

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, June 20, 2025



Top News

- **Rising Number of U.S. Households Are Headed by Married Same-Sex Couples**
- **Minnesota shooting draws attention to Bible school with ties to Christian nationalists**
- **US supreme court upholds Tennessee ban on youth gender-affirming care**
- **Trump orders increase in migrant deportations**

Rising Number of U.S. Households Are Headed by Married Same-Sex Couples

Ten years after the Supreme Court's ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, a Pew Research Center survey finds that two-thirds of LGBTQ adults say the decision made the country more accepting of same-sex couples.

Since 2015, the number of households headed by same-sex married couples in the United States has risen steadily from 425,357 to 774,553 in 2023, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.¹

The number of households headed by same-sex cohabiting couples has also risen over this period. It started at 433,539 in 2015 and increased to 536,894 by 2023.

Despite these increases, same-sex married couples represent a very small share of all married couples – just 1.3% in 2023. Same-sex cohabiting couples account for 5.6% of all cohabiting couples. (Read a demographic profile of same-sex couples below.)

Our accompanying survey finds that while love and companionship are top reasons for same-sex couples to get married, a majority of adults with a same-sex spouse also say legal rights and benefits are a major reason.

Continue Reading: pewresearch.org



Minnesota shooting draws attention to Bible school with ties to Christian nationalists

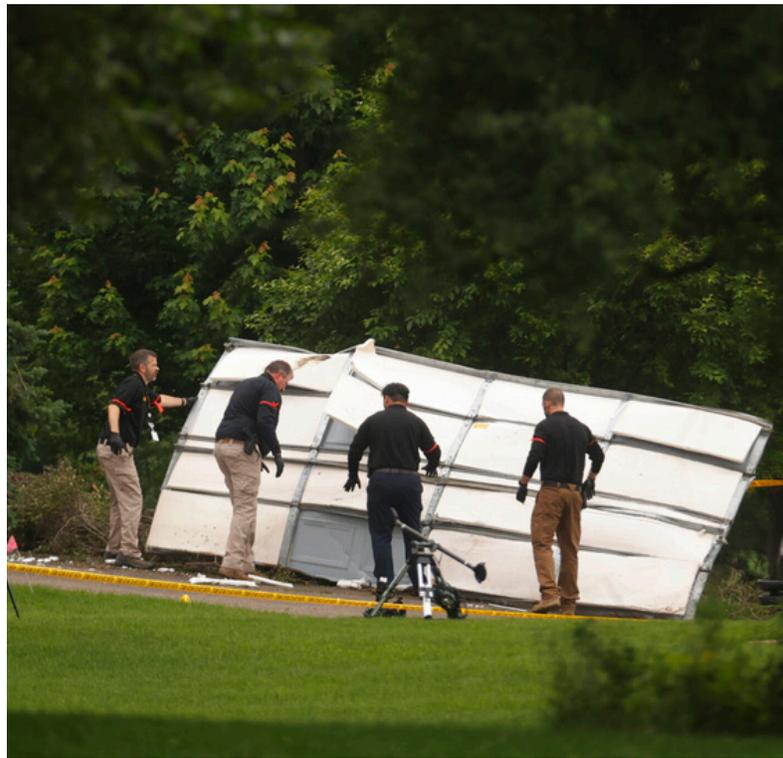
In the Buick sedan Vance Boelter left on a rural road outside Minneapolis, law enforcement found a letter addressed to the FBI identifying himself as “the shooter at large in Minnesota.”

Police have also found a Ford SUV belonging to Boelter, filled with weapons, notebooks full of website names and other resources suggesting he stalked his victims, and a list of some 70 politicians that authorities say he also targeted.

But nowhere have they found an explanation for why Boelter allegedly killed state lawmaker Melissa Hortman and her husband and wounded two others, according to federal charges brought by the Department of Justice Monday (June 16).

While some, including Utah Sen. Mike Lee, have tried to tie the killings to radical left elements (“This is what happens When Marxists don’t get their way,” Lee posted on social media), others have portrayed Boelter as a Christian nationalist.

Continue Reading: [religionnews.com](https://www.religionnews.com)



FILE - Investigators move debris from the home of Democratic former House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, who were shot and killed earlier in the day, June 14, 2025, in Brooklyn Park, Minn. (AP Photo/Bruce Kluckhohn)

US supreme court upholds Tennessee ban on youth gender-affirming care

A Tennessee state law banning gender-affirming care for minors can stand, the US supreme court has ruled, a devastating loss for trans rights supporters in a case that could set a precedent for dozens of other lawsuits involving the rights of transgender children.

The case, United States v Skrametti, was filed last year by three families of trans children and a provider of gender-affirming care. In oral arguments, the plaintiffs – as well as the US government, then helmed by Joe Biden – argued that Tennessee’s law constituted sex-based discrimination and thus violated the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment. Under Tennessee’s law, someone assigned female at birth could not be prescribed testosterone, but someone assigned male at birth could receive those drugs.

Tennessee, meanwhile, has argued that the ban is necessary to protect children from what it termed “experimental” medical treatment. During arguments, the conservative justices seemed sympathetic to that concern, although every major medical and mental health organization in the US has found that gender-affirming care can be evidence-based and medically necessary. These groups also oppose political bans on such care.

