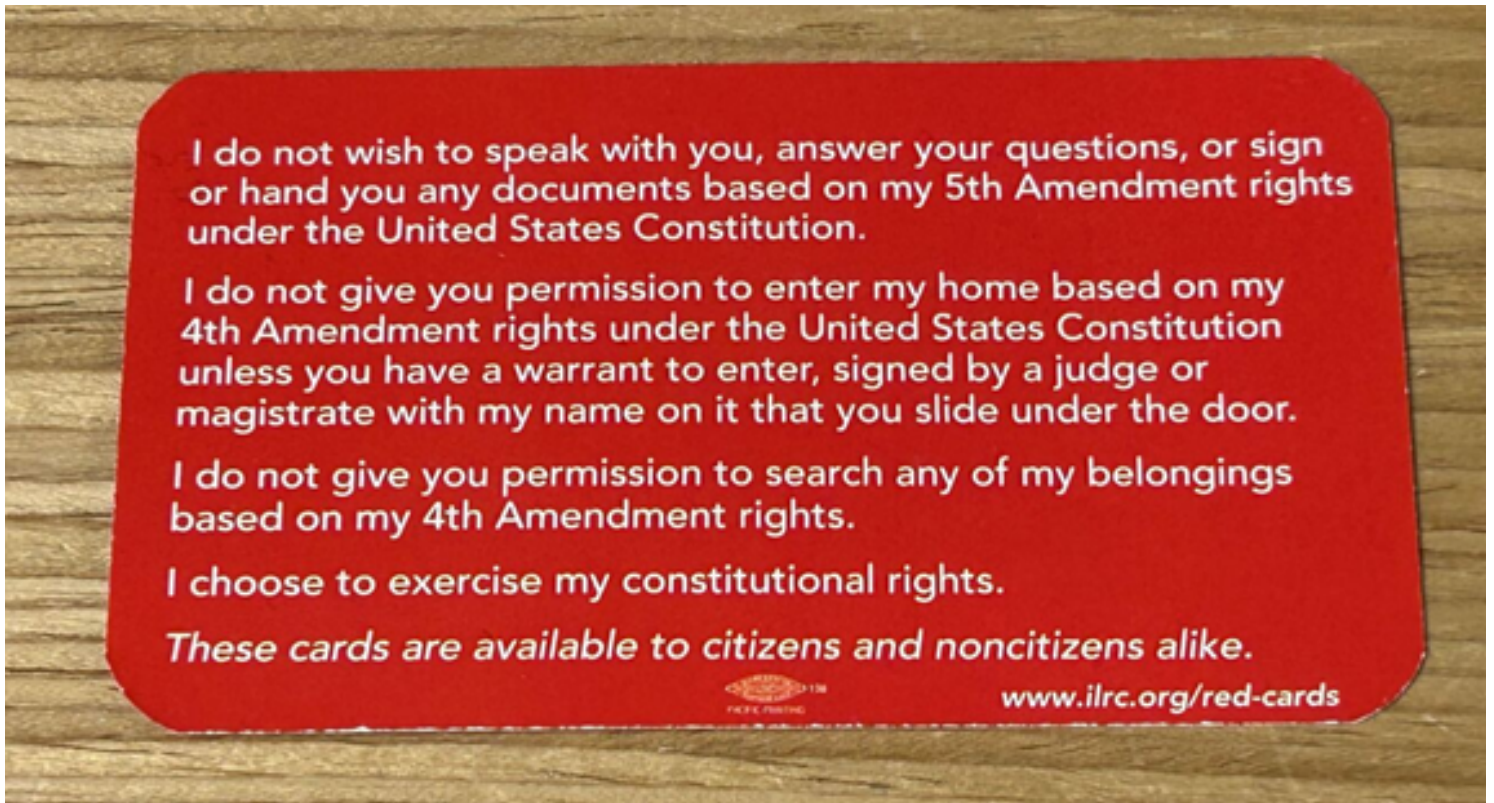




ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Above is an example of a "Know Your Rights" Red Card for clergy and volunteers serving citizen and non-citizen New Yorkers. This card can be given to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officers should they show up at your house of worship. [Click this link](http://www.ilrc.org/red-cards) to see how to print or order your own.

