

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5846

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey 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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## A BILL

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Frank R. Wolf Inter-  
3 national Religious Freedom Act of 2014”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY.**

5 Section 2 of the International Religious Freedom Act  
6 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (4), in the fourth sen-  
9 tence, by inserting “prohibitions on ritual ani-  
10 mal slaughter, male infant circumcision, censor-  
11 ship of religious content, or worship on the  
12 Internet,” after “confiscations of property,”;

13 (B) in paragraph (5), by amending the sec-  
14 ond sentence to read as follows: “In many coun-  
15 tries, religious believers are forced to meet se-  
16 cretly, and religious leaders and believers are  
17 targeted by national security forces, violent  
18 nonstate actors, and hostile mobs.”;

19 (C) by redesignating paragraph (7) as  
20 paragraph (9); and

21 (D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the  
22 following new paragraphs:

23 “(7) There is growing evidence that dem-  
24 onstrates a connection between the absence of reli-  
25 gious freedom and increased levels of persecution of  
26 religious minorities, religiously motivated conflict,

1 violent extremism, and terrorism, including the kind  
2 of terrorism that has reached the United States.

3 “(8) It is increasingly clear that understanding  
4 religion and the political and security implications of  
5 religious motivation and conviction is critical to the  
6 success of United States diplomacy and foreign pol-  
7 icy initiatives as there are studies that show—

8 “(A) 75 percent of the world’s population  
9 lives in countries where the right to the freedom  
10 of religion and belief is severely restricted, ei-  
11 ther by the government or violent nonstate ac-  
12 tors; and

13 “(B) 84 percent of the world’s population  
14 identifies strongly with a specific religious  
15 group.”; and

16 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
17 following new paragraph:

18 “(6) Because the promotion of international re-  
19 ligious freedom is a foreign policy strategy that pro-  
20 tects other, related human rights, advances democ-  
21 racy abroad, and is linked directly to United States  
22 interests in stability, security, and development glob-  
23 ally, the promotion of international religious freedom  
24 requires new and evolving policies, religion engage-  
25 ment strategies, and diplomatic responses that are

1 drawn from the expertise of the national security  
2 agencies, the diplomatic services, Congress, and  
3 other governmental agencies and nongovernmental  
4 organizations, and are coordinated across and car-  
5 ried out by the entire range of Federal agencies that  
6 are engaged with or conduct negotiations or United  
7 States Government funded programs with govern-  
8 ments or violent nonstate actors that engage in or  
9 tolerate violations of religious freedom.”.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

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

13 (1) by amending paragraph (12) to read as fol-  
14 lows:

15 “(12) SENIOR DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Senior  
16 Director’ means the Senior Director for Global Reli-  
17 gion Engagement and International Religious Free-  
18 dom Promotion described in section 101 of the Na-  
19 tional Security Act of 1947.”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end, the following new  
21 paragraphs:

22 “(14) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—The term ‘Spe-  
23 cial Watch List’ means the Special Watch List de-  
24 scribed in section 102(b)(1)(F)(iii).

1           “(15) VIOLENT NONSTATE ACTOR.—The term  
2           ‘violent nonstate actor’ means a nonsovereign entity  
3           or group that exercises significant political power or  
4           influence at a national or international level and  
5           which, through violence or the threat of violence, de-  
6           stabilizes existing government structures or gains  
7           defacto or actual control over large territories within  
8           existing countries and which engages in or tolerates  
9           violations of religious freedom.

10           “(16) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
11           The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
12           meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-  
13           er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)”.

14 **SEC. 4. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM;**  
15                           **AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTER-**  
16                           **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

17           Section 101 of the International Religious Freedom  
18 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is amended—

19           (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
20 following new sentence: “The Office shall be located  
21 in the Office of the Secretary of State.”;

22           (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
23 before the period the following: “, and shall report  
24 directly to the Secretary of State.”;

25           (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by striking “responsibility” and in-  
3 sserting “responsibilities”;

4 (ii) by striking “shall be to advance”  
5 and inserting the following: “shall be to—  
6 “(A) advance”;

7 (iii) in subparagraph (A), as so added,  
8 by striking the period at the end and in-  
9 sserting “; and”; and

10 (iv) by adding at the end the following  
11 new subparagraph:

12 “(B) integrate United States international  
13 religious freedom policies and religious engage-  
14 ment strategies into democracy, civil society,  
15 conflict prevention and mitigation, and develop-  
16 ment efforts funded by the United States and  
17 into the counterterrorism policies of Federal  
18 agencies, including the Department of Defense,  
19 the Department of Homeland Security, the De-  
20 partment of State, and the Department of the  
21 Treasury.”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “a prin-  
23 cipal adviser” and inserting “the principal ad-  
24 viser”;

