



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ICNY's Outreach Coordinator for Asylum Seeker Shelter Program, Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman welcomes newly arrived New Yorkers at the Port Authority bus station.

Dear Friend,

After four cohorts of ICNY's **Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy (ICLA)**, the program's alumni network is made up of a tight knit group of 60+ fellows who are connected to each other's communities and into the unofficial power structures of the city.

If you or someone you know is looking to hone your organizing skills and join the network of ICLA fellows who are collectively and individually making NYC a stronger city, then consider [applying](#) for our fifth cohort of ICLA fellows. **The deadline is October 22, 2023.**


Accepted fellows will meet one evening a week for workshops that offer tools for civic engagement and building relationships across faith tradition. Each fellow earns a stipend for their participation and will receive a small grant for an independent community project that they embark on towards the end of the program in the spring. To apply, fill out the application [here](#).

In other news, individual and organizational endorsements of the [Covenant on behalf of New New Yorkers](#) have grown to over 280 organizations and individuals. In addition to a press conference in New York City, the Covenant was announced on the steps of the State Capital in Albany this week thanks to the New York State Council of Churches. Thanks to CBS 6 and Spectrum Local News for covering the story. Click [here](#) to read the coverage.

If you have not already taken a moment to thank Sen. Chuck Schumer and President Biden for expanding Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan migrants, please consider doing so now, and **ask for work authorization for the thousands of African Muslim migrants and Haitians** staying with houses of worship and communities in New York City and elsewhere. [To leave a comment for Schumer click here](#), for the [White House, comment here](#). For more news of the Covenant, we invite you to read ICNY Board member and advocate Ruth Messinger views in the New School's [Urban Matters](#) publication in which she highlights different sector's efforts to address the more than 100,000 migrants who have come through New York.

As we head into October, ICNY wishes to remind you that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. The organization **Turning Point for Women and Families**, whose mission is to help Muslim women and girls affected by domestic violence to empower themselves and transform their own lives as well as those of their families, has new job openings listed below.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

ICNY Executive Director



ICNY's Rev. Chloe Breyer speaking at the Albany Press Conference on the Covenant on Behalf of New York's Newest New Yorkers

ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

INTERFAITH CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Applications now open for the
2023-2024 Leadership Academy



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

Civic engagement, advocacy, and organizing training for diverse NYC religious leaders. Interfaith dialogue and community building. Stipends for participants, and grants for community projects.

Just 3 weeks left to apply at interfaithcenter.org/icla.



Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy

Applications from Faith Leaders Due by October 22nd - 3 Weeks Left to Apply

Be the change you want to see in New York

Throughout New York, diverse faith leaders are creating positive change for their own communities and the city as a whole. With support from the **Robert Sterling Clark**

Foundation and Trinity Church Wall Street, ICNY's Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy gives them the tools they need to make a difference.

Our ICLA fellows are diverse clergy members, lay leaders, and faith-based activists working to improve the lives of New Yorkers. In a series of evening workshops, they build relationships across faith lines while learning effective strategies for community leadership, organizing, and advocacy. They then use these skills to create community projects that contribute to the civic life of New York. Each fellow receives **\$500 in grant funding** for their community project, as well as a **\$500 personal stipend** to honor their commitment to the program.

We hope you'll apply to join the next Leadership Academy, or share this opportunity with colleagues and community members! Applications are due by Sunday, October 22. For more information and an application visit interfaithcenter.org/icla. Questions? Contact hanadi@interfaithcenter.org.

[Learn More & Apply](#)



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

NEW YORK
LAW SCHOOL

 **Columbia Law School**
LAW, RIGHTS, AND RELIGION PROJECT

Save the Date!

Religious Liberty and Diversity: Securing Free Exercise in a Multifaith Democracy

November 17th, 9:00 A.M-1:00 P.M

New York Law School's Abbey Hall (185 West Broadway)

ICNY is proud to cosponsor a conference on "Religious Liberty and Diversity" with [New York Law School](#) and the [Law, Rights, and Religion Project](#) at Columbia Law School. The conference will bring together diverse attorneys, scholars, and religious leaders to explore the shifting meanings of "free exercise" and "religious liberty," and highlight the significance of these legal principles for members of minority faith communities. Panel discussions will explore free exercise claims tied to religious practice and communal life, as well as claims tied to reproductive rights in the wake of

the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*. All are welcome, and New York State attorneys will receive **four hours of continuing legal education credit**.

The conference will be held at New York Law School's Abbey Hall (185 West Broadway, in Lower Manhattan) on **Friday, November 17, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Registration opens soon! Meanwhile save the date, and email ICNY's Director of Programs Dr. Henry Goldschmidt at henry@interfaithcenter.org with any questions.

