



Indian Diaspora Council

## **Indian Diaspora Council International**

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

[www.indiandiasporacouncil.org](http://www.indiandiasporacouncil.org)

### **PRESS STATEMENT**

*For Immediate Release*

June 19, 2024 (EST-USA)

### **INDIAN DIASPORA COUNCIL CONDEMNS US STATE OF LOUISIANA TEN COMMANDMENTS LAW**

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) unequivocally condemns the recent law passed by the State of Louisiana, USA, as unconstitutional and a violation of the separation of church and state, while promoting one religion over others. IDC fully supports the US Constitution's stipulation that Congress can "make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

The legislation that Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry signed into law on June 19, 2024, requires a poster-sized display of the Ten Commandments in "large, easily readable font" in all public classrooms, from kindergarten to state-funded universities.

The First Amendment of the US Constitution states: "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances*".

The Ten Commandments Law by the State of Louisiana has been condemned as unconstitutional. Groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana (ACLU-LA) and Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AUSCS), have said they would challenge the law in court. "Politicians have no business imposing their preferred religious doctrine on students and families in public schools," a joint statement by ACLU-LA and AUSCS.

In 1980, the US Supreme Court ruled that a similar Kentucky law was unconstitutional and violated the establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution, which says Congress can "make no law respecting an establishment of religion." The US Supreme Court found that the law had no secular purpose but rather served a plainly religious purpose.

"IDC reaffirms its unwavering support for the freedom to practice one's religious beliefs without discrimination or penalty, and condemns government's imposition of one religion over another", – *Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council.*

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*Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.*