



February 27, 2026

The Honorable Brian Mast
Chair
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2172 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2172 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: H.R. 1744 – The United States Commission
on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2025**

Dear Chairman Mast and Ranking Member Meeks,

We write as an informal group of **222** organizations and individuals who are scholars, religious and secular leaders, human rights advocates, and practitioners to express our gratitude for your continued support of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). Established by the [International Religious Freedom Act of 1998](#) (IRFA), USCIRF plays a vital role in promoting religious freedom globally and advocating for those facing persecution or discrimination based on their beliefs.

We, the undersigned, are grateful to Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Henry Cuellar (D-TX) for their introduction of ***H.R. 1744 – The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2025***, which would extend and authorize appropriations for the USCIRF through FY2028.

We now ***urge you to advance this legislation out of the Committee*** and thereby allow it to go to the full House floor soon.

From our various experiences, we have seen the Commission play a vital role as a pillar of U.S. foreign policy infrastructure by reporting on those around the world who suffer for their beliefs, conscience, or religion. Robust reporting products, advocating for prisoners of conscience, and resources such as a database of prisoners of conscience and victims of persecution are essential tools used by civil society advocates to advance this fundamental human right.

Reauthorizing the USCIRF is not only a matter of principle but also a meaningful step toward fulfilling our nation's promise to uphold this fundamental human right.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS:

1. *21 Wilberforce*
2. *ADO Alevi Philosophy Center Association*
3. *ADIP (Anatolian Religions and Beliefs Platform)*
4. *Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)*
5. *Advocates for the Nation*
6. *Alianza de Iglesias Cubanas No Registradas (Aicnor)*
7. *Alliance for Democratic Justice*
8. *American Defenders for Persecuted Human*
9. *American Humanist Association*
10. *American Muslim & Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council (AMMWEC)*
11. *Antelope Valley Vietnamese Association*
12. *Armenian National Committee of America Western Region*
13. *Asian Children's Education Fellowship*
14. *Baha'is of the United States*
15. *Baptist World Alliance*
16. *Bellwether International*
17. *Bitter Winter (A magazine on religious liberty and human rights)*
18. *Boat People SOS (BPSOS)*
19. *Bruderhof*
20. *Buddhist Solidarity Association*
21. *Campaign for a New Myanmar*
22. *Campaign for Uyghurs*
23. *CaoDai Today*
24. *Center for Pluralism*
25. *Center for Uyghur Studies*
26. *The Children's Heritage Foundation*
27. *Chin Association of Maryland*
28. *China Aid Association*
29. *Christian Freedom International*
30. *Church of Scientology National Affairs Office*
31. *Churches for Middle East Peace*
32. *The Clapman Group*
33. *Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience*
34. *Coptic Solidarity*
35. *Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU)*
36. *Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting*
37. *Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention*
38. *European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom (EIFRF)*
39. *Ex-Muslims of North America (EXMNA)*
40. *Faith Harvest Church Chosen Generation Radio*
41. *Faith & Freedom Coalition*
42. *Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA)*
43. *Foundation for Religious Freedom (FrF) Nigeria*
44. *Foundation for the Improvement of Life, Culture and Society (Fundacion para la Mejora de la Vida, la Cultura y la Sociedad)*
45. *Friends of Thien Am Zen Monastery*

46. *Genocide Watch*
47. *Gerard Noodt Foundation for Freedom of Religion or Belief*
48. *Global Peace Foundation*
49. *Global Women Christian Chamber of Commerce Embassy*
50. *Great Truth*
51. *Happy Science USA Bureau*
52. *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)*
53. *Hindus for Human Rights*
54. *In Defense of Christians*
55. *Indian American Muslim Council*
56. *International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace*
57. *International Buddhist Information Bureau (IBIB)*
58. *International Campaign for the Rohingya*
59. *International Christian Concern*
60. *International Christian Rescue Mission*
61. *International Committee on Nigeria*
62. *International Human Rights Committee*
63. *International Institute for Religious Freedom*
64. *International Society for Peace & Justice*
65. *IRF Secretariat*
66. *Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances (IOICA)*
67. *Jubilee Campaign*
68. *Justice For All*
69. *Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice*
70. *Law and Liberty Trust*
71. *Leah Foundation*
72. *Living Water Productions*
73. *Love Your Neighbor Community (LYNC)*
74. *Mission Africa International*
75. *Montagnards Stand for Justice (MSFJ)*
76. *Muslim Women Speakers*
77. *Muslims for Progressive Values*
78. *National Association of Evangelicals*
79. *National Council on Civil Advocacy*
80. *New York State Council of Churches*
81. *New Wineskins Missionary Network*
82. *No Business With Genocide*
83. *Orthodox Public Affairs Committee (OPAC)*
84. *Outreach Aid to the Americas, Inc*
85. *Parity*
86. *Patmos Institute*
87. *Patriot Voices*
88. *Prayer Pioneers*
89. *Quê Me: Vietnam Committee on Human Rights (VCHR)*
90. *Red Eagle Enterprises*
91. *Religious Freedom & Business Foundation*
92. *Religious Freedom Institute*
93. *The Religious Nationalisms Project*

