



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**Researcher/Policy Analyst, Middle East and Africa**

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

Washington, DC

\$50,000-\$75,000 per year (depending on qualifications and experience)

**Closing Date**

June 16, 2014

**About USCIRF**

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is an independent, bipartisan federal Government advisory body that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad. USCIRF reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. USCIRF Commissioners are appointed by the President and the Congressional leadership of both political parties. More information about USCIRF is available at [www.uscirt.gov](http://www.uscirt.gov).

*USCIRF is an equal opportunity employer.*

**Job Summary**

USCIRF is seeking a Researcher/Policy Analyst with the ability to conduct Arabic language research and translate written materials and online content from Arabic to English to focus on the Middle East and several countries in Africa. Depending on the qualifications and background of the candidate selected, this position will be filled at either the Researcher or Policy Analyst level.

Specific to the regional portfolio, the Researcher/Policy Analyst will: monitor and analyze religious freedom conditions and related human rights; monitor and assess U.S. foreign policy; develop policy recommendations for the U.S. government to advance freedom of religion or belief; monitor, develop, and report on various events or opportunities that, if properly leveraged, could be effective inflection points for achieving implementation of USCIRF-recommended policy; draft annual report materials, briefing materials, policy focus reports, correspondence and testimony; build and maintain extensive contacts with relevant policy counterparts in the U.S. government and with members of NGOs, academia, and other organizations focused on freedom of religion or belief, and related human rights.

**Key Requirements**

- U.S. Citizenship
- Resume and supporting documents (see *How to Apply*)
- Completion of a satisfactory background investigation
- Completion of a probationary period may be required
- Selectee must be able to meet/maintain suitability and security requirements

**Duties**

Reporting to the Director of Policy and Research, the Researcher/Policy Analyst's primary responsibilities involve the following:

### **1. *Research and Policy Analysis/Formulation***

- Collect, analyze, and document information related to freedom of religion or belief in the Middle East and Africa, including:
  - following events affecting freedom of religion or belief across the region and in countries of concern;
  - gathering information and maintaining relations with U.S. and foreign government agencies, NGOs, religious groups, and academics; and
  - monitoring international media and State Department reports/statements.
- Develop strategies and recommendations to encourage improvement in the exercise of freedom of religion or belief in the Middle East and Africa, including making recommendations for U.S. government policy and working for their implementation and incorporation into State Department and Administration policies and representations, as well as legislation.
- Other duties as assigned.

### **2. *Reporting***

- Draft and/or assist with relevant Annual Report chapters, work to ensure the accuracy and completeness of analysis and language in the Annual Report for assigned countries, and participate as appropriate in Annual Report launch events as requested.
- Produce and/or assist with Congressional testimony, briefing memos, and meeting talking points for Commissioners and senior staff.
- Contribute to drafting of press releases or opinion pieces for public media, as requested.
- Other duties as assigned.

### **3. *Representation***

- Brief Commissioners and/or staff on U.S. Government efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, as well as foreign government activities limiting this freedom, either orally or through prepared memoranda.
- Engage with The White House, State Department and other Executive Branch agencies on religious freedom issues, including requesting meetings and information, and promoting recommendations, as well as engaging with foreign governments.
- Represent USCIRF at working level meetings at the State Department and other agencies, and with congressional staff, as well as with official and unofficial foreign visitors and the media as necessary.
- Advocate for USCIRF positions on religious freedom with foreign officials, domestic and foreign audiences, NGOs, human rights groups, and religious organizations.
- Work toward the inclusion of USCIRF recommendations in U.S. Government and State Department policies and representations.
- Organize, prepare materials for, and participate in Commission delegations and staff trips to countries to gather information on religious freedom conditions.
- Attend and report on public hearings and other events around D.C. on relevant issues.
- Assist with preparations for meetings, roundtables, Commission travel, and other events, including organizing and preparing materials for public USCIRF events.
- Establish and maintain network of relevant contacts for countries of responsibility.
- Other duties as assigned.

### **Qualifications**

Fluency or demonstrated proficiency in written Arabic required; fluency in spoken Arabic preferred.

Advanced degree preferred, along with at least two (2) years' substantive experience as demonstrated by a sustained record of accomplished, analytical writing and other professional achievements.

Other qualifications include:

- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of regional politics, jurisprudence, culture, economic development, security trends, U.S. interests, and human rights in general;
- Ability to proactively develop, synthesize, and articulate effective and actionable policy recommendations;
- Ability to multi-task and work in a fast-paced setting, defining and meeting deadlines;
- Ability to synthesize information from various sources;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- Strong written and verbal communication skills;
- Extreme attention to detail, excellent organizational skills, and collegial demeanor.

### **How to Apply**

To apply, candidates should mail, email, or fax a cover letter, resume, three references, and a writing sample (no more than five pages) to:

USCIRF  
732 N. Capitol Street, NW  
Suite A714  
Washington, DC 20401  
[jobs@uscirf.gov](mailto:jobs@uscirf.gov)  
Fax: (202) 523-5020

Applications sent via email should be in PDF format.

Applications will be held in strict confidence. After submitting your application for this position, you will receive an e-mail confirming receipt of your application materials. USCIRF will contact you if we wish to schedule an interview or if we require additional information or references.

*No calls please.*

### **Evaluation of Applicants**

This job is excepted from the competitive civil service. Applicants will be evaluated and deemed either eligible or ineligible based on the relevance and quality of their experience and education and on the desired qualifications described above.

Pursuant to section 204(c) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as amended, USCIRF staff members are hired “on the basis of professional and nonpartisan qualifications.”

### **Other Information**

- Travel expenses related to the hiring process will not be paid
- Relocation expenses will not be paid

***Selective Service.*** If you are a male applicant born after December 31, 1959, you must certify at the time of appointment that you have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under Selective Service law.

***Reasonable Accommodation.*** USCIRF provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact USCIRF at (202) 523-3240. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

***Equal Employment Opportunity.*** The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.