25 (C) in paragraph (3)—

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

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

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing new subparagraph:

8 “(C) contacts with nongovernmental orga-  
9 nizations that have an impact on the state of  
10 religious freedom in their respective societies or  
11 regions, or internationally.”;

12 (D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
13 paragraph (5); and

14 (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the  
15 following new paragraph:

16 “(4) COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES.—In  
17 order to promote religious freedom as an interest of  
18 United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at  
19 Large shall seek to coordinate religious freedom poli-  
20 cies and religious engagement strategies across all  
21 programs, projects, and activities of the United  
22 States, including the programs, projects, and activi-  
23 ties of the Department of Defense, the Department  
24 of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the

1 Department of the Treasury, and the United States  
2 Agency for International Development.”; and

3 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the  
4 Office” and all that follows through the period at  
5 the end and inserting “individuals to fill at least 15  
6 full-time equivalent staff positions, under the direct  
7 supervision of the Ambassador at Large, including a  
8 senior advisor, for the Office, for the conduct of in-  
9 vestigations by the Office, and for necessary travel  
10 to carry out the provisions of this section. The Sec-  
11 retary of State shall also provide to the Ambassador  
12 at Large representation funds equal to the amount  
13 of representation funds provided to other Amba-  
14 sadors at Large in the Department of State.”.

15 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**  
16 **FREEDOM.**

17 Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the International  
18 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)) is  
19 amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the  
22 end;

23 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period at  
24 the end and inserting “; and”; and



1 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
2 clause:

3 “(v) any action taken by a govern-  
4 ment or other entity to censor religious  
5 content, communications, or worship activi-  
6 ties online, including descriptions of the  
7 targeted religious group, the content, com-  
8 munication, or activities censored, the  
9 means used, and government or other enti-  
10 ty engaged in such online censorship activi-  
11 ties.”;

12 (2) in subparagraph (B), in the matter pre-  
13 ceding clause (i)—

14 (A) by inserting “persecution of lawyers,  
15 politicians, or other human rights advocates  
16 seeking to defend targeted religious groups or  
17 highlight religious freedom violations, prohibi-  
18 tions on ritual animal slaughter or male infant  
19 circumcision,” after “entire religions,”; and

20 (B) by inserting “policies that ban or re-  
21 strict the public manifestation of religious belief  
22 and the peaceful involvement of religious groups  
23 or their members in the political life of each  
24 such foreign country,” after “such groups,”;

25 (3) in subparagraph (C)—

1 (A) by striking “A description” and insert-  
2 ing “A comprehensive description”;

3 (B) by striking “policies in support” and  
4 inserting “religious engagement policies in sup-  
5 port”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end before the period  
7 the following: “, and a unique, comprehensive,  
8 and country-specific analysis of the impact of  
9 actions by the United States on the status of  
10 religious freedom in each such country.”; and

11 (4) in subparagraph (F), by adding at the end  
12 the following new clause:

13 “(iii) SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—A list,  
14 to be known as the ‘Special Watch List’,  
15 which shall identify any country or violent  
16 nonstate actor that has engaged in or tol-  
17 erated systematic, egregious, or ongoing  
18 violations of religious freedom during the  
19 previous reporting year but which the Sec-  
20 retary determines does not meet, at the  
21 time of the publication of the Annual Re-  
22 port, the criteria for designation as a coun-  
23 try of particular concern for religious free-  
24 dom under section 402(b)(1).”.

1 **SEC. 6. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS; RE-**  
2 **PORT.**

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

6 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
7 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

8 (2) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by strik-  
9 ing “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFU-  
10 GEES.—The Secretary of State”;

11 (3) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by strik-  
12 ing “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD  
13 SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”;

14 (4) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
15 following:

16 “(a) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—The Sec-  
17 retary of State, with the assistance of other relevant offi-  
18 cials, including the Ambassador at Large for International  
19 Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the  
20 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Director  
21 of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training  
22 Center, and other Federal officials as appropriate, and in  
23 consultation with the United States Commission on Inter-  
24 national Religious Freedom established in section 201(a)  
25 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, shall  
26 develop a curriculum for training United States Foreign

1 Service officers in the meaning and strategic value of reli-  
2 gious freedom, how violations of religious freedom harm  
3 fundamental United States interests, how the advance-  
4 ment of religious freedom can advance such interests, how  
5 United States international religious freedom policy  
6 should be carried out in practice by United states dip-  
7 lomats and other Foreign Service officers, and the rel-  
8 evance and relationship of religious freedom to United  
9 States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs  
10 efforts.

