

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, March 21, 2025



Top News

- America's Christian Right Is Coming to the U.K.
- DOGE raids nonprofit advocating for peace, religious freedom
- LGBTQ Rights Across All 50 States: Key Insights from PRRI's 2024 American Values Atlas
- Why religious leaders are divided on transgender rights
- Tracking the legal battles faith groups are fighting against the Trump administration

America's Christian Right Is Coming to the U.K.

The red-white-and-blue world of Christian nationalism is a fascinating place, but it can also get claustrophobic. After a dozen years of reporting on the subject, I began to feel restless and perhaps at times a little unsafe. When I relocated, temporarily and for family reasons, from the United States to the U.K. in 2021, I therefore welcomed the distance. Though I planned to continue my reporting with regular return trips and a seemingly permanent virtual presence, I felt lighter and more carefree. London was my escape.

We found lodgings through an old friend in the Clerkenwell neighborhood, a jumble of Georgian row houses and converted warehouses that, almost two centuries ago, provided the setting for Charles Dickens's novels *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations* and that now serves as a hub for media, design, and technology firms. It felt as far from MAGA-land as seemed decent to imagine. In those first days after the move, I set off on late-summer morning walks past eclectic restaurants and pub staff sweeping out the remains of the previous evening. I was elated. Here was a faraway perch from which to gain some perspective on the madness back in the homeland.

newrepublic.com



Illustration by Brian Stauffer

DOGE raids nonprofit advocating for peace, religious freedom

The U.S. Institute of Peace filed a lawsuit against the Department of Government Efficiency on Tuesday (March 18), one day after members of DOGE raided the Washington headquarters of USIP, an independent nonprofit created by Congress to engage in peace efforts. The raid came amid the Trump administration's cuts to U.S. foreign aid programs under the direction of President Donald Trump's adviser Elon Musk.

Last month, USIP was mentioned in an executive order on the "reduction of the federal bureaucracy," along with other organizations the president deemed "unnecessary." The document directed USIP leadership to prove compliance with DOGE requirements within 14 days.

USIP's complaint, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, names DOGE representatives, Trump and three recently appointed USIP board members: Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the president of the National Defense University, Peter Garvin. The lawsuit argues that DOGE representatives trespassed and "plundered the offices in an effort to access and gain control of the Institute's infrastructure, including sensitive computer systems."

religionnews.com



People stand outside the headquarters of the United States Institute of Peace, March 18, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks at the launch of the U.S.-Afghan Consultative Mechanism with Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights Rina Amiri, at the U.S. Institute of Peace, in Washington, U.S., July 28, 2022. Andrew Harnik/Pool via REUTERS

LGBTQ Rights Across All 50 States: Key Insights from PRRI's 2024 American Values Atlas

In 2024, PRRI interviewed over 22,000 adults as part of the PRRI American Values Atlas to provide a detailed analysis of the demographic, political, and religious characteristics of LGBTQ Americans. The report also examines public attitudes on LGBTQ rights across all 50 states and the District of Columbia, focusing on support for nondiscrimination protections, opposition to religiously based service refusals, and support for same-sex marriage. Additionally, new survey questions explore views on transgender-related policies, including restrictions on gender-affirming care for minors and ID laws requiring birth-assigned sex.

LGBTQ Americans trend younger, more female, Democratic, and less religious than other Americans.

- More than one-third of LGBTQ Americans are Gen Zers (36%) and millennials (34%), compared with 17% of Generation Xers, 11% of baby boomers, and just 1% of the Silent Generation.
- Gen Z women (23%) and millennial women (19%) identify as LGBTQ at higher rates than their male counterparts (14% and 15%, respectively).
- A plurality of LGBTQ Americans are Democrats (39%) and over half of LGBTQ Americans identify as politically liberal (51%).
- The majority of LGBTQ Americans identify as religiously unaffiliated (52%), twice the rate of the general U.S. population (28%). More than a third of LGBTQ Americans identify with a Christian faith (36%) and 10% are members of non-Christian religions.

prri.org



The Rev. William Barber speaks during an Ash Wednesday demonstration against the Trump administration on Capitol Hill, March 5, 2025, in Washington. (RNS photo/Jack Jenkins)



A crowd listens to the Rev. William Barber during an Ash Wednesday demonstration against the Trump administration on Capitol Hill, March 5, 2025, in Washington. (RNS photo/Jack Jenkins)

Why religious leaders are divided on transgender rights



Pastor Charles McKinzie sings with the choir at Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield, Kansas.
Rose Conlon/NPR

On a recent Sunday morning in this small Kansas town, worshippers gathered for service at Grace United Methodist Church. Sunlight filtered in through stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ.

At the pulpit was Pastor Charles McKinzie.

"I use he/him pronouns," he told congregants, "and I welcome you into this space."

McKinzie, who calls himself a lifelong Republican, grew up in a Protestant church that taught that homosexuality and gender diversity are counter to Christian teachings. He says that prompted a crisis of faith when he came to believe that all humans, no matter their gender identity, are made in the image of God — a belief that has become personal for him.

