

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8433

To require the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense to jointly submit a report on efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to persecute, suppress, discriminate, or otherwise violate the religious freedoms of Ukraine and temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, to require the President to impose all applicable sanctions with respect to foreign persons certified to have engaged in such efforts, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BACON, and Mr. QUIGLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense to jointly submit a report on efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to persecute, suppress, discriminate, or otherwise violate the religious freedoms of Ukraine and temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, to require the President to impose all applicable sanctions with respect to foreign persons certified to have engaged in such efforts, 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 “Countering Russia’s  
5       War on Faith Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) In territories of Ukraine temporarily occu-  
9               pied by the Russian Federation, Russian occupation  
10              authorities have imposed policies that restrict, sup-  
11              press, and eliminate freedom of religion and belief,  
12              in violation of international law and civilian protec-  
13              tions under the law of armed conflict.

14             (2) The United States Commission on Inter-  
15             national Religious Freedom has documented that  
16             Russian authorities in occupied Ukrainian territories  
17             have engaged in severe violations of religious free-  
18             dom, including the detention, torture, disappearance,  
19             and unlawful imprisonment of clergy and believers,  
20             as well as the closure and confiscation of houses of  
21             worship.

22             (3) According to Ukrainian authorities and  
23             independent monitoring groups, Russian forces have  
24             damaged or destroyed more than 600 churches, syn-

1 agogues, mosques, and other religious sites since the  
2 start of Russia’s full-scale invasion.

3 (4) Russia has killed more than 50 Ukrainian  
4 priests, pastors, and other religious leaders during  
5 Russia’s invasion, and many others have been ab-  
6 ducted, detained, tortured, or forcibly disappeared in  
7 occupied territories.

8 (5) Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, members of  
9 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,  
10 Crimean Tatar, and Orthodox Christian commu-  
11 nities not aligned with the Russian Orthodox Church  
12 have been subjected to raids, forced re-registration  
13 under Russian law, intimidation, and criminal pros-  
14 ecution, with many congregations driven under-  
15 ground or permanently shuttered.

16 (6) Religious buildings in occupied areas have  
17 been seized and repurposed for military or adminis-  
18 trative use, religious literature has been confiscated,  
19 and charitable ministries dismantled, eroding both  
20 the spiritual and humanitarian foundations of local  
21 communities.

22 (7) The Russian Orthodox Church, led by Pa-  
23 triarch Kirill of Moscow, has publicly framed the in-  
24 vasion in theological terms, describing the war as a  
25 “holy war” having “metaphysical significance” and

1 stating in a September 2022 sermon that if a soldier  
2 dies in the performance of military duty, “this sac-  
3 rifice washes away all the sins that a person has  
4 committed”. According to the Committee on Inter-  
5 national Religious Freedom, “Russian de facto au-  
6 thorities often commit religious freedom violations to  
7 facilitate the dominance of the Russian Orthodox  
8 Church of the Moscow Patriarchate in these terri-  
9 tories”.

10 (8) Russia’s actions demonstrate a systematic  
11 campaign of religious persecution in occupied  
12 Ukrainian territory, violating the fundamental right  
13 to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and be-  
14 lief as protected under the Universal Declaration of  
15 Human Rights and the International Covenant on  
16 Civil and Political Rights.

17 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON RUSSIA’S PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS**  
18 **GROUPS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF**  
19 **UKRAINE.**

20 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
21 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for  
22 3 years, the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense,  
23 in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence,  
24 shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
25 mittees a report that includes—

1           (1) a detailed description of the Government of  
2       the Russian Federation and its state-affiliated,  
3       quasi-state, or occupation-era activities that per-  
4       secute, suppress, discriminate, or otherwise directly  
5       or indirectly engage in or facilitate serious human  
6       rights abuse against Christians, Jews, and Muslims  
7       (including Crimean Tatars), and other religious mi-  
8       norities not affiliated with the Russian Orthodox  
9       Church, and their respective religious organizations  
10      in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine;

11          (2) an identification of churches, synagogues,  
12      mosques, other religious facilities, including Chris-  
13      tian, Jewish, Muslim, and other minority religious  
14      institutions, that have been destroyed, damaged,  
15      seized, repurposed, or otherwise appropriated di-  
16      rectly or indirectly by persons operating for or on  
17      behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation  
18      in occupied territories of Ukraine;