11 “(b) TRAINING PROGRAM.—Not later than the date  
12 that is one year after the date of the enactment of the  
13 Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of  
14 2014, the Director of the George P. Shultz National For-  
15 eign Affairs Training Center shall begin mandatory train-  
16 ing on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers,  
17 including all entry level officers and all outgoing deputy  
18 chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such training shall,  
19 at minimum, be a separate, independent, and required  
20 segment of each of the following:

21 “(1) The A–100 course attended by all Foreign  
22 Service officers.

23 “(2) The courses required of every Foreign  
24 Service officer prior to a posting outside the United  
25 States, with segments tailored to the particular reli-

1 religious demography, religious freedom conditions, and  
2 United States strategies for advancing religious free-  
3 dom, in each receiving country.

4 “(3) The courses required of all outgoing dep-  
5 uty chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

6 “(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and  
7 training materials developed pursuant to subsections (a)  
8 and (b) shall be shared with the United States Armed  
9 Forces and intelligence community to provide training and  
10 particularized instruction on United States religious free-  
11 dom policies, religious traditions, and religious and cul-  
12 tural issues for the countries the Armed Forces and intel-  
13 ligence community are responsible.”.

14 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with  
16 the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for Inter-  
17 national Religious Freedom, and the Director of the  
18 George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Cen-  
19 ter, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
20 the House of Representatives and the Committee on For-  
21 eign Relations of the Senate a report containing a com-  
22 prehensive plan for undertaking training for Foreign Serv-  
23 ice officers as required under section 708 of the Foreign  
24 Services Act of 1980, as amended by subsection (a) of this  
25 section.

1 **SEC. 7. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELIGIOUS**  
2 **FREEDOM CONCERNS.**

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

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in the heading, by striking “SENSE OF  
7 THE CONGRESS” and inserting “INCREASED  
8 DIPLOMATIC ADVOCACY”; and

9 (B) by striking “it is the sense of the Con-  
10 gress that officials of the executive branch of  
11 Government should promote” and inserting  
12 “appropriate officials of the executive branch,  
13 including the Secretary of State, the Amba-  
14 sador at Large for Religious Freedom, and  
15 State Department officials from regional bu-  
16 reaus, shall promote”;

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

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
20 section:

21 “(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE COMMIS-  
22 SION.—The Commission shall compile, maintain, and  
23 make publicly available online and in official publications,  
24 regularly updated lists of persons it determines are impris-  
25 oned, detained, disappeared, placed under house arrest,  
26 tortured, or subject to forced renunciations of faith by a

1 foreign government that the Commission recommends for  
2 designation as a country of particular concern for religions  
3 freedom under section 402(b) or a violent nonstate actor  
4 and include information on the conditions and cir-  
5 cumstances of such individuals. In compiling such lists,  
6 the Commission shall exercise appropriate discretion, in-  
7 cluding consideration of the safety and security of, and  
8 benefit to, the persons who may be included on the lists  
9 and their families.”.

10 **SEC. 8. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL**  
11 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

12 Subsection (a) of section 202 of the International Re-  
13 ligious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432) is amend-  
14 ed—

15 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
16 striking “responsibility” and inserting “responsibil-  
17 ities”;

18 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the  
19 end;

20 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at  
21 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

22 (4) by adding at the end the following new  
23 paragraphs:

24 “(3) by making annual recommendations on  
25 countries, and violent nonstate actors, as appro-

1 appropriate, which commit particularly severe violations of  
2 religious freedom and issuing reports on any other  
3 countries and violent nonstate actors that the Com-  
4 mission believes to have engaged in or tolerated vio-  
5 lations of religious freedom; and

6 “(4) recommending specific policy responses or  
7 actions that may be taken under section 405(a), in-  
8 cluding any commensurate actions that may be  
9 taken.”.

10 **SEC. 9. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL**  
11 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

12 Subsection (a) of section 205 of the International Re-  
13 ligious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6433) is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

16 “(1) not later than 180 days after the date of  
17 the submission of the report required of the Sec-  
18 retary of State under section 102(b), submit an an-  
19 nual report to the President, the Secretary of State,  
20 and the appropriate congressional committees set-  
21 ting forth its recommendation for United States pol-  
22 icy options based on evaluations of country condi-  
23 tions under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section  
24 202(a); and



1           “(2) submit recommendations required under  
2 paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 202(a) sufficiently  
3 prior to the annual designation of each country of  
4 particular concern for religious freedom under sec-  
5 tion 402(b) to allow for presidential consideration of  
6 such recommendations.”.

