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# ICNY

Interfaith Center of New York

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*Multifaith vigil in Glasgow, Scotland, before the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference*

In this November newsletter, ICNY is excited to announce the 39th Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat for Social Justice, which will explore faith-based responses to the epidemic of gun violence in New York City and elsewhere. See below for details, and [click here to join us](#) on December 1.

We are also glad to report that momentum is building to close the deeply troubled Rikers Island jail, as can be seen in this [New York Times coverage](#) of a public letter from over 100 NYC faith leaders (click then scroll down for coverage). Religious and civic leaders are invited to join us this Thursday, November 4, for an update on the effort to close Rikers with Hon. Jonathan Lippman, former Chief Judge of New York and Chair of the Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform. See below for details, [click here to join the conversation](#), and bring your questions for Judge Lippman.

\* \* \*

While ICNY is primarily focused on the civic life of New York City, we can't overlook the historic [COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) now taking place in the Glasgow, Scotland. The future of our planet is quite literally at stake.

On the eve of COP26, as 25,000 delegates from around the world began arriving in Glasgow, hundreds of religious leaders and community members from nine faith traditions gathered in Glasgow's George Square to pray for the delegates and the bold decisions they must make in the next two weeks (see photo above).

Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim community leaders read the [Glasgow MultiFaith Declaration for COP 26](#), calling on all governments to commit to science-based targets for a zero-emissions future. "I am blessed to be part of a generation that still has hope," said Paul, a Quaker participant in the vigil. "My prayer for this day is that the next generation and the ones that come after it will also be blessed with hope."

As US faith leaders and community members, we can add our prayers and call on our government to [end fossil fuel subsidies](#) and reach zero emissions by 2050.

Sincerely yours,



Executive Director

PS: Please consider a gift to support ICNY and the many faith leaders and communities we serve. You can do so [here](#).



## ICNY PROGRAMS



Based on "Stop Gun Violence" by Lyla Paakkanen for [Creative Action Network](#)

The 39th Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat for Social Justice

## New York Faith Communities Respond to Gun Violence

Wednesday, December 1

## Interfaith Peace Walk, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

[Click Here for Details and Registration](#)

In response to the dramatic increase of gun violence in New York City, ICNY and our partners will host a conference for religious and civic leaders on December 1, exploring faith-based responses to this unprecedented public health challenge.

Gun violence has taken a terrible toll on New Yorkers over the past year, and the crisis has been felt, above all, in the city's historically marginalized Black and Brown communities. Faith leaders have long been at the forefront of responses to gun violence, but they are taking on new roles in the current crisis by working as violence interrupters, serving as street chaplains, and leading advocacy campaigns for gun control. This conference will highlight concrete steps faith leaders can take to combat gun violence in their local communities and beyond.

The conference will feature a keynote address from [Erica Ford](#), co-founder of LIFE Camp and an internationally-recognized peacemaker; a multifaith panel reflecting the voices of diverse religious leaders; and small-group workshops on a range of issues. The conference will be followed by an interfaith peace walk on 116th Street in Harlem, supporting local businesses and houses of worship directly affected by gun violence.

