



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**BELLWETHER  
INTERNATIONAL**

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# NIGERIA

40,000 BOOKS  
10 STATES

OVER

# 25,791

STUDENTS

59 SCHOOLS & IDP CAMPS

In Benue state alone, 21,000 parents and children benefited from clothing and access to education through the delivery of thousands of books and learning resources. Pictured below are a few beneficiaries who share how literacy is impacting their lives. On December 21, executive director Rachel Miner attended a student conference celebrating what students have learned as a result of Bellwether's efforts. We would like to especially thank our partners Stefanos Foundation and Books 2 Africa for helping to make this project possible.

In 2022, we will be expanding our education programmes in Nigeria to include leadership training for youth, after school soccer programs that promote interfaith dialogue, and continued conflict resolution training to prevent radicalization from local terrorist groups.



"My name is **Victoria Moses** I'm from Borno state. I am schooling in Noble college, Bukuru. Boko Haram attack made my parents relocate us to Jos, Plateau state. Thank you Stefanos Foundation for giving us food and paying my fees ever since I was in JSS 3 and now I am in SSS 2. Thank you Bellwether for all the books most especially the hobbies and dictionary, it has really been helpful."

**Mrs. Nandom Zugunben**, The head teacher Vom Christian Hospital staff school, "I have about 29 IDPs (students) here and this book is very important. As you can see, is an English textbook and I know is going to impact on our children. They will be able to read, they will be able to know their sounds, they will be able to pronounce words and spell. When we give them this book to study, we believe the Lord in Heaven will open their brain to understand what their teachers are teaching them."





Ongoing religious conflict between Christians, Muslims, and various tribal groups in Nigeria can be addressed through interfaith dialogue. In September 2021, Bellwether International held a 2-day conference in Sagamu, Ogun State, Nigeria entitled, "A Peaceful Dialogue in reducing tension and conflict between the Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers in Sagamu Community." There were 125 people in attendance including religious leaders, parents, teachers, youth, and community members. 50 students received educational material as part of the conference including books, notebooks, and other learning materials. Pictured above and below are the children who benefited from the learning resources and the religious leaders who spoke at the event. We would like to give a special thanks to our partners Oluwasegun and Olamide who helped to plan and carry out the project with the help of youth, women, and local religious leaders. In 2022, these conflict resolution events will be replicated across Nigeria including in Lagos, and another event in Ogun State. The goal in the new year is to implement conflict resolution further north, closer and closer to the source of conflict.

**What did you learn from attending the peaceful dialogue event?**

"I learnt that peace is everyone business and it's attainable if we all learn to tolerate one another in our society."

**What attitudes were changed as a result of the event?**

"People now believe that dialogue is important for peace-building. Good relationship between different ethnic group in Sagamu has been happening after the events."





# IRAQ

With the help of Dr. Stacey Shaw and the Kurdistan Justice and Peace Initiative we were able to expand trauma and healing services for over 100 Yezidi women in the Sheikhan IDP camp. Although the Yezidi genocide was over 7 years ago, women and children still lack access to basic health care needs and accessibility to building new lives. We will be expanding the trauma services in 2022 to include youth and children, focusing specifically on overcoming increased suicide and PTSD. Beginning January 10, we will be implementing a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy intervention that will run for 8 weeks and will expand current resources for women who experience gender-based violence, mental health challenges, and suicide ideation. Additional Yezidi social workers will be recruited and trained to implement the project.

We are also launching a new initiative to help Yezidi women obtain critical national registration and documentation to help them obtain employment, social security, and legal empowerment in order to take control of their lives. Special thanks to our partners Free Yezidi Foundation and Mankind is our Business.

As of December 2019, there are 859 families, 2,201 women, 1,997 children for a total of 4,392 in the Sheikhan IDP community. With 110 active women cases at the center, the expected impact includes the women being treated and their families (approx. 500 people). Through expanded resources that include children we aim to impact another 300 children. It is anticipated that community events and trainings will draw an additional 100-200 individuals for a total impact of 1,000 men, women, and children.

Because the intervention targets both responding to current GBV and preventing future GBV, the estimate of number of Yezidis impacted is grossly underrepresented. Through Yezidi-led intervention we intend to transform the entire community over the course of several years to include all 4,392 individuals.

# UK



## London

Bellwether International participated in Red Wednesday events in London, acknowledging the many victims of religious freedom violations. Executive director Rachel Miner helped publish a report on violations in Nepal which will be distributed across Parliament and to the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fiona Bruce (picture to the left).

Additionally, Bellwether is helping to plan and facilitate the 2022 Ministerial for Religious Freedom which will be hosted in London in July. In April 2022, Bellwether will be taking a group of Parliamentarians to Nigeria to negotiate policy, address security concerns, and implement further humanitarian interventions to help the over 2.9 million Nigerians who have been displaced. Bellwether remains a critical partner and stakeholder to freedom of religion or belief in the UK.

# USA

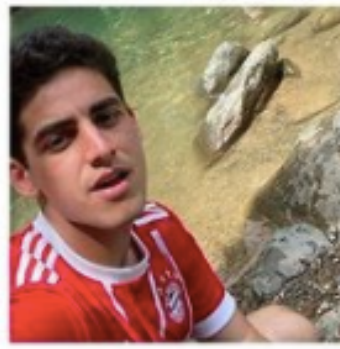
## Salt Lake City

We are currently working with a group of 700 refugees in Salt Lake City who have escaped persecution from the Taliban. The Hazara Muslim community is looking to build a community center to preserve their language, culture, and religious traditions. In partnership with the Utah Hazara Association, we are working to help build the center in 2022. Bellwether has thus far created partnerships with the International Rescue Committee, Catholic Community Services, and other organizations to respond to growing refugee needs in Utah.

## Other News

Earlier this year, Rachel Miner presented at Harvard University's Faith and Flourishing Symposium on the intersection between child sexual abuse and freedom of religion or belief. In November, Rachel presented at 21WilberForce Emerging Leader's Summit following a discussion from Nury Turkel from USCIRF. On March 11, 2022, Rachel Miner will present at the Church History Symposium for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on how religious freedom policy has evolved in the United States over the last two decades.





## Bellwether International Ambassador Program

The purpose of the Bellwether International Ambassador Program is to empower individuals to protect and promote freedom of religion or belief in their workplace, community, and sphere of influence. Through a monthly one-hour training, the Ambassador program:

- Empowers individuals with resources to protect human rights
- Creates awareness of freedom of religion or belief in the community
- Creates community led social impact projects protecting freedom of religion or belief

Ambassadors receive training once a month to learn:

- Why freedom of religion or belief matters
- How to protect freedom of religion or belief in the context of all human rights
- How to volunteer and partner with Bellwether International on current projects or community led projects/events

Bellwether International now supports over 30 Ambassadors from 9 countries in protecting and promoting freedom of religion or belief. In the coming year, Bellwether will micro-fund ambassador led social impact projects to further expand religious freedom protection for as many people as possible.

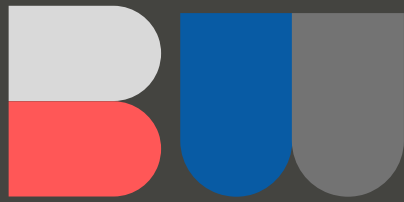


### FORBcast

This year we launched the FORBcast, a truly unique podcast that explores religious freedom topics. We hosted various experts in the field exploring intersectionality in freedom of religion or belief. All 14 episodes are available on Buzzsprout, Apple podcasts, and Spotify.

# Thank you.

Your support makes our work possible.



People are our Purpose.