

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, September 5, 2025



## Top News

- Many Religious 'Nones' Around the World Hold Spiritual Beliefs
- Many Americans who generally distrust national news organizations still express trust in certain outlets
- Redistricting between censuses has been rare in the modern era
- Women ministers resist misogyny with mentors, training, resilience, study finds
- Pentagon authorizes up to 600 military lawyers to serve as temporary immigration judges

## Many Religious 'Nones' Around the World Hold Spiritual Beliefs

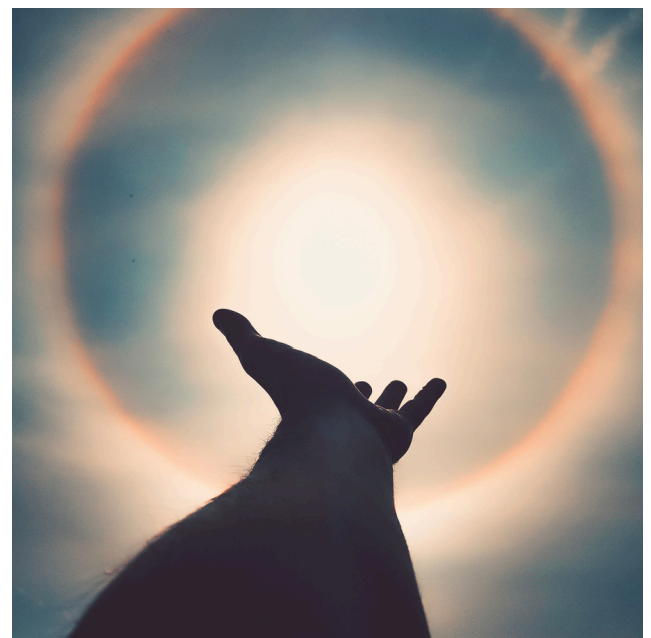
Around the world, many people who do not identify with any religion nevertheless hold a variety of spiritual and religious beliefs, including the belief that there is life after death, according to a Pew Research Center study of religiously unaffiliated adults in 22 countries.

The number of adults who are religiously unaffiliated – describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular” – has climbed rapidly in the recent past across North America, Europe, parts of Latin America and some countries in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Australia and South Korea.

In general, religiously unaffiliated people are less likely to hold spiritual beliefs, less likely to engage in religious practices, and more likely to take a skeptical view of religion’s impact on society than are Christians, Muslims and people who identify with other religions.

But sizable percentages of religiously unaffiliated adults – often called religious “nones” – do hold some religious or spiritual beliefs, according to our nationally representative surveys of 22 countries with relatively large unaffiliated populations.

Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](http://pewresearch.org)



## Many Americans who generally distrust national news organizations still express trust in certain outlets

Pew Research Center has long asked Americans how much they trust information from national news organizations in general. Recently, we asked about their trust in 30 specific news sources.

It's not surprising that people who trust national news organizations are more likely than those who distrust them to say they trust most of the 30 sources we asked about. But several news sources with right-leaning audiences are exceptions to this pattern, according to a new Center analysis that combines these general and specific measures of trust in the media.

This analysis helps answer the question: What news sources are Americans thinking of when they say they trust or distrust the information they get from national news organizations?

For U.S. adults who have at least some trust in the information they get from national news organizations, the answer most often seems to be major national TV sources. Within this group of "trusters," about half or more say they trust ABC News (56%), NBC News (56%), CBS News (51%), CNN (51%) or PBS (51%). These are some of the most widely known and popular news sources we asked about.

Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](https://pewresearch.org)



Microphones for a press conference outside New York City's Manhattan Criminal Courthouse in May 2024. (David Dee Delgado/Getty Images)

## Redistricting between censuses has been rare in the modern era

Texas Republicans, at the urging of President Donald Trump, have redrawn their state's congressional districts to give the GOP an advantage in next year's midterm elections. The effort has led to a countermove by California to redraw its districts to give Democrats an edge. Several other states reportedly are considering similar moves.