19          (3) an assessment of—

20              (A) the number of Christians, Jews, Mus-  
21          lims (including Crimean Tatars), and other reli-  
22          gious minorities not affiliated with the Russian  
23          Orthodox Church, who have been subjected to  
24          persecution, imprisonment, or forced displace-  
25          ment in occupied territories of Ukraine;

1 (B) restrictions imposed on Christian, Jew-  
2 ish, Muslim, and other religions not affiliated  
3 with the Russian Orthodox Church's religious  
4 practices, worship services, or religious edu-  
5 cation in occupied territories;

6 (C) efforts to compel Christian organiza-  
7 tions to affiliate with Moscow-based religious  
8 institutions or to suppress Christian activity not  
9 affiliated with Moscow-based religions;

10 (D) efforts by the Government of the Rus-  
11 sian Federation, by authorities exercising de  
12 facto governmental control in occupied terri-  
13 tory, or by entities or persons otherwise affili-  
14 ated with Russia, to compel Christian organiza-  
15 tions in Ukraine and in occupied territories—

16 (i) to affiliate with Moscow-based reli-  
17 gious institutions; or

18 (ii) to suppress Christian, Jewish,  
19 Muslim, or any other denominations not  
20 aligned with Russian state interests; and

21 (E) the overall impact of Russia's invasion  
22 of Ukraine, and its occupation of Ukrainian ter-  
23 ritory, on religious freedom in occupied terri-  
24 tories of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevas-  
25 topol; and

1           (4) a list of individuals and entities affiliated  
2           with the Government of the Russian Federation, or  
3           exercising de facto authority in occupied territory,  
4           that—

5                   (A) are responsible for persecution, sup-  
6                   pression, or discrimination against Christians,  
7                   Jews, or Muslims in Ukraine and in the occu-  
8                   pied territories of Ukraine; or

9                   (B) have otherwise engaged in or at-  
10                  tempted to engage in any of the conduct de-  
11                  scribed in this subsection.

12          (b) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 30  
13          days after the submission of each report required by sub-  
14          section (a), the President shall certify to the appropriate  
15          congressional committees whether there may be reasonable  
16          grounds to determine that any individuals and entities in-  
17          cluded in the list described in subsection (a)(4) have en-  
18          gaged in any of the conduct described in subsection (a)(2)  
19          or subsection (a)(3).

20          (c) EFFECT OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION.—If the  
21          President makes an affirmative certification under sub-  
22          section (b) with respect to a foreign person, the President  
23          shall impose applicable sanctions with respect to each such  
24          person pursuant to the authorities and procedures set  
25          forth in the applicable regulations under—

1           (1) part 583 of title 31, Code of Federal Regu-  
2           lations (relating to sanctions authorized under the  
3           Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act  
4           (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.));

5           (2) part 589 of title 31, Code of Federal Regu-  
6           lations (relating to Ukraine-/Russia-related sanc-  
7           tions);

8           (3) part 587 of title 31, Code of Federal Regu-  
9           lations (relating to Russian Harmful Foreign Activi-  
10          ties sanctions); or

11          (4) any other regulation under chapter V of  
12          title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, providing for  
13          the imposition of sanctions (including the blocking of  
14          property or interests in property) with respect to the  
15          conduct for which such person received an affirma-  
16          tive certification.

17          (d) EFFECT OF SUBSEQUENT NEGATIVE DETER-  
18          MINATION.—To the extent that the President determines,  
19          based on a subsequent report required by subsection (a),  
20          that an individual or entity previously listed in such a re-  
21          port no longer engages in any of the conduct described  
22          in subsection (b) or otherwise no longer meets the require-  
23          ments with respect to the applicable sanctions imposed  
24          with respect to such person under subsection (c), the



1 President may waive or terminate such sanctions with re-  
2 spect to such person.

3 (e) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)  
4 shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may in-  
5 clude a classified annex.

6 (f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
7 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
8 sional committees” means—

9 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
10 Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent  
11 Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of  
12 Representatives; and

13 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
14 Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select  
15 Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

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