

Signed into Law  
By the President  
December 16, 2016

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1150

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

...as amended

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*  
3 *“Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act”.*

4 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*  
5 *this Act is as follows:*

*Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.*

*Sec. 2. Findings; policy; sense of Congress.*

*Sec. 3. Definitions.*

*TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES*

- Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.*  
*Sec. 102. Annual Report on International Religious Freedom.*  
*Sec. 103. Training for Foreign Service officers.*  
*Sec. 104. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.*

*TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL*

- Sec. 201. Special Adviser for International Religious Freedom.*

*TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS*

- Sec. 301. Non-state actor designations.*  
*Sec. 302. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.*  
*Sec. 303. Report to Congress.*  
*Sec. 304. Presidential waiver.*  
*Sec. 305. Publication in the Federal Register.*

*TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM*

- Sec. 401. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.*

*TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM*

- Sec. 501. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.*

*TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS*

- Sec. 601. Miscellaneous provisions.*  
*Sec. 602. Clerical amendments.*

**1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2       (a) *FINDINGS.*—Section 2(a) of the International Reli-  
 3 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) is amend-  
 4 ed—

5           (1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “The freedom  
 6 of thought, conscience, and religion is understood to  
 7 protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs and the right  
 8 not to profess or practice any religion.” before “Gov-  
 9 ernments”;

1           (2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the  
2 following: “A policy or practice of routinely denying  
3 applications for visas for religious workers in a coun-  
4 try can be indicative of a poor state of religious free-  
5 dom in that country.”; and

6           (3) in paragraph (6)—

7           (A) by inserting “and the specific targeting  
8 of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of  
9 their beliefs” after “religious persecution”; and

10           (B) by inserting “and in regions where  
11 non-state actors exercise significant political  
12 power and territorial control” before the period  
13 at the end.

14           (b) *POLICY.*—Section 2(b) of the International Reli-  
15 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(b)) is amend-  
16 ed—

17           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5)  
18 as subparagraphs (A) through (E);

19           (2) by striking the matter preceding subpara-  
20 graph (A), as redesignated, and inserting the fol-  
21 lowing:

22           “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The following shall be the  
23 policy of the United States:”; and

24           (3) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(2) *EVOLVING POLICIES AND COORDINATED DIP-*  
2           *LOMATIC RESPONSES.*—*Because the promotion of*  
3           *international religious freedom protects human rights,*  
4           *advances democracy abroad, and advances United*  
5           *States interests in stability, security, and develop-*  
6           *ment globally, the promotion of international reli-*  
7           *gious freedom requires new and evolving policies and*  
8           *diplomatic responses that—*

9                     “(A) *are drawn from the expertise of the*  
10                    *national security agencies, the diplomatic serv-*  
11                    *ices, and other governmental agencies and non-*  
12                    *governmental organizations; and*

13                    “(B) *are coordinated across and carried out*  
14                    *by the entire range of Federal agencies.”.*

15           (c) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—*It is the sense of Congress*  
16           *that—*

17                   (1) *a policy or practice by the government of*  
18                    *any foreign country of routinely denying visa appli-*  
19                    *cations for religious workers can be indicative of a*  
20                    *poor state of religious freedom in that country; and*

21                   (2) *the United States Government should seek to*  
22                    *reverse any such policy by reviewing the entirety of*  
23                    *the bilateral relationship between such country and*  
24                    *the United States.*

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 *Section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act*  
 3 *of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—*

4 *(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as para-*  
 5 *graph (16);*

6 *(2) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (11), and*  
 7 *(12) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (14), respectively;*

8 *(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-*  
 9 *lowing:*

10 *“(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—*

11 *The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the*  
 12 *meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher*  
 13 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).*

14 *“(11) NON-STATE ACTOR.—The term ‘non-state*  
 15 *actor’ means a nonsovereign entity that—*

16 *“(A) exercises significant political power*  
 17 *and territorial control;*

18 *“(B) is outside the control of a sovereign*  
 19 *government; and*

20 *“(C) often employs violence in pursuit of its*  
 21 *objectives.”;*

22 *(4) by inserting after paragraph (14), as redesign-*  
 23 *ated, the following:*

24 *“(15) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—The term ‘Special*  
 25 *Watch List’ means the Special Watch List described*  
 26 *in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii).”;* and