Email Questions



HOUSES OF WORSHIP & FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO) SPACE NEEDED PROSPECTIVE HOSPITALITY CENTER SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

NYC is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the arrival of over **70,000 Asylum Seekers from Latin America and West Africa** over the past year - with more arriving every week. NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network, in partnership with NYC, will fund 5 sites of any faith tradition, to operate a daytime hospitality center for the next 12-24 months providing support to approximately 150 guests a day over the next 12-24 months. Shelters must be open 365 days per year from 7AM to 7PM.

Each House of Worship or Faith-based Organization MUST Have:

- 6+ Single Stall Showers (or the space and willingness for us to install showers)
- A Fire Sprinkler System (or the willingness for us to install a sprinkler system in the center's space)
- A fully functioning commercial kitchen (or food can be catered), preparing a variety of meal options (including, if requested, Vegan & Vegetarian options and may include Halal options)
- Language competent services, volunteers, and staff (Spanish, French, West African French, Wolof, etc.)
- Ability to fulfill reasonable accommodations (such as, language, dietary, religious, and accessibility needs)

Compensation: Up to \$54,000 per month, advanced monthly, from which a site may cover will fund the following documented expenses for required services:

- Janitorial Payroll Allowance (\$100/Day or up to \$3,000/month)
- One 7AM-7PM Onsite Center Coordinator (\$30/hour = \$11,000/month - from which benefits can be paid, if desired)
- One 7AM-7PM NYS Licensed Security Guard (\$360/day or up to \$11,000/ month)
- Food: Daily hot lunch and snacks for 150 (\$5pp per day = \$23,000/month)
- Insurance Allowance (up to \$1000/month)
- Supplies (\$2,000/month) & Miscellaneous Pre-Approved Support (\$2,500/month)
- Wi-Fi and Cable Television Allowance (\$165/month)
- **A Space Use/Utilities Allowance equal to 25% of total operating cost reimbursement per month - up to \$13,000 a month.**

What Will NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network Provide?

- A dedicated NYDIS Shelter Operations Manager to support the operation of your center site: including logistics support, invoicing assistance, weekly onsite support.
- A monthly operating advance of up to \$54,000, and Space Use Fee \$13,000
- A laptop to track attendance and submit reports/forms as required.
- Grants to add Showers, Fire Safety Equipment/Sprinklers, and/or Paint/Light Refresh
- Referrals for security, laundry, meal procurement and, if necessary, vendors
- Towels/Wash Cloths, Hygiene Kits, Clothing to Distribute
- Training and Technical Support for each site, its staff and volunteers

To inquire about how to be of service to our new neighbors in crisis with hospitality and safe sanctuary and covering your basic costs:



Asylum Seeker info

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE FORM:

<https://howalert.org/HospitalityCenterSurvey>

The survey will help determine your eligibility for a shelter contract. Completing the form does not commit you or your facility to anything other than an exploratory conversation.



Online Survey



HOUSES OF WORSHIP & FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO) SPACE NEEDED

Funding Available to Operate Asylum Seeker Overnight Shelters that Provide Food & Showers

NYC is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the arrival of over **70,000 Asylum Seekers from Latin America and West Africa** over the past year - with more arriving every week. NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network, in partnership with NYC, will fund 50 shelters in houses of worship or faith-based spaces, of any faith tradition, to operate 19 bed shelters for single adult men over the next 12-24 months. Shelters must be open 365 days per year from 7PM to 7AM.

Each House of Worship or Faith-based Organization MUST Have:

- 2+ Single Stall Showers (or the space and willingness for us to install showers)
- A Fire Sprinkler System (or the willingness for us to install a sprinkler system in the shelter space)
- Space for a dedicated dining and social area and the ability to provide culturally appropriate meals.
- Language competent services, volunteers, and staff (Spanish, French, West African French, Wolof, etc.)
- Ability to fulfill Reasonable Accommodations (such as, language, dietary, religious, & accessibility needs)
- Storage space for (folded) cots, linens, and Guests' storage trunks

Compensation: \$65 Per Night Per Person of up to \$35,500 per month, advanced monthly, from which a site will fund the following documented expenses or required services:

- Background Checks for Staff/Volunteers (up to \$1,400/month)
- Janitorial Payroll Allowance (\$100/Day or up to \$3,100/month)
- One 7PM-7AM onsite Shelter Coordinator (\$30/hour, includes benefits) = \$11,000/month)
- One 7PM-7AM onsite NYS Licensed Security Guard or off Duty-Law Enforcement Officer (\$360/day or up to \$11,000/ month)
- Bedding Laundry Allowance (\$775/month)
- Food: Daily Hot dinner and a hot or cold breakfast (\$3.27 pp per meal = \$4,000/month)
- Supplies (\$1,000/month)
- Weekly Laundromat Voucher of \$10 per guest (\$760/month)
- Insurance Allowance (up to \$2000/month)
- Wi-Fi and Cable Television (\$165/month)
- **A Space Use/Utilities Allowance equal to 25% of total operating cost reimbursements per month - up to \$9,500 a month.**

What Will NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network Provide?

