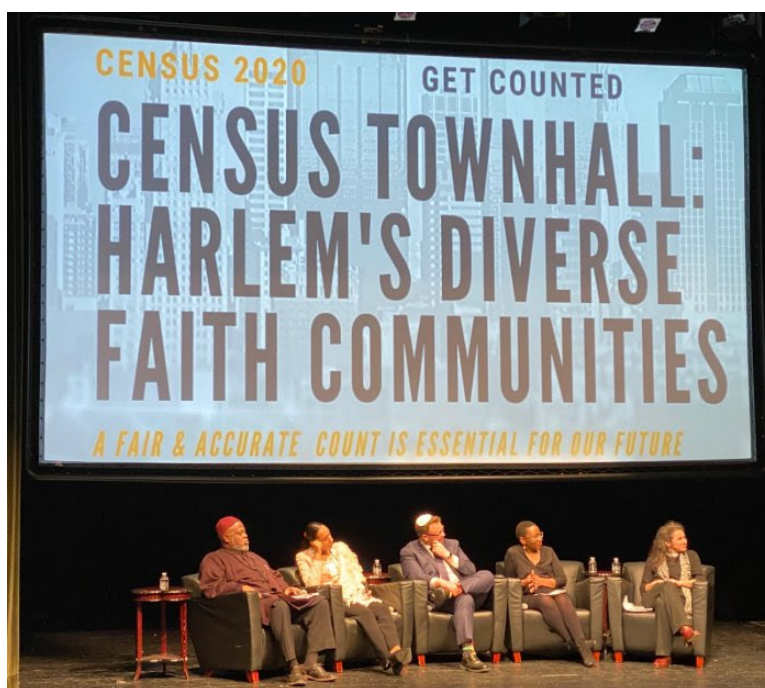




INTERFAITH
CENTER OF NEW YORK



February 2020

Dear Friend,

Can filling out the 2020 Census be an act of resistance?

This was one of the questions that Harlem Faith Leaders Imam Al-Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid, Dr. Sheriden M. Booker, Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein, and Minister Yolanda Richard discussed in last week's 2020 Census event that The Interfaith Center of New York organized with the Manhattan Borough President's Office and Emgage Action at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

If you live in one of the 20 historically undercounted neighborhoods of New York City that leave millions of federal dollars on the table – dollars that would otherwise go to more schools, affordable housing, and more benefits in the form of additional SNAP, WIC, and libraries – then the answer is yes. Filling out the 7 question 2020 Census form and making sure your neighbors do as well is an act of resistance or "claiming the rights and resources we already fought for."

"It's a nationwide competition," NYC Director of the 2020 Census Julie Menin said, "if we don't fully count ourselves those two additional congressional seats that we lost and Texas got last time around, will be joined by two more."

The race to make sure we are all counted in NYC officially begins on April 1, 2020 but census forms are [available online beginning in March](#). If you have not yet had a chance to download and distribute the [Interfaith Census 2020 Count Coalition Faith Leader Toolkit](#), about how to engage your community in the 2020 Census Count, now is the moment. And to sign up for our Census 2020 trainings on Feb 4, 18, 20, and 26, [you can click here to do so](#).

As the Rev. William Barbour said, "The Census is not just about counting bodies." No, it's a lot more than that. It's about making sure everyone counts.

The Interfaith Center is dedicated to helping every New Yorker get counted. To help us in this work, please consider a tax-free gift today.



Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director



ICNY Latest News

Faithful Responses to the Overdose Crisis: Building Congregations and Communities of Care

February 24



Opioid overdose is both a public health crisis and a crisis of conscience for faith communities throughout the city. This conference will work to build a multifaith

healing justice movement, through education, advocacy, and spiritual care centered on the dignity and divinity of all New Yorkers – including those who use drugs. Please join us for:

- keynote panel featuring **Kassandra Frederique** (Drug Policy Alliance) and **Monique Tula** (Harm Reduction Coalition)
- multifaith panel discussion, featuring diverse spiritual perspectives on drug use and the overdose crisis
- small-group workshops focused, in part, on concrete steps faith leaders can take
- hands-on training to administer naloxone, following a multifaith blessing for this life-saving medicine

For detailed information and registration, visit interfaithcenter.org/mmr37.

[Register Here](#)

Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy

Applications Due March 1st



Throughout New York, religious leaders from every faith tradition are working to create positive change for their own communities and the city as a whole. All too often, however, they are working alone – without a network of interfaith ties, or knowledge of the city’s civic institutions. With support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy is giving diverse religious leaders the tools they need to make a difference.

Working with expert trainers from city government and leading nonprofits, we have created an intensive leadership development program for a group of fifteen clergy members, lay leaders, and faith-based activists. ICLA fellows will participate in a series of evening workshops, mini-retreats, and visits to each other’s congregations. They will then apply what they’ve learned by developing community projects or advocacy campaigns. Each fellow will receive \$750 in grant funding to support their project, as well as a \$250 personal stipend to cover their expenses.

Applications due March 1 - Workshops begin March 15.

Visit interfaithcenter.org/icla for full schedule and more details.

[Apply Here](#)

Make the 2020 Census Count

Interfaith Census 2020 Count Coalition



The Interfaith Center of New York along with its partners Federation for Protestant Welfare Agencies, Catholic Charities of New York, UJA-Federation and the Council of People's Organization make up the Interfaith Census 2020 Count Coalition. The Interfaith Census 2020 Count Coalition launched its collective work together to ensure our hardest to count communities are accurately and completed counted as we approach the start of the Census in just two months.