1           (5) *in paragraph (16), as redesignated—*

2                   (A) *in subparagraph (A)—*

3                           (i) *by redesignating clauses (iv) and*  
 4                           (v) *as clauses (v) and (vi), respectively; and*  
 5                           (ii) *by inserting after clause (iii) the*  
 6                           *following:*

7                                   “(iv) *not professing a particular reli-*  
 8                                   *gion, or any religion;”;* and

9                   (B) *in subparagraph (B)—*

10                           (i) *by inserting “conscience, non-the-*  
 11                           *istic views, or” before “religious belief or*  
 12                           *practice”;* and

13                           (ii) *by inserting “forcibly compelling*  
 14                           *non-believers or non-theists to recant their*  
 15                           *beliefs or to convert,” after “forced religious*  
 16                           *conversion,”.*

17                   **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF**  
 18                           **STATE ACTIVITIES**

19           **SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
 20                           **DOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTER-**  
 21                           **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

22           (a) *IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the International*  
 23           *Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is amend-*  
 24           *ed—*

1           (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, and shall  
2 report directly to the Secretary of State” before the  
3 period at the end;

4           (2) in subsection (c)—

5                 (A) in paragraph (1)—

6                     (i) by striking “responsibility” and in-  
7 sserting “responsibilities”;

8                     (ii) by striking “shall be to advance”  
9 and inserting the following: “shall be to—  
10 “(A) advance”;

11                    (iii) in subparagraph (A), as redesign-  
12 ated, by striking the period at the end and  
13 inserting “; and”; and

14                    (iv) by adding at the end the following:

15                         “(B) integrate United States international  
16 religious freedom policies and strategies into the  
17 foreign policy efforts of the United States.”;

18                 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the  
19 principal adviser to” before “the Secretary of  
20 State”;

21                 (C) in paragraph (3)—

22                     (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
23 “and” at the end;

1                   (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
2                   the period at the end and inserting “; and”;  
3                   and

4                   (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
5                   lowing:

6                   “(C) contacts with nongovernmental organi-  
7                   zations that have an impact on the state of reli-  
8                   gious freedom in their respective societies or re-  
9                   gions, or internationally.”;

10                  (D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
11                  paragraph (5); and

12                  (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
13                  lowing:

14                  “(4)   COORDINATION   RESPONSIBILITIES.—In  
15                  order to promote religious freedom as an interest of  
16                  United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at  
17                  Large—

18                  “(A) shall coordinate international religious  
19                  freedom policies across all programs, projects,  
20                  and activities of the United States; and

21                  “(B) should participate in any interagency  
22                  processes on issues in which the promotion of  
23                  international religious freedom policy can ad-  
24                  vance United States national security interests,



1           including in democracy promotion, stability, se-  
2           curity, and development globally.”; and

3           (3) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the  
4           Office” and all that follows and inserting “appro-  
5           priate staff for the Office, including full-time equiva-  
6           lent positions and other temporary staff positions  
7           needed to compile, edit, and manage the Annual Re-  
8           port under the direct supervision of the Ambassador  
9           at Large, and for the conduct of investigations by the  
10          Office and for necessary travel to carry out this Act.  
11          The Secretary of State should provide the Ambassador  
12          at Large with sufficient funding to carry out the du-  
13          ties described in this section, including, as necessary,  
14          representation funds. On the date on which the Presi-  
15          dent’s annual budget request is submitted to Congress,  
16          the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the  
17          appropriate congressional committees that includes a  
18          report on staffing levels for the International Reli-  
19          gious Freedom Office.”.

20          (b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress  
21          that maintaining an adequate staffing level at the Office,  
22          such as was in place during fiscal year 2016, is necessary  
23          for the Office to carry out its important work.

1 **SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**  
2 **FREEDOM.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 102(b)(1) of the Inter-  
4 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
5 6412(b)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
7 by striking “September 1” and inserting “May 1”;

8 (2) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and  
10 inserting “as well as the routine denial of visa  
11 applications for religious workers;”;

12 (B) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause  
13 (vii); and

14 (C) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(iv) particularly severe violations of  
17 religious freedom in that country if such  
18 country does not have a functioning govern-  
19 ment or the government of such country  
20 does not control its territory;

21 “(v) the identification of prisoners, to  
22 the extent possible, in that country pursu-  
23 ant to section 108(d);

24 “(vi) any action taken by the govern-  
25 ment of that country to censor religious con-  
26 tent, communications, or worship activities

