

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, August 15, 2025



## Top News

- **National Guard to deploy in DC: What to know**
- **White House Announces More Aggressive Review of Smithsonian Museums**
- **Key facts about the U.S. national debt**
- **How people in 24 countries view India**

## National Guard to deploy in DC: What to know

President Trump on Monday announced plans to deploy some 800 members of the Washington, D.C., National Guard to the nation's capital as part of his administration's effort to crack down on street crime in the city.

Formally declaring a public safety emergency, Trump claimed the deployment is part of a citywide effort to combat violent crime such as homicides, robberies and burglaries – even as such crimes have fallen over the past two years.

"This is liberation day in D.C. and we're going to take our capital back," Trump said at a wide-ranging White House press conference in which he also declared he was putting the city's police department under federal control.

"I'm deploying the National Guard to help reestablish law, order, and public safety in Washington, D.C., and they're going to be allowed to do their job properly."

The move quickly drew the outrage of local and congressional Democratic lawmakers, who decried the move as unnecessary, "unsettling" and a "brazen power grab," even as those in the GOP applauded it.



Continue Reading: [thehill.com](http://thehill.com)



# Americans divided on whether companies should make statements about political, social issues

## 1. White House Announces More Aggressive Review of Smithsonian Museums

At The Washington Post, Janay Kingsberry reports that the White House has announced a sweeping review of exhibitions and operations at eight Smithsonian museums — including the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of African American History and Culture — ahead of America's 250th birthday celebrations in 2026. The action follows President Donald Trump's March 31 executive order to eliminate "divisive narratives" and "improper ideology" across the museums, which has raised concerns about political interference in a traditionally nonpartisan institution. Under the directive, the Smithsonian must begin implementing content changes within 120 days. PRRI research finds that 90% of Americans support efforts to tell the truth about slavery and discrimination.

Continue Reading: [prri.substack.com](https://prri.substack.com)



## Key facts about the U.S. national debt

Even before Congress passed President Donald Trump's major tax and domestic policy legislation, the federal government was on track to spend \$1.9 trillion more this fiscal year than it collected in revenue, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The CBO now projects that the recently signed "megabill," as it's been dubbed, will add nearly \$3.4 trillion more in deficit spending over the next decade.

When the government runs a deficit — that is, when it spends more in a year than it receives in revenue — it makes up the difference by borrowing. That means annual budget deficits add to the national debt, which was almost \$37 trillion as of Aug. 8. While the "megabill" raised the federal debt limit by \$5 trillion to \$41.1 trillion, that's not likely to be enough: The CBO estimates that the nation's debt will exceed \$52 trillion by the end of fiscal 2035.

With all that in mind, here are facts and figures about the national debt. For more about the statutory debt limit, read "Why does the U.S. have a debt limit, anyway?" above.

The nation's debt is considerably bigger than its entire economy. Gross domestic product (GDP), the sum of all goods and services produced by the U.S. economy, was \$30.3 trillion at the end of the second quarter of 2025 (June 30), according to the latest estimate by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). That means the debt, which stood at \$36.2 trillion at the end of the second quarter, was 119.4% of GDP.



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Bishop Yehiel Curry. Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Chicago Synod



# How people in 24 countries view India

People in 24 countries view India slightly more positively than negatively, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Jan. 8–April 26, 2025. A median of 47% across the 24 countries have a favorable opinion of India, while a median of 38% have an unfavorable view. Another 13% do not offer an opinion.

The survey was conducted before an April attack on tourists in India-controlled Kashmir led to fighting between India and Pakistan, and before U.S. President Donald Trump announced increased tariffs on goods imported from India.

In roughly half of the surveyed countries, more people have a positive view of India than a negative one. Opinion is highly favorable in Kenya, the United Kingdom and Israel, where six-in-ten or more say they have a favorable opinion of India. Majorities in Germany, Japan, Indonesia and Nigeria also say they have a favorable view of the country.

Opinion is most negative in Turkey and Australia, where over half say they have an unfavorable view of India. Views also lean more negative than positive in Argentina and Brazil. And in some countries, including the U.S. and South Korea, opinion of India is roughly evenly divided.

Since we last asked this question, views of India have grown more favorable in several countries and less favorable in a few. In South Africa, where respondents have typically expressed more critical views of India, 46% say they have a favorable view. That is a record high since we first asked the question in 2008 and up 17 percentage points since 2023. In fall 2023, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an intention to strengthen ties with African nations such as South Africa. And in 2024, the India-South Africa Chamber of Commerce launched with the goal of deepening economic relations.