Midcycle redistricting efforts like the ones in Texas and California have, up to now, been extremely uncommon. Since 1970, only two states – Texas in 2003 and this year, and Georgia in 2005 – have voluntarily redrawn their congressional maps between censuses for partisan advantage, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis.

When midcycle redistricting occurs, it's usually because courts have thrown out the previous maps for violating state or federal law. In fact, 36 of the 40 midcycle redistricting changes since 1970 have either been made in response to a court order (20) or imposed by a court itself (16). In addition to Texas and Georgia, California is also an exception: After the 1982 elections, lawmakers passed a revised version of the congressional map that voters had rejected in a referendum earlier that year.

Continue Reading [pewresearch.org](https://pewresearch.org)



Texas state Sen. Pete Flores, R, looks at a proposed redistricting map on Aug. 22. The Senate went on to pass a midcycle redistricting bill early the next day. (Sara Diggins/The Austin American-Statesman via Getty Images)



# Women ministers resist misogyny with mentors, training, resilience, study finds

With a total of six decades of ministry between them, the Revs. Liz Ríos and Liz Mosbo VerHage were not surprised to learn that the vast majority of women ministers have faced misogyny.

But their new report, “Empowering Resilient Women Ministers: Unveiling the Fuel to Serve Amidst Misogyny,” revealed what helped keep their colleagues in the ministry. Across ages, races and denominations, women cited pursuing the call they believe they’ve received from God, supportive networks and perseverance as top contributors to their success.

The research by Ríos and VerHage, both ministers and scholars, revealed that 87% of the 610 women they surveyed said they experienced misogyny, defined as “discrimination, prejudice, objectification, or violence based on your gender,” in their ministry context. Forty-seven percent said they experience such discrimination regularly.

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



Cover art for “Empowering Resilient Women Ministers: Unveiling the Fuel to Serve Amidst Misogyny.” (Courtesy image)

## Pentagon authorizes up to 600 military lawyers to serve as temporary immigration judges



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth listens as President Donald Trump speaks during an event signing a proclamation honoring the fourth anniversary of the attack at Abbey Gate in Afghanistan, in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has approved sending up to 600 military lawyers to the Justice Department to serve as temporary immigration judges, according to a memo reviewed by The Associated Press.

The military will begin sending groups of 150 attorneys — both military and civilians — to the Justice Department “as soon as practicable,” and the military services should have the first round of people identified by next week, according to the Aug. 27 memo.

The effort comes as the Trump administration more regularly turns to the military as it cracks down on illegal immigration through ramped-up arrests and deportations. Its growing role in the push includes troops patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border, National Guard members being sent into U.S. cities to support immigration enforcement efforts, housing people awaiting deportation on military bases and using military aircraft to carry out deportations.

The administration’s focus on illegal immigration has added strain to the immigration courts, which were already dealing with a massive backlog of roughly 3.5 million cases that has ballooned in recent years. An organization for immigration lawyers called the new directive a “destructive” move meant to undermine the courts.

Continue Reading: [apnews.com](https://apnews.com)



# Majorities of adults see decline of union membership as bad for the U.S. and working people



Majorities of Americans see the large reduction in the share of workers represented by unions over the past several decades as a bad thing for both the United States and its working people.

- 60% of U.S. adults say the decline has been bad for the country.
- 62% say this has been bad for working people.

The share of U.S. workers who belong to a union has fallen since 1983, when 20.1% were union members. In 2024, 9.9% of U.S. workers were in a union.

Since Pew Research Center first asked these questions in 2021, majorities of adults have consistently said that the decline in union membership has been bad for both working people and the country.