ICNY's Hanadi Doleh, Program Associate for Community Partnerships, sat on a fantastic panel of faith leaders and faith-based organizers sharing insights about how to build faith leadership on social and civic issues through census outreach in New York communities, along with the opportunities and challenges ahead for us in engaging our own unique faith-based communities.

[Download Flyer](#)

Take Action And

Join the Interfaith Census Effort



Join fellow faith leaders by taking the pledge to get your congregation and community counted in the 2020 census:

“I pledge to be proactive with my congregation, to aspire to full participation in the census and to encourage, to educate, and to aim for every member of the community being counted. Together, we shape our future.”

[Take the Pledge](#)

The Faith Leader Census Toolkit

New York City Faith Leaders Toolkit



We just launched the Interfaith Census Toolkit, a central resource guide to help faith leaders understand how to talk about the census, build your own efforts to engage your congregation, and work to ensure a complete count in your community.

This toolkit includes everything you need to take action in supporting your community, including sermon notes, organizing strategies, a census organizing calendar, and social media templates to announce the census in your religious

services, templates to get the word out to the greater congregation, and detailed support on how to organize outreach activities within your community.

[Download Toolkit](#)

Take Faith Leader Census Trainings In Your Neighborhood

As part of the Interfaith Census 202 Count Coalition's census awareness strategy, we are offering faith-based census training in each of the five boroughs during the month of February to help faith leaders learn more about the census and build your own congregation's census outreach plan.

[Register Here](#)

Apply For Faith Leader Organizing Funding

The Interfaith Census 2020 Count Coalition announced a fund to build capacity and enable faith leaders across faith traditions, networks, and houses of worship to take action on the census. This fund will support organizing capacity within faith traditions and within specific neighborhoods or geographies around New York City and hopes to spark the creative capital of faith leadership within the city.

The Coalition will be distributing \$150,000 in grants of up to \$10,000 to at least 15 organizations with the ability to organize their peers, members, and networks for the census. Organizations will develop a tailored organizing strategy in partnership with the Interfaith Coalition to recruit faith leadership and conduct various on-the-ground organizing strategies in the community.

[Apply Here](#)

Cosponsored Events

**Interfaith Forum:
The Threat of White Supremacy**

February 20



INTERFAITH FORUM: THE THREAT OF WHITE SUPREMACY

FEBRUARY 20, 2020
AT 7:00 P.M.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Interfaith Forum: The Threat of White Supremacy is a convening of leaders of diverse faiths to discuss the resurgence of white supremacy. It will feature a panel discussion of prominent faith leaders in New York City to address this crisis and to seek avenues to pursue an effective response. There will also be an opportunity for dialogue with members of the community.

ICNY Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, will be speaking on the panel.

[Learn More](#)

Other Events

Listings Do Not Imply Endorsement

**Join the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee's
Steering Committee!**

February 6

Lead with us!

Join the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee's Steering Committee



All are invited!
Thursday, February 6, 6:45-9:00 PM
One West 29th Street, Manhattan

MJSC's Steering Committee will be meeting to discuss our plans for 2020, and we'd love to have your input and help! Join us to learn about our work and ways in which you can get involved and become part of our leadership. All are invited to join!

[Learn More](#)

Sweet Dreams Drive 2020

February 7 - February 16



The Muslim Volunteers for New York (MV4NY) is conducting its 3rd annual nationwide "Sweet Dreams" Pajama and Book Drive to benefit underserved babies and children (ranging in ages from 0-16) served by two outstanding programs; "The Pajama Program" and "Room to Grow."

[Donate Here](#)

Mental Health First Aid & Opioid Overdose Training For Faith Community Leaders

February 12



**Thrive
NYC**



**HARLEM
UNITED**



NYDIS and The Salvation Army will collaborate to offer free, one-day Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for community & faith leaders. All training materials and a light breakfast are included. All participants who complete the training and short test receive a certificate that is valid for three years.

[Learn More](#)

Spiritual Perspectives on Sexuality & Healing in the Age of #MeToo

February 22



Iyanifa Rev. DeShannon Barnes-Bowens, Co-Director of One Spirit Interfaith Seminary, is delighted to teach a full day interfaith workshop focused on how

religions support and/or hinder healthy sexuality and the prevention of sexual abuse. Spiritual practices to support healing from abuse will be explored as well as self-care tools.

[Learn More](#)

Grounded Program Design: Incorporating Anti-Oppression Approaches to Social Justice Work

February 25



Join Seachange Collective for an interactive, 1-day workshop on “grounded program design.” We’ll introduce you to a six-step approach that helps you develop and implement projects, programs, and initiatives based in community needs and justice - rather than assumed knowledge and charity.

[Learn More](#)

2020 Summer Internship Program

Deadline: March 6

2020

Summer Internship Program



The Office of the New York City Comptroller will accept applications for 2020 summer internships for its various bureaus from January 2 - March 6, 2020.


Interns participate in hands-on departmental projects as well as an enrichment program that includes networking opportunities, professional development programming, and community service activities.

[Learn More](#)

**Additional \$25 Million
in NYS Security Grant Funding**

Register Your Organization

Steps to Register with the Grants Gateway



At the inaugural 'No Hate in Our State' conference, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo proposed an additional \$25 million in security grant funding for organizations vulnerable to hate crimes.

Organizations must be registered in Grants Gateway to compete for New York State grants. To register an organization, send a complete [Registration Form for Administrators](#) and accompanying documentation by mail to Grants Management, [99 Washington Avenue Room 1550, Albany, NY 12210-2814](#).

[Learn More](#)

Join Our Mission!

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) works to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders and their communities.



Donate



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