Ms Shereen Cassiem

Secretary

COGTA Parliamentary Portfolio Committee

Parliament of South Africa

Cape Town

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Dear Ms Cassiem

**SUBMISSION AND REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN COGTA HEARINGS ON THE REPORT OF THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION**

We received notice that hearings by the COGTA Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on the CRL Rights Commission’s Report on the *Commercialisation of Religion and Abuse of People’s Belief Systems* will be held on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October 2017.

The *Association of Christian Religious Practitioners (ACRP)* has been appointed by the *South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)* as professional body for religious professions in terms of the National Qualifications Framework Act (Act 67 of 2008). Notes on the identity of ACRFP is provided in Annexure 1 of the attached memorandum.

As ***formally recognised professional body for religious professionals*** the ACRP is directly involved with the matters dealt with in the CRL Report. We accordingly request the opportunity to participate in the hearings. ACRP will be represented by myself as well as Rev Hermy Damons who is a member of the Board of Directors of ACRP. Rev Damons is also a member of the National Executive Committee of the *Evangelic Alliance of South Africa (TEASA)*, and will also speak on their behalf.

ACRP has previously submitted comments to the CRL Rights Commission’s report. Attached is our second submission, for the attention of the Portfolio Committee.

Your favourable consideration of and early response to our request to participate in the hearings will be appreciated.

With kind regards

Dr JP (Hannes) van der Walt

ACRP Secretary and General Manager

11 October 2017