1           *online, including descriptions of the tar-*  
2           *geted religious group, the content, commu-*  
3           *nication, or activities censored, and the*  
4           *means used; and”;*

5           (3) *in subparagraph (B), in the matter pre-*  
6           *ceding clause (i)—*

7           (A) *by inserting “persecution of lawyers,*  
8           *politicians, or other human rights advocates*  
9           *seeking to defend the rights of members of reli-*  
10           *gious groups or highlight religious freedom viola-*  
11           *tions, prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter or*  
12           *male infant circumcision,” after “entire reli-*  
13           *gions,”; and*

14           (B) *by inserting “policies that ban or re-*  
15           *strict the public manifestation of religious belief*  
16           *and the peaceful involvement of religious groups*  
17           *or their members in the political life of each such*  
18           *foreign country,” after “such groups,”;*

19           (4) *in subparagraph (C), by striking “A descrip-*  
20           *tion of United States actions and” and inserting “A*  
21           *detailed description of United States actions, diplo-*  
22           *matic and political coordination efforts, and other”;*  
23           *and*

24           (5) *in subparagraph (F)(i)—*

1           (A) by striking “section 402(b)(1)” and in-  
2           serting “section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii)”; and

3           (B) by adding at the end the following:  
4           “Any country in which a non-state actor des-  
5           ignated as an entity of particular concern for re-  
6           ligious freedom under section 301 of the Frank  
7           R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act is  
8           located shall be included in this section of the re-  
9           port.”.

10          (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress  
11          that—

12                 (1) the original intent of the International Reli-  
13                 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.)  
14                 was to require annual reports from both the Depart-  
15                 ment of State and the Commission on International  
16                 Religious Freedom to be delivered each year, during  
17                 the same calendar year, and with at least 5 months  
18                 separating these reports, in order to provide updated  
19                 information for policymakers, Members of Congress,  
20                 and nongovernmental organizations; and

21                 (2) given that the annual Country Reports on  
22                 Human Rights Practices no longer contain updated  
23                 information on religious freedom conditions globally,  
24                 it is important that the Department of State coordi-

1       nate with the Commission to fulfill the original intent  
2       of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

3 **SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

4       (a) AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF  
5 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22  
6 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

7           (1) in subsection (a)—

8                   (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),  
9                   and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), re-  
10                   spectively;

11                   (B) by striking “(a) The Secretary of State”  
12                   and inserting the following:

13           “(a) HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND  
14 HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING.—

15                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State”; and

16                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

17           “(2) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.—

18                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the  
19                   training required under paragraph (1)(B), the  
20                   Director of the George P. Shultz National For-  
21                   eign Affairs Training Center shall, not later  
22                   than the one year after the date of the enactment  
23                   of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious  
24                   Freedom Act, conduct training on religious free-  
25                   dom for all Foreign Service officers, including

1           *all entry level officers, all officers prior to depar-*  
2           *ture for posting outside the United States, and*  
3           *all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambas-*  
4           *sadors. Such training shall be included in—*

5                     “(i) *the A-100 course attended by all*  
6                     *Foreign Service officers;*

7                     “(ii) *the courses required of every For-*  
8                     *ign Service officer prior to a posting out-*  
9                     *side the United States, with segments tai-*  
10                    *lored to the particular religious demog-*  
11                    *raphy, religious freedom conditions, and*  
12                    *United States strategies for advancing reli-*  
13                    *gious freedom, in each receiving country;*  
14                    *and*

15                    “(iii) *the courses required of all out-*  
16                    *going deputy chiefs of mission and ambas-*  
17                    *sadors.*

18                    “(B) *DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—In*  
19                    *carrying out the training required under para-*  
20                    *graph (1)(B), the Ambassador at Large for Inter-*  
21                    *national Religious Freedom, in coordination*  
22                    *with the Director of the George P. Shultz Na-*  
23                    *tional Foreign Affairs Training Center and other*  
24                    *Federal officials, as appropriate, and in con-*  
25                    *sultation with the United States Commission on*