- 24/7 emergency support
- A dedicated NYDIS Shelter Operations Manager to support the training of your staff/volunteers, equipment as well as the technical assistance for operating of your shelter: including guest placement, invoicing assistance, weekly onsite support
- Guest placement for all Asylum Seekers to your shelter
- A laptop to document guest vacancy and occupancy placements every night and to submit reports/forms as required
- A monthly operating advance of up to \$35,500 and Space Use Fee of up to \$9,500
- Cots, Linens, Pillows, Towels/Wash Cloths, and Laundry Bags
- Storage Trunks and a Pad Lock for each guest
- Grants to add Showers, Fire Safety Equipment/Sprinklers, and or Paint/Light Refresh
- A daily roundtrip MetroCard for each guest
- Referrals for security, laundry, meal procurement and, if necessary, vendors

To inquire about how to be of service to our new neighbors in crisis with hospitality and safe sanctuary and covering your basic costs:



Asylum Seeker info

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE SURVEY:

<https://howalert.org/AsylumSeekerShelterSurvey>

The survey will help determine your eligibility for a shelter contract. Completing the form does not commit you or your facility to anything other than an exploratory conversation.



Online Survey

NYC Needs Your House of Worship

Support the Newest New Yorkers by Sheltering Asylees

Since last summer, over 44,000 asylum seekers have arrived on their own or been transported to New York City without regard for their wellbeing. Hundreds continue to arrive each week. The NYC shelter system, hotels and alternative housing sites have been overwhelmed as asylum seekers try to find safe shelter while awaiting immigration court proceedings. While most are single men, single women and families with children are also arriving. Many of these fellow global citizens in crisis have fled unimaginable conditions in their country of origin and then experienced an arduous journey on their way to New York City.

The city has been providing hotels, homeless shelters, and other mass care spaces as housing on a temporary basis. We are proposing to fund congregations, of any faith tradition, to provide temporary small group shelter housing to single adult male and female asylees. The program would provide shelter for the next 12-24 months while all of us continue to call on the state and Federal government to help address this need for more permanent housing.

We are seeking houses of worship in all faith traditions that can meet the practical requirements outlined in the flyer above. In exchange for your hospitality, congregations will be paid a monthly fee -- to cover all required operating expenses related to meeting each asylees' basic human needs and to offset space use costs.

Click the buttons below if your house of worship can help.

[**Click Here if Your House of Worship Can Help With a Hospitality Center**](#)

[**Click Here If Your House of Worship Can Help with a Shelter**](#)

OTHER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



HOUSE OF COMMUNITY
BAIT-UL JAMAAT



ISLAMIC
RELIEF
USA



Therapeutic
Art and
Drumming



FREE
Haircuts
& Hair-braiding



Grocery Bag
Giveaway



New Clothing

Scan
Code
Here!



Day of DIGNITY

Items to Distribute: Free haircuts, New Clothing , Book bags & School Supplies, Hygiene & Self Care Essentials, Grocery Bags & Hot Food, Children's Activities, Resources & More! While Supplies Last!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
1:00PM - 5:00PM
CPL. THOMPSON PARK
166 BROADWAY, SI NY



Day of Dignity, a day of service, is an opportunity for Islamic Relief USA volunteers to provide essential services to communities in need through interventions.



