



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

Dear Friend,

Members of ICNY's Equipping Houses of Worship network will have seen the below recommendations for organizing neighborhood-by-neighborhood in advance of possible Federal Law Enforcement activity in New York City. These include:

- **Sign up and join the [Hands-Off Network](#).** In particular, we encourage faith leaders to host or join a community event on the [Hands-Off Day of Action on November 15th](#).
- **Attend a nonviolent civil disobedience training co-sponsored by ICNY, The Beacon, Riverside Church, and Hands-Off New York on November 20th from 10 AM - Noon at an Upper West Side location.** [Please Register Here](#) and share with other clergy and lay leaders. This training is designed to equip diverse faith leaders with the tools for nonviolent civil disobedience (NCD) and other organizing and rapid response skills. It does not common participants to a particular NCD action.
- **Register for ICNY's Dec. 4th Social Justice Conference: [Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism Conference](#).** The conference will explore past and present examples of faith community resistance to authoritarian rule. See below for further details and registration information.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director

[Donate](#)

ICNY PROGRAMS

Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism

RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD.



Photo: Harris & Ewing Collection at the Library of Congress

Conference for Faith Leaders and Concerned NYers
December 4, 2025 • 475 Riverside Drive



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

UNION



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
The People's Church



The Beacon



INTERFAITH ALLIANCE
ACHIEVING HUMANITY TOGETHER

*Scan to learn more and register
or visit bit.ly/relig-resist*



People of All Faiths and None Stand Together!

Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism

Thursday, December 4th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
At the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive

Please join [the Interfaith Center of New York](#), [Union Theological Seminary](#), [Riverside Church](#), [The Beacon](#), and [the Interfaith Alliance](#) on Thursday, December 4, to explore past and present examples of faith community resistance to authoritarian rule. We will learn from the experiences of religious leaders and democratic movements around the world, in order to defend American democracy today. The ***Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism*** conference will be 43rd meeting of ICNY's long-running series of social justice conferences and retreats for religious and civic leaders. The conference program will include:

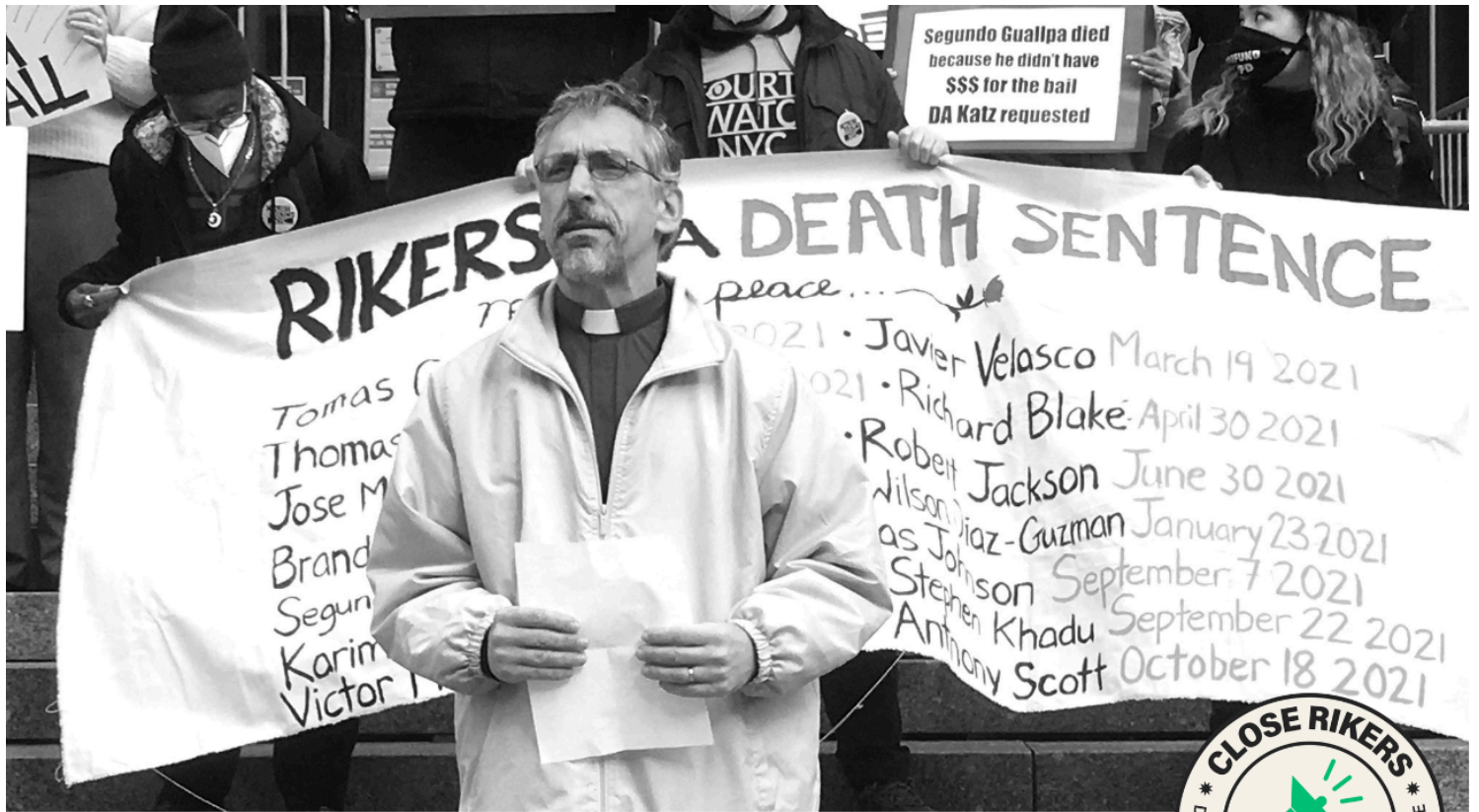
- keynote address by [Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat](#), leading scholar of authoritarianism and bestselling author of [Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present](#)
- panel discussions with faith leaders and scholars, exploring examples of religious resistance with vital lessons for Americans today
- musical performances, featuring songs of resistance and resilience from diverse religious communities
- working groups for relationship-building and practical planning – an opportunity to meet your neighbors and stand together against authoritarianism

All are welcome – we must all do our part! Scan the code or click the button to learn more and register, or go to interfaithcenter.org/religious-resistance.