1           *International Religious Freedom established*  
2           *under section 201(a) of the International Reli-*  
3           *gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)),*  
4           *shall make recommendations to the Secretary of*  
5           *State regarding a curriculum for the training of*  
6           *United States Foreign Service officers under*  
7           *paragraph (1)(B) on the scope and strategic*  
8           *value of international religious freedom, how vio-*  
9           *lations of international religious freedom harm*  
10          *fundamental United States interests, how the ad-*  
11          *vancement of international religious freedom can*  
12          *advance such interests, how United States inter-*  
13          *national religious freedom policy should be car-*  
14          *ried out in practice by United States diplomats*  
15          *and other Foreign Service officers, and the rel-*  
16          *evance and relationship of international reli-*  
17          *gious freedom to United States defense, diplo-*  
18          *macy, development, and public affairs efforts.*  
19          *The Secretary of State should ensure the avail-*  
20          *ability of sufficient resources to develop and im-*  
21          *plement such curriculum.*

22                 “(C) *INFORMATION SHARING.*—*The cur-*  
23                 *riculum and training materials developed under*  
24                 *this paragraph shall be shared with the United*  
25                 *States Armed Forces and other Federal depart-*

1            *ments and agencies with personnel who are sta-*  
2            *tioned overseas, as appropriate, to provide train-*  
3            *ing on—*

4                    *“(i) United States religious freedom*  
5                    *policies;*

6                    *“(ii) religious traditions;*

7                    *“(iii) religious engagement strategies;*

8                    *“(iv) religious and cultural issues; and*

9                    *“(v) efforts to counter violent religious*  
10                   *extremism.”;*

11                   *(2) in subsection (b), by striking “The Secretary*  
12                   *of State” and inserting “REFUGEES.—The Secretary*  
13                   *of State”;* and

14                   *(3) in subsection (c), by striking “The Secretary*  
15                   *of State” and inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS.—The Sec-*  
16                   *retary of State”.*

17                   *(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date*  
18                   *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with*  
19                   *the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for International*  
20                   *Religious Freedom, and the Director of the Foreign Service*  
21                   *Institute, located at the George P. Shultz National Foreign*  
22                   *Affairs Training Center, shall submit a report to the Com-*  
23                   *mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives*  
24                   *and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that*  
25                   *contains a plan for undertaking training for Foreign Serv-*



1 *ice officers under section 708 of the Foreign Services Act*  
 2 *of 1980, as amended by subsection (a).*

3 **SEC. 104. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELI-**  
 4 **GIOUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.**

5 *Section 108 of the International Religious Freedom*  
 6 *Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6417) is amended—*

7 *(1) in subsection (b), by striking “faith,” and in-*  
 8 *serting “activities, religious freedom advocacy, or ef-*  
 9 *forts to protect and advance the universally recog-*  
 10 *nized right to the freedom of religion,”;*

11 *(2) in subsection (c), by striking “, as appro-*  
 12 *priate, provide” and insert “make available”; and*

13 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

14 *“(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE UNITED*  
 15 *STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS*  
 16 *FREEDOM.—*

17 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make*  
 18 *publicly available, to the extent practicable, online*  
 19 *and in official publications, lists of persons it deter-*  
 20 *mines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared,*  
 21 *been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or sub-*  
 22 *jected to forced renunciations of faith for their reli-*  
 23 *gious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the*  
 24 *government of a foreign country that the Commission*  
 25 *recommends for designation as a country of par-*

1     *ticular concern for religious freedom under section*  
 2     *402(b)(1)(A)(ii) or by a non-state actor that the Com-*  
 3     *mission recommends for designation as an entity of*  
 4     *particular concern for religious freedom under section*  
 5     *301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious*  
 6     *Freedom Act and include as much publicly available*  
 7     *information as practicable on the conditions and cir-*  
 8     *cumstances of such persons.*

9             “(2) *DISCRETION.*—*In compiling lists under*  
 10     *paragraph (1), the Commission shall exercise all ap-*  
 11     *propriate discretion, including consideration of the*  
 12     *safety and security of, and benefit to, the persons who*  
 13     *may be included on the lists and the families of such*  
 14     *persons.”.*

15     **TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY**  
 16             **COUNCIL**

17     **SEC. 201. SPECIAL ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELI-**  
 18             **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

19             *The position described in section 101(k) of the Na-*  
 20     *tional Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021(k)) should as-*  
 21     *sist the Ambassador at Large for International Religious*  
 22     *Freedom to coordinate international religious freedom poli-*  
 23     *cies and strategies throughout the executive branch and*  
 24     *within any interagency policy committee of which the Am-*  
 25     *bassador at Large is a member.*

1           **TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL**  
2                           **ACTIONS**

3 **SEC. 301. NON-STATE ACTOR DESIGNATIONS.**

4           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The President, concurrent with the*  
5 *annual foreign country review required under section*  
6 *402(b)(1)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of*  
7 *1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)), shall—*

