

Foreign Religious War

A **foreign religious war** generally means a conflict directed or supported by actors outside a country and justified through religious ideology, authority, or identity. Religion alone does not make something a war. The term is most accurate when an organized group uses religious claims to pursue political control, territorial power, coercion, or violence across national borders.

Possible methods include:

- Ideological propaganda and extremist recruitment
- Death threats, intimidation, and coercion
- Foreign financing or material support
- Disinformation and psychological operations
- Cyberattacks and communications disruption
- Political interference or covert influence
- Exploitation of religious institutions as organizational fronts
- Radicalization and recruitment of local supporters
- Targeted harassment, kidnapping, or assassination
- Attacks on civilians, religious sites, infrastructure, or government facilities
- Guerrilla warfare, terrorism, or organized armed attacks
- Conventional weapons, explosives, drones, vehicles, and firearms
- Using schools, educational programs, field trips, literature, gifts, and outside speakers as recruitment strategies to influence students toward a religious, political, ideological, or organizational cause.

Source: <https://nypost.com/2026/08/15/us-news/palo-alto-high-school-students-encouraged-to-wear-hijabs-given-qurans-during-class-trip-to-mosque-suit/>

Source: <https://padailypost.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/1-27.pdf>

Case: *Community Members for Religious Neutrality in Public Schools—San Francisco Bay Area et al. v. Kline et al.*, No. 5:26-cv-08249, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.