

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3717

To prohibit United States voluntary contributions to the United Nations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To prohibit United States voluntary contributions to the United Nations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Terrorism
5 at the U.N. Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United Nations Relief and Works
9 Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (re-
10 ferred to in this Act as “UNRWA”) was established

1 through passage of United Nations Resolution 302
2 (1949) to assist Arab refugees who had been dis-
3 placed by the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

4 (2) The United Nations High Commissioner for
5 Refugees (referred to in this Act as “UNHCR”) was
6 established by the United Nations General Assembly
7 in 1950 to assist refugees and other displaced per-
8 sons, including internally displaced persons, in all re-
9 gions around the world.

10 (3) UNRWA is the only specialized agency or
11 entity of the United Nations with a sole conflict or
12 regional mandate.

13 (4) For years, UNRWA has faced credible and
14 corroborated accusations of corruption, antisemitism,
15 and support for terrorism.

16 (5) Such accusations include the use of
17 antisemitic material in UNRWA classrooms and the
18 use of UNWRA facilities for the storage of muni-
19 tions by Hamas, an Iranian-backed, United States-
20 designated foreign terrorist organization.

21 (6) On January 26, 2024, UNRWA terminated
22 the contracts of 12 staff members who were accused
23 of participating in Hamas’ brutal terrorist attacks
24 against Israel on October 7, 2023.

1 (7) The attacks of October 7, 2023, claimed the
2 lives of 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals, includ-
3 ing 35 citizens of the United States, and resulted in
4 the hostage taking of 240 Israelis and foreign na-
5 tionals.

6 (8) The United States has contributed more
7 than \$7,000,000,000 to UNRWA since 1949, mak-
8 ing it the largest individual donor to the agency.

9 (9) United States contributions to UNRWA
10 were suspended from 2018 through 2020, due to al-
11 legations of corruption, antisemitism, and support
12 for terrorism.

13 (10) The United States has provided more than
14 \$730,000,000 to UNRWA since United States con-
15 tributions to the agency resumed in 2021.

16 (11) Following the accusations of the involve-
17 ment of UNRWA staff in the terrorist attacks of
18 October 7, 2023, the Department of State an-
19 nounced the temporary suspension of United States
20 funding to UNRWA.

21 (12) Since January 26, 2024, more than six-
22 teen additional countries and the European Union
23 have suspended their contributions to UNRWA.

24 (13) While the majority of funding for UNRWA
25 comes from voluntary contributions, the agency re-

1 ceives a portion of its funding from the regular
2 budget of the United Nations.

3 (14) The estimated budget for the UNRWA for
4 United Nations fiscal year 2024 includes
5 \$55,176,800 from the regular budget of the United
6 Nations.

7 (15) The United States provides 22 percent of
8 the regular budget of the United Nations.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that the UNHCR should
11 serve all global refugee and displaced person populations,
12 including those within the original jurisdiction of the
13 UNRWA.

14 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS**
15 **TO THE UNITED NATIONS.**

16 No funds may be provided as a voluntary or assessed
17 contribution of the United States to the United Nations,
18 including any organ, agency, or entity of the United Na-
19 tions until—

20 (1) UNRWA is abolished;

21 (2) the Secretary of State certifies to the appro-
22 priate congressional committees that the United Na-
23 tions has completed appropriate counterterrorism
24 vetting for all United Nations employees and con-

1 tractors operating in the original jurisdiction of the
2 UNRWA; and

3 (3) the Secretary of State certifies to the appro-
4 priate congressional committees that the United Na-
5 tions, including staff and facilities receiving United
6 Nations funding, do not teach, promote, or include
7 in materials, such as textbooks and other instruc-
8 tional materials, any content that promotes anti-
9 semitism or encourages violence or intolerance to-
10 ward other countries or ethnic groups.

11 **SEC. 5. TRANSITION REPORT.**

12 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appro-
14 priate congressional committees a report that—

15 (1) identifies the totality of services provided by
16 UNRWA;

17 (2) details how such services will be absorbed
18 by existing United Nations funds, programs, special-
19 ized agencies, and organizations;

20 (3) details how such services may be absorbed
21 through bilateral assistance;

22 (4) includes a plan to ensure all United Nations
23 funds, programs, specialized agencies, and organiza-
24 tions implement and maintain stringent counterter-
25 rorism vetting standards; and

1 (5) includes a plan to ensure all United Nations
2 funds, programs, specialized agencies, and organiza-
3 tions implement and maintain stringent oversight of
4 educational material and curriculum that prohibits
5 all content that promotes antisemitism or encour-
6 ages violence or intolerance toward other countries
7 or ethnic groups.

8 **SEC. 6. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
9 **FINED.**

10 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means—

12 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
13 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

14 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
15 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives.

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