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**10<sup>th</sup> June 2010.**

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion” says the European Convention of Human Rights. It is a vital human right for all people. It goes far beyond what happens in the church, synagogue or mosque. It covers what we all believe and how those beliefs shape all our actions.

People of faith are persecuted around the world. Countless numbers suffer imprisonment, attack, serious discrimination, even death.

Even in Europe, even in Italy, faith communities face discrimination and limitations simply for not being the “admitted religion”.

The European Evangelical Alliance is the family of 35 national Evangelical Alliances across Europe, representing approximately 15 million individuals attending a wide mix of churches, from Anglican & Lutheran to Baptist & Pentecostal.

We stand with our member body, the Italian Evangelical Alliance, in their efforts to encourage the Italian government and media to become champions for religious freedom and fairness.

We are delighted to offer our support to the march and rally for religious freedom on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

*Julia Doxat-Purser*  
*EEA Religious Liberty Coordinator*

**European Convention of Human Rights Article 9**

Para 1 “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.”

Para 2 “Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by laws and are necessary in a democratic society in the interest of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.”