




**Homeland
Security**

January 2, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: DHS Component Heads

FROM: Chad F. Wolf 
Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: Review of Preventing Targeted Violence Against Faith-Based
Communities - HSAC Final Report and Recommendations

In May 2019, following a string of attacks against synagogues, churches, temples, and mosques, former Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan tasked the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) to stand up a subcommittee focused on the security of faith-based organizations across the country.

I take this issue very seriously. Houses of worship and faith-based organizations dedicate resources to local communities and often serve as social and moral beacons people rely on in times of both joy and need. The right to practice religion free of interference or fear is one of our nation's most fundamental and indelible rights. As such, the targeting of houses of worship by violent extremists of any ideology is particularly abhorrent and must be prevented.

As requested, the HSAC subcommittee reviewed DHS's role in preventing and mitigating such attacks. On December 17, 2019, the subcommittee submitted their final report containing numerous recommendations on ways to expand DHS's role and further support the efforts made by state and local governments and faith-based organizations to keep houses of worship safe, secure, and resilient. I am grateful to the HSAC subcommittee for their efforts and attention to this critical issue of national security.

It is paramount to highlight the importance of this issue and we must ensure that DHS is providing comprehensive support to our communities. Therefore, within 14 days of this memorandum I am directing:

1. Each of you to review the attached report and accompanying recommendations; and
2. Provide feedback to the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY) and the Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE) if your Component has equity in one or more of the recommendations, and if so, what actions will be undertaken to implement such recommendations.

PLCY and OPE will prepare a consolidated report at my direction and it will be shared with each of you.

Attachment