The share of Americans who say this has been bad for the country is up 6 percentage points since last year (from 54%). The increase has come entirely among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents:

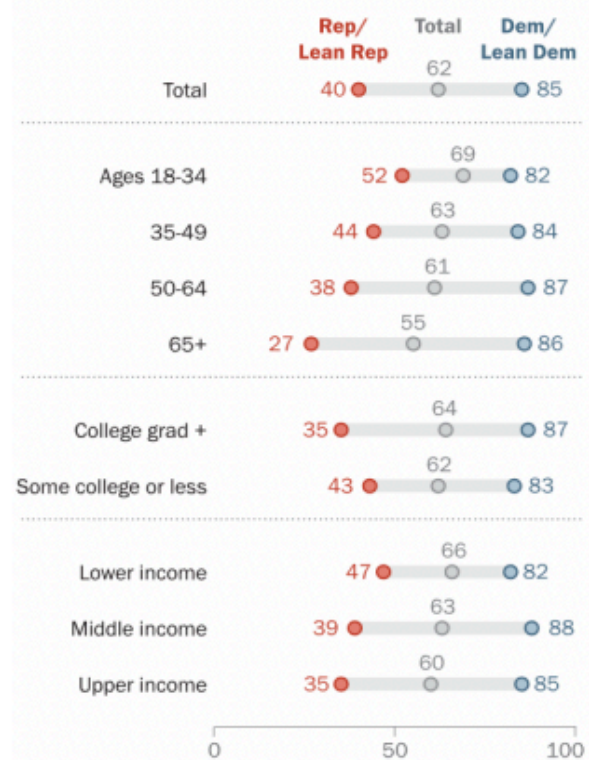
- Today, 82% of Democrats say this decline has been bad for the country, up from 69% who said this a year ago.
- 85% of Democrats also say the decline in union membership has been bad for working people, up from 74% in 2024.

By contrast, majorities of Republicans and GOP leaners continue to say that the decline in union membership has been good for the country (62%) and for working people (59%).

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

## Americans differ by party – and within parties – over the impact of declining union membership on working people

% who say the large reduction in the percentage of workers represented by unions has been *bad* for working people





## OUR TEAM



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Conscience & Justice Council  
PARL Director, Lake Region



**Jerome Hurst**

Vice Chairman,  
Conscience & Justice Council  
PARL Director, Allegheny West



**Cryston Josiah**

Secretary,  
Conscience & Justice Council  
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**Tony Anobile**

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Church Ministries



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**Jack Doggett**

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Oakwood University



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Seventh-day Adventist  
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**Zdravko Plantak**

Professor of Religion and Ethical Studies,  
Loma Linda University



**Melissa Reid**

Executive Director,  
North American  
Religious Liberty Association



**Andre Michael Wang**

PARL Director  
North Pacific Union

**DON'T  
MISS  
OUT!**

25-28 SEPTEMBER



# CJC2025

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

**OVERCOMING OPPRESSION**

**Biblically Dismantling Abuses of Power**

### SPEAKERS



AMIREH  
AL-HADDAD



KENNY  
ANDERSON



GINA SPIVEY  
BROWN



DILYS  
BROOKS



RYAN  
BURGE



BISHOP MELVIN  
BURTON



MICHAEL W.  
CAMPBELL



MARCUS  
COSBY



LISA CLARK  
DILLER



MYRON  
EDMONDS



PRESTON  
FOSTER



TREVOR H  
FRASER



TRACEY  
GENDRON



OBERY  
HENDRICKS



DOROTHY  
HUSTON



MARQUIS D.  
JOHNS



ORLAN  
JOHNSON



ERICA  
KEITH



ANDREA  
KING



MARILYN  
KING-JORDAN



BETTINA  
KRAUSE



TAWNYA PLUMMER  
LAUGHINGHOUSE



WILLIAM J.  
LEE



ROMAN  
PALOMARES



DAVID  
PERSON



MELISSA  
REID



DEBLEAIRE  
SNELL



ANDREA  
STEWARTSON



MICHAEL  
TAYLOR



JOHN C.  
YANG



<https://register.adventsourceevents.org/2025CJCConvention>

REGISTER HERE





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES EXPO

# CALLING ALL PASTORS WITH A HEART FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT!

✕ SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 ✕  
HUNTSVILLE, AL

Present your innovative ministry  
initiatives and **WIN a \$10,000  
mentoring scholarship!**

