

Georgia: First US State to condemn Hindu phobia

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Washington, USA: April 2: Georgia Assembly has passed a resolution condemning Hindu phobia, making it the first American state to take such a legislative measure. Condemning anti-Hindu bigotry, the resolution said Hinduism is one of the world's largest and oldest religions with over 1.2 billion adherents in over 100 countries and encompasses an array of diverse traditions and belief systems with values of acceptance, mutual respect and peace.



United States of America: Georgia State legislature: condemns Hindu phobia

The resolution was introduced by Representatives Lauren McDonald and Todd Jones from Forsyth County in the suburbs of Atlanta, home to one of the largest Hindu and Indian-American communities in Georgia.

The resolution observed that the American-Hindu community has been a major contributor to diverse sectors such as medicine, science and engineering, information technology, hospitality, finance, academia, manufacturing, energy, retail trade, among others. It also noted that the community's contributions of Yoga, ayurveda, meditation, food, music, arts have enriched the cultural fabric and have been widely adopted in American society and enhanced the lives of millions.

Stating that there have been documented instances of hate crimes against Hindu-Americans over the last few decades in many parts of the country, the resolution said Hindu phobia is exacerbated and institutionalised by some in academia who support the dismantling of Hinduism and accuse its sacred texts and cultural practices of violence and oppression.

CoHNA general secretary Shobha Swamy said, "The issues faced by Hindu Americans in Georgia and the rest of the country via false, Hindu phobic narratives are negatively impacting a community that has been hardworking, law-abiding and enriching the fabric of America."

"We urged for their help in combating such bigotry which advances hatred and creates the idea that Hindus and people of Indian-origin need special laws and monitoring due to allegations around some inherent propensity to discriminate," she said.

By **Dr K N Mistry**

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