
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 203 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, STAATS, KAUFFMAN, BAKER, HEFFLEY, DUSH,
JAMES, COX, PICKETT, MCGINNIS, TOEPEL, B. MILLER, HICKERNELL,
MENTZER, WARD, CUTLER, READSHAW, RYAN AND GROVE,
APRIL 3, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 3, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the global persecution of Christians and calling on
2 world leaders to implement policies that protect the
3 religious liberty of Christians and all other faiths within
4 their borders.

5 WHEREAS, Christian persecution is any hostility experienced
6 as a result of one's identification as a Christian; and

7 WHEREAS, Persecution comes in many forms, including beatings,
8 physical torture, confinement, isolation, rape, severe
9 punishment, imprisonment, slavery, discrimination in education
10 and employment, loss of basic fundamental rights, violence and
11 execution; and

12 WHEREAS, Each month, more than 300 Christians are killed for
13 their faith, more than 200 churches and Christian properties are
14 destroyed and more than 750 forms of violence are committed
15 against Christians; and

16 WHEREAS, Christians are currently being persecuted in more
17 than 65 countries for their faith; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Commission on International
2 Religious Freedom finds systematic persecution of religious
3 minorities, which includes many Christians, to be a global
4 problem that is not contained in one specific region of the
5 world; and

6 WHEREAS, The most rapidly growing areas of persecution are
7 the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia; and

8 WHEREAS, The top 10 countries where Christians face the most
9 severe persecution are North Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan,
10 Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen and Eritrea; and

11 WHEREAS, North Korea heads the World Watch List for the
12 15th consecutive year and there are currently 50,000 to 70,000
13 Christians subjected to torture in North Korean labor camps; and

14 WHEREAS, Egyptians with a Muslim background who abandon the
15 Islamic faith often face beatings or house explosions; and

16 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in 2011,
17 more than 7.5 million Christians have been displaced; and

18 WHEREAS, Syrian refugees are now finding themselves in other
19 countries where persecution persists; and

20 WHEREAS, In Algeria, where the law prohibits public assembly
21 to practice a faith other than Islam, Catholic churches and one
22 Protestant church may conduct services without government
23 interference; and

24 WHEREAS, In Algeria, where 99% of the population is Muslim,
25 those who are Christian converts face domestic violence and
26 house arrest for their faith; and

27 WHEREAS, In Oman, individuals who convert from Islam to
28 Christianity will lose custody of their children upon divorce;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, In Burma, Christians are subject to extrajudicial

1 killings, sexual violence and forced labor; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations
3 adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights entitling
4 every person to basic human rights regardless of their race,
5 color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion,
6 national or social origin, property, birth or other status; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1966, the General Assembly of the United Nations
8 developed the International Covenant on Civil and Political
9 Rights to broaden the focus of the Universal Declaration of
10 Human Rights relating to four elements of religious freedom;
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn the
13 global persecution of Christians and call on world leaders to
14 implement policies that protect the religious liberty of
15 Christians and all other faiths within their borders.