8                   (1) *review and identify any non-state actors op-*  
9 *erating in any such reviewed country or surrounding*  
10 *region that have engaged in particularly severe viola-*  
11 *tions of religious freedom; and*

12                   (2) *designate, in a manner consistent with such*  
13 *Act, each such non-state actor as an entity of par-*  
14 *ticular concern for religious freedom.*

15           (b) *REPORT.*—*Whenever the President designates a*  
16 *non-state actor under subsection (a) as an entity of par-*  
17 *ticular concern for religious freedom, the President, as soon*  
18 *as practicable after the designation is made, shall submit*  
19 *a report to the appropriate congressional committees that*  
20 *describes the reasons for such designation.*

21           (c) *ACTIONS.*—*The President should take specific ac-*  
22 *tions, when practicable, to address severe violations of reli-*  
23 *gious freedom of non-state actors that are designated under*  
24 *subsection (a)(2).*

1       (d) *DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL REPORT.*—*The*  
2 *Secretary of State should include information detailing the*  
3 *reasons the President designated a non-state actor as an*  
4 *entity of particular concern for religious freedom under sub-*  
5 *section (a) in the Annual Report required under section*  
6 *102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of*  
7 *1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)).*

8       (e) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—*It is the sense of Congress*  
9 *that—*

10           (1) *the Secretary of State should work with Con-*  
11 *gress and the U.S. Commission on International Reli-*  
12 *gious Freedom—*

13                   (A) *to create new political, financial, and*  
14 *diplomatic tools to address severe violations of*  
15 *religious freedom by non-state actors; and*

16                   (B) *to update the actions the President can*  
17 *take under section 405 of the International Reli-*  
18 *gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445);*

19           (2) *governments must ultimately be held ac-*  
20 *countable for the abuses that occur in their territories;*  
21 *and*

22           (3) *any actions the President takes after desig-*  
23 *nating a non-state actor as an entity of particular*  
24 *concern should also involve high-level diplomacy with*

1       the government of the country in which the non-state  
2       actor is operating.

3       (f) *DETERMINATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.*—In  
4       order to appropriately target Presidential actions under the  
5       International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
6       6401 et seq.), the President, with respect to each non-state  
7       actor designated as an entity of particular concern for reli-  
8       gious freedom under subsection (a), shall seek to determine,  
9       to the extent practicable, the specific officials or members  
10      that are responsible for the particularly severe violations  
11      of religious freedom engaged in or tolerated by such non-  
12      state actor.

13      (g) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section, the terms “appro-  
14      priate congressional committees”, “non-state actor”, and  
15      “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” have  
16      the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Inter-  
17      national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402),  
18      as amended by section 3 of this Act.

19      **SEC. 302. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAR-**  
20                                    **TICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
21                                    **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

22      Section 402 of the International Religious Freedom  
23      Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442) is amended—

24                   (1) in subsection (b)—

25                                   (A) in paragraph (1)—

1                   (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
2                   read as follows:

3                   “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 90 days  
4                   after the date on which each Annual Report is  
5                   submitted under section 102(b), the President  
6                   shall—

7                   “(i) review the status of religious free-  
8                   dom in each foreign country to determine  
9                   whether the government of that country has  
10                  engaged in or tolerated particularly severe  
11                  violations of religious freedom in each such  
12                  country during the preceding 12 months or  
13                  longer;

14                  “(ii) designate each country the gov-  
15                  ernment of which has engaged in or toler-  
16                  ated violations described in clause (i) as a  
17                  country of particular concern for religious  
18                  freedom; and

19                  “(iii) designate each country that en-  
20                  gaged in or tolerated severe violations of re-  
21                  ligious freedom during the previous year,  
22                  but does not meet, in the opinion of the  
23                  President at the time of publication of the  
24                  Annual Report, all of the criteria described  
25                  in section 3(15) for designation under

1 clause (ii) as being placed on a ‘Special  
2 Watch List.’; and

3 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
4 “prior to September 1 of the respective  
5 year” and inserting “before the date on  
6 which each Annual Report is submitted  
7 under section 102(b)”;

8 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
9 follows:

10 “(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the President  
12 designates a country as a country of particular  
13 concern for religious freedom under paragraph  
14 (1)(A)(ii), the President, not later than 90 days  
15 after such designation, shall submit to the appro-  
16 priate congressional committees—

17 “(i) the designation of the country,  
18 signed by the President;

19 “(ii) the identification, if any, of re-  
20 sponsible parties determined under para-  
21 graph (2); and

22 “(iii) a description of the actions taken  
23 under subsection (c), the purposes of the ac-  
24 tions taken, and the effectiveness of the ac-  
25 tions taken.

