



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



On Oct. 25, 2023 ICNY joined Muslim Community Network, the Tannenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, The Sikh Coalition, Engage NY, and other groups to testify in support of City Council Resolution 476 for religious diversity education in NYC public schools. (Pictured above from left to right: Walli Ullah, Alex Shahana, Fatima Omarufilo, Ajifanta Marenhah, Hussein Yatabarry, Bronx Science Student Yyra Takat, Heba Khalil, and Rev. Chloe Breyer). To watch our testimony, [click the image above](#).

Dear Friend,

Last month we saw the truly horrific attacks on Israeli civilians launched by Hamas on October 7, 2023. We pray for the safe return of more than 200 hostages who range in age from very [young children to the elderly](#). We grieve for the 1.8 million Palestinian civilians suffering under the Israeli siege and bombardment of Gaza, and for the 5,700 Palestinian fatalities to date—of which [2,360 are children](#).

We pray for all who are suffering. We pray for a rapid end to this war.

In New York City and around the country, we have seen a dramatic increase in hate crimes against Jews, Muslims, and Arabs. As an organization that “seeks to make New York and the world safe for religious diversity,” we need your help to address the [recent sharp rise of Antisemitism and Islamophobia](#). ICNY is part of a coalition supporting religious liberty education in NYC Public Schools. On Oct. 25th we testified before the City Council Education Committee in support of Resolution 476 (see above).

In the coming days, you may receive invitations to take part in events to combat Islamophobia and Antisemitism. I hope you will join them, or plan similar events in your own community, for the following reasons:

- Our anger at one another will not bring the innocent dead back to life, or create a just peace in the Holy Land.
- Our sense of disappointment in longstanding allies is difficult to bear. It will take hard work to rebuild these relationships— work that is rife with the risk of rejection. The time to start this healing process is now.
- The social challenges facing New York City have not disappeared as the fighting continues in Israel and Palestine. New York needs our interfaith partnerships and collaborative work. Turning our backs on one another will not help us house migrants, educate children, fight racial inequality, or promote mental health.

As one survivor of the October 7th attack said, *“We can do it all. We can fight for our families held hostage by Hamas, stand against occupation, stand with impacted Israelis, stand up for innocent Palestinians.”*

If they can do it all, so can we.

Bias and hate crimes NYC since Oct. 7:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2023/10/13/hamas-attack-swastikas-in-nyc>

<https://fortune.com/2023/10/17/nyc-palestinian-restaurant-disconnects-phone-threatening-voicemails-ayat-east-village/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/video/nypd-investigating-2-suspected-anti-palestinian-hate-crimes-in-brooklyn/>

<https://pix11.com/news/local-news/brooklyn/group-of-pro-israel-suspects-attacks-man-who-yelled-free-palestine>

<https://abc7ny.com/israel-hamas-war-nyc-unrest-hate-crime-palestinian-rally/13900258/>

Resources to combat anti-semitism and Islamophobia:

Here are [materials from ING Islamic Network Group for addressing antisemitism and islamophobia in the context of the current conflict](#) in the Middle East. Likewise [these resources from the Interfaith Alliance](#) and from the [Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign](#) may also be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chloe Breyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

ICNY Executive Director

P.S. Please consider signing a letter of support for the Right To Shelter [linked here](#).



Interfaith Reception to Welcome Bishops Matt Heyd, newly elected Bishop Coadjutor and Bishop Assistant Mary Glasspool, Episcopal Diocese of New York. From Left to Right: Imam Kaba, Det. Mohamed Amen, Bishop Matt Heyd, Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Rabbi Joe Potasnik, Bishop Ray Rivera, Hajji Douka



Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman, ICNY speaks at the Right to Shelter Press Conference Outside St. Barts Church

ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

 Columbia Law School

LAW, RIGHTS,
AND RELIGION
PROJECT



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

NEW YORK
LAW SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND DIVERSITY

Securing Free Exercise in a Multi-Faith Democracy

Friday, November 17, 2023

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Second Floor Events Center
New York Law School**

185 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013

RSVP: nyls.edu/CLERSvp

This event is free and open to the public.

CLE

Area of Professional Practice: 2.5 credits
(NY Transitional and non-transitional)

Diversity, Inclusion, and
Elimination of Bias: 1.5 credits
(NY non-transitional only)

For general inquiries, contact:
paulina.davis@nyls.edu

The Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment provide for the religious liberty of all Americans and our nation's diverse faith communities. Following Supreme Court cases like *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* and *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, a growing number of legal scholars and advocates are concerned that the Court's view of religious liberty prioritizes the public expression of dominant, majority faiths at the expense of other Americans, both secular and religious.