Continue Reading [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)



Supporters and opponents of transgender rights protest outside the supreme court on 4 December 2024. Photograph: Jacquelyn Martin/AP

How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020



Trump's latest order comes amid a new wave of protests against his immigration policies

US President Donald Trump has ordered an expansion of the detention and deportation of migrants across the country as protests against his policies continue.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump called on federal agencies to "do all in their power" to deliver "the single largest mass deportation programme in history", naming Los Angeles, Chicago and New York as specific targets.

These cities are among the many where large-scale protests have broken out against raids on undocumented migrants since 6 June.

Trump has faced legal challenges and criticism for his response to the protests - particularly his deployment of the military to quell the demonstrations.

Trump said he had directed the "entire administration to put every resource possible behind this effort". He also promised to prevent "anyone who undermines the domestic tranquility of the United States" from entering the country.

Addressing various federal offices including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice), he wrote "you have my unwavering support. Now go, get the job done!"

The post came a day after a new wave of protests against Trump's policies across the country. On 14 June, the "No Kings" movement demonstrated in cities stretching from Los Angeles to New York. Those demonstrations also coincided with a military parade in Washington DC to mark 250 years of the US army, which was held on the president's 79th birthday.

One person died in a shooting at a No Kings march in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Trump also ordered immigration authorities to focus their efforts on sanctuary cities - those that limit their assistance to federal immigration authorities - which during the protests have become a source of tension between federal and state lawmakers.

[Continue Reading:bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)

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25-28 SEPT.

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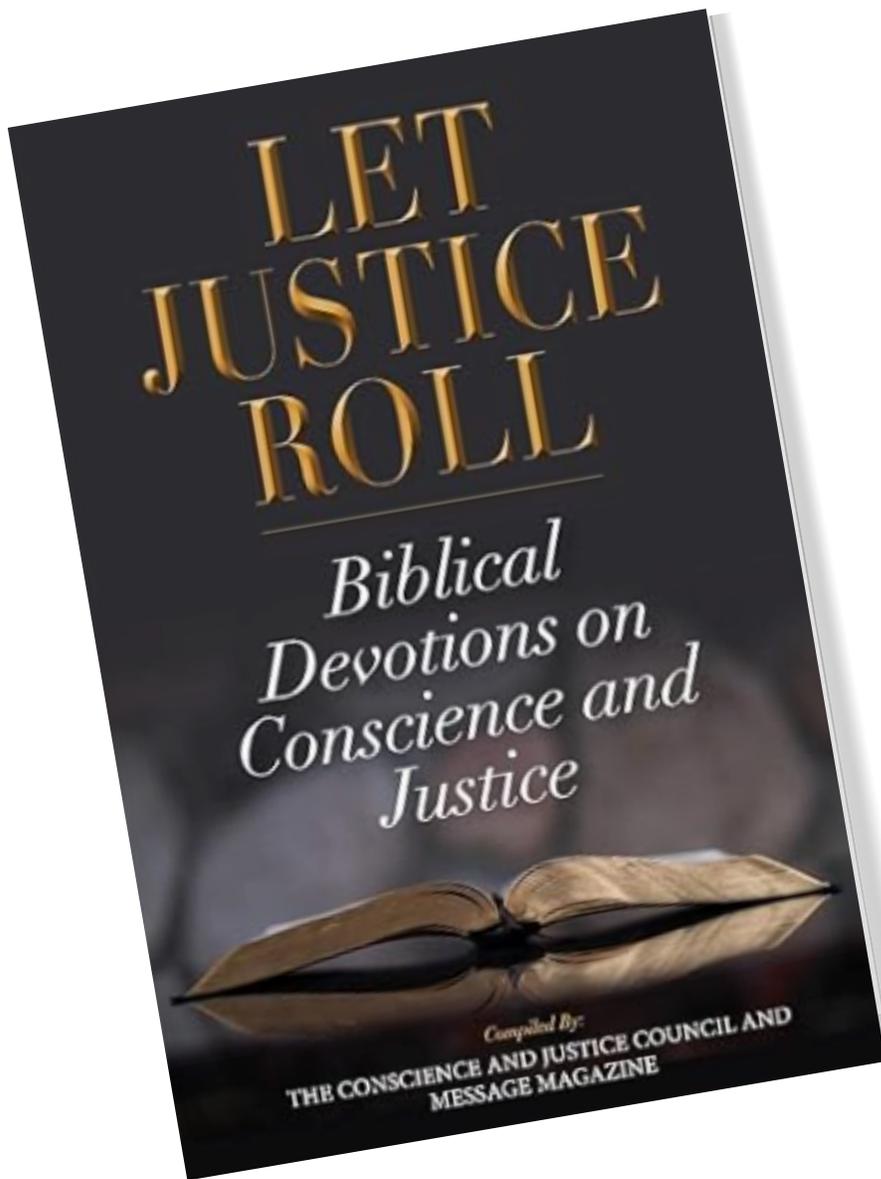
NOTE:
*Must be registered for the
Conscience & Justice Council
Convention*

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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