94. *Rumi Forum*
95. *Set My People Free*
96. *Shai Fund*
97. *Sikh Dharma International*
98. *Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce*
99. *South Asia Forum for Freedom of Religion or Belief (SAFFoRB)*
100. *The Southeast Asian Grassroots Alliance (SAGA)*
101. *Sunshine Ministries*
102. *Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam*
103. *Union of Reform Judaism*
104. *United Macedonian Diaspora*
105. *US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights*
106. *Uyghur Academy*
107. *Uyghur American Association*
108. *Uyghur Human Rights Project*
109. *Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation*
110. *Vietnam Coalition Against Torture (VN-CAT)*
111. *Vietnamese Women for Human Rights*
112. *The Washington Times Foundation*
113. *Widows and Orphans*

INDIVIDUALS:

114. *Rev. Alejandro Hernández Cepero, Coordinator, IRF Roundtable Cuba*
115. *Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Secretary for Public Affairs, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA*
116. *Angana Chatterji, Scholar, University of California, Berkeley*
117. *Ani Zonneveld, Founder & President, Muslims for Progressive Values*
118. *Rev. Anna Sineva, Director of Government Relations & Public Policy, Church of Scientology National Affairs Office / Co-chair, IRF Roundtable Congressional Working Group*
119. *Anthony N. Vance, Director of Public Affairs, Baha'is of the United States*
120. *Arshan Khalid, Head, ISNA IOICA (Islamic Society of North America Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances)*
121. *Binh Tran, Pharm D., President, Antelope Valley Vietnamese Association*
122. *Bob Fu, PhD, President, China Aid*
123. *Dr. Brian Grim, President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation*
124. *Bryan Nerren, President, Asian Children's Education Fellowship*
125. *Buddha Ghising, Advocates for the Nation*
126. *Charmaine Hedding, President, Shai Fund*
127. *The Honorable Dan Burton, Chairman, International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace*
128. *David Babu, Founder and President, Sunshine Ministries*
129. *David Trimble, President, Religious Freedom Institute*
130. *Drew Bowling, Executive Director, Catholics for Trump/Vance*
131. *Dr. Chris Seiple, President Emeritus, Institute for Global Engagement; Co-Founder, International Religious Freedom Roundtable*
132. *Rabbi David Saperstein, Union for Reform Judaism*
133. *Dogan Bermek, President, ADO Alevi Philosophy Center Association*

134. *Elaina Fowler, Ex-Muslims of North America (EXMNA)*
135. *Eric Roux, President, European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom (EIFRF)*
136. *Fatima Njoku, Human Rights Advocate*
137. *George Gigicos, Co-Founder & Chairman, Orthodox Public Affairs Committee (OPAC)*
138. *Dr. Gloria Samdi Puldu, President, Leah Foundation*
139. *Greg Mitchell, Founder & CEO, IRF Secretariat*
140. *Gregory H. Stanton, Founding President, Genocide Watch*
141. *Gregory Young, Pastor Host, Faith Harvest Church Chosen Generation Radio*
142. *Harbir Bhatia, CEO, Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce*
143. *Ibrahim Anli, Executive Director, Rumi Forum*
144. *Jackie Abramian, Founder, Global Cadence*
145. *Colonel James E. Schaefer, Pastor, Grace Church Waldorf*
146. *Jenny Noyes, Executive Director, New Wineskins Missionary Network*
147. *Jeremy P. Barker, Associate Vice President for International Strategies, Religious Freedom Institute*
148. *Jessica Eturralde, Journalist, Director of Communications, Love Your Neighbor Community (LYNC)*
149. *Johann Huleatt, Outreach Director, Bruderhof*
150. *Hamid Gharagozloo, Chair, IRF Roundtable Iran Working Group*
151. *Hena Zuberi, Director of Advocacy, Justice For All*
152. *Hulda Fahmi, International Director, Set My People Free*
153. *Ibrahim Anli, Executive Director, Rumi Forum*
154. *Iván Arjona-Pelado, President, Foundation for the Improvement of Life, Culture and Society (Fundacion para la Mejora de la Vida, la Cultura y la Sociedad)*
155. *Karmella Borashan, Special Assistant to the President, Susek Evangelistic Association*
156. *Kashif Mirza, AMMWEC; Coordinator, IRF Roundtable Pakistan*
157. *Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice*
158. *Kaylee Fisher, Global Operations Director, IRF Secretariat*
159. *Keegan Burke, Interfaith Director, Alliance of Religions*
160. *Kola Alapinni, General Counsel and Director of Operations, Foundation for Religious Freedom (FrF) Nigeria*
161. *Kyle Abts, Executive Director, International Committee on Nigeria*
162. *Kyle Cristofalo, Senior Director Advocacy and Government Relations, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)*
163. *Dr. Kyle Wisdom, Deputy Director, International Institute for Religious Freedom*
164. *Lauren Homer, President, Law and Liberty Trust*
165. *Liem Ly, Co-Founder, Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)*
166. *Lily Pelletier, Capitol Liaison, International Christian Concern*
167. *Lindsay Rodriguez, Director of Development & Advocacy, Coptic Solidarity*
168. *Loan Nguyễn, Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam*
169. *Loan Vo, Coordinator, Buddhist Solidarity Association*
170. *Lou Ann Sabatier, Publisher, International Religious Freedom Scorecard, Sabatier Consulting*
171. *Dr. Lydia Gonzalez, Ambassador, Spiritual Diplomat*
172. *Rev. Dr. Marian Edmonds-Allen, Executive Director, Parity*
173. *Rev. Mario Félix Leonart Barroso, General Coordinator, Patmos Institute*
174. *Mark Rodgers, The Clapham Group*
175. *Martha Hudson, International Religious Freedom Advocate, Save the Persecuted Christians*

