

Statement for the Record

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom 2026 Annual Report Launch

Thank you to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for its continued leadership in shining a light on violations of religious freedom around the world.

The freedom of religion is among the most fundamental of all human rights. It is a cornerstone of democracy and human dignity, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and deeply rooted in our own nation's founding principles. Yet for far too many people around the world, the simple act of worshiping according to their conscience remains dangerous or even deadly.

Each year, USCIRF's Annual Report plays a vital role in documenting these abuses and ensuring that the voices of persecuted communities are heard. From the detention of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, to the repression of Tibetan Buddhists, to the persecution of Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities in many parts of the world, this report reminds us that the struggle for religious freedom remains urgent and ongoing.

The United States must continue to stand firmly with those who face discrimination, imprisonment and violence because of their faith. We must speak out against governments that target religious communities and work with partners around the world to uphold the universal right to believe—or not believe—freely.

I commend the commissioners and staff of USCIRF for their important work and for their unwavering commitment to defending religious liberty worldwide. Together, we must ensure that the promise of freedom of religion is not merely an aspiration, but a reality for people everywhere.

Thank you.