

# Religious Freedom in the United States

The right of religious freedom in the United States of America is being threatened. This right needs to be protected because it does bring good things to this country. But religious freedom is being threatened, here are three reasons, discrimination against small church congregations, where they cannot rent space in public schools for religious use. The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to fund a product against their moral teachings. Also discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services where the government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teachings. Being able to practice our faith in public is disappearing, mainly by the government passing laws to prevent us to practice our faith.

Firstly, In 1994, The New York City's Department of Education denied the request of The Bronx Household of Faith and many other churches to rent space from any public schools on weekends for religious worship services. The thing that is discriminative about that is The New York City's Department of Education allowed other non religious groups to rent space in the same schools for different uses. 18 years later, small churches continued to fight for their rights guaranteed by the Constitution to publicly practice their faith. In 2011, a federal appellate court upheld New York City's ban on public worship services meeting in vacant public schools. They could include singing, praying, preaching, and fellowship, but were not able to conduct "worship services", though denominations'

worship services consisted of only singing, preaching, praying, and fellowship. Though they lightened the restrictions, it is still not really complete freedom.

Secondly, The HHS is forcing religious institutions to pay for products that are against their religious and moral teachings. The HHS does not exempt catholic charities, universities, or hospitals from funding those things. The HHS denies these organizations of their religious freedom precisely because their purpose is to serve the common good in society. The HHS's mandate also forces employers to sponsor and subsidize coverage of sterilization. Also includes drugs approved by the FDA used as contraceptives. The HHS mandate also includes drugs that can induce abortion. These institutions should not have to pay for things against their religion and things that are considered immoral to them.

Lastly, discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services where the government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of the Catholic teachings. The MRS has been committed to being advocates and serving refugees, asylees, and other forced migrants, and immigrants. Special concern is given to the most vulnerable among those populations, like victims of human trafficking. The MRS had been actively working to end human trafficking, and protect those who have been exploited through it. IN 2011, the government change its contract specifications to require MRS to provide for contraceptive and abortion services, which is in violation of catholic teaching. The government refused to award a grant to MRS despite MRS's higher objective score from the government's independent grant evaluators than two other organizations that got awarded grants. That example shows the HHS is being discriminated that they were forced to

provide for things against their religious teachings. Also that even though they got a higher objective score than two other organizations that got awarded grants, the HHS themselves did not receive them.

The right of religious freedom in the United States of America is being threatened. This right needs to be protected because it does bring good things to this country. Discrimination against small church congregations, where they were not able to rent space in public schools for religious uses. The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to fund a product against their moral teachings. Lastly, discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services where the government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teachings. From the examples above, this shows that the right of religious freedom is diminishing. Around the U.S., religious institutions are being discriminated against. The right of publicly proclaiming our faith needs to be brought back.