



About Interfaith Alliance

Interfaith Alliance was created in 1994 to champion religious freedom and challenge the bigotry and hatred arising from religious and political extremism infiltrating American politics. The founders sought to show that the Religious Right was not the only authentic voice of faith in this country and that the Constitution protects the right of every person to believe as they choose, but not to impose those beliefs on others. Walter Cronkite, who served as Chair of the Interfaith Alliance Board, once stated, “Nothing less than the future of our democracy is at stake in the work of Interfaith Alliance,” – a commitment that continues to guide our work.



Interfaith Alliance is the only national interfaith organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of both religion and democracy in the United States. Based in Washington, D.C. with 22 state and local affiliates across the country, Interfaith Alliance mobilizes a diverse network of advocates and allies around the shared commitment to advance true religious freedom for all. Today, Interfaith Alliance has members nationwide and serving overseas in the military adhering to many faith traditions and belief systems as well as those of no faith tradition.

Our Work

With a foundational commitment to promote religious freedom, Interfaith Alliance advocates on a number of important issues, including LGBTQ+ equality, strengthening public schools, protecting religious minorities, defending reproductive choice, combating hate, and ensuring religious freedom in the courts.

Our work includes policy advocacy on Capitol Hill, grassroots activism through statewide affiliates, equipping the public with resources and toolkits to protect faith and freedom in our local communities, and the weekly State of Belief podcast and radio program. We also advise faith and civic leaders and elected officials on navigating the boundaries between faith and politics. At all levels of government, we work in partnership and coalition with diverse civil rights

organizations, faith-based groups, and issue advocates to provide an alternative faith voice to Christian nationalism and the Religious Right on issues of religious freedom.

Across issue areas, we strive to shift how religion often figures into federal policy discussions – away from the public perception that people of faith uniformly share a particular worldview or vote a certain way – and toward an inclusive vision of religious freedom.

Our President



“Partnering with religious, civic, artistic, and political organizations and leaders, we will fight every day to advance policies that affirm our shared humanity, protect our individual freedoms, and preserve our democracy. Now is the moment to repair our moral commitment to one another and build a better, more inclusive future.”

- The Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush

In September 2022, Interfaith Alliance welcomed The Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush as our new President and CEO. An ordained American Baptist minister and national media presence, Rev. Raushenbush is a prominent, publicly recognized leader in the interfaith movement working to protect an inclusive vision of religious freedom for people of all faiths and none. His leadership roles prior to joining Interfaith Alliance include serving as senior advisor at Interfaith America, senior vice president at Auburn Seminary in New York, and founding and executive editor of HuffPost Religion. In addition to his work as president, Rev. Raushenbush also hosts State of Belief Radio, Interfaith Alliance’s weekly radio show and podcast. His commitment to positive interfaith relations stems from his own family heritage that includes great-grandfathers, Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis and Christian Pastor Walter Raushenbush, as well as philosopher Richard Rorty.

Recent Successes

Amid an incredibly challenging period for faith and freedom in America, Interfaith Alliance has played a leading role in mobilizing faith-based voices around the civil rights issues of our time. Recent successes include:

- **Sounding the alarm on Christian nationalism.** A centerpiece of our advocacy in recent months has been serving as an essential resource on the history and ideological roots of Christian nationalism. Alongside leading religious and civic leaders, we gathered hundreds of supporters and partners on Capitol Hill for a briefing to highlight the Christian nationalist threat ahead of the 2022 midterms. We also compiled

comprehensive resources to clarify the dangers of this growing movement, and launched a voter pledge to encourage people of all faiths and none to use their vote to contest Christian nationalism.

