

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, June 06, 2025



Top News

- Same-Sex Marriage Around the World
- In the nation's capital, a growing Jain community now has its own 'White House'
- Dismissed by DEI: Trump's Purge Made Black Women With Stable Federal Jobs an "Easy Target"
- A headscarf ban in basketball is benching players in France. A new bill could make it law

Same-Sex Marriage Around the World

Since the first same-sex marriages were legally recognized in the Netherlands in 2001, nearly 40 other jurisdictions – mostly in Europe and the Americas – have enacted laws allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry. This year, Thailand and Liechtenstein join the list.

Use the interactive table below to sort the places allowing same-sex marriages by name, region and the year legal same-sex marriage took effect. The table also includes some key facts about the process in each jurisdiction.

Place	Year	Region	Notes
Andorra	2023	Europe	Parliament in the small mountainous country between France and Spain voted to legalize same-sex marriage.
Argentina	2010	Latin America-Caribbean	First country in Latin America to allow gay and lesbian couples to marry.
Australia	2017	Asia-Pacific	Voters supported legalizing same-sex marriage 62% to 38% in a nonbinding nationwide referendum.
Austria	2019	Europe	A court ruling in 2017 eventually led to the change.
Belgium	2003	Europe	Second country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage after its neighbor, the Netherlands.

Continue Reading: pewresearch.org



In the nation's capital, a growing Jain community now has its own 'White House'

After more than a decade of grassroots fundraising efforts, the Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington has officially opened a new community temple complex — a \$14 million white marble marvel located just 15 minutes away from the nation's capital.

"You will see a theme here: White is our color," said Rahul Jain, longtime devotee and head of public relations for the 45-year-old organization. "Everything is white, which symbolizes peace. This Jain center will become a symbol of peace in Washington, D.C."

On the weekend of May 31, thousands of Jain Americans from the capital region and beyond gathered in celebration of the temple's Param Pratishtha — the inauguration ceremony in which divine essence is officially infused into the worship space. Dressed in the sacred colors of yellow and white, families chanted and chatted with loved ones, some breaking their fasts on the auspicious occasion. For 40 years, the community had gathered in a nearby single-family home built in the 1960s, as well as a few elementary school classrooms, to meet its spiritual needs, including a thriving Sunday school program that teaches 170 kids from ages 3 to 16.

Continue Reading: religionnews.com



People attend the Param Pratishtha, or inauguration ceremony, of the new Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington temple complex in Beltsville, Md., Sunday, June 1, 2025. (RNS photo/Richa Karmarkar)

Dismissed by DEI: Trump's Purge Made Black Women With Stable Federal Jobs an "Easy Target"

ProPublica is a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power. Sign up to receive [our biggest stories](#) as soon as they're published.

In February 2020, President Donald Trump's first education secretary issued a memo to employees emphasizing the department's policy "to ensure that diversity, inclusiveness, and respect are integral parts of our day-to-day management and work."

"Diversity and inclusion are the cornerstone of high organizational performance," Betsy DeVos continued, adding that all people were welcome in the Department of Education. The memo ended with a call for employees to "actively embrace" principles of diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI.

As part of that push, Quay Crowner was among the top education officials who enrolled in the "diversity change agent program." Crowner thought little of it at the time. She had over two decades filled director-level human resources roles at several federal agencies, including the IRS and Government Accountability Office, and she'd participated in seminars on leadership and workplace discrimination. But five years later, as Trump entered office a second time, his administration's tune on DEI had changed. Crowner was abruptly placed on leave under Trump's [executive order to dismantle DEI](#) programs across the federal government.



Dismissed by DEI: Trump's Purge Made Black Women With Stable Federal Jobs an "Easy Target"

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A headscarf ban in basketball is benching players in France. A new bill could make it law



President Trump speaks to reporters in the Oval Office about the travel ban and other issues.
Brendan Smialowski/AFP

President Trump is banning travelers from 12 countries and partially restricting travelers from seven others, starting on Monday, June 9, a measure he said was necessary for national security.

