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## Focus on Religious Freedom

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### **National Religious Freedom Day: Jan. 16, 2026** **Freedom of Religion is Much More than Freedom to Worship**

Freedom of Religion is asserted in the First Amendment to the Constitution. That freedom of religion includes worship in the church, home and community. It protects sharing and teaching different faiths freely. It protects acts of worship in the public square and an active discussion of faith and morals as they affect public policies. It also protects classroom discussions of religion from cultural and historical points of view.

Some countries and societies will only tolerate religion as long as it is confined to places of worship and there is no evangelization to the public. Many of the American colonists had come to this New World seeking freedom and safety to practice their religion without government interference and persecution. When the time came for writing a Constitution which would frame and preserve the natural rights from our Creator, the colonists believed enabling a plurality of religions would protect the practice of every religion.

In support of our freedom of religion, on Oct. 23. 1992, it was resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that January 16, 1993, is designated as "Religious Freedom Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to join together to celebrate their religious freedom and to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Since then each President has proclaimed each Jan. 16 to be Religious Freedom Day emphasizing the importance of religious freedom to human rights, to our society, to personal and national stability and to the formation of individual codes of ethics without which a country cannot survive.

**"We should begin by setting conscience free. When all men of all religions...shall enjoy equal liberty, property, and an equal chance for honors and power...we may expect that improvements will be made in the human character and the state of society."** John Adams