Whether or not you can join us yourself, please help us bring diverse New Yorkers together. [Click here for a flyer](#) you can share, and click the following links for easy-to-share posts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Threads](#), and [X](#).

Questions about the conference? Please contact ICNY's Director of Programs Dr. Henry Goldschmidt at henry@interfaithcenter.org.

[Learn More and Register](#)



RIKERS ISLAND: AN AFFRONT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERFAITH WITNESS AND ACTION TO CLOSE RIKERS

Join interfaith leaders and organizers on International Human Rights Day to learn about the Campaign to Close Rikers, and next steps toward erasing this moral stain on our city. *Mayor-Elect Mamdani is an invited guest.*

WHEN:

DECEMBER 10, 2025
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

REGISTER



LOCATION:

THE INTERCHURCH CENTER
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK, NY 10115



bit.ly/closerikerspanel



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

Interfaith Witness and Action to Close Rikers

Rikers Island: An Affront to Human Rights

Wednesday, December 10th, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

At the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive

Join the Interfaith Center of New York, Union Theological Seminary, the Campaign to Close Rikers, and faith leaders for an interfaith prayer service and panel that demonstrates witness and action to close Rikers. Hear directly from faith leaders, organizers, and people directly impacted by Rikers about the urgent moral and human rights crisis at hand — and learn about the Campaign to Close Rikers and the next steps toward erasing this moral stain on our city.

In response to years of grassroots organizing, New York City passed a historic plan in 2019 to close the Rikers Island jails — a critical step toward ending mass incarceration, advancing racial justice, reinvesting in communities, and building new approaches to safety and accountability.

Yet despite both the moral imperative and the legal requirement to close the Rikers jails by 2027, the plan has faced delays and resistance. Since its passage, more than 60 people have died in New York City jails or immediately following their release. **Join us to stand in solidarity, deepen your understanding, and take part in the collective effort to move this work forward.**

We have invited Mayor-Elect Mamdani to join us.

[Register Here](#)

OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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

UPHOLDING HUMAN DIGNITY IN TURBULENT TIMES

AN INTERRELIGIOUS CONVENING



NOVEMBER 17-18, 2025

AT

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

3080 BROADWAY (AT 122ND ST.), NEW YORK CITY

Join us for this two-day nonpartisan and interreligious convening to affirm and uphold the many forms of human dignity that are currently threatened.

Registration now available

Learn more »»



Interreligious Convening

Upholding Human Dignity in Turbulent Times

Monday and Tuesday, November 17 and 18, 2025

The Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway

On Monday and Tuesday, November 17 and 18, The Jewish Theological Seminary will bring together religious leaders, scholars, and activists from diverse traditions to explore the urgent imperative of safeguarding human dignity, well-being, and fundamental rights in the face ongoing challenges. All are welcome.

U.S. Senator Chris Coons of Delaware will deliver the keynote address: "Fostering a Just Democracy Through Belief and a Just Democracy Through Belief and Interreligious Engagement," with an introduction by Rabbi Jack Moline.

Bill McKibben, founder of Third Act, will deliver The Henry N. and Selma S. Rapport Memorial Lecture, addressing climate change, emerging technologies, and other threats to human well-being.

Other session topics will include:

- Interfaith Differences and Universal Frameworks
- Borders Within: The Human Impact of Detention, Raids, and Deportation
- Gender, Sexuality, and the Reproductive Freedom
- Hunger, Displacement, and Civilian Suffering
- Healthcare Access as a Human Right
- Religious Ethics and the Dehumanizing Potential of Emerging Technologies
- Fostering Dialogue and Unity for Dignity and Democratic Preservation

Learn more and register at jtsa.edu/event/upholding-human-dignity, or click the graphic above or the button below.

[Learn More and Register](https://jtsa.edu/event/upholding-human-dignity)



Faith Meets Action

Faith-Based Organizing in the Age of Authoritarianism

Sunday, November 23, 2025

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

15 Rutherford Place, NYC

How can people of diverse faiths unite against Christian Nationalism, Zionism, and Neo-Fascism? How can we build a shared future rooted in justice, labor rights, and real democracy?

Faith has long been a driving force for social change — except when captured by oppressive powers. How can interfaith unity spark creative new modes of resistance?

Religion, faith, and spirit can make people unstoppable. The question is: how can we come together now to build a coalition that seizes this historic moment?

Featuring speakers:

- Rabbi Andrué Kahn
- Rev. Frank Morales
- Rev. Juan-Carlos Ruiz
- Author Eileen Flanagan

 Sunday, Nov. 23 · 1–4 PM  15 Rutherford Place, NYC

Join us for a free community event including lunch, speakers, discussion, and activist workshops — with small-group action planning and large-group sharing.

Together, we can change the world.

[Reserve a Spot Here](#)

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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