176. Massimo Introvigne, Editor-in-chief, *Bitter Winter*
177. Mehmet Saracoglu, Government Relations Director, National Council on Civil Advocacy / Co-chair, IRF Roundtable Congressional Working Group
178. Dr. Michael Jenkins, President, The Washington Times Foundation
179. Michelle Nguyen, Advocacy Coordinator, Vietnam Coalition Against Torture (VN-CAT)
180. Mike Ghouse, President, Center for Pluralism
181. Mildrey Betancourt Rodríguez, Alianza de Iglesias Cubanas No Registradas (Aicnor)
182. Minh Lê, Rt French Didactician, Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)
183. Minh L. Nguyen, Coordinator, Buddhist Solidarity Association
184. Nadine Maenza, President, IRF Secretariat
185. Nasim Ahmed Malik, General Secretary, International Human Rights Committee
186. Rev. Neal Christie, Principal, TRNP—The Religious Nationalisms Project
187. Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD, Recipient of the 2011 Asia Democracy & Human Rights Award; CEO & President, Boat People SOS
188. Patrice J. Pederson, President, First Freedom Foundation
189. Paul Marshall, Professor, Baylor University
190. Dr. Paul Murray, International Vice President, Global Peace Foundation
191. Paul Nguyen, Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)
192. Penelope Faulkner, President, Quê Me: Vietnam Committee on Human Rights
193. Prince (Dr.) Oluwasayo Ajiboye, Mission Africa International
194. Puneet Ahluwalia, Alliance for Democratic Justice
195. Dr. Quoc-Hung Tran, MD, Director of Communications, Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam
196. Rachel Miner, Founder & CEO, Bellwether International
197. Raudel Garcia Bringas, Patmos Institute
198. Rehan Khan, President, International Society for Peace & Justice
199. Dr. Rishat Abbas, President, Uyghur Academy
200. Robert A. Destro, Professor of Law, The Catholic University of America
201. Hon. Rollin A. Van Broekhoven, Board Vice Chairman, Institute for Global Engagement; Senior Associate, Oxford House Research Consultancy (Oxford, UK)
202. Rushan Abbas, Executive Director, Campaign for Uyghurs
203. Sarkis Balkhian, Executive Director, Armenian National Committee of America Western Region
204. Satoshi Nishihata, Bureau Chief, Happy Science USA Bureau
205. Scott Morgan, President, Red Eagle Enterprises; Co-chair, IRF Roundtable Africa Working Group
206. Rev. Dr. Scott Stearman, U.N. Representative, Baptist World Alliance / Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
207. Shakeel Raphael, President, American Defenders for Persecuted Human
208. Rev. Sharyn Runyon, L. Ron Hubbard Foundation
209. Shonda Werry, Executive Director, Patriot Voices
210. Simran Stuelpnagel, Global Affairs Advisor, Sikh Dharma International
211. Soraya M. Deen, Founder, Muslim Women Speakers
212. Stephen Enada, President, International Committee on Nigeria
213. Sunita Viswanath, Executive Director, Hindus for Human Rights
214. Rev. Susan Taylor, National Public Affairs Director, Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
215. Tanya Nguyen-Do, Founder, Friends of Thien Am Zen Monastery
216. Dr. Teo A Babun, President & CEO, Outreach Aid to the Americas, Inc

217. *Thierry Valle, President, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience*
218. *Tuan Nguyen, Community Engagement Coordinator, Boat People SOS*
219. *Chaplain Dr. Victoria Nguyen, CaoDai Today*
220. *Dr. William T. Devlin, Volunteer CEO, Widows and Orphans*
221. *Yahya Luqman, Imam, American Fazl Mosque (Washington DC), Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA*
222. *Y Phic Hdok, Co-founder, Montagnards Stand for Justice (MSFJ)*