

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3985

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2023

Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CHU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. PHILLIPS) 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 I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act
4 of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding
5 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.—Not later than 120
10 days after the date of the enactment of this section,
11 the Secretary of State shall establish within the De-
12 partment of State an Office to Monitor and Combat
13 Islamophobia (in this section referred to as the ‘Of-
14 fice’).

15 “(2) HEAD OF OFFICE.—

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

22 “(B) APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—
23 The Secretary may—

24 “(i) if considered appropriate by the
25 Secretary, appoint the Special Envoy from

1 among officers and employees of the De-
2 partment of State; and

3 “(ii) allow any such officer or em-
4 ployee appointed as Special Envoy to re-
5 tain the position (and the responsibilities
6 associated with such position) held by such
7 officer or employee prior to such appoint-
8 ment.

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

11 “(1) Monitoring and combating acts of
12 Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement that
13 occur in foreign countries.

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

21 “(3) Coordinating and assisting in the prepara-
22 tion of that portion of the report required by section
23 102(b)(1)(A)(viii) of the International Religious
24 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
25 6412(b)(1)(A)(viii)) relating to an assessment and

1 description of the nature and extent of acts of
2 Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement.

3 “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—The Special Envoy shall con-
4 sult with domestic and international nongovernmental or-
5 ganizations and multilateral organizations and institu-
6 tions, as the Special Envoy considers appropriate, to carry
7 out this section.”.

8 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION IN DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL RE-**
9 **PORTS OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTS**
10 **OF ISLAMOPHOBIA IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

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

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

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

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

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

21 “(13) wherever applicable, a description of the
22 nature and extent of acts of Islamophobia and
23 Islamophobic incitement that occurred during the
24 preceding year, including descriptions of—

1 “(A) acts of physical violence against, or
2 harassment of, members of the Muslim commu-
3 nity, and acts of violence against, or vandalism
4 of, Muslim community institutions, including
5 schools, mosques, and cemeteries;

6 “(B) instances of propaganda in govern-
7 ment and nongovernment media that attempt to
8 justify or promote racial hatred or incite acts of
9 violence against members of the Muslim com-
10 munity;

11 “(C) the actions, if any, taken by the gov-
12 ernment of that country to respond to such vio-
13 lence and attacks or to eliminate such propa-
14 ganda or incitement;

15 “(D) the actions taken by such government
16 to enact and enforce laws relating to the protec-
17 tion of the right to religious freedom of mem-
18 bers of the Muslim community; and

19 “(E) the efforts of such government to
20 promote anti-bias and tolerance education.”;
21 and

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

23 (A) redesignating the second subsection (i)
24 (relating to child marriage status) as subsection
25 (j); and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new
2 subsection:

3 “(k) INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTS OF
4 ISLAMOPHOBIA IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—The report re-
5 quired by subsection (b) shall include, wherever applicable,
6 a description of the nature and extent of acts of
7 Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement that occurred
8 during the preceding year, including descriptions of—

9 “(1) acts of physical violence against, or harass-
10 ment of, members of the Muslim community, and
11 acts of violence against, or vandalism of, Muslim
12 community institutions, including schools, mosques,
13 and cemeteries;

14 “(2) instances of propaganda in government
15 and nongovernment media that attempt to justify or
16 promote racial hatred or incite acts of violence
17 against members of the Muslim community;

18 “(3) the actions, if any, taken by the govern-
19 ment of that country to respond to such violence and
20 attacks or to eliminate such propaganda or incite-
21 ment;

22 “(4) the actions taken by such government to
23 enact and enforce laws relating to the protection of
24 the right to religious freedom of members of the
25 Muslim community; and

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

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

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

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

10 (3) by adding at the end the following new
11 clause:

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

18 “(I) acts of physical violence
19 against, or harassment of, members of
20 the Muslim community, acts of vio-
21 lence against, or vandalism of, Muslim
22 community institutions, instances of
23 propaganda in government and non-
24 government media that incite such

1 acts, and statements and actions re-
2 lating thereto; and

3 “(II) the actions taken by the
4 government of that country to re-
5 spond to such violence and attacks or
6 to eliminate such propaganda or in-
7 citement, to enact and enforce laws
8 relating to the protection of the right
9 to religious freedom of members of
10 the Muslim community, and to pro-
11 mote anti-bias and tolerance edu-
12 cation.”.

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

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