

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Global Respect Act  
5       of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) The dignity, freedom, and equality of all  
2           human beings are fundamental to a thriving global  
3           community.

4           (2) The rights to life, liberty, and security of  
5           the person, the right to privacy, and the right to  
6           freedom of expression and association are funda-  
7           mental human rights.

8           (3) Many countries have made and are making  
9           positive developments in the protection of the basic  
10          human rights of LGBTQTI individuals.

11          (4) The alarming trend of increasing violence  
12          directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,  
13          queer, and intersex (commonly referred to as  
14          “LGBTQI”) individuals around the world continues.

15          (5) Approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all countries have laws  
16          criminalizing consensual same-sex relations, and 12  
17          countries carry the possibility of the death penalty.

18          (6) Laws criminalizing consensual same-sex re-  
19          lations severely hinder access to HIV/AIDS treat-  
20          ment, information, and prevention measures for  
21          LGBTQI individuals and families.

22          (7) Celebrations of LGBTQI individuals and  
23          communities, such as film festivals, Pride events,  
24          and demonstrations, are often forced underground  
25          due to inaction on the part of, or harassment by,

1 local law enforcement and government officials, in  
2 violation of freedoms of assembly and expression.

3 (8) Every year, countless individuals around the  
4 world are targeted for discrimination, harassment,  
5 arbitrary arrest and detention, physical attack, and  
6 murder on the basis of their actual or perceived sex-  
7 ual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteris-  
8 tics.

9 (9) Those who commit crimes against LGBTQI  
10 individuals often do so with impunity, and are not  
11 held accountable for their crimes.

12 (10) Homophobic and transphobic statements  
13 by government officials in many countries in every  
14 region of the world promote negative public attitudes  
15 and can lead to increased discrimination and vio-  
16 lence toward LGBTQI individuals.

17 (11) In many instances, police, prison, military,  
18 and civilian government authorities have been di-  
19 rectly complicit in abuses aimed at LGBTQI citi-  
20 zens, including arbitrary arrest, extortion, cruel, in-  
21 human, or degrading treatment, torture, and sexual  
22 abuse.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1           (1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED.—The terms “ad-  
2       mission” and “admitted” have the meanings given  
3       those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and  
4       Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

5           (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
6       TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
7       mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations  
8       of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
9       of the House of Representatives.

10          (3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
11       son” means—

12                (A) an individual who is a citizen or na-  
13       tional of a foreign country (including any such  
14       individual who is also a citizen or national of  
15       the United States), including leaders or officials  
16       of governmental entities of a foreign country; or

17                (B) any entity not organized solely under  
18       the laws of the United States or existing solely  
19       in the United States, including governmental  
20       entities of a foreign country.

21 **SEC. 4. IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN PERSONS RESPON-**  
22 **SIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
23 **OF LGBTQI INDIVIDUALS.**

24       (a) LIST REQUIRED.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
2       after the date of the enactment of this Act, and  
3       every 180 days thereafter, the President shall sub-  
4       mit to the appropriate congressional committees a  
5       list of each foreign person that the President deter-  
6       mines, based on credible information, on or after  
7       such date of enactment—

8           (A) engages in, is responsible for, or is  
9       complicit in, conduct described in paragraph  
10      (2);

11          (B) acts as an agent of or on behalf of a  
12      foreign person in a matter relating to conduct  
13      described in paragraph (2); or

14          (C) is responsible for, or complicit in, incit-  
15      ing a foreign person to engage in conduct de-  
16      scribed in paragraph (2).

17      (2) CONDUCT DESCRIBED.—Conduct described  
18      in this paragraph is any of the following, conducted  
19      with respect to an individual based on the actual or  
20      perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex  
21      characteristics of the individual:

22          (A) Torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrad-  
23      ing treatment or punishment of the individual.

24          (B) Prolonged detention of the individual  
25      without charges or trial.

1 (C) Causing the disappearance of the indi-  
2 vidual by the abduction and clandestine deten-  
3 tion of the individual.

4 (D) Other flagrant denial of the right to  
5 life, liberty, or the security of the individual.