7 **SEC. 10. SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR GLOBAL RELIGION EN-**  
8 **GAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**  
9 **FREEDOM PROMOTION; INTERAGENCY POL-**  
10 **ICY COMMITTEES.**

11           (a) AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF  
12 1947.—Section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947  
13 (50 U.S.C. 3021) is amended—

14           (1) in subsection (k)—

15           (A) in the first sentence,

16           (i) by striking “It is the sense of that  
17 there should be” and inserting “The Presi-  
18 dent shall appoint”; and

19           (ii) by striking “Special Adviser to the  
20 President on International Religious Free-  
21 dom” and inserting “Senior Director for  
22 Global Religion Engagement and Inter-  
23 national Religious Freedom Promotion”;  
24 and

1 (B) by striking the second and third sen-  
2 tences and inserting the following: “The Senior  
3 Director, shall develop and coordinate religious  
4 freedom policies and religion engagement strat-  
5 egies throughout the Executive Branch, serve  
6 as a resource for executive branch officials,  
7 compile and maintain information on the facts  
8 and circumstances of violations of religious free-  
9 dom, assist in coordinating all programs,  
10 projects, and activities of the United States to  
11 promote religious freedom and religious engage-  
12 ment outside the United States, and make pol-  
13 icy recommendations relevant to the programs,  
14 projects, activities of the Department of De-  
15 fense, the Department of Homeland Security,  
16 the Department of State, the Department of  
17 the Treasury, and the United States Agency for  
18 International Development, and carry out all  
19 other applicable duties, responsibilities, and co-  
20 ordination activities enumerated in the Inter-  
21 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The  
22 Senior Director shall serve as liaison with the  
23 Ambassador at Large for International Reli-  
24 gious Freedom and the United States Commis-  
25 sion on International Religious Freedom de-

1           scribed in the International Religious Freedom  
2           Act of 1998, Congress, religious and nongovern-  
3           mental organizations, and, as appropriate, Cab-  
4           inet-level agencies.”; and

5           (2) by adding at the end, the following new sub-  
6           sections:

7           “(m) INTERAGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE ON RELI-  
8           GIOUS FREEDOM AND ENGAGEMENT.—

9           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established  
10          within the National Security Council a permanent  
11          interagency policy committee to be known as the  
12          ‘Interagency Policy Committee on Religious Free-  
13          dom and Engagement’ (in this subsection referred to  
14          as the ‘Committee’).

15          “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be  
16          co-chaired by the Senior Director for Global Religion  
17          Engagement and International Religious Freedom  
18          Promotion and the Ambassador at Large for Reli-  
19          gious Freedom described in section 101 of the Inter-  
20          national Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

21          “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The Committee shall de-  
22          velop a religion engagement strategy globally and co-  
23          ordinate international religious freedom policy across  
24          the Executive Branch.

1 “(n) INTERAGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE ON RELI-  
2 GION, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND NATIONAL SECURITY.—

3 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established  
4 within the National Security Council a permanent  
5 interagency policy committee to be known as the  
6 ‘Interagency Policy Committee on Religion, Human  
7 Rights, and National Security’ (in this subsection re-  
8 ferred to as the ‘Committee’).

9 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be  
10 chaired by the Deputy National Security Advisor,  
11 the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy,  
12 Human Rights, and Labor, and the Ambassador at  
13 Large for Religious Freedom described in section  
14 101 of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
15 1998.

16 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The Committee shall coordi-  
17 nate policy on the intersection of religion, human  
18 rights, and United States interests in preventing ter-  
19 rorism, countering violent extremism, and mitigating  
20 and preventing conflict.”.

21 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the  
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall pro-  
23 mulgate regulations to carry out subsections (k), (m), and  
24 (n) of section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947  
25 as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

1 **SEC. 11. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO VIOLA-**  
2 **TIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

3 Section 401(b) of the International Religious Free-  
4 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6441(b)) is amended,

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Special Ad-  
6 viser” and inserting “Senior Director”; and

7 (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
8 lows:

9 “(2) DEADLINE FOR ACTIONS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
11 subparagraph (B), not later than 90 days after  
12 the date on which each of the Annual Reports  
13 is submitted under section 102(b), the Presi-  
14 dent shall take 1 or more of the actions re-  
15 ferred to in section 405(a) or a commensurate  
16 action with respect to each foreign country and  
17 violent nonstate actor that has engaged in or  
18 tolerated violations of religious freedom at any  
19 time since the previous such report was sub-  
20 mitted.

