

# The Power of the Pope in Global Affairs

Professor Francis Campbell, Vice Chancellor, The University of Notre Dame

Wednesday 13 July: 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm AEST, **Webinar**

2029 will mark 100 years of the establishment of a sovereign Vatican City, during which the Pope has played a formative role in international-political discourse. The power of the Pope notably extends far beyond the 1.2 billion adherents of Catholicism. By reconciling religious duties and diplomatic missions, the papacy has forged both a unique and significant position as a global actor in contemporary international relations.



Historically speaking, Pope John Paul II had been a key voice for Solidarity movements in Poland during the Cold War, after expressing concerns of compromised religious freedoms under USSR governance for Polish civil society. In a post-Cold War context, the Pope had also

been an instrumental facilitator of Cuba-US bilateral talks, supporting the Obama administration's relaxation of an embargo against the predominantly Catholic neighbouring state.

The appointment of Pope Francis in 2013 has seen an emphasis on pressing humanitarian issues from the Vatican, particularly drawing attention to the ongoing refugee crisis and global poverty. Demonstrating a commitment to matters that are both widespread and systemic, the Pope has a greater audience and capacity to assert its foreign policy agenda than ever before.

To what extent does the influence of the Pope permeate the borders of Vatican City? How does holding formalised power in international forums impact which issues emerge on the global political agenda? What are the primary diplomatic objectives of the Vatican City under the papacy of Pope Francis?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Prof. Francis Campbell to discuss this topical issue.



**Professor Francis Campbell** joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as a member of Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service in 1997. He has worked at the United Nations Security Council in New York, the European Union, and at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London and on diplomatic postings overseas. From 1999-2003, he served on the staff of the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, first as a Policy Adviser in the No.10 Policy Unit, and then as a Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. He also served on secondment with Amnesty International as the Senior Director of Policy. From 2005-2011, he served as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Holy See. From 2011-13, he served as Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan. From 2013-2014 he was the Head of the Policy Unit in the FCO and Director of Innovation at UK Trade and Investment. From 2014-2020, Professor Campbell served as Vice Chancellor of St. Mary's University in London and also Professor of International Relations, while on special leave from the Foreign Office. In February 2020, Professor Campbell became the fourth Vice Chancellor of The University of Notre Dame Australia. He also holds the position of Professor, International Relations.

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