Trump had campaigned on a promise to restore the first-term travel ban that he had put in place for Muslim-majority countries, and said on Thursday that the measure "can't come soon enough.

"We want to get them out. We want to get them out now. We don't want to have other bad people coming into our country," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

The White House said the countries on the new list lacked screening and vetting capabilities.

Here is the list of countries affected by the ban

The full ban applies to foreign nationals from Afghanistan, Myanmar (Burma), Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

The partial ban applies to people from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Trump announced he had signed the measure on in a video statement posted on social media on Wednesday night. He said the firebombing attack in Boulder, Colo., underscored why the ban was needed.

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

See more: [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com)

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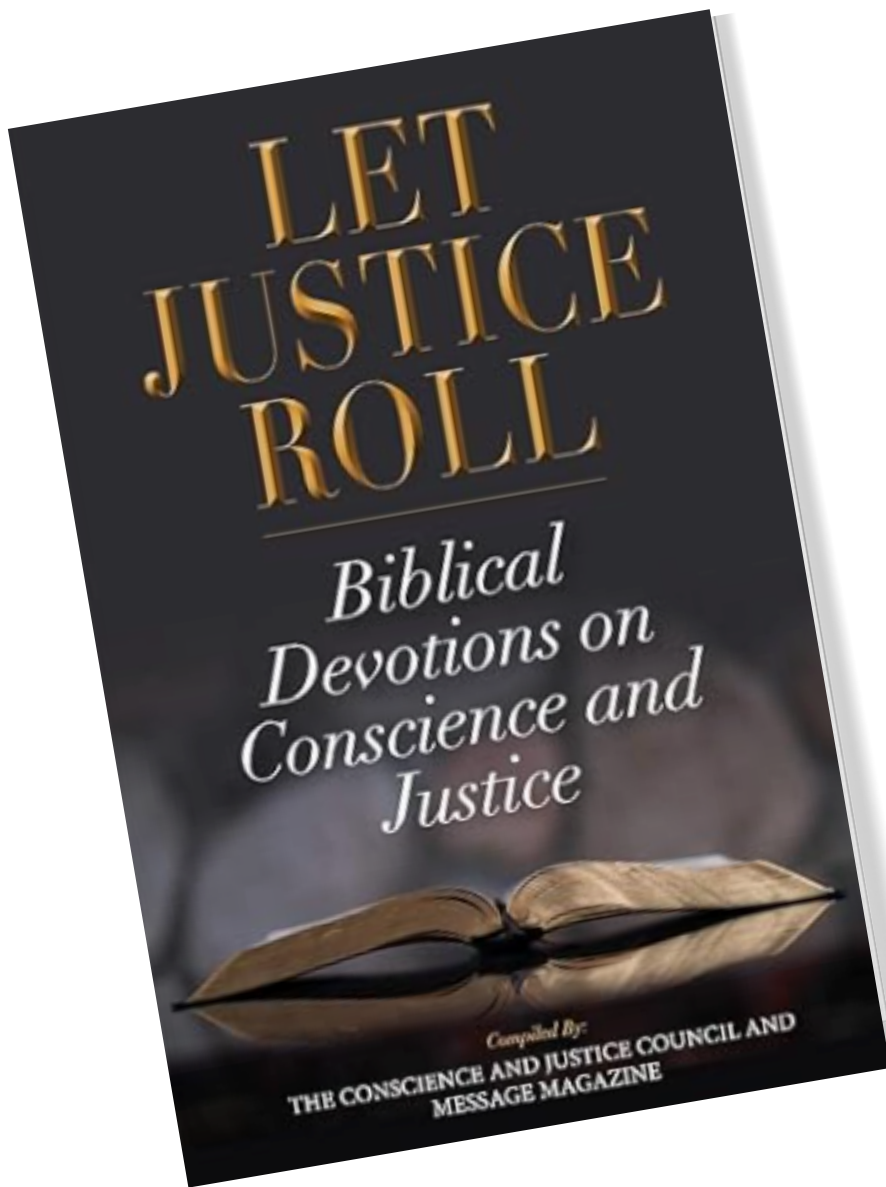
**Must be registered for the
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KEY DATES

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.

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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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