***Please join us online and in Harlem on Wednesday, December 1.***

*Cosponsored By*



**ICNY**  
Interfaith Center of New York



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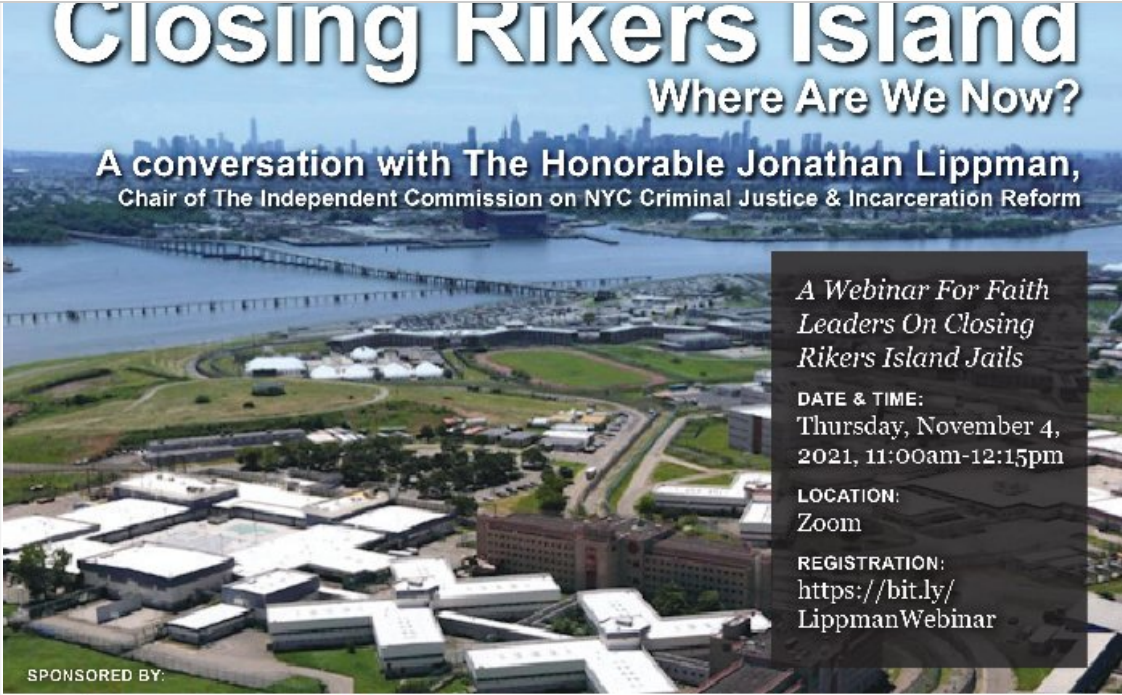
## ICNY COSPONSORED PROGRAMS

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# Closing Rikers Island

## Where Are We Now?

A conversation with The Honorable Jonathan Lippman,  
Chair of The Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice & Incarceration Reform


*A Webinar For Faith Leaders On Closing Rikers Island Jails*

**DATE & TIME:**  
Thursday, November 4, 2021, 11:00am-12:15pm

**LOCATION:**  
Zoom

**REGISTRATION:**  
<https://bit.ly/LippmanWebinar>

SPONSORED BY:



Webinar for Faith Leaders with Hon. Jonathan Lippman

## **Closing Rikers Island: Where Are We Now?**

**Thursday, November 4, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm**

[Click Here for Registration](#)

Please join us for an important conversation with the Honorable Jonathan Lippman, Chair of The Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform. Judge Lippman will update faith community leaders on the city's progress toward closing the Rikers Island jails, and the essential work that remains to be done.

Sponsored by: The New York Board of Rabbis, A More Just NYC, The Interfaith Center of New York, Trinity Church Wall Street, Freedom Agenda, The Jewish Community Relations Council of NY - Jewish Coalition on Criminal Justice Reform, and BronxConnect.

To learn more about this pressing human rights issue, [click here to read a letter](#) from over 100 NYC faith leaders to mayoral candidates Eric Adams and Curtis Sliwa, calling on them to close Rikers Island and reform our criminal justice

and then scroll down for coverage).

**Interfaith Diwali**

**ATITHI DEVO BHAVA**

*Opening our hearts and doors to each other.*

**Wednesday, November 3, 2021 | 6:00-7:30pm**  
**Facebook Live:**  
[tinyurl.com/BrooklynInterfaithDiwali2021](https://tinyurl.com/BrooklynInterfaithDiwali2021)

To request an interpretation, another accommodation, and/or submit questions in advance please email Doreen Bermudez at [dbermudez@cchr.nyc.gov](mailto:dbermudez@cchr.nyc.gov) by October 31.