Dear Friend,

These are overwhelming and uncertain times. Our prayers go out to the family members of all those killed in the collision between American Airlines flight 5342 and an Army helicopter over the Potomac River. The President's remarks following this tragic incident and the raft of executive orders coming from Washington have been disorienting. Many of his statements and policies appear to scapegoat certain groups of Americans.

Still, there are local points of hope and resistance from diverse houses of worship here in New York City. I want to share some of them with you:

- Take a look at my op-ed about the [religious freedom of migrant New Yorkers in Friday's Daily News](#), which holds up inspiring examples of faith-based hospitality. It looks at the effects of President Trumps' rescinding "sensitive site memo" regarding religious freedom on communities of faith serving migrants and the newest New Yorkers themselves.
- Read about the [Episcopal Diocese of New York's well-attended press conference](#) held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in one of their many chapels dedicated to immigrant groups of the 19th century. See the information below about an upcoming powerful evening of unity and hope: **Call to Courage: Interfaith Vigil for Sanctuary** at the Cathedral on Feb. 12.
- Many brave diverse houses of worship continue to exert their religious freedom to offer different kinds of sanctuary to their neighbors. For example, I invite you to [read this story](#) about **St. Paul's and St. Andrew's United Methodist Church's** inspiring work to provide Sanctuary.
- Refresh yourself and others on the ability of your congregation to be a sanctuary place of support for migrants: <https://interfaithcenter.org/general-sanctuary-guidelines/>. If you are in need of assistance from a pro-immigration attorney, please email Brennan Brink to request an introduction at Brennan@interfaithcenter.org.
- Please [click here](#) to see printable signage for your faith-center or community space. Of the seven forms, the first three are designed as outdoor signs, followed by four for interiors. The 'Private' and 'Staff and Invited Guests Only' signs are especially important to demarcate areas not open to the public.

This is a time of crisis and opportunity and as we enter into the Lunar New Year, we take note that 2025 has within it the potential for transformation and renewal.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director

P.S. To see media from the 42nd iteration of our Social Justice Retreat Conference: Faith and Democracy from November 2024, please [click here](#). Included in these videos are highlights from the keynote address from former ICNY employee and current Executive Director of the NYC Civic Engagement Commission Dr. Sarah Sayeed.

Donate



Press conference hosted by the Rt. Rev. Matt Heyd Episcopal Bishop of New York at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Jan. 24, 2025. Faith leaders including ICNY's the Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer condemned ICE raids and urged protection for immigrant communities.

OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Listing does not imply endorsement by the Interfaith Center of New York

WANT TO SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE NYC AREA?

VOLUNTEER WITH HIAS!

HIAS
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, FRENCH, AMHARIC, DARI, PASHTO, RUSSIAN, AND UKRAINIAN

WORK WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS TO:

- WRITE RESUMES
- SEARCH FOR JOBS
- STRENGTHEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS
- FIND LOCAL RESOURCES
- NAVIGATE THE NYC AREA
- BUILD COMMUNITY
- AND SO MUCH MORE

If you're interested in joining the HIAS volunteer community, attend one of our info sessions on February 13 at noon or 6pm! Sign up here: <https://btrr.im/jv0u2>

For questions or accommodations, contact us at nycvolunteer@hias.org

Asylum Seeker Support Opportunity

Volunteer with HIAS and Support Asylum Seekers in NYC!

Online Info Sessions on Thursday, February 13th @ Noon and 6:00 pm

Looking for a meaningful way to support asylum seekers in the NYC area? Join HIAS' Direct Service Volunteer Program!

HIAS is seeking dedicated volunteers to help asylum seekers **write resumes, search for jobs, strengthen their English skills, find local resources, navigate NYC, build community, and more.**

Volunteer opportunities range from high-commitment direct partnerships to one-time research projects. Languages in high demand include **Spanish, French, Amharic, Dari, Pashto, Russian, and Ukrainian.**

Attend an info session on February 13 at noon or 6 PM to learn more about how you can get involved!

