



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Efforts for the Protection of Religious Liberty for All

During the first month of 2025 the protection and flourishing of religious liberty in the United States has been the object of the annual report from the United States Bishops and of actions of the new federal administration.

On Jan. 16, 2025 *The State of Religious Liberty in the United States*, the annual report from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) was released.

The USCCB committee's report here <https://tinyurl.com/5eyp8hyh> describes the five areas of critical concern—some as threats and some as opportunities—for religious liberty:

- the targeting of faith-based immigration services
- the persistence of elevated levels of antisemitic incidents
- IVF mandates, which represent a significant threat to religious freedom, while the national discussion of IVF represents an opportunity for Catholics to share Church teaching and advocate for human dignity
- the scaling back of gender ideology in law
- parental choice in education, one of the longest-running areas of concern

Significant actions by the federal government during January, 2025 have the goal of protecting conscience rights for all. The administration has reinstated two policies: the Mexico Policy preventing tax dollars from funding international organizations which promote sterilization and abortion and the Hyde Amendment which mandates that no tax dollars finance elective abortions in this country.

An executive order also recognized that there are two sexes, male and female, and that life begins at conception. At the National Prayer breakfast, the president announced a new task-force to root out anti-Christian bias and the formation of a Commission on Religious Liberty as well as the establishment of a faith office in the White House.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/3x7p23z3> <https://tinyurl.com/bd6kxy6y>

“But our rulers can have authority over such natural rights only as we have submitted to them. The rights of conscience we never submitted, we could not submit. We are answerable for them to our God.” - Thomas Jefferson