

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, January 31, 2025



## Evangelicals and Immigration Policy

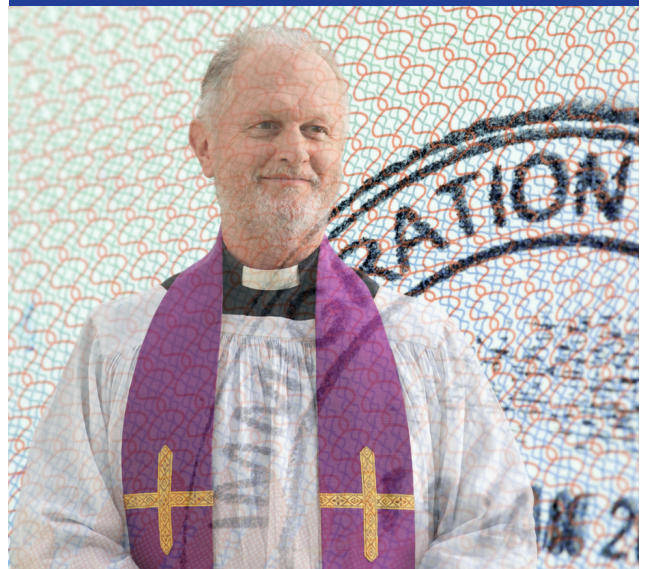
Just over a week into Donald Trump's presidency, several prominent Evangelical Christian organizations, including the National Association of Evangelicals and World Relief, are urging the administration to reconsider its immigration policies. These groups are particularly concerned about two key issues: the suspension of the Refugee Admissions Program, which is largely managed by faith-based organizations, and the end of guidelines preventing immigration officers from entering sensitive locations like churches. Evangelicals, many of whom see a biblical mandate to care for refugees, feel that these changes undermine the U.S.'s ability to protect religious freedom and infringe on the right to worship. However, there is a divide between Evangelical leadership and rank-and-file churchgoers, with many Evangelicals supporting Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Beyond Evangelicals, other faith groups have also expressed concern about Trump's immigration policies. Quaker congregations have filed a federal lawsuit, claiming that enforcement actions hinder their ability to practice their faith freely. Additionally, the Catholic Church, which has been critical of the administration's stance on refugees, is facing its own internal debates.

[npr.org](http://npr.org)

## Top News

- **Evangelicals and Immigration Policy**
- **Comparing Levels of Religious Nationalism Around the World**
- **Key facts about the U.S. Black population**
- **Black ministers denounce Project 2025, urge collective Black resistance**
- **In congregations, fear, misinformation and preparation after ICE policy change**



# Comparing Levels of Religious Nationalism Around the World



In many countries, religion and politics are deeply intertwined. The belief that a country's historically predominant religion should be a central part of its national identity and drive policymaking is sometimes described as "religious nationalism."

A wide range of movements have been described as religious nationalism, including in India, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi has campaigned and governed on the idea that Hindu faith and culture should shape government policies; and in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is backed by a coalition that includes ultra-Orthodox and national religious parties.

But there is no universally accepted definition of religious nationalism, leaving lots of room for debate over who is, say, a Christian nationalist or a Hindu nationalist. This has made it difficult to assess how common such views are around the world.

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

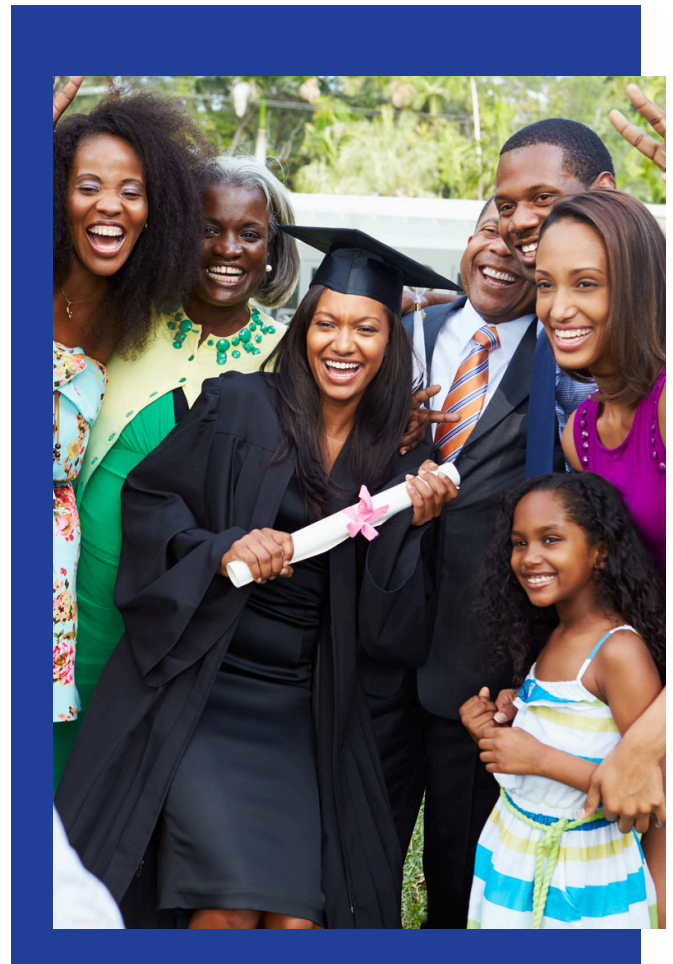
## Key facts about the U.S. Black population