**NYC Commission on Human Rights** | **Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs**

**Seal of the City of Brooklyn**  
Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President

**MICAH** (MIRIAM CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL AND HUMAN AFFAIRS)  
**ICNY** (INSTITUTION FOR CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS)  
**New York State COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**  
**Asa'Mai** (Hindu Temple)  
**navatman**  
**Beit Simchat Torah** (MULTICULTURAL)  
**MCN** (Health Community Network)

**UNITED PROGRESS ASSOCIATION** (UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY)  
**SIKH COUNCIL**  
**MUSLIMS FOR PROGRESSIVE VALUES**  
**FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN** (A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION)  
**SOUTH QUEENS WOMEN'S MARCH**  
**MANTRA**

Opening our Hearts and Doors to Each Other

## Wednesday, November 3, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

[Click Here to RSVP or Attend on Facebook Live](#)

Please join the Sadhana Coalition of Progressive Hindus, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, the NYC Commission on Human Rights, NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and diverse community partners for our annual interfaith Diwali celebration.

This year's theme is Atithi Devo Bhava: Be One for Whom the "Other" is God. We will focus on the importance of opening our hearts, our borders, and our doors to refugees, immigrants, and our diverse neighbors. The celebration will include Hindu and interfaith Diwali prayers and messages, as well as musical and dance performances.

Don't miss this celebration of India's festival of lights, and of New York City's rich religious diversity.

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## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS





## UNITED MADRASSI ASSOCIATION INC

*A Progressive Volunteer-Based Humanitarian Organization*

[madrassi.org](http://madrassi.org)

917-207-4655

[madrassi.us@gmail.com](mailto:madrassi.us@gmail.com)

# RALLY FOR DIWALI

**Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**5-9 pm**

**LIBERTY Ave / 134TH, Queens N.Y**

**WE WANT A HOLIDAY FOR DIWALI**

Let's join and put our voices together as ONE  
and send a clear message to our CITY  
GOVERNMENT that we want DIWALI to be  
observed as a holiday in NYC Public Schools.

THE ADVOCACY CONTINUES

**WE DESERVE EQUAL TREATMENT!**

Rally for Diwali

**Calling for a Diwali Public School Holiday**

**Sunday, November 7, 5:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Corner of Liberty Avenue and 134th Street, in Richmond Hill,  
Queens**

[Click Here to Email for More Information](#)



