

## CNEF GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF LIBRE DE LE DIRE IN YOUR COUNTRY

to : EEA and National Evangelical alliances

from:CNEF

Date : October 2015

*Since 2013, National Council for French Evangelicals (CNEF) has developed a cross media campaign in favor of freedom of religion and belief in France, called LIBRE DE LE DIRE (Free to Speak). The campaign, its spirit and its materials, may be of interest to other Evangelical Alliances. To help you better understand the campaign and how it may inspire you or may be used by you, we have issued these short guidelines. **May the Lord multiply the small seeds we were able to sow !***

### **1. The spirit of LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign in France**

LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign was launched to foster **a better understanding and practice of freedom of religion and belief in France** by the Church, public officials, public opinion and the media.

The **main idea** was to come back to the law, to explain freedom of religion and belief in details and to answer practical questions in different contexts ( School, Public space, work, university, Church). We also wished to wrestle with false ideas on freedom of religion and belief and to provide an accurate interpretation of such an important fundamental freedom.

We believed that in France the time was ripe for CNEF to take this stand. Although France maintain a high standard of rule of law and of freedom of religion and belief, there are **some serious threats** coming (in particular due to « laïcism », the issue of Islam de France, the claim of LGBT groups...). This raises the question of the legal framework of the freedom to preach or to share one's faith in public, or to pray for healing and to act according to one's conscience at work and to educate one's child according to one's belief.

This may obviously be very different in your context but across Europe, we can all relate to the issue of freedom lived in diversity.

LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign is therefore **a preventive campaign** which would be summarized with four points:

Understand freedom of religion and belief  
Know your rights in your situation  
Exercise your rights accordingly  
Promote Freedom of religion for all.

In a context where freedom of religion and belief is constantly reduced by French media or public officials, the campaign answers the growing need of knowledge about the principles at stake ( freedom of conscience, pluralism, democracy) and about the accurate legal framework.

LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign was **not designed only for Christians but for all**, believers or non believers, from any religion...The campaign is therefore not a campaign in the defence of freedom of religion and belief for Christians but for all. We thought that the Church needed to stand up for freedom for all because as Christians we care for the protection of the rights of our neighbours, whether they are Christians or not. Freedom is to be shared in the context of diversity.

LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign is a **cross media campaign**. With a rather tight budget and working with partners (BLF Editions, our publisher and Alliance Defending Freedom, our sponsor for legal research and writing), CNEF was able to propose :

- a book on fundamental arguments about freedom of conscience, written by 5 authors (theologian, historian, philosopher, sociologist, lawyer)
- 5 thematic booklets on freedom of religion and belief : at school, at work, in the public space, at university, at church.
- a quarterly newsletter for French Mps and the Media
- presentation of the campaign to public officials and politicians in private meetings
- a website : [www.libredeledire.fr](http://www.libredeledire.fr), with the main theme and thematic areas with ressources and quizzes
- Conferences and speeches, press releases, radio interviews in secular and christian media.

LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign is a **national campaign**. Because the specifics of freedom of religion and belief is found in national law, LIBRE DE LE DIRE materials are based on French Law. Obviously international law (UN) and European law ( EU and ECHR) can be found in LIBRE DE LE DIRE but we adressed the French legal context to answer the pratical questions of the reader. For example, LIBRE DE LE DIRE explains a lot about « laïcité », French principle of separation between state and religions, because there is a lot of confusion in France between the legal principles and an ideology knowed as « laïcisme », the exclusion of religion in society and the public sphere.

As of today ( october 2015), it is difficult to assess **the results of LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign**. In this very short time window, the campaign has already produced :

- a growing awareness among Christians about freedom of religion and belief in France
- a real interest in the political sphere (Mps and politicians)
- a growing interest in the Press
- the emergence of a network of LIBRE DE LE DIRE people, people who spread the LIBRE DE LE DIRE spirit.

Another possible result, which depend on you, is the inspiration of other Evangelical Alliances to spread the LIBRE DE LE DIRE « spirit ».

This is why we believe you can use the LIBRE DE LE DIRE spirit and materials for your own country, with some simple guidelines.

## **2. Use of LIBRE DE LE DIRE materials by National Evangelical Alliances**

CNEF can provide **LIBRE DE LE DIRE ressources** :

- in French (all - you can buy the book and booklets on [www.blfstore.com](http://www.blfstore.com) or ask us about it)
- some in English (the thematic booklets) ( for free, in electronic format with minimal layouts). (As of October 2015, two booklets have been translated and will be provided to you)

LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign may therefore **inspire you in very different ways** :

- you may want to duplicate the campaign in your own national legal context
- you may want to use part of the idea of the campaign, adapt it to your specific national context
- you may want to cite the campaign (excerpts, citation) or use it as a reference
- you may just want to share about the campaign in your network and see what will come up.
- you may just let yourself inspire by the LIBRE DE LE DIRE spirit.
- you may want to invite us to tell you more about the campaign...

Any option is great.

We just want to remind you few points :

### Respect for the spirit of LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign

CNEF and BLF, our publisher, wish that the spirit of the LIBRE DE LE DIRE campaign be fully respected, especially :

- the idea of defending freedom for all ( when you use excerpts or make citation of the LIBRE DE LE DIRE texts, please do not use them only to defend Christians)
- LIBRE DE LE DIRE wants to meet people, so the issues are often practical and the ressources are tailor maded to the audience. We do foster ideas but we serve people, keep that in mind when you address different audiences. Try to answer specific questions.
- The legal aspect of the campaign is key to the campaign. It gives legitimacy and objectivity. This requires specific legal analysis. Be legally accurate.

### Copyright issues

Full copyright of French and English ressources is owned by CNEF and BLF Editions. So whenever you cite or give excerpts, please point to **the right reference**. You will find the information on the materials, on the first pages.

Here is how to cite Libre de le dire materials :

*Name of the book or booklet in English and French*  
CNEF (Copyright, *date of publications*), BLF Editions

Please respect copyright law, especially when **translations** are concerned. If you want to translate a substantial part of Libre de le dire materials (not only citation or excerpts), please contact us.

### Trademark issues

If the LIBRE DE LE DIRE trademark appeal to you and you think it could be use in your country, this is great.

LIBRE DE LE DIRE is a registered trademark in France. If you wish to use the trademark, please **contact us** for license.

If you wish to register a LIBRE DE LE DIRE trademark in your own language and country, please contact us.

If you think there would be a common interest to register a European trademark in French, English and any other language, please contact us.

This is not a question of money, but a trademark issue. We wish to protect the trademark and, if possible, protect the notoriety of LIBRE DE LE DIRE. This may include trademark registration and licensing agreements.

### Information

If indeed you are inspired by LIBRE DE LE DIRE, please tell us and inform us about what you are doing. This will really encourage us and build a strong network between us.

### Possible contribution

CNEF and BLF will provide English translation for free. This translation work requires a lot of overview and time. If you feel called to it, please give a contribution to help us. Thank you.