@baituljamaat

Call or Text: 347.289.7991



baituljamaat.com

Bait-ul Jamaat

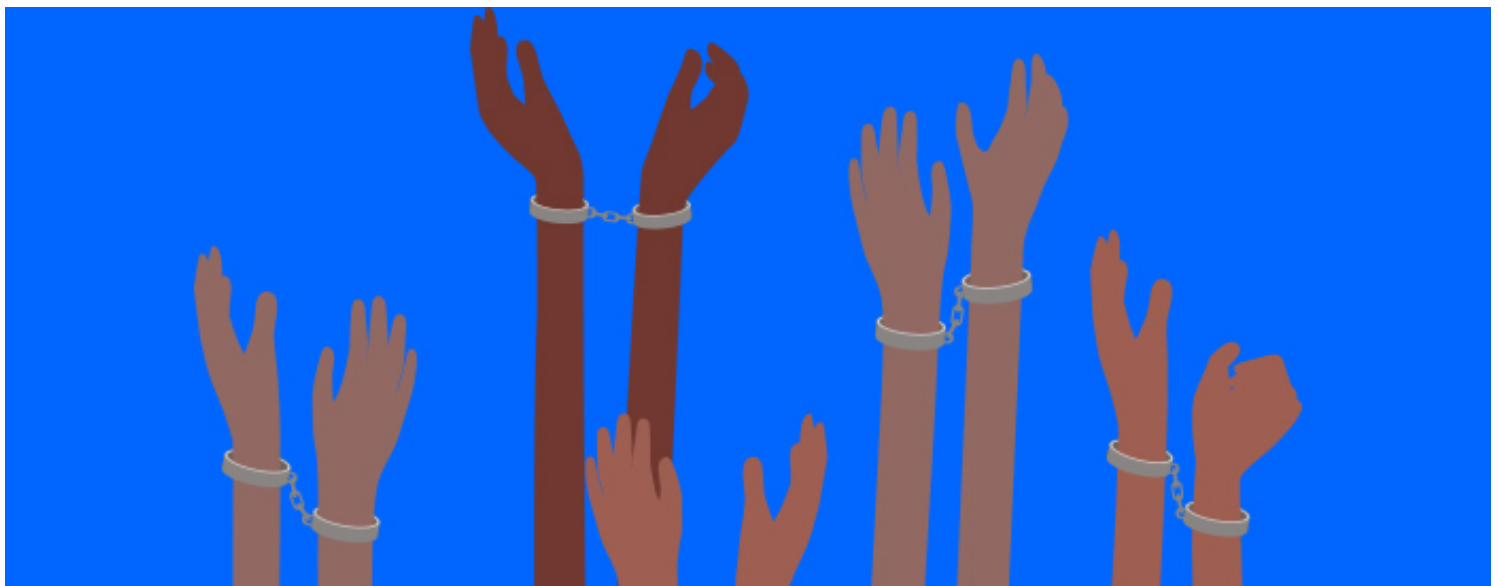
Day of Dignity

Saturday, October 14th, 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

CPL. Thompson Park

166 Broadway, SI NY

Join Bait-ul Jamaat and Islamic Relief USA for their Day of Dignity. The Day of Dignity, a day of service, is an opportunity for Islamic Relief USA volunteers to provide essential services to communities in needs through interventions. Items to distribute: Free haircuts, New Clothing, Book bags & Hot Food, Children's Activities, Resources & More! No RSVP required.



Trinity Church Wall Street

The Future of Rikers: Why it Matters

Sunday, October 15th, 12:45 - 2:15 P.M.

Trinity Commons (enter at Trinity Church--Broadway at Wall St.)

Join Trinity's Prison Ministry and civic leaders to learn more about the movement to close Rikers Island. Its inhumane conditions for both those detained and those who work there, along with high death rates, have led headlines for years. In 2019, New York City legislators passed a law to close the Rikers jails and replace them with borough-based facilities. But progress is slow, criticisms are increasing, and questions remain about how this will work. Come to this informative session to learn more about this critical issue, how it can make our city safer for everyone, and how you can play a part. Light lunch will be provided.

RSVP



Woman 2 Woman

Woman 2 Woman Offering a Training in October

Monday, October 16th, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Virtual

This fall marks the tenth anniversary of this prison ministry founded at Bedford Presbyterian Church in 2013.

Over the past decade, they have connected more than 150 women in the community surrounding Bedford Hills Correctional Facility with 130 individuals incarcerated there. Lots of deep and meaningful friendships have been formed.

Unfortunately, there are many people inside the prison who have been waiting a long time for a visitor. There are lots of newly incarcerated people who have heard about W2W's visiting program and are very interested in participating.

Woman 2 Woman has scheduled a Zoom training for **Monday, October 16th from 7 - 9 p.m.**

Here's the link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6193223941>

Meeting ID: 619 322 3941

Please note that in order to become a Woman 2 Woman visitor, you must attend a training session. Even if you do not live in the Bedford area, or in this country, you may want to learn more about this program to consider emulating it where you live. For questions click the link below.