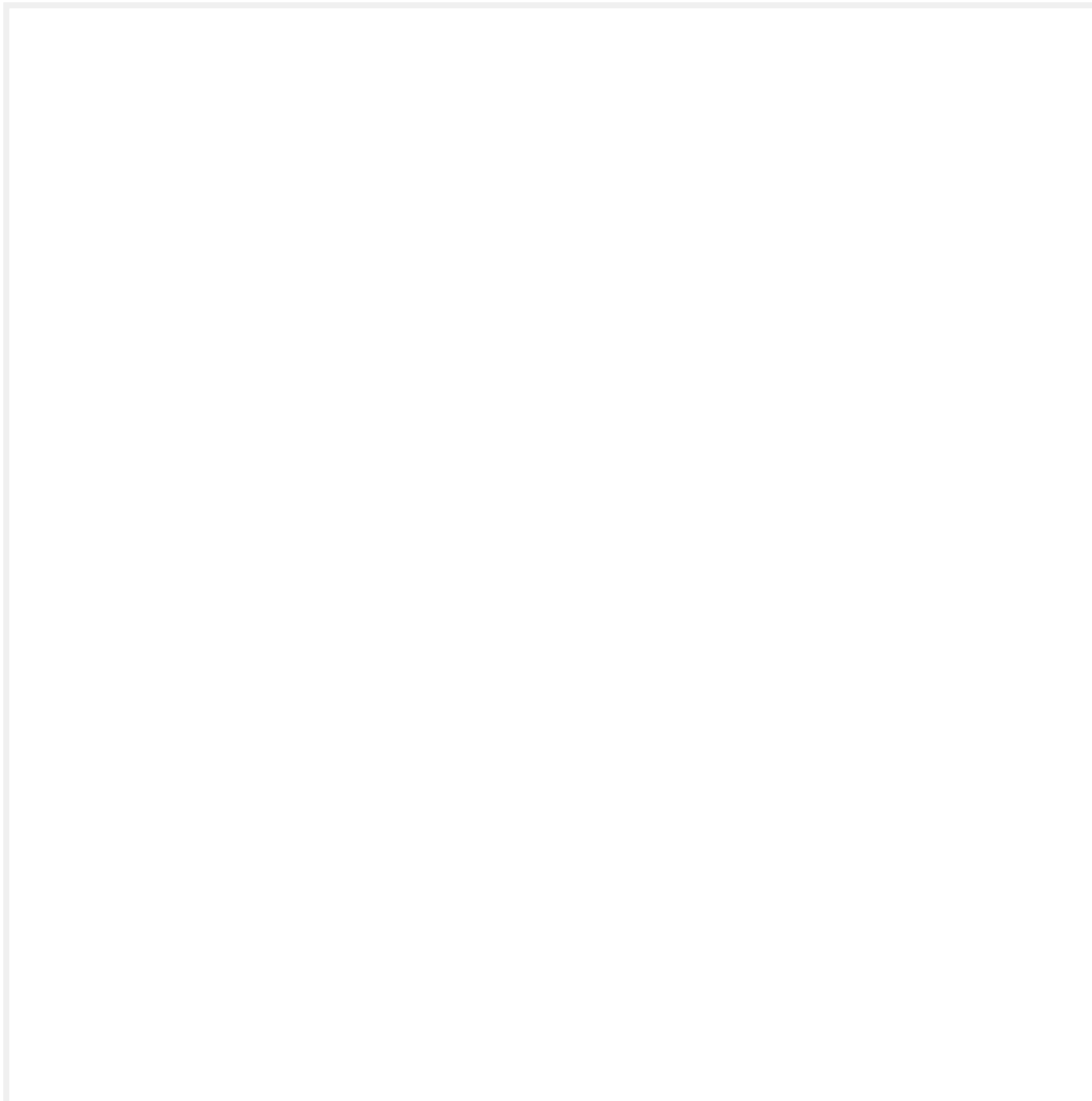
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auspicious festival of Diwali -- the Festival of Lights. Diwali marks the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil.

Unfortunately, however, children in NYC public schools who observe Diwali have been penalized and never afforded an excused absence to celebrate their most religious day. This year, the Department of Education went as far as scheduling parent-teacher conferences on the night of Diwali, November 4. This is outright disrespectful to NYC families!

Join the United Madrassi Association in calling on city government to make Diwali a school holiday. We are asking for equity for our children, as many others have school holidays for their religious observances. Join us on Sunday, November 7, from 5 - 9 pm, at the corner of Liberty Avenue and 134th Street, in Richmond Hill, Queens. [Click here to find it on Google Maps.](#)

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# GRAFTON PEACE PAGODA

## CLIMATE ACTION PEACEWALK

Riverbank State Park - 8 miles - United Nations

In conjunction with COP 26  
(Conference of Parties)

Saturday November 6th 2021  
10:30am - 4:00pm

- 10:30am Gathering spot at Riverbank State Park in front of Denny Farrell Building (679 Riverside Drive NYC 10031 cross St West 145th St)  
- 1:00pm Lunch Break (bring your own) at Pier 84 (43rd Street) and bathroom break  
- 3:00 to 3:30pm arrive at United Nations for Peace Vigil

