

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1916

To establish in the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2023

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To establish in the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia, 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Combating Inter-  
5       national Islamophobia Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE**  
7                               **TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA.**

8       Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act  
9       of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding  
10      at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 64. MONITORING AND COMBATING ISLAMOPHOBIA.**

2       “(a) OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT  
3 ISLAMOPHOBIA.—

4               “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120  
5 days after the date of the enactment of this section,  
6 the Secretary of State shall establish within the De-  
7 partment of State an Office to Monitor and Combat  
8 Islamophobia (in this section referred to as the ‘Of-  
9 fice’).

10              “(2) HEAD OF OFFICE.—

11                   “(A) SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MONITORING  
12 AND COMBATING ISLAMOPHOBIA.—The head of  
13 the Office shall be the Special Envoy for Moni-  
14 toring and Combating Islamophobia (in this  
15 section referred to as the ‘Special Envoy’) who  
16 shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

17                   “(B) APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—  
18 The Secretary may—

19                           “(i) if considered appropriate by the  
20 Secretary, appoint the Special Envoy from  
21 among officers and employees of the De-  
22 partment of State; and

23                           “(ii) allow any such officer or em-  
24 ployee appointed as Special Envoy to re-  
25 tain the position (and the responsibilities  
26 associated with such position) held by such

1                   officer or employee prior to such appoint-  
2                   ment.

3           “(b) PURPOSE OF OFFICE.—The Office shall be re-  
4 sponsible for the following:

5                   “(1) Monitoring and combating acts of  
6 Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement that  
7 occur in foreign countries.

8                   “(2) Coordinating and assisting in the prepara-  
9 tion of that portion of the reports required by sec-  
10 tions 116(d)(9) and 502B(k) of the Foreign Assist-  
11 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d), 2304(k)) re-  
12 lating to an assessment and description of the na-  
13 ture and extent of acts of Islamophobia and  
14 Islamophobic incitement.

15                   “(3) Coordinating and assisting in the prepara-  
16 tion of that portion of the report required by section  
17 102(b)(1)(A)(viii) of the International Religious  
18 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
19 6412(b)(1)(A)(viii)) relating to an assessment and  
20 description of the nature and extent of acts of  
21 Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement.

22           “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—The Special Envoy shall con-  
23 sult with domestic and international nongovernmental or-  
24 ganizations and multilateral organizations and institu-

1 tions, as the Special Envoy considers appropriate, to carry  
2 out this section.”.

3 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION IN DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL RE-**  
4 **PORTS OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTS**  
5 **OF ISLAMOPHOBIA IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

6 (a) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON  
7 HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.—The Foreign Assistance  
8 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

10 (A) in paragraph (11), by striking “and”  
11 at the end;

12 (B) in paragraph (12), by striking the pe-  
13 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
15 paragraph:

16 “(13) wherever applicable, a description of the  
17 nature and extent of acts of Islamophobia and  
18 Islamophobic incitement that occurred during the  
19 preceding year, including descriptions of—

20 “(A) acts of physical violence against, or  
21 harassment of, members of the Muslim commu-  
22 nity, and acts of violence against, or vandalism  
23 of, Muslim community institutions, including  
24 schools, mosques, and cemeteries;

1           “(B) instances of propaganda in govern-  
2           ment and nongovernment media that attempt to  
3           justify or promote racial hatred or incite acts of  
4           violence against members of the Muslim com-  
5           munity;

6           “(C) the actions, if any, taken by the gov-  
7           ernment of that country to respond to such vio-  
8           lence and attacks or to eliminate such propa-  
9           ganda or incitement;

10           “(D) the actions taken by such government  
11           to enact and enforce laws relating to the protec-  
12           tion of the right to religious freedom of mem-  
13           bers of the Muslim community; and

14           “(E) the efforts of such government to  
15           promote anti-bias and tolerance education.”;  
16           and

17           (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by—

18           (A) redesignating the second subsection (i)  
19           (relating to child marriage status) as subsection  
20           (j); and

21           (B) by adding at the end the following new  
22           subsection:

23           “(k) INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTS OF  
24 ISLAMOPHOBIA IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—The report re-  
25 quired by subsection (b) shall include, wherever applicable,

1 a description of the nature and extent of acts of  
2 Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement that occurred  
3 during the preceding year, including descriptions of—

4 “(1) acts of physical violence against, or harass-  
5 ment of, members of the Muslim community, and  
6 acts of violence against, or vandalism of, Muslim  
7 community institutions, including schools, mosques,  
8 and cemeteries;

9 “(2) instances of propaganda in government  
10 and nongovernment media that attempt to justify or  
11 promote racial hatred or incite acts of violence  
12 against members of the Muslim community;

13 “(3) the actions, if any, taken by the govern-  
14 ment of that country to respond to such violence and  
15 attacks or to eliminate such propaganda or incite-  
16 ment;

17 “(4) the actions taken by such government to  
18 enact and enforce laws relating to the protection of  
19 the right to religious freedom of members of the  
20 Muslim community; and

21 “(5) the efforts of such government to promote  
22 anti-bias and tolerance education.”.

23 (b) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORT ON INTER-  
24 NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—Section 102(b)(1)(A)

1 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22  
2 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

3 (1) in clause (vi), by striking “and” at the end;

4 (2) in clause (vii)(II), by striking the period at  
5 the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
7 clause:

8 “(viii) wherever applicable, an assess-  
9 ment and description of the nature and ex-  
10 tent of acts of Islamophobia and  
11 Islamophobic incitement that occurred in  
12 that country during the preceding the year,  
13 including—

14 “(I) acts of physical violence  
15 against, or harassment of, members of  
16 the Muslim community, acts of vio-  
17 lence against, or vandalism of, Muslim  
18 community institutions, instances of  
19 propaganda in government and non-  
20 government media that incite such  
21 acts, and statements and actions re-  
22 lating thereto; and

23 “(II) the actions taken by the  
24 government of that country to re-  
25 spond to such violence and attacks or

1 to eliminate such propaganda or in-  
2 citement, to enact and enforce laws  
3 relating to the protection of the right  
4 to religious freedom of members of  
5 the Muslim community, and to pro-  
6 mote anti-bias and tolerance edu-  
7 cation.”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF INCLUSIONS.—The amend-  
9 ments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply on the  
10 date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of  
11 this Act.

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