



# Foreign Affairs Committee

Committee Office House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 6106 | Email [FAC@parliament.uk](mailto:FAC@parliament.uk)

Website [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London, SW1A 2AH

8 October 2018

*Dear Foreign Secretary,*

I am writing with regards the final appeal in the Pakistani Supreme Court of Asia Bibi, who was charged with blasphemy and sentenced to death in 2010.

As you will be aware Asia Bibi, a Catholic, was accused and convicted of blasphemy for drinking water from the same cup as Muslim colleagues, an action the latter believed made the water unclean. Pakistan's Supreme Court is due to hear her final appeal later this month. If her death sentence is upheld she will be the first Catholic woman to be condemned to death under Pakistan's blasphemy laws.

I am very concerned at this conviction. It is a clear violation of Asia Bibi's human rights and sets a disturbing precedent for others in Pakistan. I write to you to ask you what efforts are being made by the UK Government to prevent Asia Bibi's death and what further actions you plan to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief in Pakistan and beyond.

In general the Committee places correspondence with Ministers in the public domain. We will do so with your response unless you advise us that there is a compelling reason not to do so.

**Tom Tugendhat MP**  
Chair