21 “(B) ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITE.—The  
22 President may not take any of the actions de-  
23 scribed in paragraphs (9) through (15) of sec-  
24 tion 405(a) or a commensurate action with re-  
25 spect to a foreign country or violent nonstate  
26 actor until the President certifies that the re-

1           quirements under sections 403 and 404 have  
2           been satisfied with respect so such country or  
3           actor.”.

4 **SEC. 12. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAR-**  
5 **TICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
6 **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

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

9           (1) in subsection (b)—

10                   (A) in paragraph (1)—

11                           (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
12                           read as follows:

13                                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90  
14                                   days after the date on which each Annual Re-  
15                                   port is submitted under section 102(b), the  
16                                   President shall—

17   “(i) review the status of religious free-  
18   dom in each foreign country to determine  
19   whether the government of that country  
20   has engaged in or tolerated particularly se-  
21   vere violations of religious freedom in each  
22   such country during the preceding 12  
23   months or longer; and

24   “(ii) designate each country the gov-  
25   ernment of which has engaged in or toler-

1 ated violations described in clause (i) as a  
2 country of particular concern for religious  
3 freedom under section 402(b).”; and

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

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

11 “(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Presi-  
13 dent designates a country as a country of par-  
14 ticular concern for religious freedom under  
15 paragraph (1)(A), the President shall, not later  
16 than 120 days after the designation is made,  
17 transmit to the appropriate congressional com-  
18 mittees—

19 “(i) the designation of the country,  
20 signed by the President;

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

24 “(iii) a description of the actions  
25 taken under subsection (c), the purposes of

1           the actions taken, and the effectiveness of  
2           the actions taken.

3           “(B) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—A  
4           country that is designated as a country of par-  
5           ticular concern for religious freedom under  
6           paragraph (1)(A) shall retain such designation  
7           until the President determines and reports to  
8           the appropriate congressional committees that  
9           the country should no longer be so designated.

10           “(C) EXPLANATION FOR NONDESIGNA-  
11           TION.—If the President does not designate a  
12           country as a country of particular concern for  
13           religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A) after  
14           the Commission has recommended such des-  
15           ignation, the President shall provide an expla-  
16           nation for the nondesignation to the appro-  
17           priate congressional committees.”; and

18           (C) by adding at the end, the following  
19           new paragraph:

20           “(4) TREATMENT OF COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL  
21           WATCH LIST.—

22           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall  
23           designate as a country of particular concern for  
24           religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A) any



1 country that appears on the Special Watch  
2 List—

3 “(i) in more than 2 consecutive An-  
4 nual Reports;

5 “(ii) in any 4 Annual Reports;

6 “(iii) in more than 1 Annual Report  
7 after the expiration of a waiver issued  
8 under subparagraph (B); and

9 “(iv) in more than 1 Annual Report if  
10 the President has previously designated  
11 such country as a country of particular  
12 concern for religious freedom under para-  
13 graph (1)(A).

14 “(B) EXERCISE OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—  
15 The President may waive the application of  
16 clauses (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) with re-  
17 spect to a country for up to 2 years if the  
18 President certifies to the appropriate commit-  
19 tees of Congress that—

20 “(i) the country has entered into an  
21 agreement with the United States to carry  
22 out specific and credible actions to improve  
23 religious freedom conditions and end reli-  
24 gious freedom violations;

1           “(ii) the country has entered into an  
2           agreement with the United Nations, the  
3           European Union, or other ally of the  
4           United States, to carry out specific and  
5           credible actions to improve religious free-  
6           dom conditions and end religious freedom  
7           violations; or

8           “(iii) waiver is in the national security  
9           interests of the United States.

10           “(C) EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUN-  
11           TRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—The presence  
12           or absence of a country from the Special Watch  
13           List in any given year shall not preclude the  
14           designation of such country as a country of par-  
15           ticular concern for religious freedom under  
16           paragraph (1)(A) in any such year.”; and

17           (2) in subsection (e)(5), in the second sentence,  
18           by inserting “and include a description of the impact  
19           of the designation of such sanction or sanctions that  
20           exist in each country” after “determines satisfy the  
21           requirements of this subsection”.

22 **SEC. 13. CONSULTATIONS.**

23           Subsection (a) of section 403 of the International Re-  
24           ligious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6443) is amended

1 by striking “As soon as practicable” and inserting “Not  
2 later than 90 days”.

