



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ICLA graduation (from left to right): **Rev. Shokuchi Deirdre Carrigan, Rev. Dr. Holly Bonner, Reda Taleb, Gareth Bryant, Richard Feldman, City Councilmember Shekar Krishnan, Rev. Lauren Ahava Jacobs, Dr. Sheriden Booker, and Dr. Aameena Ali**

Dear Friend,

In his blog post, "New York City: History and Values a July 4th Reflection", **St. John's University Professor John Gonzales** reviews the evolution of religious freedom beginning with challenges posed by the Quakers and others to Governor Peter Stuyvesant in New Amsterdam. Gonzales concludes his reflection by describing last week's ICNY's gala and the migrant-support work of **Faith Justice Heroes Adama Bah and Imam Omar Niass**. He [cites](#) ICNY's mission

statement as carrying on "the legacy of the signers of the Flushing Remonstrance by empowering and involving diverse religious institutions in the work of advocacy and social action."

We could not imagine higher praise.

The photo above is from the Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy's graduation that took place in June, celebrating the end of our program that helps diverse faith leaders to increase their civic engagement skills. Below you will find photos from the **James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner** last week, an event that could not have happened without our donors and supporters who believe in this work, or without the practical assistance and day-in, day-out efforts of ICNY's dedicated staff: **Jonill Mayer, Henry Goldschmidt; Hanadi Doleh, Sajeela Munir**, and our newest team members **Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman** (Bio below) along with consultants **Brennan Brink, Kevin Childress, Amy Thesing**, and interns.

Thank you again to those who joined us at the event on the 26th of June. We invite you and everyone reading this to watch the documentary short *Stranger at the Gate*, whose director and creative team we proudly honored, by clicking [here](#).

Finally, our faith-based shelter efforts will be expanded in the coming months through an innovative partnership between New York Disaster Interfaith Services and the City of New York. **Please sign up with the form below if your congregation would like to participate.** Also, [learn how to become a legal guardian for a young migrant](#) between the ages of 18-21 with special immigration juvenile status (SIJ).

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director





JPM Awardee **Rabbi Sharon Klienbaum** and ICNY Board Member **Fred Davie** © 2023 Carolina Kroon



Faith Justice Heroes **Imam Omar Niass** and **Adama Bah** © 2023 Carolina Kroon



Members of the Buddhist Council of New York, the American Buddhist Association and ICNY Board Member **Sylvie Sun** © 2023 Carolina Kroon





Chair of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission of the Diocese of New York, **Rev. Curtis Hart**, and Episcopal Bishops, **Andrew Dietsche** and **Matt Hyde** © 2023 Carolina Kroon



JPM Awardees **Joshua Seftel**, **Lalbib Bahrami** and **Richard McKinney** © 2023 Carolina Kroon





Detective First Grade **Mohamed Amen**, ICNY Executive Director **Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer**, NYPD Deputy Commissioner **Wendy Garcia** © 2023 Carolina Kroon



Dr. Debbie Almontaser, **Randi Weingarten**, ICNY Board Member **Ruth Messinger**, **Rabbi Sharon Klienbaum**, and **Andrew Lachman** © 2023 Carolina Kroon



ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Welcome to the ICNY Team

Our New Outreach Coordinator for Asylum Seeker Shelter Program

Welcome our new Outreach Coordinator for the Asylum Seeker Shelter Program, Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman. Ammar Abdul Rahman is an educator and Imam. He earned his bachelor degree

in Psychology and political science with a minor in human rights studies from CUNY Lehman College. He also earned an associate degree in Islamic studies from Ghana where he studied under several Islamic scholars. Ammar taught 3rd grade in public Charter schools in NYC for three years before joining the Interfaith Center of New York. He also teaches Islamic studies and Quran to young Muslims and encourages them to be critical thinkers and civically engaged. Ammar is currently a Deputy Imam at Masjid Al-Haram USA in the Bronx NY. On his free time, Ammar loves to volunteer for community services like feeding the homeless, youth empowerment programs etc. He has organized and led several workshops, lectures and wellness checks with the aim of advocating for mental health care within this Muslim community.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP & FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO) SPACE NEEDED PROSPECTIVE HOSPITALITY CENTER SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

NYC is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the arrival of over **70,000 Asylum Seekers from Latin America and West Africa** over the past year - with more arriving every week. NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network, in partnership with NYC, will fund 5 sites of any faith tradition, to operate a daytime hospitality center for the next 12-24 months providing support to approximately 150 guests a day over the next 12-24 months. Shelters must be open 365 days per year from 7AM to 7PM.