6 (3) CREDIBLE INFORMATION.—For purposes of  
7 paragraph (1), credible information includes infor-  
8 mation obtained by other countries or nongovern-  
9 mental organizations that monitor violations of  
10 human rights.

11 (b) UPDATES.—The President shall submit to the ap-  
12 propriate congressional committees an update of the list  
13 required by subsection (a) as new information becomes  
14 available.

15 (c) REMOVAL.—A person may be removed from the  
16 list required by subsection (a) if the President determines  
17 and reports to the appropriate congressional committees  
18 not later than 15 days before the removal of the person  
19 from the list that—

20 (1) credible information exists that the person  
21 did not engage in the activity for which the person  
22 was added to the list;

23 (2) the person has been prosecuted appro-  
24 priately for the activity; or

1           (3) the person has credibly demonstrated a sig-  
2           nificant change in behavior, has paid an appropriate  
3           consequence for the activity, and has credibly com-  
4           mitted to not engage in an activity described in sub-  
5           section (a) in the future.

6           (d) FORM.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—The list required by sub-  
8           section (a)—

9                   (A) shall, notwithstanding the require-  
10                  ments of section 222(f) of the Immigration and  
11                  Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)) with respect  
12                  to confidentiality of records pertaining to the  
13                  issuance or refusal of visas or permits to enter  
14                  the United States, be submitted in unclassified  
15                  form and be published in the Federal Register;  
16                  and

17                   (B) may include a classified annex only as  
18                  provided in paragraph (2).

19           (2) USE OF CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The Presi-  
20           dent may include a person on the list required by  
21           subsection (a) in a classified annex to the list if the  
22           President—

23                   (A) determines that—

24                           (i) it is vital for the national security  
25                           interests of the United States to do so; and

1 (ii) the use of the annex, and the in-  
2 clusion of the person in the annex, would  
3 not undermine the overall purpose of this  
4 section to publicly identify foreign persons  
5 engaging in activities described in sub-  
6 section (a) in order to increase account-  
7 ability for such conduct; and

8 (B) not later than 15 days before including  
9 the person in the annex, submits to the appro-  
10 priate congressional committees notice of, and a  
11 justification for, including or continuing to in-  
12 clude the person in the classified annex despite  
13 the existence of any publicly available credible  
14 information indicating that the person engaged  
15 in an activity described in subsection (a).

16 (e) PUBLIC SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—The  
17 President shall issue public guidance, including through  
18 United States diplomatic and consular posts, setting forth  
19 the manner by which the names of foreign persons that  
20 may meet the criteria to be included on the list required  
21 by subsection (a) may be submitted to the Secretary of  
22 State for evaluation.

23 (f) REQUESTS FROM APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL  
24 COMMITTEES.—



1           (1) CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION.—The  
2       President shall consider information provided by the  
3       chairperson or ranking member of any of the appro-  
4       priate congressional committees in determining  
5       whether to include a foreign person on the list re-  
6       quired by subsection (a).

7           (2) REQUESTS.—Not later than 120 days after  
8       receiving a written request from the chairperson or  
9       ranking member of one of the appropriate congres-  
10      sional committees with respect to whether a foreign  
11      person meets the criteria for being added to the list  
12      required by subsection (a), the President shall sub-  
13      mit a response to the chairperson or ranking mem-  
14      ber, as the case may be, with respect to the deter-  
15      mination of the President with respect to the person.

16          (3) REMOVAL.—If the President removes from  
17      the list required by subsection (a) a person that had  
18      been placed on the list pursuant to a request the  
19      chairperson or ranking member of one of the appro-  
20      priate congressional committees under paragraph  
21      (2), the President shall provide to the chairperson or  
22      ranking member any information that contributed to  
23      the decision to remove the person from the list.

24          (4) FORM.—The President may submit a re-  
25      sponse required by paragraph (2) or (3) in classified

1 form if the President determines that it is necessary  
2 for the national security interests of the United  
3 States to do so.

