



**ICNY**  
Interfaith Center of New York

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*In solidarity with Minneapolis, the Blessing of the Marchers took place in NYC on 1/24/26. From left to right: Dr. Fáyemi Opatolá, ICNY's Danielle Williams, The Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Rabbi Stephanie Kolin, The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin, Suffragan Bishop of New York, The Rt. Rev. Larry Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island*

Dear Friend,

Last week, with support from the Episcopal Diocese of New York, I visited Minneapolis with 600 other clergy from around the country at the invitation of a group of local clergy, organized under the name MARCH (Multifaith Antiracism, Change & Healing). I came home wondering if the neighbor-to-neighbor organizing that we witnessed wasn't just "nice" but would also save lives if we had more of it in New York.

During our three days in Minneapolis, we visited impacted churches, walked neighborhood patrol routes, and marched with more than 50,000 people in -10 degree weather. I am sharing some images below.

We learned Minneapolis is a city under siege. There are 3,000 ICE officers to 600 local law enforcement in a city of 430,000. ICE uses battering rams used to break into the homes of legal refugees. At least three members of the Oglala Sioux tribe were picked up in the immigration enforcement dragnet. The Tribal Council issued a reminder: "Tribal citizens are not aliens . . . and are categorically outside immigration jurisdiction." Officials abducted a five-year-old and claimed it was to keep the child safe from the cold.

At each church and community center we visited, the sound of whistles and horns marking an ICE pick-up were blocks away. And as we prepared to go home on Saturday morning, we heard news that Alex Pretti, an ER nurse and US citizen, had been shot.

Local faith leaders from MARCH reminded us that the figure quoted in [Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict](#) - 3.5% of the population - is a misleading number when it comes to what is necessary for a successful resistance. The Minnesota MARCH leaders told us it must be an *organized* 3.5% of people that resist sustainably for years at a time. (In Minnesota, much of the infrastructure for resisting ICE came from what had been created after the murder of George Floyd.)

Minneapolis showed me that effective resistance isn't spontaneous – it's learned, practiced, and disciplined. People don't just show up brave. They show up prepared. Local networks of neighbors not only respond to ICE sightings with whistles and horns, but those same people bring food to families too afraid to leave their homes, walk children to school, and give co-workers rides to work.

"Right now we have a window of time when our public space is still contested--before it closes," said one of the organizers about Minnesota, "It is time to de-escalate conflict between us."

This is true for New Yorkers as well. We have a window of time to get to know our neighbors, to get [rapid response training like the one the one offered by Hands Off NYC tomorrow](#) (see below), to join a community alert group, and to follow up on vulnerable members of our communities. "Community" in this case can be defined as the physical neighborhood you can get to in 15 to 20 minutes time, and where you invest at least 2-3 hours of attention a week.

To learn more, please consider reading accounts from different faith leaders who went to

Minneapolis at the following links:

[Episcopal Priests Share Experiences Protesting as immigration raids continue in Minnesota](#)

[Theology of Showing Up is Making Minneapolis a Holy Place](#)

[Photos: UUs Resist ICE in Minneapolis](#)

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer  
ICNY Executive Director

**Donate**







# ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

# Manhattan Training Jan 31<sup>st</sup> // 12-4 PM

**Know your rights! Get the tools, know-how,  
and community you need to take action and  
protect your neighbors.**

**HANDS  
OFF  
NYC**

The logo for Hands Off NYC features a stylized illustration of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown, positioned between the words 'OFF' and 'NYC'. The background of the entire graphic is a faded, yellow-tinted photograph of a busy city street with cars and buildings.

**Hands Off NYC**

## **Manhattan Borough-Wide Training**

**January 31th, 12:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Location will be shared after registration**

Important: previous wait list members have received first notice of this training. If this event is at capacity, sign up to be on the waitlist for the next training here: <https://forms.gle/DKCu99rDsMN66bqD7>

Across the country, we're watching a coordinated push toward authoritarian rule gain speed, and attacks on peaceful bystanders escalate and turn deadly. Trump and his allies are openly laying out a plan that includes mass deportations, sweeping civil rights reversals, politicized courts, and direct assaults on our cities. We don't have to wait for these threats to become reality. We have the power to intervene now—but it requires all of us choosing long-term, community-based organizing.

Join HandsOffNYC for a 4-hour Manhattan-wide mass training designed to plug you in, power you up, and connect you with neighbors who are ready to get involved. These sessions will give you the tools, know-how, and community you need to take action and protect your neighbors.

We will go over what's happening, offer skills training like know your rights, ICE watch, how to organize and mobilize, and we will break into neighborhoods so you can connect with your neighbors and start getting organized. (Please only sign up if you're based in Manhattan -- more trainings coming soon!)

This training will take place on the Upper West side. Come build skills, make connections, and move forward together.

Hands Off NYC brings together unions, community groups, and faith leaders committed to protecting our city from federal intervention.