3 **SEC. 14. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 Subsection (a) of section 404 of the International Re-  
5 ligious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6444) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) by striking “decides to take action under  
8 section 401” and inserting “takes action under sec-  
9 tion 401”;

10 (2) by striking “decides to take action under  
11 paragraphs” and inserting “takes the required ac-  
12 tion under paragraphs”; and

13 (3) in paragraph (4)(A)—

14 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
15 striking “Special Adviser” and inserting “Sen-  
16 ior Director”;

17 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the  
18 end;

19 (C) in clause (iii), by striking the period at  
20 the end and inserting “; and”; and

21 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
22 clause:

23 “(iv) the impact on other policy tools,  
24 and a description of policy tools being ap-  
25 plied in the country, including programs

1                   that target democratic stability, economic  
2                   growth, and counterterrorism.”.

3 **SEC. 15. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

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

6                   (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, for a 180-  
7           day period beginning on the date of the initial des-  
8           ignation,” after “may waive”; and

9                   (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
10          section:

11          “(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
12          gress that ongoing and persistent waivers for any country  
13          designated as a country of particular concern for religious  
14          freedom under section 402(b) for engaging in particularly  
15          severe violations of religious freedom do not fulfill the pur-  
16          poses of this Act, and, given that promotion of religious  
17          freedom is a compelling United States foreign policy pri-  
18          ority, the President, the Secretary of State, and other ex-  
19          ecutive branch officials, in consultation with Congress,  
20          should seek to find ways to address existing violations, on  
21          a country-by-country basis, through the actions specified  
22          in section 405 or other commensurate actions, possibly in-  
23          cluding through the actions described in section 605, or  
24          by some other action that addresses the specific religious  
25          freedom violations of each country designated.”.

1 **SEC. 16. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

2 Section 409 of the International Religious Freedom  
3 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6449) is amended to read as fol-  
4 lows:

5 **“SEC. 409. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

6 “Any Presidential action taken under this Act with  
7 respect to a foreign country shall terminate after a deter-  
8 mination by the President, in consultation with the Com-  
9 mission, and written certification to Congress that the for-  
10 eign government has ceased or taken substantial and  
11 verifiable steps to cease the particularly severe violations  
12 of religious freedom”.

13 **SEC. 17. COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN DESIGNA-**  
14 **TION FOR VIOLENT NONSTATE ACTORS.**

15 Title IV of the International Religious Freedom Act  
16 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6441 et seq.) is amended by inserting  
17 after section 405 the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 405A. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COUNTRY OF**  
19 **PARTICULAR CONCERN DESIGNATION FOR**  
20 **VIOLENT NONSTATE ACTORS.**

21 “It is the sense of Congress that the country of par-  
22 ticular concern for religious freedom designation described  
23 in section 402(b) and the Presidential actions described  
24 in 405 should be applicable to violent nonstate actors. The  
25 President should include, in the report to Congress re-  
26 quired by section 404, any reasons why such violent

1 nonstate actors were not so designated (if the Council rec-  
2 ommended doing so) and whether any presidential actions  
3 described in section 405 were taken against such violent  
4 nonstate actors”.

5 **SEC. 18. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
6 **DOM.**

7 Section 501 of the International Religious Freedom  
8 Act of 1998 is amended by adding at the end the following  
9 new subsections:

10 “(c) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Of the amounts  
11 made available for fiscal years 2016 through 2021 for the  
12 Human Rights and Democracy Fund established under  
13 section 664 of the Freedom Investment Act of 2002 (sub-  
14 title E of title VI of Public Law 107–228), the Secretary  
15 of State shall provide to the Office—

16 “(1) not less than 5 percent of such amounts  
17 for each such fiscal year for the promotion of inter-  
18 national religious freedom through groups that are  
19 able to develop legal protections or promote cultural  
20 and societal understanding of international norms of  
21 religious freedom and groups that seek to address  
22 and mitigate religiously motivated and sectarian vio-  
23 lence; and

1 “not less than 1 percent of such amounts for  
2 each such fiscal year for the Religious Freedom De-  
3 fense Fund established under subsection (d).

4 “(d) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DEFENSE FUND.—

5 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in  
6 the Department of State a fund to be known as the  
7 ‘Religious Freedom Defense Fund’ (referred to in  
8 this subsection as the ‘Fund’) which shall be admin-  
9 istered by the Ambassador at Large.

10 “(2) AMOUNTS.—The Fund shall consist of  
11 amounts made available under subsection (c)(2).

12 “(3) USE OF FUND.—The Ambassador at  
13 Large shall use amounts in the Fund to issue grants  
14 for the following:

15 “(A) Victims of religious freedom abuses  
16 and their families to cover legal and other ex-  
17 penses that may arise from detention, imprison-  
18 ment, torture, fines, and other restrictions.