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

Tracking the legal battles faith groups are fighting against the Trump administration

President Donald Trump remains locked in at least five major lawsuits filed by religious groups during the first two months of his new administration, showing tensions between the White House and the faith-based organizations challenging his agenda.

The latest chapter in the ongoing legal battles unfolded on Monday (March 17), when a [legal report](#) announced the federal government had paid Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Worth more than \$47 million for refugee resettlement work — funds frozen since Trump halted the federal refugee program in January.

The case highlights a sustained faith-based pushback to Trump's actions that began almost immediately after he took office. His efforts to reshape the federal government and dramatically alter immigration policy have been met with religious resistance almost every step of the way — including in the courts.

The payment in Texas was part of a broader outcry against Trump's decision to effectively freeze the refugee program and, in turn, abruptly halt funds — including for [work done before Trump became president](#) — for the groups that partner with the government to resettle refugees once they've arrived in the United States.

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



President Donald Trump waves to the media as he leaves the U.S. Capitol on March 12, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

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TONIGHT!



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Women of Faith
BELIEF BEYOND BARRIERS: HOW FAITH EMPOWERS WOMEN TO LEAD CHANGE

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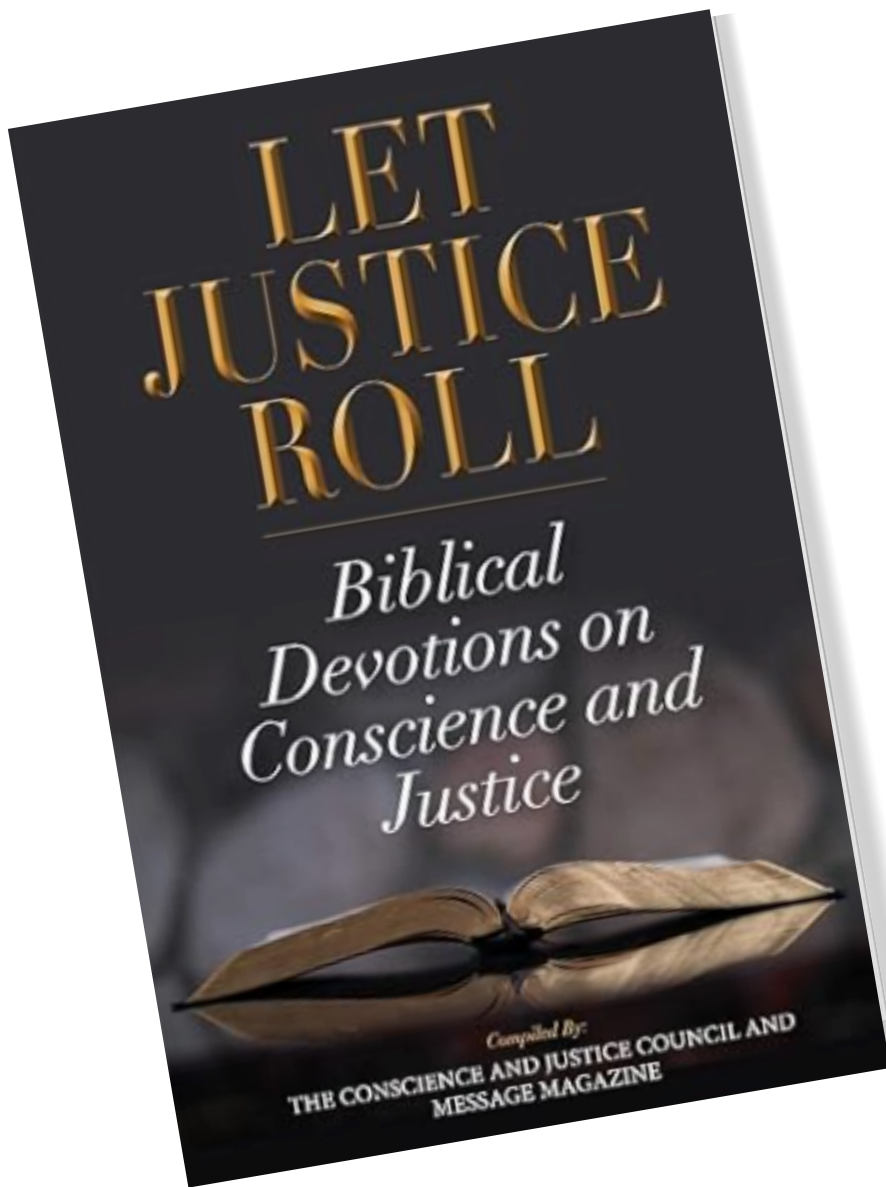
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**FRIDAY
MAR 21 | 8 P.M. EST
7 P.M. CST**

Watch on YouTube

Conscience & Justice Council
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TUNE IN TO
PANEL
DISCUSSION!



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.

Order your copy [HERE](#)



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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