
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 332 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, SCHLOSSBERG, RYAN, LONGIETTI, KULIK,
ROTHMAN, JAMES, HELM, BOBACK, HERSHEY, METCALFE, KAUFFMAN,
BROWN, SONNEY, MILLARD, BERNSTINE, MACKENZIE, PICKETT,
OBERLANDER, DeLUCA, SAYLOR, TOPPER, BARRAR, READSHAW, HILL-
EVANS, PYLE, ZIMMERMAN, B. MILLER AND STRUZZI, MAY 14, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 14, 2019

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 nations' 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, Every month, on average, 345 Christians are killed
13 for their faith, 105 churches and Christian properties are
14 destroyed and 219 Christians are detained without trial,
15 arrested, sentenced and imprisoned; and

16 WHEREAS, Christians are currently being persecuted in more
17 than 50 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 total number of persecuted Christians has risen
7 from 215 million in 2018, to 245 million in 2019; and

8 WHEREAS, One in nine Christians experience high levels of
9 persecution worldwide; and

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

12 WHEREAS, The top 10 countries where Christians face the most
13 severe persecution are North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya,
14 Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran and India; and

15 WHEREAS, North Korea heads the World Watch List for the
16 18th consecutive year and there are currently approximately
17 300,000 Christians living in fear of being discovered and
18 deported to labor camps as political criminals or killed; and

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, In 1966, the General Assembly of the United Nations
29 developed the International Covenant on Civil and Political
30 Rights to broaden the focus of the Universal Declaration of

1 Human Rights relating to four elements of religious freedom;
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn the
4 global persecution of Christians and call on world leaders to
5 implement policies that protect the religious liberty of
6 Christians and all other faiths within their nations' borders.