19 “(B) Projects to help create and support a  
20 new generation of defenders of religious free-  
21 dom, including legal and political advocates,  
22 and civil society projects which seek to create  
23 advocacy networks, train and educate new reli-  
24 gious freedom defenders, and build the capacity  
25 of religious communities and rights defenders to

1 protect against religious freedom violations, sec-  
2 tarian violence, or legal or other restrictions of  
3 the right to the freedom of religion and belief.

4 “(4) PREFERENCE.—In issuing grants under  
5 paragraph (3), the Ambassador at Large shall, as  
6 appropriate, give preference to projects targeting re-  
7 ligious freedom violations in countries designated as  
8 countries of particular concern for religious freedom  
9 under section 402(b) and those included on the Spe-  
10 cial Watch List.

11 “(e) CONSULTATION.—The Ambassador at Large  
12 should consult, in developing priorities and policies for dis-  
13 bursing the funds referred to in subsection (c), including  
14 grant policies and the identification of potential grantees,  
15 with other Federal agencies, including the Commission,  
16 and the International Republican Institute, the National  
17 Democratic Institute, the National Endowment for De-  
18 mocracy and, as appropriate, other nongovernmental orga-  
19 nizations.”.

20 **SEC. 19. ACTIONS AGAINST PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR**  
21 **COMMITTING PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLA-**  
22 **TIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
23 **DOM.**

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



1 (1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606;

2 and

3 (2) by inserting after section 604 the following

4 new section:

5 **“SEC. 605. ACTIONS AGAINST PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR**

6 **COMMITTING PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLA-**

7 **TIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**

8 **DOM.**

9 “(a) AUTHORITY TO SANCTION PERSONS RESPON-  
10 SIBLE FOR COMMITTING OR ORDERING PARTICULARLY  
11 SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS  
12 FREEDOM.—Notwithstanding section 202 of the Inter-  
13 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.  
14 1701), the President may exercise the authority specified  
15 in section 203 of such Act with respect to—

16 “(1) any person that the President determines  
17 plays a role in committing, ordering, or materially  
18 supporting particularly severe violations of religious  
19 freedom; or

20 “(2) any person that the President determines  
21 to be providing material or other assistance sup-  
22 porting violent religious extremism.

23 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IDENTIFICATION AND  
24 SANCTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTICU-

1 EARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELI-  
2 GIOUS FREEDOM.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon exercising the au-  
4 thority described in subsection (a) with respect to a  
5 person, the President shall submit to the appropriate  
6 congressional committees a report—

7 “(A) identifying the persons that the  
8 President determines to be subject to action  
9 under subsection (a) and the basis for such de-  
10 termination; and

11 “(B) describing the actions carried out  
12 against such persons pursuant to subsection  
13 (a).

14 “(2) REPORT ON REMOVAL OF SANCTIONS.—  
15 Upon suspending or terminating any action imposed  
16 on a person under the authority of subsection (a),  
17 the President shall submit to the appropriate con-  
18 gressional committees written notification of such  
19 suspension or termination.

20 “(3) SUBMISSION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMA-  
21 TION.—Reports submitted under this subsection  
22 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may  
23 contain a classified annex.”.

1 **SEC. 20. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

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

5 **“SEC. 702. CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED STATES INSTI-**  
6 **TUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE**  
7 **THE UNITED STATES.**

8 “(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the enduring  
9 importance of United States institutions of higher edu-  
10 cation worldwide both for their potential for shaping posi-  
11 tive leadership and new educational models in host coun-  
12 tries and for their emphasis on teaching universally recog-  
13 nized rights of free inquiry and academic freedom.

14 “(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
15 gress that United States institutions of higher education  
16 operating campuses outside the United States or estab-  
17 lishing any educational entities with foreign governments,  
18 particularly with or in countries the governments of which  
19 engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom  
20 as identified in the Annual Report and the annual report  
21 of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China,  
22 should adopt a code of conduct—

23 “(1) upholding the right of freedom of religion  
24 of their employees and students, including the right  
25 to manifest that religion peacefully as protected in  
26 international law;

1           “(2) ensuring that the religious views and  
2 peaceful practice of belief in no way affect, or be al-  
3 lowed to affect, the status of a worker’s or faculty  
4 member’s employment or a student’s enrollment; and

5           “(3) affirming that all negotiations, contracts,  
6 or memoranda of understanding engaged in or con-  
7 structed with a foreign government to establish any  
8 educational entity, shall be open, transparent, and  
9 made available for public inspection before conclu-  
10 sion and that any such agreement shall affirm, at all  
11 times, academic freedom and universal rights to the  
12 freedoms of religion, speech, assembly, and associa-  
13 tion.