A core principle behind all Hand Off NYC events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values. We expect hosts to ensure all participants in your event uphold this commitment. We recommend all participants review Indivisible's safety and security resources before any event: <https://indivisi.org/safety>

Register Here



**ICNY**  
Interfaith Center of New York



Religion and Education  
**Collaborative**

# TEACHING TOGETHER NETWORK

*K-12 Religious Literacy  
for an Interconnected World*

Online Workshop for K-12 Teachers

## Teaching African American Religious Diversity

Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 - 8:30 pm ET

Online, Free, and Open to All

[Click Here to Register](#)

K-12 teachers and other religious literacy educators are invited to join us for a Black History Month workshop, **Teaching African-American Religious Diversity: Black Jewish, Buddhist, and Lukumi Perspectives.**

A panel of Black faith leaders will explore the often-overlooked diversity of religious life within African American communities. Panelists will briefly introduce their traditions, sharing core beliefs, historical roots, the role of faith in everyday life, and practical strategies for teaching about Black religious diversity. Our speakers will include:



**Rabbi Heather Miller**  
The Multitudes



**Rev. James Lynch**  
Rissho Kosei Kai & Buddhist Council of NY



**Iyalorisha Amma Oloriwaa!**  
Egbe Iwa Rites of Passage Program

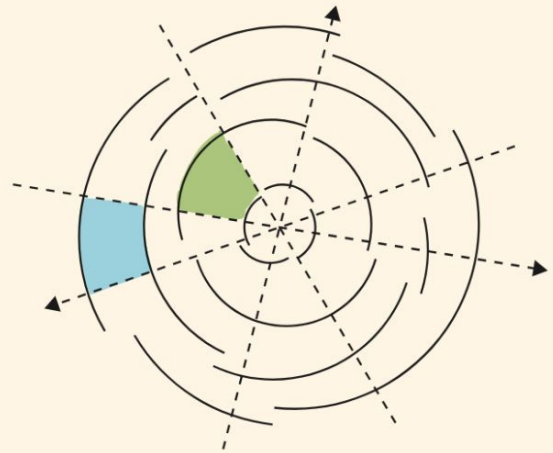
# RESTORATIVE POWER

# INTERFAITH COHORT-BASED TRAINING

February 23 and 24, 10 am - 4 pm  
at the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive

With Monthly Convenings to Continue Through the Spring

Faith communities are sites of deep meaning—and real conflict. This interfaith, skills-based training is designed for faith leaders and faith-based activists seeking practical tools rooted in restorative justice frameworks.



Scan to Learn More and Apply



restorative  
justice  
initiative



ICNY  
Interfaith Center of New York

## Essential Skills for Faith Leaders

# Restorative Power: Interfaith Cohort Based-Training

February 23 and 24, 10 am - 6 pm

The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive

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

Faith communities are sites of deep meaning—and real conflict. This interfaith, skills-based training is designed for faith leaders and faith-based activists seeking practical conflict-resolution tools grounded in restorative justice frameworks. Participants will strengthen their capacity to:

- Respond to harm, tension, and rupture in congregations and faith-based organizations
- Facilitate difficult conversations with clarity, accountability, and care
- Support congregants and staff who feel marginalized, alienated, or harmed by faith communities
- Navigate power ethically and foster trust across difference

The training is cosponsored by ICNY and the [Restorative Justice Initiative](#). It is open to clergy, lay leaders, and faith-based activists in all traditions, as well as those serving in interfaith or pluralistic contexts. The training is rooted in ritual, reflective practice, and dialogue, sharing restorative approaches that leaders can bring back to their communities. Upon completion, participants will receive:

- Access to RJI practitioners' open hours for continued consultation
- Eligibility for a community stipend to support facilitating restorative circles
- Certificate of completion, and a book for continued learning

Please join us on February 23 & 24 to build restorative leadership skills that support dignity, accountability, and collective healing in spiritual life and organizational leadership. [Click HERE](#) or click the button above to learn more and apply by Friday, February 6th.



**ICNY**  
Interfaith Center of New York

**NEW YORK**  
**LAW SCHOOL**



*Save the Date for*

# Legal Ethics and Moral Values: Bringing Personal Authenticity to Professional Practice

Half-Day Continuing Legal Education Conference  
Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

At New York Law School,  
185 West Broadway, in Lower Manhattan

Conference for Attorneys and the General Public

## Legal Ethics and Moral Values: Bringing Personal Authenticity to Professional Practice

**Save the Date: Tuesday, March 24**

**Registration Coming Soon**

How should an attorney's personal sense of morality — including their religious and/or secular values — influence their decision-making in the practice of law? And what are the appropriate limits of that influence? To what extent can an attorney follow the dictates of conscience, while maintaining a client-centered legal practice in a religiously and culturally diverse society?

