



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Continued Assaults on Religious Liberty: A Christian Flag and a Chapel and Prayer Trail

"Alas, our freedom is wounded. ... While the United States remains by and large a believing society, a growing number of people are settling for a style of life that marginalizes God, a way of living in which God and the things of God don't count." - Archbishop William Lori

The city of Boston denied Camp Constitution a permit to fly their flag on a "public forum" flagpole in front of city hall, saying the application form referred to the flag as a "**Christian flag.**" Liberty Council has filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court arguing Boston violated the First Amendment.

Over 12 years, the city had approved 284 flags from private organizations including the Turkish flag with an Islamic symbol, Ethiopia, Brazil, Italy, Mexico as well as Communist China and Cuba flags, pride & transgender flags.

"Censoring religious viewpoints in a public forum where secular viewpoints are permitted violates the First Amendment."⁽¹⁾ "We look forward to the U.S. Supreme Court acknowledging the city's obvious and unconstitutional discrimination against Camp Constitutions Christian viewpoint," said Liberty Council.⁽²⁾

Catholic Healthcare International (GHI) is suing a Michigan township for violating its 1st and 14th Amendment rights, after it denied permission to build a **chapel and prayer trail** dedicated to St. Padre Pio on 5-acres of a 40-acre property it already owned.

"The Township's rejection of our clients right to religious worship on CHI's private property is not in keeping with our proud tradition of accommodating people of faith, and, in fact, it violates our clients' fundamental rights protected by the United States and Michigan Constitutions and federal statutory law," said American Freedom Law Center.⁽³⁾ "The Townships denial of the Final Submission was not based on any measurable, objective criteria, (but instead) based upon amorphous, subjective considerations that were contrary to the facts and which permit an anti-Catholic animus to drive the Township's decision."⁽⁴⁾

(charismanews.org, 7/11/19(1); lc.org, 6/21/21(2); onenewsnow.com, 6/23/21; catholicnewsagency.com, 6/4/21(3)(4); ncregister.com, 6/4/21; canadafreepress.com, 6/5/21)

"Broad cultural disapproval of religion, the exclusion of faith from almost all public institutions, ... is what Pope Francis calls 'polite persecution.' ... Just because this polite persecution is bloodless, it is not victimless. These structures of sin contribute to the inflicting of deep spiritual wounds in the hearts and minds of many people."
- Archbishop William Lori