Join us in welcoming the stranger and protecting the refugee!

For questions or accommodations, contact: nycvolunteer@hias.org.

[Click Here to Learn More and Attend](#)

The poster features the logos for World Interfaith Harmony Week and the Journalists and Writers Foundation. The main title is 'PANEL DISCUSSION: BEING HUMAN AGAIN: HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION' with the date and time 'FEBRUARY 5, 2025 | 10:00AM EST | VIRTUAL'. A list of discussion topics is provided, followed by a QR code and social media links. A painting of diverse people is on the right, with the Golden Rule text below it.

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION

PANEL DISCUSSION:
BEING HUMAN AGAIN: HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION
FEBRUARY 5, 2025 | 10:00AM EST | VIRTUAL

- How can religious teachings guide reconciliation in divided societies?
- What practical steps can faith communities take to address social injustice and inequality?
- How do we cultivate hope in divisions and ongoing conflicts?
- The role of interfaith dialogue in bridging historical and cultural differences.

Sign up here:

Golden Rule: "Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You."

JWFoundation_ | jwfglobal | JWF | www.jwf.org | www.jwfacademy.org

World Interfaith Harmony Week

Panel Discussion - Being Human Again: Hope for Reconciliation

Wednesday, February 5

10:00 am

Will be held over Zoom

The panel discussion "Being Human Again: Hope for Reconciliation" will explore the role of interfaith dialogue in fostering reconciliation, healing, and unity in divided communities. As societies grapple with conflict, inequality, and misunderstanding, rediscovering our shared humanity is more urgent than ever. Panelists from diverse faith traditions will reflect on how spiritual teachings, community engagement, and acts of compassion can pave the way for reconciliation, emphasizing empathy, forgiveness, and collaborative action to bridge cultural and religious divides.

Hosted by **Dr. Rajendran Govender** and **Nancy Falcon**, the discussion will feature esteemed speakers including **Rabbi Silvina Chemen**, **Prof. Sumathi Srinivasalu**, and **Imam Gazi Aga**. Topics will include the role of religious teachings in reconciliation, practical steps faith communities can take to address social injustice, and cultivating hope amid divisions. Organized by the

Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), this session aims to leave participants with renewed hope and actionable strategies to foster inclusive and harmonious societies.

[Click Here to Register](#)

~You're Invited~

COMMUNITY BRUNCH & Conversation

Sunday Feb 9 @ 2 - 4 pm

Central Queens Against Hate Coalition invites you to join us for this **FREE** event to bring together New Yorkers for a meal and conversation to connect across cultures and experiences for a shared community.
Funded by the Mayor's Office

68-60 Austin St.
7th Floor
Forest Hills, NY 11375
(Brain Power Wellness Office)

RSVP by Feb 2:
[CLICK HERE](#)



Queens Community Anti-Hate Event

Central Queens Against Hate Community Brunch & Conversation

Sunday, February 9

Doors open at 1:45 pm, conversations and meals begin at 2:15 pm

68-60 Austin Street, 7th Floor, Forest Hills NY 11375

The **Central Queens Against Hate Coalition (CQAH)** invites you to a free community brunch and conversation where New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds can share their traditions, stories and cultures together in conversation over a delicious meal, sponsored by Mayor Adam's Breaking Bread, Building Bonds initiative. Special guests will include **Congress member Grace Meng, State Assembly member Andrew Hevesi, and City Council member Lynn Schulman.**

CQAH is a coalition of community organizations, NYC agencies, leaders and everyday New Yorkers coming together to help build the foundations for a more inclusive and equitable society in Queens. If you have any questions please reach out to Mark Laster @ marklstr99@gmail.com or Amy Long @ amy.long@earthcitizens.org.

[Click Here to Register](#)

The banner features logos for World Interfaith Harmony Week (The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February), Journalists and Writers Foundation, and a QR code with a red arrow pointing to it and the text "Sign up here".