1           “(B) *REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.*—A coun-  
2           try that is designated as a country of particular  
3           concern for religious freedom under paragraph  
4           (1)(A)(ii) shall retain such designation until the  
5           President determines and reports to the appro-  
6           priate congressional committees that the country  
7           should no longer be so designated.”; and

8           (C) by adding at the end the following:

9           “(4) *EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUNTRY OF*  
10          *PARTICULAR CONCERN.*—The presence or absence of a  
11          country from the Special Watch List in any given  
12          year shall not preclude the designation of such coun-  
13          try as a country of particular concern for religious  
14          freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) in any such  
15          year.”; and

16          (2) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “the Presi-  
17          dent must designate the specific sanction or sanctions  
18          which he determines satisfy the requirements of this  
19          subsection.” and inserting “the President shall des-  
20          ignate the specific sanction or sanctions that the  
21          President determines satisfy the requirements under  
22          this subsection and include a description of the im-  
23          pact of such sanction or sanctions on each country.”.



1 **SEC. 303. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 *Section 404(a)(4)(A) of the International Religious*  
3 *Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6444(a)(4)(A)) is amend-*  
4 *ed—*

5 *(1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;*

6 *(2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the*  
7 *end and inserting “; and”; and*

8 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

9 *“(iv) the impact on the advancement of*  
10 *United States interests in democracy,*  
11 *human rights, and security, and a descrip-*  
12 *tion of policy tools being applied in the*  
13 *country, including programs that target*  
14 *democratic stability, economic growth, and*  
15 *counterterrorism.”.*

16 **SEC. 304. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

17 *Section 407 of the International Religious Freedom*  
18 *Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6447) is amended—*

19 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

20 *(A) by striking “subsection (b)” and insert-*  
21 *ing “subsection (c)”;*

22 *(B) by inserting “, for a single, 180-day pe-*  
23 *riod,” after “may waive”;*

24 *(C) by striking paragraph (1); and*

25 *(D) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and*  
26 *(3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;*

1           (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection  
2           (c);

3           (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(b) *ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.*—Subject to subsection  
6 (c), the President may waive, for any additional specified  
7 period of time after the 180-day period described in sub-  
8 section (a), the application of any of the actions described  
9 in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or a com-  
10 mensurate substitute action) with respect to a country, if  
11 the President determines and reports to the appropriate  
12 congressional committees that—

13           “(1) the respective foreign government has ceased  
14 the violations giving rise to the Presidential action; or

15           “(2) the important national interest of the  
16 United States requires the exercise of such waiver au-  
17 thority.”;

18           (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated, by insert-  
19 ing “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”; and

20           (5) by adding at the end the following:

21           “(d) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress  
22 that—

23           “(1) ongoing and persistent waivers of the appli-  
24 cation of any of the actions described in paragraphs  
25 (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or commensurate

1       *substitute action) with respect to a country do not*  
2       *fulfill the purposes of this Act; and*

3               “(2) because the promotion of religious freedom  
4       is an important interest of United States foreign pol-  
5       icy, the President, the Secretary of State, and other  
6       executive branch officials, in consultation with Con-  
7       gress, should seek to find ways to address existing vio-  
8       lations, on a case-by-case basis, through the actions  
9       described in section 405 or other commensurate sub-  
10      stitute action.”.

11   **SEC. 305. PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.**

12       Section 408(a)(1) of the International Religious Free-  
13      dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6448(a)(1)) is amended by add-  
14      ing at the end the following: “Any designation of a non-  
15      state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious  
16      freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf Inter-  
17      national Religious Freedom Act and, if applicable and to  
18      the extent practicable, the identities of individuals deter-  
19      mined to be responsible for violations described in sub-  
20      section (f) of such section.”.

