 3](#): Hermann Gröhe at his lecture (hall) © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 4](#): Heiner Bielefeldt at his lecture © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 5](#): Markus Grübel at his lecture © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 6](#): Permanent Secretary Manuel Lösel, Ministry of Culture, at his lecture © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 7](#): Prelate Prof. Dr. Helmut Moll in his lecture © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 8](#), [photo 9](#), and [photo 10](#): Christof Sauer at his lecture (close-up) © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 11](#) and [photo 12](#): Christof Sauer at his lecture (hall) © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 13](#) and [photo 14](#): Stephan Holthaus at his lecture © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 15](#): Thomas Schirmacher at his lecture (close-up) © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 16](#): Thomas Schirmacher at his lecture (hall) © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 17](#): Front row (from left): Jürgen Werth, Thomas Schirmacher, Helmut Moll, Manuel Lösel, Hermann Gröhe, Markus Grübel, Heiner Bielefeldt, Susanne Geske © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 18](#): (from left) Heiner Bielefeldt, Markus Grübel, Christof Sauer, Hermann Gröhe, Thomas Schirmacher, Manuel Lösel © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 19](#): Christof Sauer and Thomas Schirmacher in conversation with Prelate Prof. Dr. Helmut Moll © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- [Photo 20](#): Christof Sauer and Thomas Schirmacher with guests of the Syrian Orthodox Church © Martin Warnecke/IIRF
- Website of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF): <https://iirf.eu>

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