

American Faith Leaders Joint Letter to Speaker Johnson on Behalf of Ukrainian Christians

Dear Speaker Johnson,

As leaders of churches and faith-based organizations, we are blessed to represent followers of Jesus Christ across many denominations throughout the United States.

We are pained and shocked by the widespread, vicious persecution of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine by Russian forces. Russia is waging a war against Evangelical and Protestant Christians at a scale likened to “cultural genocide.” These Christians are being persecuted, harassed, intimidated, imprisoned, tortured, mutilated, and killed - simply for worshipping God as they see fit.

Ukraine is the Bible Belt of Eastern Europe, with more than a thousand-year Christian history and an 85% Christian population. In Russian-occupied territories, however, Christian churches are closed, Bibles are destroyed, and believers are banned from practicing their faith. Russian forces have damaged and looted hundreds of houses of worship, and hundreds of congregations have been lost. They are murdering pastors and priests in cold blood; many have disappeared. We cannot stay silent in the face of this evil.

As Christians, we are all members of God’s Kingdom, united through Christ. *“When one of us suffers, we all suffer together”* (1 Corinthians 12:26). We must rise together to protect and defend our brothers and sisters in Christ who are being persecuted and killed for their faith. Already in Russia, Evangelicals are regularly fined for so-called “illegal missionary activities,” and many Evangelical Protestant organizations are often prevented from using their buildings. The Russian government has obstructed baptisms, weddings, and Evangelical services of every kind. Vladimir Putin has even approved amendments to existing laws that ban evangelism in private homes and online. We have a duty to stop Russia from expanding its religiously oppressive legacy to Ukraine.

We implore Congress to fight back against the horrors being committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine. We remind Congress that religious freedom is a basic human right that must be protected everywhere. We pray Congress has the courage to stand in solidarity with people of faith. Ukrainian Christians deserve the freedom to worship in peace and embrace their faith without fear. We call on Congress to provide Ukraine with the financial and military support required to defend herself, stop the bloodshed, and secure freedom of religion within her borders.

Gary Marx, President
Defenders of Faith and Religious Freedom in Ukraine

Rick Santorum, Former U.S. Senator
Chairman, Patriot Voices

Chad Connelly, President
Faith Wins

Ken Buck, Former U.S. Congressman
Colorado 4th District

Pastor Dale Armstrong, Director
The American Pastors Network International

Adam Hamilton
The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection

Tim Head, Executive Director
Faith & Freedom Coalition

Shonda Werry, President
Ukraine Orphan Outreach

Dr. Rex Horne
Little Rock, AR

Pastor Eli Lara
New Life Family Church – McAllen, TX

Pastor Al Phillips
Greenville County Southern Baptist Association

Senior Pastor Steve Durham
Sunset Hills Baptist Church – Brentwood, TN

Pastor Jason Ferguson
All Souls Church – Scott, AR

Dan Fisher
LifePoint Bible Church – Oklahoma City, OK

State Senator Kim Hammer
Saline Missionary Baptist Church – Benton, AR

Pastor John Mendez
Catedral de Fe – San Jose, CA

Pastor Ty Childers
Fairview Baptist Church – Spartanburg, SC

Senior Pastor Dr. Mike Hamlet
First Baptist North – Spartanburg, SC

Pastor Clint Moseley
His House Nashville – Franklin, TN