

Dear President Trump,

I'm shocked that the removal of the only Catholic woman on the Religious Liberty Commission was handled through a brief email from a staffer rather than a direct conversation with the President who appointed me. This is the same staffer who called me back in August asking for my resignation at the behest of Zionist heretics Dan Patrick and Paula White. This is when the witch hunt against me began.

For someone who served faithfully and defended religious liberty I believe I deserved at least the basic respect of a phone call or formal letter from you. After all, you're not bashful about firing people. I guess American citizens are treated with less dignity than a foreign leader accused of war crimes. I will never forget the day I got the call you were appointing me to the Religious Liberty Commission. Standing in the Oval Office the day you signed the executive order establishing this commission was one of the most memorable moments of my life.

I served in this position with great humility and honor. I believed in the mission. I believed in protecting religious freedom for all Americans. I believed you cared about protecting religious freedom here in America, not forcing Americans to adopt a political ideology that serves a foreign country. For months I spent time away from my family and countless hours preparing reports after each hearing. I looked forward to meeting with you in May to present my recommendations for strengthening religious liberty in America. Instead, I now find myself fighting for my own religious freedom while serving on the very commission created to defend the religious freedom of every American.

During my time on the Commission, I stood up for Americans whose voices were not being heard. I stood with desperate mothers whose religious exemptions were denied and whose children could not attend school due to a vaccine mandate.

I spoke at school board meetings defending parental rights for families whose children should never be forced to read material that contradicts their faith. I met with nurses who lost their jobs for refusing the COVID vaccine because of their religious convictions. I stood with Navy Seals who lost their pensions simply for standing by their religious beliefs. Many pleaded with me for help.

I stayed up late at night burdened by the religious liberty violations I was witnessing with my own eyes. Many of them were discarded by our government for standing by their faith. Now it appears I am being discarded the same way. Likewise, I wept with Americans watching a genocide unfold before their very eyes, feeling hopeless as their tax dollars were going to fund this genocide. I consoled Palestinians who have lost everything in their homeland. Their houses, land, and property stolen by foreigners claiming a right to colonize and occupy them. I spoke to mothers whose children were starving, pleading for food and water, a desperate plea to show the world their lives are worth defending. I couldn't stay silent, in the midst of their suffering. In Matthew 25:35-40 Jesus equates service to the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and imprisoned with service to Himself, stating that helping the vulnerable is helping Him. I am a follower of Christ, and I live my life to do the will of Him.

I spoke with students who were protesting the grave suffering of Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli government in Gaza. Many of them were using their First Amendment rights to peacefully protest, only to be labeled terrorists and antisemites. I met with Christian and Muslim Palestinians who were displaced into an open air prison in Gaza. They continue to pray for truly free Palestine someday. I pray along with them. All they want is freedom.

Antisemitism cannot be used as a shield to silence speech. This is a dangerous threat to our First Amendment rights as Americans. My faith has always been central to who I am. You stood by me in 2009 when I lost my title as Miss California after publicly standing for my Christian beliefs. I was only 21 years old when I gave that speech with you standing next to me. I shared in my speech something my grandfather always told me: "You're an American, Carrie. I fought for your freedoms. Don't ever let anyone take them away from you." Those words I cherish onto today.

My deeply held religious beliefs define who I am and who I have always been, which is why I will now allow my religious freedom to be taken from me. You knew exactly who I was when you appointed me. I may not have a prestigious title or a large organization behind my name, but I have conviction, heart, and an unwavering commitment to the Christian principles I stand for.

I stood on that commission stage with some of the most well-respected people in America. What I realized is that many of them are too afraid to speak out and be labeled an antisemite simply for not supporting the political state of Israel. None of them were willing to speak up and defend my religious freedom to not support a political ideology and false theology. But the Lord knew why He put me on that stage once again, to stand for Him, even if it means standing alone.

My faith in Christ means more to me than any position or title. I have not changed one bit since the day you stood beside me in 2009. That is why it is so shocking to now be removed from a Religious Liberty Commission for doing the very same thing you once defended. I stood firmly by the Catholic Church's perennial teachings and I was punished for it. I'll never forget when Paula White and Dan Patrick told me I was not allowed to post on social media or speak in interviews about Israel and Gaza. He told me I had to stay off social media and my job on this commission is to protect the President. I disagree. My job on this commission is to protect religious freedom.

My family has served this country with honor. We are a family of Italian immigrants. My great-grandparents came to America with little but faith and determination to work for the American dream. I am the product of those hardworking immigrants who were proud to become Americans and helped build the backbone of this nation. My grandfather fought in World War II and earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. My sister served two tours in Afghanistan and even missed the birth of her niece, my daughter, while she was deployed. Service to this country runs deep in my family. That is why this moment is such a betrayal. My Catholic faith is not something I hide. It is part of who I am, and it is woven into the story of America itself. Catholics helped build this nation.

For generations Catholics faced discrimination and hostility in this country simply for their faith. In many places Catholics were barred from political office and excluded from schools because they were Catholic. Catholic churches and convents were even burned in anti-Catholic riots in cities like Philadelphia and Boston in the 1800s. Yet Catholics stayed, worked, and built. Catholic immigrants laid railroad tracks, labored in steel mills, worked in factories and mines, and raised families rooted in faith and sacrifice. They built churches, hospitals, schools, and charities that continue to serve Americans today. I am a product of those Catholic Italian immigrants.