Join us for a conference bringing together diverse attorneys, scholars, and religious leaders to explore the shifting meanings of "free exercise" and "religious liberty" and highlight the significance of these legal principles for members of minority faith communities. The





event features a keynote dialogue with Professor Katherine M. Franke of Columbia Law School's Law, Rights, and Religion Project and panel discussions that explore free exercise claims tied to religious practice, communal life, and reproductive rights.



WE ARE NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOL

Since 1891

Conference for Attorneys and the General Public

Religious Liberty and Diversity: Securing Free Exercise in a Multifaith Democracy

November 17th, 9:00 A.M-1:00 P.M

New York Law School's Abbey Hall (185 West Broadway)

Free and Open to All

ICNY is proud to cosponsor a conference on “Religious Liberty and Diversity” with [New York Law School](#) and the [Law, Rights, and Religion Project](#) at Columbia Law School. Please join us as we work to restore an inclusive vision of free exercise that protects the rights of all Americans. See the flyer above for more details about the program. All are welcome, and New York State attorneys will receive **four hours of continuing legal education credit**.

The conference will be held at New York Law School’s Abbey Hall (185 West Broadway, in Lower Manhattan) on **Friday, November 17, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Registration is free, and open now. [Click here](#), scan the QR code above, or press the button below to register.

Register



PAC NYC World Premier

Watch Night

November 3rd-18th

Perelman Performing Arts Center

251 Fulton Street

An immersive exploration of justice and forgiveness in the face of deadly rage, featuring a multifaith panel discussion convened by ICNY and PAC NYC.

In the wake of deadly hate crimes against a neighboring synagogue and AME church, an opportunistic reporter seeks out a sensational story while congregants wrestle with faith and identity, trauma and healing.

Watch Night is a world premier multidisciplinary performance conceived by renowned choreographer/director **Bill T. Jones** and poet **Marc Bamuthi Joseph**. Fusing fiery opera, sacred music, percussive breath, and contemporary dance, *Watch Night* embodies an American hope that refuses to forget while striving to forgive.

Limited run from Friday, November 3 through Saturday, November 18. Don't miss this sonically explosive world premier! [Click here](#) or click the button below for detailed information and ticket sales.



And on **Sunday, November 12, at 5:00 pm**, please join ICNY and PAC NYC for a multifaith conversation about *Watch Night*. **Rev. Dr. Adolphus C. Lacey** of Bethany Baptist Church of Brooklyn, **Rabbi Joy Levitt** of Central Synagogue and the Marlene Meyerson JCC of Manhattan, and choreographer/director **Bill T. Jones** will reflect on faith, justice, and forgiveness. The panel discussion is free and open to all. It follows the Sunday matinee performance of *Watch Night*, but ticket purchase is not required.

[Click Here for Details and Tickets](#)



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>

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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



Volunteer Opportunity to Assist with Asylum Seekers

Clothing Drive

October 30th & 31st

334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th St

Marlene Meyerson JCC is running a clothing drive **and needs volunteers in the final days of October**. Volunteers will sort and distribute items from their Clothing Drive to support students in District 3 Public Schools. Sorting takes place in the JCC lobby (334 Amsterdam Ave at 76th St.) and folks can sign up for shifts on Oct. 30th and 31st at by clicking the button below.

[Sign Up](#)

WANT TO SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS IN NYC?

BECOME A HIAS VOLUNTEER!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS WITH THE DESIRE TO HELP ASYLUM SEEKERS ACCESS ESSENTIAL SERVICES.



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

JOIN OUR DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAM!

WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES THAT RANGE FROM HIGH COMMITMENT DIRECT PARTNERSHIP TO ONE-OFF RESEARCH PROJECTS. HIGH NEED LANGUAGES INCLUDE SPANISH, AMHARIC, DARI, PASHTO, RUSSIAN, AND UKRAINIAN

WORK WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS TO:

- WRITE RESUMES
- HOLD MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS
- STRENGTHEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS
- LEARN ABOUT U.S. POLICIES AND CULTURE
- BUILD COMMUNITY AND SO MUCH MORE

If you're interested in joining the HIAS volunteer community and hearing from our team, scan our QR code and sign up to learn more. Create a volunteer profile and choose a webinar time that works for you.



SCAN ME

For questions or accommodations, contact nycvolunteer@hias.org

Volunteer with HIAS

Help Asylum Seekers Access Essential Services

HIAS is looking for long-term and short-term volunteers to help Asylum Seekers access Essential Services. Volunteering includes writing resumes, holding mock job interviews, building English Language Skills, fostering community, and so much more. Learn more and apply to be a volunteer by clicking the button below.

[Learn More/Apply](#)

ASYLUM SEEKERS ASSISTANCE PROJECT



The assistance you need to begin life anew in New York City

The Asylum Seekers Assistance Project (ASAP) was created by the Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in collaboration with partner organizations to assist newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers in New York City.