INTERFAITH VOICES FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
FEBRUARY 12, 2025 | 10:00AM EST | VIRTUAL

Moderators

- Ashley Kitisya**
Legal Expert, Programs Manager for Africa, Laudato Si' Movement
KENYA
- Ayuba Bazam**
Program Manager
UFUK Dialogue
NIGERIA
- Spozhmey Munir**
B.A. in Biological Science
California State University EB
USA

Speakers

- Bulafu Yusuf Ali**
Dialogue Programs Coordinator
SOMA Foundation
UGANDA
- Serra Kazan**
B.A. in Public Health
Texas A&M University
USA

Footer: JWFoundation_ | jwfglobal | JWF | www.jwf.org | www.jwfacademy.org

World Interfaith Harmony Week

Interfaith Voices for Peace and Justice

Wednesday, February 12

10:00 am

Will be held over Zoom

The **Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF)** is honored to host **Interfaith Voices for Peace and Justice**, a virtual panel discussion in celebration of **World Interfaith Harmony Week**. This dynamic conversation will bring together leaders from diverse faith traditions to foster mutual understanding, meaningful dialogue, and collaborative action. The panel will explore pressing local

and global challenges, highlighting faith-based approaches to promoting peace, justice, and human rights. Through shared experiences and best practices, panelists will showcase the transformative power of interfaith dialogue in building more inclusive and resilient communities.

Moderated by **Ashley Kitisya (Kenya)** and **Ayuba Bazam (Nigeria)**, the discussion will feature distinguished speakers **Spozhmey Munir (USA)**, **Bulafu Yusuf Ali (Uganda)**, and **Serra Kazan (USA)**, who will share their insights on strengthening institutions, advancing justice, and leveraging digital platforms to amplify interfaith collaboration. We invite you to be part of this crucial conversation on, register using the button below and join us in shaping a more peaceful and just world!

[Click Here to Register](#)

CALL TO COURAGE: INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR SANCTUARY

SAVE THE DATE



Photo by Angela James.

Join the Episcopal Diocese of New York for an evening of unity and hope. Gather with people of all faiths to support sanctuary seekers and affirm our commitment to safe, welcoming communities. Email info@dioceseny.org for details.

**Cathedral Church of
St. John the Divine**

02.12.2025

7:00-8:30 PM

Sanctuary Site Solidarity Gathering

Call to Courage: Interfaith Vigil for Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 12

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Cathedral of St. John the Divine (1047 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10025)

The Episcopal Diocese of New York invites you to a powerful evening of unity and hope. This in-person event will bring together people of all faiths to stand in solidarity and support for those seeking sanctuary. Coming together to show our courage and affirm our commitment to safe and welcoming communities.

If you have any questions please reach out to info@dioceseny.org.

JOIN US

Bricks and Mortals Networking Event!



Meet and connect with other faith leaders and members of the real estate community in New York City.

Date & Time

27 February 2025

5.30 PM – 7.30 PM

Location

Congregation Beit
Simchat Torah

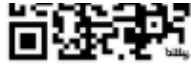
130 W. 30th Street

New York, NY 10001

RSVP



Members join for free



Thanks to our generous sponsors



PUBLIC DEMOCRACY
AMERICA



Faith Leader and Real Estate Community Networking Opportunity

Bricks and Mortals Networking Event

Thursday, February 27

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (130 W. 30th Street, New York, NY 10001)

Join **Bricks and Mortals** for an exciting evening of networking, bringing together faith leaders and key members of New York City's real estate community. Tickets are \$50, but entry is free for Bricks and Mortals members. Members of the faith community who are not yet part of their network can attend for a reduced fee of \$10—request a discount code at info@bricksandmortals.org.

Bricks and Mortals is a citywide interfaith organization dedicated to supporting faith-based organizations as they navigate New York City's complex real estate landscape. They provide the knowledge, connections, and advocacy needed to manage properties, adapt to changing realities, build resilience, and take charge of their legacy. If you're interested in sponsoring this event, reach out to info@bricksandmortals.org.

[Click Here to Register](#)

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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