



## MEDIA & MEETINGS OPPORTUNITY

CONTACT: Dede Laugesen, President, Save the Persecuted Christians,  
[dede@savethepersecutedchristians.org](mailto:dede@savethepersecutedchristians.org); (719) 659-3121 (c)

## **Legalise Apostasy: Free Muslims from the Threat of Death for Apostasy**

This February 2026, **Save the Persecuted Christians** will host Nissar Hussain and Neil Petrie, co-founders of the UK-based **Legalise Apostasy** campaign, in the United States. They aim to advance their legal efforts against the 11 nations and Nigerian states that impose the death penalty for leaving Islam.

**Nissar Hussain, a UK Christian convert from Islam**, has been forced into hiding due to ongoing death threats and violence from Muslims seeking to punish his apostasy. He is a natural-born Pakistani-British citizen raised as a Muslim in the UK who converted to Christianity as an adult.

Hussain, his wife, and six children endured years of harassment, criminal damage, and attacks—including a brutal 2015 pickaxe assault outside their home that hospitalised him for 11 days, shattering his kneecap. He continues to face isolation, as many Muslim-background believers (MBBs) avoid associating openly, as it is not safe to do so, and many UK Christian pastors hesitate to support them out of fear.

“They split my kneecap... The doctor told me that’s the hardest bone in your body; it takes a lot of force to break it,” Hussain recalled after the attack.

**Neil Petrie** advocates for freedom of belief alongside Hussain in the Legalise Apostasy campaign. A former British Army Intelligence Corps officer (including a posting with a US intelligence unit in Washington, D.C.), he later ran security operations across Central Asia and the Middle East before focusing on promoting freedom and democracy.

Their host, **Dede Laugesen, is President of Save the Persecuted Christians**, a U.S. non-profit founded in 2018 to raise awareness of severe persecution against over 388 million Christians worldwide. She leads a coalition of more than 200 civil society leaders to expose perpetrators and push for accountability. Previously, she directed efforts with the Institute for the American Future, the Committee on the Present Danger: China, the Sovereignty Coalition, and the 2016 Trump campaign. She has been married for over 30 years and is a mother to six sons.

**Locations:** Together, the team will be in Washington, DC, Feb. 2-5 and again Feb. 23-27. We will be in the Dallas area Feb. 6-16 and in Nashville, TN, for the National Religious Broadcasters Feb. 17-20.



### The 3 Asks for the U.S. Administration and Congress are:

1. Islam's apostasy laws requiring death for leaving the Islamic faith have been defined by leading Western advocates as being in contravention of the Genocide Convention of 1948. **The Administration and Members of Congress are requested to note and to address the systemic and global threat that this perennially ignored breach represents to the West's legal system.** Ultimately, this is a battle between Sharia and the Western international codes, developed since 1517, enshrining freedom of belief.
2. The Administration and Members are requested to note the [case document](#) developed by the **Legalise Apostasy Campaign that addresses the issue of the national statutes of 11 Muslim nations and northern Nigerian states demanding death for leaving Islam.** The case is currently in the hands of a specialist legal practice in London and the support of the Administration, in whatever form it deems appropriate, is sought to progress the matter in hand, i.e., protecting Muslims from the open threat these states are making to anyone even considering leaving the faith, and most immediately to ex-Muslims actually facing prosecution for becoming such. **The mere existence of these laws incites radicalisation and violence globally, representing an ongoing, egregious threat to the world's 1.3 billion Muslim believers and others.**
3. 3. The Administration and Congress are requested to consider and to take appropriate actions to **address the implicit threat represented by any U.S. resident Sharia jurist. All experts in the Islamic law codes' requirement for its jurists to impose the death sentence for apostates from within their community.** That such a group of important community leaders and advisers, trained and required by their faith to support and to espouse such an understanding of their laws, represents a clear and present, but inadequately addressed, danger to the First Amendment's first right. This often concealed, covertly progressed but fundamental requirement of Sharia, and the ongoing attempts by its advocates within the United States to promote Sharia, is a devastating strike at the West's very basis, be it moral, legal or practical. **The Administration, Congress and state officials are asked to ensure that no US State opens the door to Sharia and can begin doing so by showing the door to its jurists.** The long-term survival of the West depends on America leading it, and clamping down on this egregious but tolerated threat from within demonstrates America's willingness to fully shoulder its role to protect the foundations on which it was built.