If you have arrived in the US within a year, this assistance is for you. If you are ready to self-petition, let us help you. Please contact us.

in collaboration with

*Malteser International • ISC New York • St. Ignatius Loyola
PAX CHRISTI New York State & Metro New York*

Contact the Church of St. Francis of Assisi for more information
To register for assistance, email us at
centrodemigrantes@gmail.com or call us at
(212) 736-8500 ext. 305 or 377.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Migrant Center of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi

The Migrant Center of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, needs intake coordinators, translators, and especially legal assistance at their site, where they help asylum seekers apply for asylum. For more information or for immigration assistance or to volunteer, please contact Fr. Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500 ext. 377 or at migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

Email

Join the Discussion

Immigration: Where are we now? Where are we headed? Where do we want to be?

Wednesday, November 8th, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Zoom

With Mayor Eric Adams claiming New York City is doomed if we don't control the refugee "crisis," with President Joseph Biden reneging on his opposition to a border wall and actually deciding to build more wall, and with Pope Francis, in contrast, saying "In whatever place we decide to build our future, in the country of our birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone.

How do we respond as migratory people since the beginning of time and as people of faith?

Hear:

Dr. Rosemarie Pace, Ed.D.

Pilgrim to the U.S.-Mexican Border

Fr. Julian Jagudilla, OFM

Director of the Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi

NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (tbd)

Click the button below to email your RSVP and get the zoom link.

[Email RSVP](#)



PSI CONTINUING
EDUCATION 

BREATHWORK AND MEDITATION FOR CLINICIANS

with Rebeca Brau Martinez

6-WEEK WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

SATURDAYS, 10AM-11:15AM
NOV 4TH, 11TH, 18TH AND DEC 2ND, 9TH, 16TH

7.5 CECS

\$135 / Scholarships Available Upon Request

Workshop

Breathwork & Meditation for Clinicians

November 4th, 11th, 18th & December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 10:00 - 11:15 A.M.

Online

Join us for a six-week, online workshop with facilitator Rebeca Brau Martinez. This experiential course will shed light on the profound significance of breathwork in bolstering wellbeing, grounding, and cultivating presence.

7.5 Continuing Education Credits (CECs/CEUs) available to NYS licensed clinicians.

Studies demonstrate that mindful breathing lowers stress hormones, promotes emotional regulation, and enhances cognitive function, all indispensable tools for clinicians.

75 minute sessions will cover:

- The basic mechanics of breath and the science behind breathwork
- Potent breathing techniques that will empower you to reduce stress and boost energy levels

- The fascinating connection between breathwork and the Polyvagal Theory

For more info & registration, click the button below.

[More Info/Get Tickets](#)



PSI CONTINUING
EDUCATION 

MINDFULNESS FOR CLINICIAN WELLNESS AND CLINICAL PRACTICE

with Craig Sloane & Dh. Ananta

TWO SESSIONS LIVE ON ZOOM

NOVEMBER 9TH & 16TH
3:30PM - 5PM EST

3 CECS

\$65

Workshop

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for Clinicians

November 9th & 16th, 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

Online

Cultivating mindfulness and meditation reduces symptoms of stress, anxiety, depression and chronic pain. For mental health clinicians these benefits can support wellness, minimize burnout and provide a foundation for incorporating mindfulness and meditation into clinical practice. This experiential workshop, comprised of two 1.5 hours sessions, introduces clinicians to the benefits that mindfulness

and meditation can have in cultivating resilience and emotional intelligence for themselves and their clients.

3 continuing education credits available to NYSED LMSWs/LCSWs/LMHCs/LMFTs/LCATs who attend both sessions.

For more info & registration click the button below.

[More Info/Registration](#)



ANNUAL
**TRIBUTE
DINNER**

Episcopal Charities

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
DECEMBER 4, 2023



Episcopal Charities
Transforming Lives

SAVE THE DATE

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HONOR

THE RT. REV. ANDREW ML DIETSCHÉ
XVI Bishop of New York

CHARLIE GARLAND
Hamlin Capital Management, LLC

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD
INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK
Accepted by The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

Monday • December 4, 2023 • 6:30 PM

Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City
Invitations to mail in October
For more information contact ec-events@diocesenyc.org
or call 212.316.7575 or visit our website at www.ec-ny.org

Episcopal Charities

Episcopal Charities 2023 Tribute Dinner

Monday, December 4th, 6:30 P.M

**The Cathedral of St. John the Divine,
New York**

Please join us as we honor:

THE RT. REV. ANDREW ML DIETSCHÉ
XVI Bishop of New York

CHARLIE GARLAND
Hamlin Capital Management, LLC

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD
INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK
Accepted by The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

Click the button below to learn more/buy tickets.

[Learn More/Buy Tickets](#)

[Learn More/Get Book](#)

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.

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