Please join the Interfaith Center of New York and New York Law School on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, to explore the intersection of personal, professional, and religious ethics in legal practice. The conference will feature a keynote dialogue between **Professor Russell Pearce** and **Judge Asim Rehman** – a legal scholar who has advocated for the importance of religious values in the practice of law, and a jurist and public servant who is a cofounder of the Muslim Bar Association of New York. Following the keynote, a panel of attorneys in a range of practice areas will discuss the relationship between professional ethics and personal values, and an interactive workshop will help participants explore best practices for attorneys representing religiously diverse clients.

The conference will be held at New York Law School's Abbey Hall, 185 West Broadway, in Tribeca, New York. All are welcome, and CLE credits will be available for New York State

attorneys. Detailed info and registration coming soon — meanwhile please contact ICNY's Director of Programs Dr. Henry Goldschmidt at [henry@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:henry@interfaithcenter.org).

# Multifaith Mondays

Columbus Circle, Every Monday, 5:30-6:00 pm

## Witness for Democracy



**People of all faiths and none, join us for prophetic resistance and community-building in a time of deep division and threat to our shared democratic values.**



Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/multifaith-mondays](https://bit.ly/multifaith-mondays) to learn more, join our email list, or express interest in



speaking at a vigil.

**Make Your Voice Heard**

## **Multifaith Mondays: Moral Witness for Democracy**

**Every Monday, 5 :30 - 6:00 pm**

**Columbus Circle (gather at the USS Maine Monument on the SW corner of Central Park)**

Since Monday, March 3rd, faith leaders and community members have gathered each week at Columbus Circle, to stand in solidarity and bear moral witness for democracy. Each vigil, held from 5:30 to 6:00 PM at the USS Maine Monument on the southwest corner of Central Park, is hosted by a different faith community or interfaith coalition. Through prayer, song, and collective presence, we affirm the power of spiritual resilience in the face of challenges to democratic values.

These gatherings serve as a space for reflection, connection, and public witness, reminding us of the shared moral responsibility across faith traditions to uphold justice and human dignity. If your house of worship or community organization would like to host a Monday vigil, [please sign up here](#). We invite all to join in this weekly call for unity and action.

Sponsors Include: **The Interfaith Center of New York | Union Theological Seminary | The Jewish Theological Seminary | Episcopal Diocese of New York | The Riverside Church | T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights | The BeaconNYC**

**[Click Here to Fill Out Interest Form](#)**

## **OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

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

# **& RESILIENCE**

LIFTING EVERY VOICE



**SATURDAY  
FEB, 07**

STILL SINGING OF HOPE, UNITY, AND FREEDOM

AT THE BROOKLYN  
COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER  
1561 BEDFORD AVE  
1 PM TO 5 PM

FOOD  
OPEN STAGE  
POETRY WORKSHOP  
RAFFLES & MORE

NYCenter for Advancing Translational Research

**Black Love & Resilience Community Event**

Saturday, February 7th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

**Brooklyn Community Pride Center Crown Heights - 1561 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Join the NYCenter for Advancing Translational Research (The Center) Community Engagement Core on Saturday, February 7, at the Brooklyn Community Pride Center as we partner with CAMBA for Black Love & Resilience, a community gathering honoring National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Hosted by CAMBA, Inc., the event centers Black joy, creativity, and collective care through music, spoken word, reflection, and shared resources, while uplifting HIV awareness, prevention, and stigma-free support.

Dr. Keosha Bond will serve as a panelist and, alongside the P3 team, officially launch the Discover the Pleasure campaign—expanding PrEP awareness and access across New York City through a pleasure-centered, community-driven approach to HIV prevention.

The event will also include free food, HIV and Hep C testing, and a Dress for Success clothing drive.

[Link to Join](#)





NEW YORK State  
Council Of Churches

# ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAYS

February 23 & 24, 2026

23

**Monday, February 23 | 3-7pm**

3-5pm - Advocacy Training and Speaker

5:30-7pm - Light Supper and Reception

24

**Tuesday, February 24 | Advocacy Day**

9-11:30am - Gathering, Speakers, and Policy Ask Information

11:30am - Grab Box Lunches & Press Conference at the Capitol

1-4:30pm - Legislative Visits



scan here to register

or go to:

<https://bit.ly/EAD2026>

Watch [www.nyscoc.org](http://www.nyscoc.org) for more information  
Questions? Call 518-436-9319 or email [office@nyscoc.org](mailto:office@nyscoc.org)  
Snow Date: March 9 & 10

NY State Council of Churches

## **Ecumenical and Interfaith Advocacy Days 2026**

February 23, 2026, 3:00 pm till February 24, 2026 5:00 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church and the NYS Capitol Building, Albany, NY

Join us in Albany to learn from each other and experts and then to visit with law makers to discuss our concerns and policy asks.

The registration fee for Advocacy Days is \$35, but no one will be turned away! To lend your financial assistance, please consider making an additional contribution.

**Please plan ahead for parking! There is a very limited number of spaces in the Westminster Church lot and several groups gathering at the Capital.**

**Plan [parking](#) ahead of time and consider ride-sharing.**

[Click to Learn More](#)

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