[Email](#)



Job Opportunities

Turning Point for Women and Families

Turning Point for Women and Families' mission is to help Muslim women and girls affected by domestic violence to empower themselves and transform their own lives as well as those of their families. Turning Point provides a diversified range of culturally competent services focused on safety and self-sufficiency through direct services, advocacy and referrals.

Deeply rooted in the Muslim community, Turning Point believes that social change can be effected by raising awareness about the prevalence and effects of domestic violence, addressing it directly and offering safe spaces and opportunities for youth development. Click the button below to view current job openings available.

[Job Openings](#)



Volunteer Opportunities

Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative

The law non-profit 'Immigrant ARC (Advocates Response Collaborative)' has volunteer opportunities available for those who want to assist in the process of filling out work permit applications for asylum seekers. The clinic is run by Immigrant ARC, and has supervising attorneys on site to provide assistance. Volunteer opportunities available for the following four roles: Supervising Attorneys, Translators, Document Preparer, and General Assistance. To sign up to volunteer, click the button below.

[Sign Up](#)



Artists Athletes Activists

Artists Athletes Activists (AAA) Resource Center at Metro Baptist Church

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 A.M-4:00 P.M

Metro Baptist Church

410 West 40th Street (behind Port Authority Bus Terminal)

Along with greeting busses from the border that arrive at Port Authority, AAA, in partnership with Metro Baptist Church and The Legal Aid Society, provides legal/shelter/HRA benefits and health insurance support; food and activities (cooking classes, games, ESL, etc.) and a place to just hang out, make friends and form community for asylum seekers/new arrivals on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Metro Baptist Church, 410 West 40th Street (behind Port Authority Bus Terminal). For questions, contact Candice Braun: candice_ben@mac.com or (917) 612-6782. To volunteer or to donate, click the buttons below.

Volunteer

Donate

The Golden Door Project

Translation and support services for newly-arrived immigrants and asylum seekers in New York City

The Golden Door Project is a network of student and adult volunteers who help newly arrived immigrants with translation, interpretation, form completion, tutoring, and other services to help ease their transitions.

Services Offered

- Form filling services for housing and government benefits
- Translation Services
- Tutoring Services for students from Kindergarten through 10th grade



Would you like to volunteer?

Please find my website here:
www.goldendoorproject.org

Reach out:
goldendoorproj@gmail.com

Services for Migrants

Golden Door Project

Volunteer Opportunities & Services Available

The Golden Door Project is a network of student and adult volunteers with various language skills who offer their time to help newly arrived immigrants with translation, interpretation, form completion, tutoring, and other services to help ease their transition. We have an online appointment-based system, listing all the services we offer. Volunteers can register for as many hours as they can be available online, according to their schedules, and clients can sign up for the language and type of support they seek with volunteers. As we add volunteers to our network, we hope to be able to offer a multitude of languages. If you are interested in volunteering or know anybody who may benefit from this service, click the button below to visit the website.

[More Info/Website](#)



Elinor J. Pierce
Afterword by Diana L. Eck

PLURALISM IN PRACTICE

*Case Studies of Leadership in a
Religiously Diverse America*

“Instructive and enlightening.” — *Publishers Weekly*



Book Release

Pluralism in Practice: Case Studies of Leadership in a Religiously Diverse America

Pluralism in Practice, a book of case studies on the dilemmas and disputes of our multireligious society, was recently published. Publishers Weekly writes: Pierce (coeditor of *With the Best of Intentions*), research director of the Pluralism Project at Harvard, probes the limits of religious pluralism in a dozen thought-provoking case histories from the first two decades of the 21st century. Centering each story around someone who worked to balance religious diversity with the demands of democracy, Pierce, for example, takes readers to the small town of Hamtramck, Mich., which in 2004 was seized by widespread opposition to a noise ordinance that would enable a local mosque to broadcast a daily call to prayer, requiring the mayor to delicately advocate for constitutional rights while respecting the town's Polish cultural heritage; to Queens, N.Y., where beginning in 2007 the National Park Service marshaled outreach efforts to Indo-Caribbean Hindus whose practice of casting religious offerings into Jamaica Bay violated the Service's "leave no trace" policy; and to lower Manhattan, site of the "Ground Zero Mosque" firestorm of 2010, concerning a proposed Muslim interfaith center that was never built. Cases are presented cogently and without bias, and insightful postscripts allow readers to reflect on the cases' aftermaths—often to revealing effect, as when a planner of the interfaith center linked opposition to the project to cultural undercurrents that precipitated the later "rise of extremist voices and the era of Donald Trump." Students of leadership and religious studies will find this instructive and enlightening.

[Learn More/Get Book](#)

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) works to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders and their communities.

[DONATE](#)

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