



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
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**IT IS TIME THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION
HOLDS TURKEY ACCOUNTABLE
FOR VIOLATING RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS**

April 13, 2026

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedoms (USCIRF) once again called for the US State Department to place Turkey on the Special Watch List for engaging in systematic and ongoing severe violations of religious freedoms – a consistent pattern for Turkey.

Over the years Turkey's governments have shown total disregard of the rights of Christian minorities. Many members of these communities are asking if there is a future for them in their ancestral homelands.

The Commission also urges the American Government that any future US security assistance includes conditions for improving religious freedoms.

Our American compatriots have pointed out that it is extremely critical for the State Department to send a clear message to Ankara that the continued deterioration of religious freedoms in Turkey is unacceptable and must end.

The deterioration of religious freedoms in Turkey, a NATO country, over the past decade demands more pressure on Ankara to bring its laws, policies and practices in line with international law.

“Past reports have been ignored or no meaningful action was taken. It is now time for the Trump Administration to be bold, aggressive and direct in order to ensure that the Commission’s findings are clearly conveyed to Ankara, otherwise consequences will follow” said George Manios, President of the Canadian Hellenic Congress. *“The message must be clear... violation of religious freedoms will no longer be tolerated”* he added.

The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates, and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.