The number of Black people living in the United States reached a new high of 48.3 million in 2023. That's up a third (33%) since 2000, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of government data. This group is diverse, with an increasing number who say they are of two or more races.

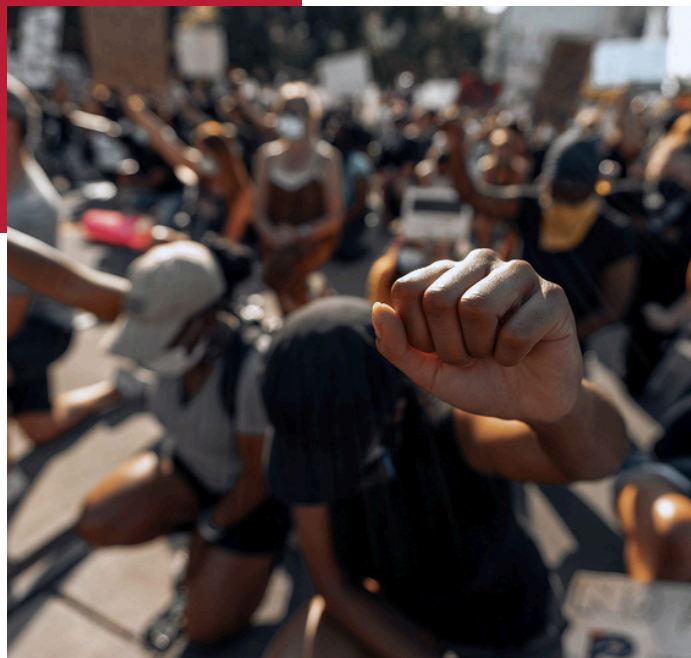
For Black History Month, here are key facts about the nation's Black population. In this analysis, the population includes three main groups: single-race, non-Hispanic Black people; non-Hispanic, multiracial Black people; and Black Hispanics. (The Black Hispanic population is not the same as the Afro-Latino population.) You can also read our updated fact sheet about Black Americans.

1. The Black population in the U.S. has grown by a third since 2000, from 36.2 million then to 48.3 million in 2023.
2. The Black population has grown fastest in states that historically have not had many Black residents.
3. The New York City metropolitan area had more Black residents than any other metro area in 2023.
4. The Black population of the U.S. is relatively young.
5. Educational attainment among Black Americans continues to rise.

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



# Black ministers denounce Project 2025, urge collective Black resistance



(Photo by Clay Banks/Unsplash/Creative Commons)

## In congregations, fear, misinformation and preparation after ICE policy change

By now, some 1 million TikTok users have viewed a video posted on the social media platform last Wednesday (Jan. 22) warning people away from the Manna Food Center distribution at Glenmont United Methodist Church, just outside the nation's capital in Maryland, claiming that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency had been present there.

The problem: It isn't true.

The Rev. Kelly Grimes, pastor of the multicultural church, which shares its sanctuary with Spanish- and French-speaking congregations, told RNS that it took a few days to track down the truth: A man confessed he had spotted what he thought were unmarked law enforcement vehicles and panicked — he had no indication ICE had been there. Another man made the TikTok video, leaving Grimes and food distribution leaders to deal with the fear and fallout.

On the day after President Donald Trump was reelected, the Rev. Joseph Evans, a Berkeley School of Theology professor, wondered, along with some of his colleagues: "What are we going to do now?"

