

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5665

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 2021

Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BASS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. SIRES, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. DEAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CORREA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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”.

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

3 Title 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities
4 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following new section:

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

7 **“(a) OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT**
8 **ISLAMOPHOBIA.—**

9 **“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—**The Secretary of State
10 shall establish within the Department of State an
11 Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia (in this
12 section referred to as the ‘Office’).

13 **“(2) HEAD OF OFFICE.—**

14 **“(A) SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MONITORING**
15 **AND COMBATING ISLAMOPHOBIA.—**The head of
16 the Office shall be the Special Envoy for Moni-
17 toring and Combating Islamophobia (in this
18 section referred to as the ‘Special Envoy’).

19 **“(B) APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—**
20 The Secretary of State shall appoint the Special
21 Envoy. If the Secretary determines that such is
22 appropriate, the Secretary may appoint the
23 Special Envoy from among officers and employ-
24 ees of the Department of State. The Secretary
25 may allow such officer or employee to retain the
26 position (and the responsibilities associated with

1 such position) held by such officer or employee
2 prior to such appointment.

3 “(b) PURPOSE OF OFFICE.—Upon establishment, the
4 Office shall assume primary responsibility for the fol-
5 lowing:

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

9 “(2) Coordinating and assisting in the prepara-
10 tion of that portion of the reports required by para-
11 graph (9) of section 116(d) and subsection (k) of
12 section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
13 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d) and 2304) relating to an as-
14 sessment and description of the nature and extent of
15 acts of Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement.

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

23 “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—The Special Envoy shall con-
24 sult with domestic and international nongovernmental or-
25 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) by redesignating paragraphs (9), (10),
11 (11), and (12), as paragraphs (10), (11), (12),
12 and (13), respectively; and

13 (B) by inserting after paragraph (8) the
14 following new paragraph:

15 “(9) wherever applicable, a description of the
16 nature and extent of acts of Islamophobia and
17 Islamophobic incitement that occur during the pre-
18 ceding year, including descriptions of—

19 “(A) acts of physical violence against, or
20 harassment of, Muslim people, and acts of vio-
21 lence against, or vandalism of, Muslim commu-
22 nity institutions, including schools, mosques,
23 and cemeteries;

24 “(B) instances of propaganda in govern-
25 ment and nongovernment media that attempt to

1 justify or promote racial hatred or incite acts of
2 violence against Muslim people;

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

7 “(D) the actions taken by such government
8 to enact and enforce laws relating to the protec-
9 tion of the right to religious freedom of Muslim
10 people; and

11 “(E) the efforts of such government to
12 promote anti-bias and tolerance education;”;
13 and

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

15 (A) redesignating the second subsection (i)
16 (relating to child marriage status) as subsection
17 (j); and

18 (B) by adding at the end the following new
19 subsection:

20 “(k) INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTS OF
21 ISLAMOPHOBIA IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—The report re-
22 quired by subsection (b) shall include, wherever applicable,
23 a description of the nature and extent of acts of
24 Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement that occur dur-
25 ing the preceding year, including descriptions of—

1 “(1) acts of physical violence against, or harass-
2 ment of, Muslim people, and acts of violence against,
3 or vandalism of, Muslim community institutions, in-
4 cluding schools, mosques, and cemeteries;

5 “(2) instances of propaganda in government
6 and nongovernment media that attempt to justify or
7 promote racial hatred or incite acts of violence
8 against Muslim people;

9 “(3) the actions, if any, taken by the govern-
10 ment of the country to respond to such violence and
11 attacks or to eliminate such propaganda or incite-
12 ment;

13 “(4) the actions taken by such government to
14 enact and enforce laws relating to the protection of
15 the right to religious freedom of Muslim people; and

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

18 (b) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORT ON INTER-
19 NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—Section 102(b)(1)(A)
20 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
21 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

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

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

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

3 “(viii) wherever applicable, an assess-
4 ment and description of the nature and ex-
5 tent of acts of Islamophobia and
6 Islamophobic incitement that occur in that
7 country during the preceding the year, in-
8 cluding—

9 “(I) acts of physical violence
10 against, or harassment of, Muslim
11 people, acts of violence against, or
12 vandalism of, Muslim community in-
13 stitutions, instances of propaganda in
14 government and nongovernment media
15 that incite such acts, and statements
16 and actions relating thereto; and

17 “(II) the actions taken by the
18 government of that country to re-
19 spond to such violence and attacks or
20 to eliminate such propaganda or in-
21 citement, to enact and enforce laws
22 relating to the protection of the right
23 to religious freedom of Muslims, and
24 to promote anti-bias and tolerance
25 education.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF INCLUSIONS.—The amend-
2 ments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply begin-
3 ning with the first reports required under sections 116(d)
4 and 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
5 U.S.C. 2151n and 2304) and section 102(b)(1)(A) of the
6 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
7 6312(b)(1)(A)) that are submitted after the date that is
8 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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