

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, November 21, 2025



Top News

- Pope Leo calls out 'extremely disrespectful' treatment of migrants in the U.S.
- Ousted Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina sentenced to death for crimes against humanity
- Trump calls for ABC broadcast licenses to be revoked after reporter's question
- State department to cut 38 universities from research program over DEI policies
- How Do Americans View Childhood Vaccines, Vaccine Research and Policy?

Pope Leo calls out 'extremely disrespectful' treatment of migrants in the U.S.

Pope Leo XIV said he is troubled by the violent and at times "extremely disrespectful" ways migrants have been treated in the United States.

The Pope made his remarks while answering questions from journalists at Castel Gandolfo, the papal vacation residence outside Rome.

"We have to look for ways of treating people humanely, treating people with the dignity that they have. If people are in the United States illegally, there are ways to treat that. There are courts. There's a system of justice," the Pope said.

"No one has said that the United States should have open borders," the Pope continued. "I think every country has the right to determine who enters, how, and when."

However, he added, "when people have lived good lives—many of them for 10, 15, 20 years—treating them in a way that is, to say the least, extremely disrespectful, and with instances of violence, is troubling."

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Pope Leo XIV presides over a Mass in St. Peter's Square. (Gregorio Borga / AP)

Ousted Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina sentenced to death for crimes against humanity

Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina has been sentenced to death in absentia by a court in Dhaka for crimes against humanity over a deadly crackdown on a student-led uprising last year.

A three-judge bench of the country's international crimes tribunal convicted Hasina of crimes including incitement, orders to kill and inaction to prevent atrocities as she oversaw a crackdown on anti-government protesters last year.

Reading the verdict to the court, Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder said the "accused prime minister committed crimes against humanity by her order to use drones, helicopters and lethal weapons" against civilians.

Hasina had pleaded not guilty to the charges and alleged the tribunal was a "politically motivated charade".



Moment Bangladesh tribunal sentences Sheikh Hasina to death for crimes against humanity – video

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Trump calls for ABC broadcast licenses to be revoked after reporter's question

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that broadcasting licenses used by affiliates of Walt Disney's (DIS.N) ABC should be "taken away" after he disagreed with a question posed by a reporter for the network.

Trump made the comment after a reporter for ABC News asked Trump about the Jeffrey Epstein political scandal during an Oval Office event with the Saudi crown prince.

"I think the license should be taken away from ABC, because your news is so fake and it's so wrong," Trump said. Trump's comments were his latest effort to pressure regulators to target a media outlet that has drawn his ire but to date he has had little success.

Trump praised Federal Communications Commission Chair Brendan Carr, whom he had tapped to lead the agency in January. "He should look at that," Trump said of removing the licenses.

Carr visited with Trump in Florida this weekend, according to a social media post from Carr.

It was the second time in recent months that ABC has been in Trump's cross-hairs.

Trump in September praised Republican Carr after he pressured broadcasters to take ABC late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel off air after Kimmel made comments about the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Trump also suggested that broadcasters' licenses should be taken away.



Continue Reading apple.news

Trump calls for ABC broadcast licenses to be revoked

State department to cut 38 universities from research program over DEI policies



State department offices are connected with academic researchers by the Diplomacy Lab to conduct semester-long projects on foreign policy challenges. Photograph: José Luis Magaña/AP.

The state department is proposing to suspend 38 universities including Harvard and Yale from a federal research partnership program because they engage in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) hiring practices, according to an internal memo and spreadsheet obtained by the Guardian.

The memo, dated 17 November, recommends excluding institutions from the Diplomacy Lab – a program that pairs university researchers with state department policy offices – if they “openly engage in DEI hiring practices” or set DEI objectives for candidate pools.

Elite institutions including Stanford University, Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, Duke University and the University of Southern California are among those marked for suspension, effective 1 January 2026. Other targeted schools include American University, George Washington University, Syracuse University and several University of California campuses.

The Diplomacy Lab, authorized in 2013, connects state department offices with academic researchers to conduct semester-long projects on foreign policy challenges, according to an [archived version](#) of the website. The program provides universities with real-world research opportunities while offering the department access to academic expertise and potential recruits.

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How Do Americans View Childhood Vaccines, Vaccine Research and Policy?