The subsequent collaboration of more than two dozen Black ministers answered with a statement, "A Credo to Legatees of the Black Church Tradition," urging those who were raised in or now run African American congregations to defy white Christian nationalism and take acts of resistance, including investing in Black banks, supporting Black businesses and providing scholarships to help students attend vocational schools and historically Black colleges and universities.

"We believe, Black people should return to the ecumenical Black Church tradition and renew fellowship with their brothers and sisters," the document concludes, "to help fight and resist hegemonic practices which continue to endorse under-resourced public and private funding to abolish human poverty."

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



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers adjust the handcuffs on a detained person, Jan. 27, 2025, in Silver Spring, Md. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



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



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PARL Director, Lake Region



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**25-28 SEPT.**

# **CJC 2025**

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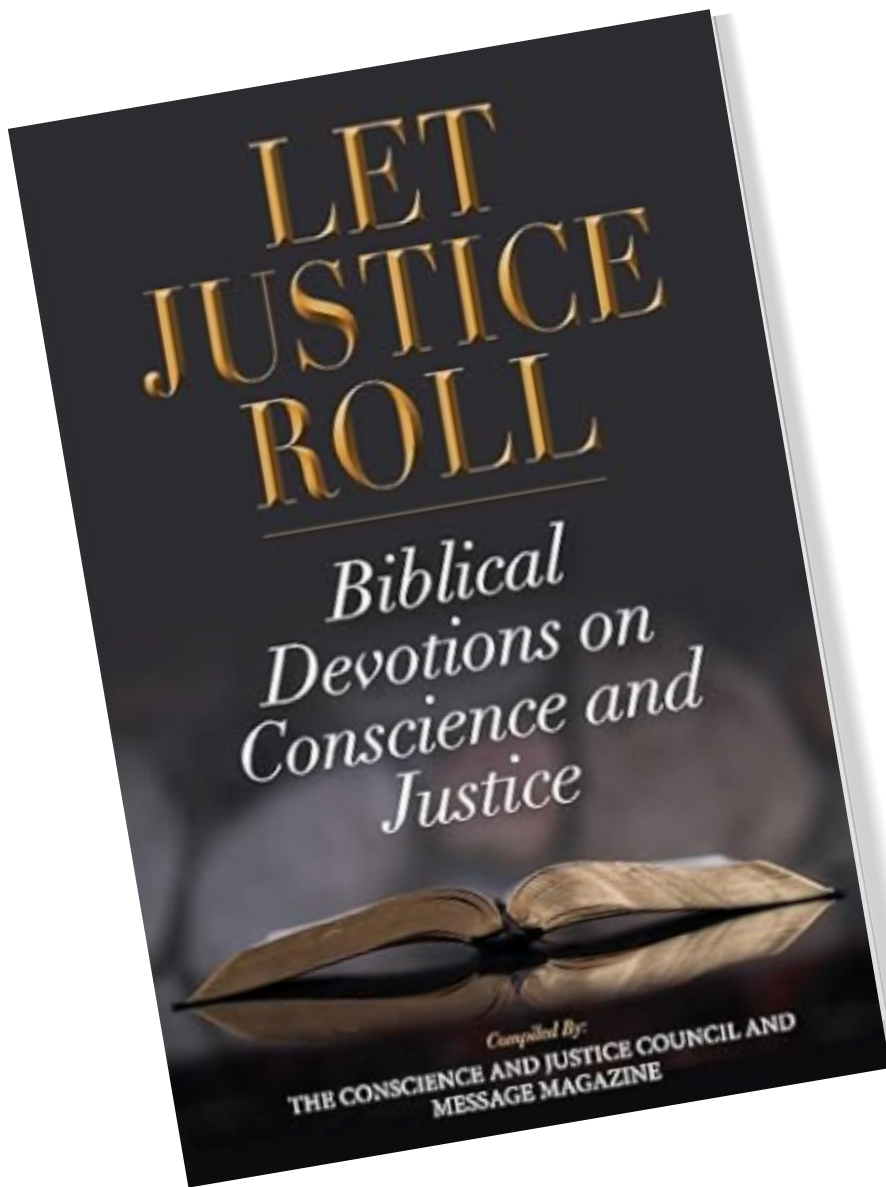
Huntsville, AL 35801

**REGISTRATION**

**OPENS FEB. 1, 2025**

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## 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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