- **Defending marriage equality.** In the aftermath of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Interfaith Alliance was quick to warn that the conservative majority poses a risk to other fundamental rights. As the Senate introduced the bipartisan Respect for Marriage Act, we quickly organized dozens of faith organizations to pen a joint letter supporting the bill as a matter of religious freedom and basic dignity.
- **Rolling out the comprehensive Partnering Against Hate Toolkit**, which was designed to catalyze grassroots efforts to confront bias and bigotry at the local level. Guided by the view across belief systems that we have a shared obligation to protect our neighbors, we equipped community leaders to join together against the disturbing rise of hate groups and offer an alternative message of love and inclusion.
- **Highlighting overwhelming faith support for COVID vaccines** as the Religious Right undermined public health efforts. Interfaith Alliance made clear that freedom of belief does not include a license to harm others, and therefore vigorously opposed those pushing for religious vaccine exemptions. We submitted testimony to Congress, partnered with diverse faith-based organizations to preserve public health measures in schools, publicly opposed religious vaccine exemptions in schools, and joined an amicus brief with partners arguing for the importance of mandatory vaccines for health workers.
- **Combating antisemitism and Islamophobia.** Interfaith Alliance has always stood by religious minorities who face discrimination and hate. When President Trump instituted the notorious “Muslim Ban,” Interfaith Alliance’s then-President Rabbi Jack Moline vigorously spoke out against it, and the organization challenged the executive order alongside faith partners in an amicus brief submitted to the Supreme Court. More recently, as rising anti-semitism continues to afflict our country, Interfaith Alliance has called out antisemitism across the political spectrum and pushed communities to suppress hate before it reaches the doorsteps of our congregations, including by hosting multi-faith Dallas faith leaders for a conversation in the aftermath of the horrific attack on the synagogue in Colleyville.

Looking Forward

While the challenges ahead are formidable, Interfaith Alliance is determined to serve as a bulwark against forces seeking to undermine our democracy and tear down the wall between religion and government. With a crucial Supreme Court term coming up and the alarming prospect of more elected officials who openly embrace Christian nationalism, we will work tirelessly at the federal level and locally with affiliates to advocate, organize, and educate in order to advance policies that affirm our shared humanity and protect true religious freedom. We

see a hopeful future for our country in which people of all faith traditions and none are treated with dignity and equality under the law, and we fulfill the promise of liberty and justice for all.

As we approach our 30th anniversary in 2024, which will be a critical election year, we are prioritizing four areas of our work.

- **Deepening our national networks to all 50 states:** As many of the battles to protect democracy shift to the state and community level, we plan to scale our networks across the country. Interfaith Alliance will offer trainings around Storytelling and Media, Effective Legislative Outreach, Interfaith Organizing, and Understanding and Promoting Inclusive Religious Liberty in Your Local Community.
- **Strengthening and expanding our digital communication:** As we expand our work, we will be investing in new technology to make sure that our message is heard both on and offline. We will be employing the best strategies in our social media, email and other digital media tools, as well as creating a nationwide media approach, reaching out to national and state level media outlets to tell stories of how people from diverse religious backgrounds are coming together for the good of all.
- **Expanding markets for State of Belief Radio:** Started in 1996, State of Belief is one of the longest running radio shows and has featured diverse religious and political leaders such as President Jimmy Carter, Senator Tammy Baldwin, and celebrated religious leaders across a broad spectrum. There is an urgent need for inspiring stories of people from across the faith spectrum working together to build a more respectful and just nation. State of Belief will partner with major distribution networks to garner increased airtime around the country in order to provide hopeful and encouraging stories and fresh in depth analysis in this critical time.
- **Impacting national legislation on the Hill and the Supreme Court:** We will continue to partner with diverse faith leaders in Washington, D.C., as well as with politicians on both sides of the aisle to make the case for an inclusive approach to religious liberty, and to protect democracy. We will expand our intern program to train the next generation of leaders in this work and strengthen our existing policy team so they have the resources to positively impact national legislation in Congress and decisions in the Supreme Court - bending that moral arc of the universe towards justice here in America.

Interfaith Alliance Foundation is supported by the generosity of friends across the country representing many faiths and no faith, and across a political spectrum, all of whom yearn for a strong democracy and a more perfect union. All donations to IAF are tax deductible. For more information or if you'd like to speak with President and CEO Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, please contact praushenbush@interfaithalliance.org.