

Resources: Top Reports on Religious Freedom Globally

- **U.S. Department of State. *International Religious Freedom Report*** (annual; latest available as of May 2026 is the 2024 edition or most recent release). Mandated by Congress, these comprehensive country-by-country reports document the status of religious freedom worldwide, government policies, and non-state actor abuses. <https://www.state.gov/reports/international-religious-freedom-reports/> (main archive and latest editions).

- **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). 2026 Annual Report** (published March 2026). This independent congressional commission report assesses religious freedom conditions in 2025 and recommends U.S. policy actions, including designations as Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) for 18 nations and Special Watch List placements. Full report: https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/USCIRF_2026_AR_3326_NEW.pdf

- **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). FACT SHEET on the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.** The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as amended (IRFA), was enacted to elevate religious freedom as a higher priority in U.S. foreign policy. IRFA provides that U.S. policy includes condemning violations of religious freedom and assisting other governments in promoting this right. IRFA created a range of government tools to implement this policy. <https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/2021%20Legislation%20Factsheet%20-%20IRFA.pdf>

- **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). *Religious Freedom in the World Report 2025*** (17th edition, published October 2025). This biennial global assessment (covering January 2023–December 2024) identifies grave violations of religious freedom in 62 countries—24 classified as “persecution” and 38 as “discrimination”—affecting nearly 5.4 billion people. It includes regional analysis, with special attention to jihadist violence in Africa and broader threats to Article 18 rights. Full PDF: <https://www.churchinneed.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Religious-Freedom-Report-2025.pdf>; main page: <https://www.churchinneed.org/religious-freedom-report-2025/>.

- **Open Doors. *World Watch List 2026*** (published January 2026). This annual ranking identifies the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution and discrimination, based on data from October 2024 to September 2025. North Korea ranks #1, followed by Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, and others; it provides country profiles, scores, and advocacy resources focused on Christian persecution. <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/>.



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