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

18           “‘It is the sense of Congress that—

19           “(1) the annual national security strategy re-  
20 port of the President required by section 108 of the  
21 National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043)  
22 should promote international religious freedom as a  
23 foreign policy and national security priority and  
24 should articulate that promotion of the right to free-  
25 dom of religion or belief is a strategy that protects

1 other, related human rights, and advances democ-  
2 racy outside the United States, and make clear its  
3 importance to United States foreign policy goals of  
4 stability, security, development, and diplomacy;

5 “(2) the national security strategy report  
6 should be a guide for the strategies and activities of  
7 relevant Federal agencies and inform the Depart-  
8 ment of Defense quadrennial defense review under  
9 section 118 of title 10, United States Code, and the  
10 Department of State Quadrennial Diplomacy and  
11 Development Review; and

12 “(3) in order to support the development of a  
13 national security strategy that emphasizes the chal-  
14 lenges of integrating religious freedom into United  
15 States foreign policy at all levels, the President  
16 should consider—

17 “(A) adopting a whole-of-government ap-  
18 proach to promote international religious free-  
19 dom by creating senior policy positions and  
20 committees at the National Security Council,  
21 chaired by the Senior Directors of the National  
22 Security Council and the Ambassador at Large,  
23 and implemented through specific policy direc-  
24 tives that guide the actions of other Federal  
25 agencies; and

1           “(B) requesting a national intelligence esti-  
2           mate on international religious freedom by the  
3           National Intelligence Council or any other intel-  
4           ligence agency as appropriate, which that ana-  
5           lyzes conditions and trends of international reli-  
6           gious freedom and identifies potential national  
7           security risks related to the absence of religious  
8           freedom, including threats to stability from au-  
9           thoritarian governments, terrorism, violent reli-  
10          gious extremism, sectarian violence, and laws  
11          that restrict religious freedom.

12   **“SEC. 704. REPORT ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONDITIONS**  
13                   **IN NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, AND VIETNAM.**

14          “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
15          date of the enactment of Frank R. Wolf International Re-  
16          ligious Freedom Act of 2014, the Comptroller General of  
17          the United States shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
18          sional committees a report on whether religious freedom  
19          conditions are such that the countries of Nigeria, Paki-  
20          stan, and Vietnam meet the criteria for designation as  
21          countries of particular concern for religious freedom under  
22          section 402(b).

23          “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Comptroller General  
24          shall consult with the appropriate executive branch offi-  
25          cials, appropriate congressional committees, and govern-

1 mental and nongovernmental organizations for the pur-  
2 poses of preparing the report required by subsection (a).

3 “(c) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-  
4 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

5 “(1) A multiyear comparison of country reports  
6 on Nigeria, Pakistan, and Vietnam in the Annual  
7 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the  
8 Annual Reports described in section 102(b), and the  
9 annual reports of the Commission.

10 “(2) A comparison of reports and publications  
11 on religious freedom conditions in Nigeria, Pakistan,  
12 and Vietnam issued by foreign governments, non-  
13 governmental organizations, and academic entities,  
14 to the findings of the reports issued by the United  
15 States.

16 “(3) Discussions with current and former  
17 United States officials, including Members of Con-  
18 gress, Commissioners, and staff of the Commission,  
19 about religious freedom conditions in Nigeria, Paki-  
20 stan, and Vietnam, the requirements of this Act, and  
21 United States national interests in such countries.

22 “(4) Discussions with current and former  
23 United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Religion and  
24 Belief and their staffs, about religious freedom con-  
25 ditions in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

1           “(5) Discussions with academic and other ex-  
2           perts, including representatives of religions and eth-  
3           nic minority groups, about religious freedom condi-  
4           tions in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Vietnam, the effect  
5           of United States advocacy for religious freedom in  
6           such countries, and United States national interests  
7           in such countries.”.

8 **SEC. 21. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

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

11                 (1) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
12          tion 405 the following:

“Sec. 405A. Sense of Congress regarding country of particular concern designa-  
tion for violent nonstate actors.”;

13                 (2) by striking the item relating to section 605  
14          and inserting the following:

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

15                 (3) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
16          tion 604 the following:

“Sec. 605. Actions against persons responsible for committing particularly se-  
vere violations of international religious freedom.”;

17          and

18                 (4) by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 702. 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.



“Sec. 704. Report on religious freedom conditions in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Vietnam.”.