4 **SEC. 5. INADMISSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE**  
5 **FOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF**  
6 **LGBTQI INDIVIDUALS.**

7 (a) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSION TO  
8 THE UNITED STATES.—An individual who is a foreign  
9 person on the list required by section 4(a) is ineligible to  
10 receive a visa to enter the United States and ineligible to  
11 be admitted to the United States.

12 (b) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED AND REMOVAL FROM  
13 UNITED STATES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall  
15 revoke, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Im-  
16 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)),  
17 the visa or other documentation of an individual on  
18 the list required by section 4(a), and the Secretary  
19 of Homeland Security shall remove any such indi-  
20 vidual from the United States.

21 (2) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than  
22 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
23 the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Home-  
24 land Security shall prescribe such regulations as are  
25 necessary to carry out this subsection.

1 (c) WAIVERS.—The President may waive the applica-  
2 tion of subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a foreign per-  
3 son if the President—

4 (1) determines that such a waiver—

5 (A) is necessary to permit the United  
6 States to comply with the Agreement regarding  
7 the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed  
8 at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered  
9 into force November 21, 1947, between the  
10 United Nations and the United States, the Con-  
11 vention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna  
12 April 24, 1963, and entered into force March  
13 19, 1967, or other applicable international obli-  
14 gations of the United States; or

15 (B) is in the national security interests of  
16 the United States; and

17 (2) not less than 15 days before the granting  
18 of the waiver, submits to the appropriate congres-  
19 sional committees a notice of and justification for  
20 the waiver.

21 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO ADDI-**  
22 **TIONAL SANCTIONS.**

23 It is the sense of Congress that the President should  
24 use existing authorities to impose targeted sanctions (in  
25 addition to section 5) with respect to foreign persons on

1 the list required by section 4(a) to push for accountability  
2 for flagrant denials of the right to life, liberty, or the secu-  
3 rity of the person.

4 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

5 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
6 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
7 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
8 committees a report on—

9 (1) the actions taken to carry out this Act, in-  
10 cluding—

11 (A) the number of foreign persons added  
12 to or removed from the list required by section  
13 4(a) during the year preceding the report, the  
14 dates on which those persons were added or re-  
15 moved, and the reasons for adding or removing  
16 those persons; and

17 (B) in each report after the first such re-  
18 port, an analysis that compares increases or de-  
19 creases in the number of persons added to or  
20 removed from the list year-over-year and the  
21 reasons for such increases or decreases; and

22 (2) any efforts by the President to coordinate  
23 with the governments of other countries, as appro-  
24 priate, to impose sanctions that are similar to the  
25 sanctions imposed under this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. DISCRIMINATION RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTA-**  
2 **TION OR GENDER IDENTITY.**

3 (a) TRACKING VIOLENCE OR CRIMINALIZATION RE-  
4 LATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDEN-  
5 TITY.—The Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy,  
6 Human Rights, and Labor shall designate a Bureau-based  
7 senior officer or officers who shall be responsible for track-  
8 ing violence, criminalization, and restrictions on the enjoy-  
9 ment of fundamental freedoms in foreign countries based  
10 on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity,  
11 or sex characteristics.

12 (b) ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
13 PRACTICES.—The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is  
14 amended—

15 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

16 (A) in paragraph (12)(C), by striking the  
17 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

18 (B) in paragraph (13)—

19 (i) by striking “Wherever” and insert-  
20 ing “wherever”; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
22 the period at the end and inserting “and”;  
23 and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
25 paragraph:

1           “(14) wherever applicable, violence or discrimi-  
2           nation that affects the fundamental freedoms, in-  
3           cluding widespread or systematic violation of the  
4           freedoms of expression, association, or assembly of  
5           an individual in foreign countries that is based on  
6           actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender iden-  
7           tity, or sex characteristics.”; and

8           (2) in section 502B(b) (22 U.S.C. 2304(b)), by  
9           inserting after the ninth sentence the following:  
10          “Wherever applicable, each report under this section  
11          shall also include information regarding violence or  
12          discrimination that affects the fundamental free-  
13          doms, including widespread or systematic violation  
14          of the freedoms of expression, association, or assem-  
15          bly of an individual in foreign countries that is based  
16          on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender  
17          identity, or sex characteristics.”.