Across a few European nations, favorability of India has ticked up, including by double digits in France and Germany. We asked about favorability of India as recently as last year in the Asia-Pacific region. In Indonesia and Australia, views have not changed significantly. In South Korea, though, favorability has fallen by 16 points from 2024 and is now at its lowest point since we first asked the question in 2007. The 2025 survey took place after India reopened its embassy in North Korea in December 2024.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a press conference in August 2024. (Artur Widak/NurPhoto via Getty Images)



North Dakota Democratic Rep. Collette Brown is seen on May 1, 2025, during a bill signing in Memorial Hall of the state Capitol in Bismarck, N.D. (AP Photo/Jack Dura, File)

Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org)

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25-28 SEPTEMBER



# CJC2025

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**OVERCOMING OPPRESSION**

**Biblically Dismantling Abuses of Power**

### SPEAKERS



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**NOTE:**

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Conscience & Justice Council  
Convention**

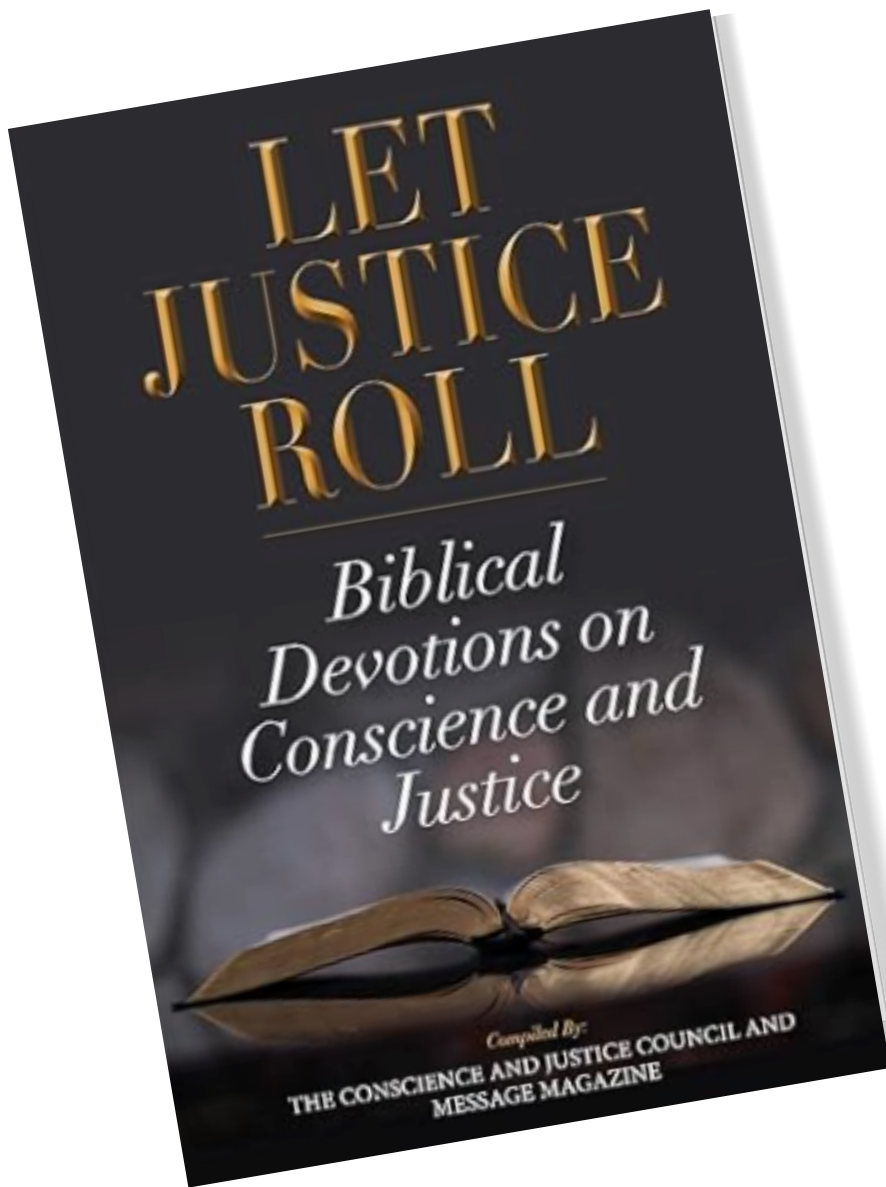
**KEY DATES**

**Apply By:** August 1st, 2025

**Submit By:** August 31st, 2025

**Expo:** September 28th, 2025





## Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

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## OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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