- A majority of Americans (63%) are highly confident that childhood vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness. And majorities say these vaccines protect both vaccinated children (69%) and the wider community (65%), though larger shares of Democrats than Republicans hold these views.
- By comparison, smaller shares of U.S. adults – and Republicans in particular – are extremely or very confident that childhood vaccines have gotten enough safety testing (53%) or that the vaccine schedule is safe (51%).
- Overwhelming majorities of both Democrats (92%) and Republicans (78%) say the benefits of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine outweigh the risks. Still, among Republicans, this share is down from 91% in 2016.
- Republican support for MMR vaccine school requirements also continues to slip, from 79% in 2019 to 52% today.
- Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say medical scientists should have a major role in childhood vaccine policy decisions. In turn, Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say parents of young children should have a major role.

Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](#)



A 4-year-old boy picks out a bandage before getting vaccinated in San Jose, California, in 2022. (Jane Tyska/Digital First Media/The Mercury News via Getty Images)

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IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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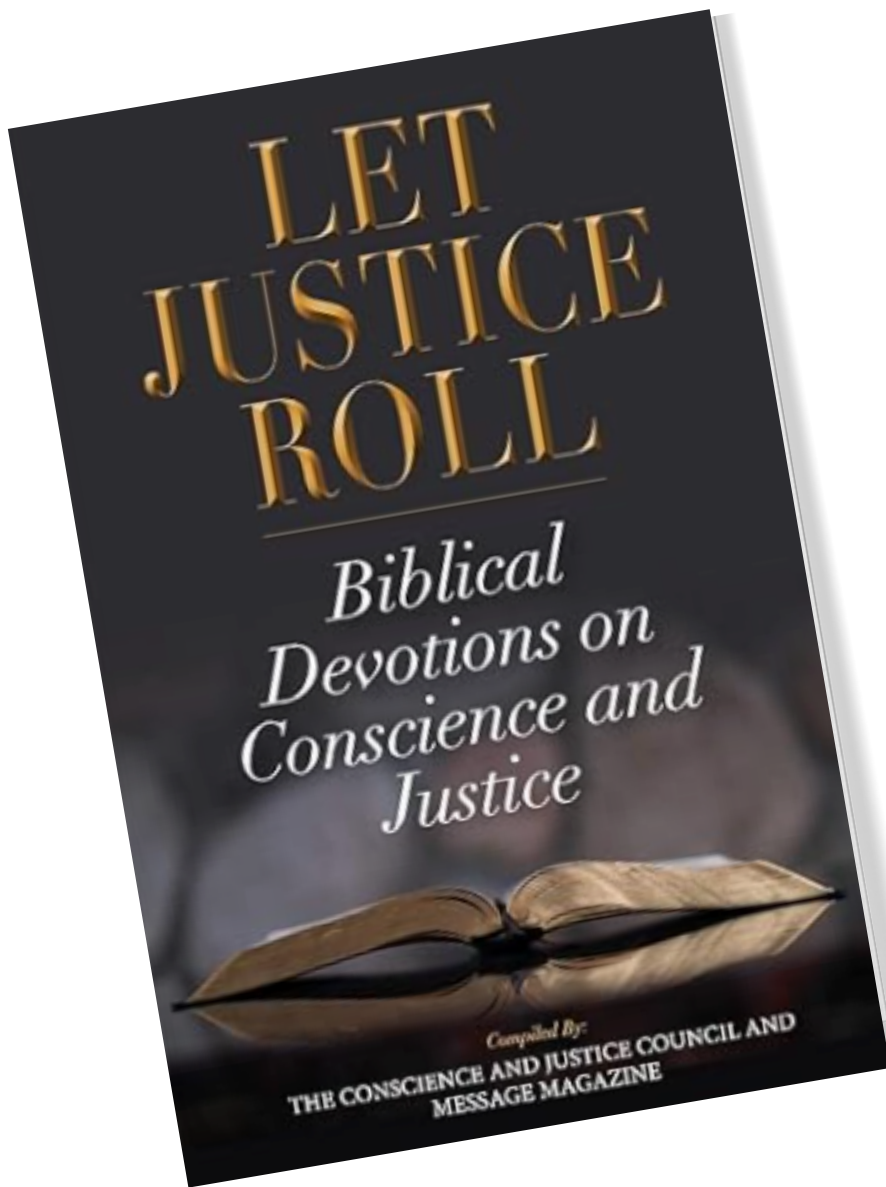
PANELISTS

**FRIDAY
NOV 21** | **8 P.M. EDT
7 P.M. CDT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnDjWGEal4Y>

WATCH VIDEO





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.

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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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