1           **TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF**  
2           **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

3   **SEC. 401. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
4           **DOM.**

5           (a) *AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.*—*It is the sense of*  
6   *Congress that for each fiscal year that begins on or after*  
7   *the date of the enactment of this Act, the President should*  
8   *request sufficient appropriations from Congress to sup-*  
9   *port—*

10           (1) *the vigorous promotion of international reli-*  
11   *gious freedom and for projects to advance United*  
12   *States interests in the protection and advancement of*  
13   *international religious freedom, in particular,*  
14   *through grants to groups that—*

15           (A) *are capable of developing legal protec-*  
16   *tions or promoting cultural and societal under-*  
17   *standing of international norms of religious free-*  
18   *dom;*

19           (B) *seek to address and mitigate religiously*  
20   *motivated and sectarian violence and combat*  
21   *violent extremism; or*

22           (C) *seek to strengthen investigations, report-*  
23   *ing, and monitoring of religious freedom viola-*  
24   *tions, including genocide perpetrated against re-*  
25   *ligious minorities; and*

1           (2) *the establishment of an effective Religious*  
2 *Freedom Defense Fund, to be administered by the*  
3 *Ambassador at Large for International Religious*  
4 *Freedom, to provide grants for—*

5           (A) *victims of religious freedom abuses and*  
6 *their families to cover legal and other expenses*  
7 *that may arise from detention, imprisonment,*  
8 *torture, fines, and other restrictions; and*

9           (B) *projects to help create and support*  
10 *training of a new generation of defenders of reli-*  
11 *gious freedom, including legal and political ad-*  
12 *vocates, and civil society projects which seek to*  
13 *create advocacy networks, strengthen legal rep-*  
14 *resentation, train and educate new religious free-*  
15 *dom defenders, and build the capacity of reli-*  
16 *gious communities and rights defenders to pro-*  
17 *tect against religious freedom violations, miti-*  
18 *gate societal or sectarian violence, or minimize*  
19 *legal or other restrictions of the right to freedom*  
20 *of religion.*

21           (b) *PREFERENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that, in*  
22 *providing grants under subsection (a), the Ambassador at*  
23 *Large for International Religious Freedom should, as ap-*  
24 *propriate, give preference to projects targeting religious*  
25 *freedom violations in countries—*

1           (1) *designated as countries of particular concern*  
2 *for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1) of the*  
3 *International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22*  
4 *U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)); or*

5           (2) *included on the Special Watch List described*  
6 *in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the International Reli-*  
7 *gious Freedom Act of 1998, as added by section*  
8 *302(1)(A)(i) of this Act.*

9           (c) *ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATIONS.—*

10           (1) *ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made available*  
11 *under subsection (a) shall be administered by the Am-*  
12 *bassador at Large for International Religious Free-*  
13 *dom.*

14           (2) *CONSULTATIONS.—In developing priorities*  
15 *and policies for providing grants authorized under*  
16 *subsection (a), including programming and policy,*  
17 *the Ambassador at Large for International Religious*  
18 *Freedom should consult with other Federal agencies,*  
19 *including the United States Commission on Inter-*  
20 *national Religious Freedom and, as appropriate, non-*  
21 *governmental organizations.*

1 **TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS**  
 2 **LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SE-**  
 3 **VERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
 4 **GIOUS FREEDOM**

5 **SEC. 501. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY**  
 6 **SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
 7 **DOM.**

8 *Title VI of the International Religious Freedom Act*  
 9 *of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6471 et seq.) is amended—*

10 *(1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606;*  
 11 *and*

12 *(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:*

13 **“SEC. 605. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY**  
 14 **SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
 15 **DOM.**

16 *“(a) LIST.—*

17 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in*  
 18 *coordination with the Ambassador at Large and in*  
 19 *consultation with relevant government and non-*  
 20 *government experts, shall establish and maintain a*  
 21 *list of foreign individuals to whom a consular post*  
 22 *has denied a visa on the grounds of particularly se-*  
 23 *vere violations of religious freedom under section*  
 24 *212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act*  
 25 *(8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)), or who are subject to finan-*

1 *cial sanctions or other measures for particularly se-*  
2 *vere violations of freedom religion.*

3 “(2) *REFERENCE.*—*The list required under*  
4 *paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘Designated Per-*  
5 *sons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Reli-*  
6 *gious Freedom’.*

7 “(b) *REPORT.*—

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of State shall*  
9 *submit a report to the appropriate congressional com-*  
10 *mittees that contains the list required under sub-*  
11 *section (a), including, with respect to each foreign in-*  
12 *dividual on the list—*

13 “(A) *the name of the individual and a de-*  
14 *scription of the particularly severe violation of*  
15 *religious freedom committed by the individual;*

16 “(B) *the name of the country or other loca-*  
17 *tion in which such violation took place; and*

18 “(C) *a description of the actions taken pur-*  
19 *suant to this Act or any other Act or Executive*  
20 *order in response to such violation.*

21 “(2) *SUBMISSION AND UPDATES.*—*The Secretary*  
22 *of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional*  
23 *committees—*

24 “(A) *the initial report required under para-*  
25 *graph (1) not later than 180 days after the date*



1           of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf Inter-  
2           national Religious Freedom Act; and

3           “(B) updates to the report every 180 days  
4           thereafter and as new information becomes avail-  
5           able.