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Pastors active in community outreach
- Ministries with innovative local programs

### THE FORMAT

- 7-minute presentation
- Q&A with judges

### JUDGING CRITERIA

- Mission alignment
- Impact
- Innovation
- Sustainability

Apply Here



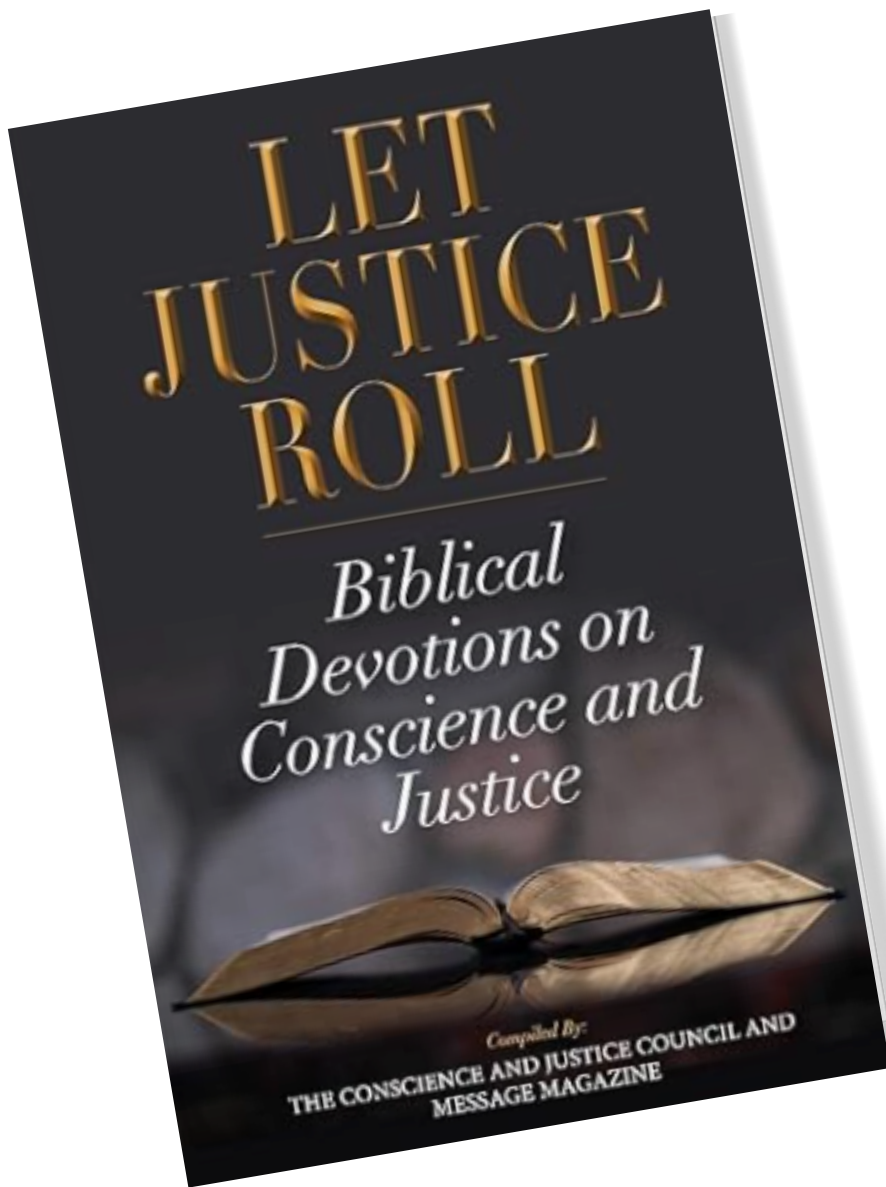
#### NOTE:

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

### KEY DATES

**Submit By:** September 14, 2025

**Expo:** September 28, 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.

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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