-Vehicles parking at Riverbank - Pick Up parking pass at West 145th St. guard booth (see given parking instructions)  
-Public Bus Stop for M11 and Bx 19  
-Gathering Spot at Riverside State Park (Denny Farrell Building w/ toilets)  
-During walk there are bathrooms at 70th street.  
-Cut over on 42nd street Eastbound and down the hill to Robert Moses Park for additional bathrooms.  
-Please contact:  
Eric Davenport (518) 669-9435 or  
George Cho (646) 784-7616

**Due to the continued coronavirus concerns,  
please wear a mask and practice social  
distancing**



**NIPPONZAN MYOHOJI, GRAFTON PEACE PAGODA**  
Please call Grafton Peace Pagoda (518)658-9301 for additional information before November 6th between 8am to 5pm

**Walk the City to Save the Planet**

**Climate Action Peace Walk, in Conjunction with  
the COP26 UN Climate Conference**

**Saturday, November 6, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**Meet at Riverbank State Park, Riverside Drive and 145th Street**

See flyer above for a detailed description of the route. For a map and more information please call Nipponzan Myohoji at (518) 658-9301. Call any time

Please join Families for Safe Streets for a special faith leader forum on:

# THE EPIDEMIC OF TRAFFIC INJURIES AND DEATHS:

# THE ROLE OF FAITH COMMUNITIES

Featuring a special faith leader training for  
**SERMONS FOR SAFE STREETS** in connection  
with World Day of Remembrance

[sermonsforsafestreeets.org](http://sermonsforsafestreeets.org)

**NOVEMBER 16, 2021**  
**12:00PM -1:00PM EST**

**RSVP for Zoom**  
**log-in details**

RSVP: [transalt.org/RSVPfaithleaderforum](https://transalt.org/RSVPfaithleaderforum)

Over 100 Americans are killed every single day in a traffic crash and millions more are injured each year. People of every faith, neighborhood, race, class, gender, age and ability are hit personally by this issue. Learn how faith leaders can be part of the solution by supporting crash victims and preventing future carnage.



Faith Leader Forum and Training

**The Epidemic of Traffic Injuries and Deaths:  
The Role of Faith Communities**

[Click Here to Register and Receive Zoom Info](#)

Sadly, the epidemic of traffic injuries and deaths unites us all. People of every faith, neighborhood, race, class, gender, age, ability, and political affiliation are personally affected by this issue.

Close to 40,000 people are killed in the US each year, and millions more suffer life altering injuries. All faith leaders can use their pulpits, prayers, and programming to remind communities that we are responsible for each other's safety. We must slow down, pay attention, and support solutions that save lives.

Please join Families for Safe Streets and faith leaders from across NYC and the country for a special Faith Leader Forum, including training for participation in [Sermons for Safe Streets](#), an opportunity to join the UN and cities around the world in remembering those who've been killed and calling for safer streets, in connection with the [World Day of Remembrance](#). This event will feature powerful testimonies from crash survivors and those who have lost loved ones in traffic crashes. Join us to be part of the solution. Click the button above to register, and for more information visit [sermonsforsafestreets.org](http://sermonsforsafestreets.org).

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# Be a light to those who are waiting

**NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH**  
Communities of faith embrace  
organ, eye and tissue donation



DonateLife.net

Resources for Faith Leaders

## **National Donor Sabbath**

**Full Month of November**

[Click Here for Info and Downloadable Resources](#)

November is National Donor Sabbath month, celebrating the interfaith support for organ donation as an act of generosity and compassion that saves the lives of others.

There are 110,000 people waiting nationally for a transplant and nearly 10,000 right here in New York, many of whom may be your congregants, family, and friends. New York also has an organ shortage resulting in longer wait times for those on the transplant waiting list. On average, a New Yorker dies every day waiting for the organ transplant that could have saved their life.

about the fact that organ, eye, and tissue donation saves lives and extends the blessings that are given to us. By educating our faith communities we can encourage more people to say yes to donation and give the gift of life to someone who desperately needs it.

*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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