Each House of Worship or Faith-based Organization MUST Have:

- 6+ Single Stall Showers (or the space and willingness for us to install showers)
- A Fire Sprinkler System (or the willingness for us to install a sprinkler system in the center's space)
- A fully functioning commercial kitchen (or food can be catered), preparing a variety of meal options (including, if requested, Vegan & Vegetarian options and may include Halal options)
- Language competent services, volunteers, and staff (Spanish, French, West African French, Wolof, etc.)
- Ability to fulfill reasonable accommodations (such as, language, dietary, religious, and accessibility needs)

Compensation: Up to \$54,000 per month, advanced monthly, from which a site may cover will fund the following documented expenses for required services:

- Janitorial Payroll Allowance (\$100/Day or up to \$3,000/month)
- One 7AM-7PM Onsite Center Coordinator (\$30/hour = \$11,000/month - from which benefits can be paid, if desired)
- One 7AM-7PM NYS Licensed Security Guard (\$360/day or up to \$11,000/ month)
- Food: Daily hot lunch and snacks for 150 (\$5pp per day = \$23,000/month)
- Insurance Allowance (up to \$1000/month)
- Supplies (\$2,000/month) & Miscellaneous Pre-Approved Support (\$2,500/month)
- Wi-Fi and Cable Television Allowance (\$165/month)
- **A Space Use/Utilities Allowance equal to 25% of total operating cost reimbursement per month - up to \$13,000 a month.**

What Will NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network Provide?

- A dedicated NYDIS Shelter Operations Manager to support the operation of your center site: including logistics support, invoicing assistance, weekly onsite support.
- A monthly operating advance of up to \$54,000, and Space Use Fee \$13,000
- A laptop to track attendance and submit reports/forms as required.
- Grants to add Showers, Fire Safety Equipment/Sprinklers, and/or Paint/Light Refresh
- Referrals for security, laundry, meal procurement and, if necessary, vendors
- Towels/Wash Cloths, Hygiene Kits, Clothing to Distribute

- Training and Technical Support for each site, its staff and volunteers

To inquire about how to be of service to our new neighbors in crisis with hospitality and safe sanctuary and covering your basic costs:



Asylum Seeker info

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE FORM:

<https://howalert.org/HospitalityCenterSurvey>

The survey will help determine your eligibility for a shelter contract. Completing the form does not commit you or your facility to anything other than an exploratory conversation.



Online Survey



HOUSES OF WORSHIP & FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO) SPACE NEEDED

Funding Available to Operate Asylum Seeker Overnight Shelters that Provide Food & Showers

NYC is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the arrival of over **70,000 Asylum Seekers from Latin America and West Africa** over the past year - with more arriving every week. NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network, in partnership with NYC, will fund 50 shelters in houses of worship or faith-based spaces, of any faith tradition, to operate 19 bed shelters for single adult men over the next 12-24 months. Shelters must be open 365 days per year from 7PM to 7AM.

Each House of Worship or Faith-based Organization MUST Have:

- 2+ Single Stall Showers (or the space and willingness for us to install showers)
- A Fire Sprinkler System (or the willingness for us to install a sprinkler system in the shelter space)
- Space for a dedicated dining and social area and the ability to provide culturally appropriate meals.
- Language competent services, volunteers, and staff (Spanish, French, West African French, Wolof, etc.)
- Ability to fulfill Reasonable Accommodations (such as, language, dietary, religious, & accessibility needs)
- Storage space for (folded) cots, linens, and Guests' storage trunks

Compensation: \$65 Per Night Per Person of up to \$35,500 per month, advanced monthly, from which a site will fund the following documented expenses or required services:

- Background Checks for Staff/Volunteers (up to \$1,400/month)
- Janitorial Payroll Allowance (\$100/Day or up to \$3,100/month)
- One 7PM-7AM onsite Shelter Coordinator (\$30/hour, includes benefits) = \$11,000/month)
- One 7PM-7AM onsite NYS Licensed Security Guard or off Duty-Law Enforcement Officer (\$360/day or up to \$11,000/ month)
- Bedding Laundry Allowance (\$775/month)
- Food: Daily Hot dinner and a hot or cold breakfast (\$3.27 pp per meal = \$4,000/month)
- Supplies (\$1,000/month)
- Weekly Laundromat Voucher of \$10 per guest (\$760/month)
- Insurance Allowance (up to \$2000/month)
- Wi-Fi and Cable Television (\$165/month)
- **A Space Use/Utilities Allowance equal to 25% of total operating cost reimbursements per month - up to \$9,500 a month.**

What Will NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network Provide?

- 24/7 emergency support
- A dedicated NYDIS Shelter Operations Manager to support the training of your staff/volunteers, equipment as well as the technical assistance for operating of your shelter: including guest placement, invoicing assistance, weekly onsite support
- Guest placement for all Asylum Seekers to your shelter
- A laptop to document guest vacancy and occupancy placements every night and to submit reports/forms as required
- A monthly operating advance of up to \$35,500 and Space Use Fee of up to \$9,500
- Cots, Linens, Pillows, Towels/Wash Cloths, and Laundry Bags
- Storage Trunks and a Pad Lock for each guest
- Grants to add Showers, Fire Safety Equipment/Sprinklers, and or Paint/Light Refresh
- A daily roundtrip MetroCard for each guest
- Referrals for security, laundry, meal procurement and, if necessary, vendors

To inquire about how to be of service to our new neighbors in crisis with hospitality and safe sanctuary and covering your basic costs:



Asylum Seeker info

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE SURVEY:

<https://howalert.org/AsylumSeekerShelterSurvey>

The survey will help determine your eligibility for a shelter contract. Completing the form does not commit you or your facility to anything other than an exploratory conversation.



Online Survey

NYC Needs Your House of Worship

Support the Newest New Yorkers by Sheltering Asylees

Since last summer, over 44,000 asylum seekers have arrived on their own or been transported to New York City without regard for their wellbeing. Hundreds continue to arrive each week. The NYC shelter system, hotels and alternative housing sites have been overwhelmed as asylum seekers try to find safe shelter while awaiting immigration court proceedings. While most are single men, single women and families with children are also arriving. Many of these fellow global citizens in crisis have fled unimaginable conditions in their country of origin and then experienced an arduous journey on their way to New York City.

The city has been providing hotels, homeless shelters, and other mass care spaces as housing on a temporary basis. We are proposing to fund congregations, of any faith tradition, to provide temporary small group shelter housing to single adult male and female asylees. The program would provide shelter for the next 12-24 months while all of us continue to call on the state and Federal government to help address this need for more permanent housing.

We are seeking houses of worship in all faith traditions that can meet the practical requirements outlined in the flyer above. In exchange for your hospitality, congregations will be paid a monthly fee -- to cover all required operating expenses related to meeting each asylees' basic human needs and to offset space use costs.

Click the buttons below if your house of worship can help.

Click Here if Your House of Worship Can Help With a Hospitality Center

Click Here If Your House of Worship Can Help with a Shelter

OTHER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Parliament of the World's Religions

The Global Interfaith Movement is Gathering in Defense of Freedom & Human Rights at the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions

August 14-18

Chicago, USA

Join the global interfaith movement in protecting human rights and democracy, fostering interfaith dialogue and action, and engaging critical issues of peace, justice, and sustainability at the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions, gathering this August 14-18, 2023 in Chicago.

The Parliament of the World's Religions is the largest and most diverse interfaith gathering for faith, spiritual, and civic commitments. At this year's Convening, thousands of local, national, and international participants are addressing the theme, *A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom and Human Rights*.

Distinguished spiritual leaders and other luminaries will address Plenaries and Assemblies on Climate Action, Women’s Dignity and the Global Ethic. More than 800 programs will offer attendees immersive learning experiences and community-building opportunities during the five-day event. Enjoy panels, religious observances, community events, service projects, and the diversity of the global interfaith movement all under one roof.

Use the code [ICNY2023](#) to save \$100 off general admission.

Registration Options

Programming

Opportunities

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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