

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: KHATAZA H GONDWE, B.Sc., MA, PhD

Khataza Gondwe is currently Team Leader for Africa and the Middle East at Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). CSW is a United Kingdom (UK)-based organization working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in French Linguistics and International Relations from the University of Surrey in Guildford (UK) and a Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Salford in Manchester (UK), Dr Gondwe went on to specialize in human rights and acquired a Doctorate from the University of Limerick in Ireland.

Dr. Gondwe created and taught a Masters course in International Relations and International Institutions at the University of Limerick before working briefly as a parliamentary researcher. Dr. Gondwe went on to work for ECPAT UK (End Child Prostitution, Pornography, and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), where she compiled a global directory of organizations assisting child victims of sexual exploitation.

Dr. Gondwe's work at CSW involves political lobbying, researching religious liberties issues and promoting awareness through interviews and articles in the international media and elsewhere. She has worked extensively on religion-related violence in Nigeria, the dire human rights and religious freedom situation in Eritrea, the rise in sectarian violence in Egypt, and the harassment of the house church movement in Iran. Dr. Gondwe also works on Sudan and Somalia, and monitors events in countries in both geographical regions.

Dr. Gondwe has written articles for British newspapers (*The Guardian*, *The Times*) on Eritrea and Egypt, and for the International Journal on Religious Freedom (IJRF) on Nigeria. She has also been asked by BBC TV and radio to provide expert commentary on events in Nigeria, and was interviewed by *Al Jazeera* on the situation in Eritrea.

Dr Gondwe was invited to speak at hearings in the US Congress on religious freedom issues in Sudan and Nigeria in 2008 and 2009 respectively. In 2011 she took part in a panel discussion on violence in Jos, Nigeria at the Frontline Club and in 2012, was on the panel at a briefing organized by the International Religious Freedom Caucus Briefing on the Islamist militia, Boko Haram. Dr Gondwe has spoken on the violation of religious freedom in Eritrea at a hearing held in the European Parliament in 2008, at a side event following the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Eritrea at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, also in 2008, and at the Conservative Human Rights Commission Hearing on Eritrea in 2003. She was invited to present a paper on the persecution of Iranian churches at a hearing in the UK parliament in 2011, and in 2012, presented a paper the 14th EU – NGO Forum on Human Rights on Freedom of Religion and Belief in the African context.