6           “(3) FORM.—The report required under para-  
7           graph (1) should be submitted in unclassified form  
8           but may contain a classified annex.

9           “(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
10          ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

11           “(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
12          the Senate;

13           “(B) the Committee on Appropriations of  
14          the Senate;

15           “(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing,  
16          and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

17           “(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
18          the House of Representatives;

19           “(E) the Committee on Appropriations of  
20          the House of Representatives; and

21           “(F) the Committee on Financial Services  
22          of the House of Representatives.”.

1       **TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**  
2                               **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 601. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

4       *Title VII of the International Religious Freedom Act*  
5 *of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6481 et seq.) is amended by adding at*  
6 *the end the following:*

7 **“SEC. 702. VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED**  
8                               **STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**  
9                               **CATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

10       “(a) *FINDING.*—Congress recognizes the enduring im-  
11 *portance of United States institutions of higher education*  
12 *worldwide—*

13               “(1) *for their potential for shaping positive lead-*  
14 *ership and new educational models in host countries;*  
15 *and*

16               “(2) *for their emphasis on teaching universally*  
17 *recognized rights of free inquiry and academic free-*  
18 *dom.*

19       “(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress  
20 *that United States institutions of higher education oper-*  
21 *ating campuses outside the United States or establishing*  
22 *any educational entities with foreign governments, particu-*  
23 *larly with or in countries the governments of which engage*  
24 *in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom as iden-*  
25 *tified in the Annual Report, should seek to adopt a vol-*

1 untary code of conduct for operating in such countries that  
2 should—

3 “(1) uphold the right of freedom of religion of  
4 their employees and students, including the right to  
5 manifest that religion peacefully as protected in inter-  
6 national law;

7 “(2) ensure that the religious views and peaceful  
8 practice of religion in no way affect, or be allowed to  
9 affect, the status of a worker’s or faculty member’s  
10 employment or a student’s enrollment; and

11 “(3) make every effort in all negotiations, con-  
12 tracts, or memoranda of understanding engaged in or  
13 constructed with a foreign government to protect aca-  
14 demic freedom and the rights enshrined in the United  
15 Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

16 **“SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NATIONAL SE-**  
17 **CURITY STRATEGY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS**  
18 **FREEDOM THROUGH UNITED STATES FOR-**  
19 **EIGN POLICY.**

20 “It is the sense of Congress that the annual national  
21 security strategy report of the President required under sec-  
22 tion 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.  
23 3043)—

1           “(1) should promote international religious free-  
 2           dom as a foreign policy and national security pri-  
 3           ority; and

4           “(2) should articulate that promotion of the right  
 5           to freedom of religion is a strategy that—

6                   “(A) protects other, related human rights,  
 7           and advances democracy outside the United  
 8           States; and

9                   “(B) makes clear its importance to United  
 10           States foreign policy goals of stability, security,  
 11           development, and diplomacy;

12           “(3) should be a guide for the strategies and ac-  
 13           tivities of relevant Federal agencies; and

14           “(4) should inform the Department of Defense  
 15           quadrennial defense review under section 118 of title  
 16           10, United States Code, and the Department of State  
 17           Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.”.

18 **SEC. 602. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

19           The table of contents of the International Religious  
 20           Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 note) is amended—

21                   (1) by striking the item relating to section 605  
 22           and inserting the following:

                  “Sec. 606. Studies on the effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum  
                   claims.”;

23                   (2) by inserting after the item relating to section  
 24           604 the following:

*“Sec. 605. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.”;*

1       *and*

2               *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

*“Sec. 702. Voluntary codes of conduct for United States institutions of higher education operating outside the United States.*

*“Sec. 703. Sense of Congress regarding national security strategy to promote religious freedom through United States foreign policy.”.*

Attest:

*Secretary.*