

The Release of the American Charter



Strengthening Our Pluralism

Thursday, November 29, 2018

The National Archives
700 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC | 20408





The American Charter of Freedom of Religion and Conscience is the result of a multi-year collaboration of leaders and scholars across the broad spectrum of American religious and political life. Their aim is to restore civility to public discourse on religion and freedom of religion and conscience in America; explore the meaning and value of freedom of religion and conscience as a foundation of American democracy and national and global prosperity; and build a multi-faith, non-partisan coalition working to affirm freedom of religion and conscience as a vital safeguard for people of all faiths and none.

You can learn and participate in the work of the American Charter Project by visiting www.americancharter.org.

To tweet about the event or our work, please use [#StrengtheningOurPluralism](https://twitter.com/StrengtheningOurPluralism).

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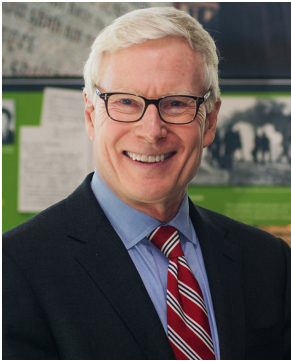
Dr. Thomas Farr is President of the Religious Freedom Institute. A leading authority on international religious freedom, Farr's book, *World of Faith and Freedom: Why International Religious Liberty is Vital to American National Security* (Oxford 2008) has influenced U.S. law and foreign policy. A senior fellow at the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University and a consultant to the U.S.

Catholic Bishops' Conference, he served for 28 years in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Foreign Service. In 1999 Farr became the first director of the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom. He has directed the Witherspoon Institute's International Religious Freedom (IRF) Task Force, taught at the National Defense University, and served on the Secretary of State's IRF working group. From 2008-2018 Farr was Associate Professor of the Practice of Religion and World Affairs at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He founded and directed the Religious Freedom Project at Georgetown's Berkley Center. His Ph.D. is from the University of North Carolina.



Dr. William A. Galston writes the weekly Politics & Ideas column in the Wall Street Journal. He holds the Ezra K. Zilkha Chair in the Brookings Institution's Governance Studies Program, where he serves as a senior fellow. A former policy advisor to President Clinton and presidential candidates, Galston is an expert on domestic policy, presidential

campaigns, and elections. His current research focuses on designing a new social contract and the implications of political polarization. Galston is College Park Professor at the University of Maryland. Prior to January 2006, he was the Saul Stern Professor for Philosophy and Public Policy, founding director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), and the executive director of the National Commission on Civic Renewal, co-chaired by William Bennett and Sam Nunn. A participant in six presidential campaigns, he served from 1993 to 1995 as Deputy Assistant to President Clinton for Domestic Policy. Galston is the author of eight books and more than 100 articles in the fields of political theory, public policy, and American politics. His more recent books are *Liberal Pluralism* (Cambridge, 2002), *The Practice of Liberal Pluralism* (Cambridge, 2004), and *Public Matters* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005). A winner of the American Political Science Association's Hubert H. Humphrey Award, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004.



Dr. Charles C. Haynes is founder of the Religious Freedom Center of the Freedom Forum Institute. He has worked for more than three decades to promote liberty of conscience, religious literacy and civil discourse in American public life. Perhaps best known for his work to promote First Amendment principles in public education, Dr. Haynes was principal organizer and drafter of consensus guidelines on religion in schools now widely used across the country. For many years, he worked with local school districts to resolve conflicts and help find common ground. Haynes is author or co-author of seven books, including *First Freedoms: A Documentary History of First Amendment Rights in America*, *Finding Common Ground: A First Amendment Guide to Religion and Public Schools*, and *Taking Religion Seriously Across the Curriculum*. He chairs the Committee on Religious Liberty and serves on the

board of directors of Character.org. Dr. Haynes is the recipient of numerous honors including the Sanford N. McDonnell Lifetime Achievement Award (Character.org, 2017), the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Pluralism (Hindu American Foundation, 2017), the Religious Liberty Award (North American Association for Religious Liberty, 2013), the Virginia Religious Freedom Award (Council for America's First Freedom, 2008) and the Emory Medal (Emory University, 2005). He holds a B.A. from Emory University, a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School, and a doctorate from Emory University.



Dr. Kent Hill is Executive Director of the Religious Freedom Institute. He joined the RFI after six years as Senior Vice President at World Vision, one of the largest faith-based relief and development organizations in the world. He also served for eight years as Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), responsible for U.S. foreign assistance to Eastern Europe

and the former Soviet Union, and, subsequently, all USAID health programs worldwide. Earlier in his career, Hill was President of Eastern Nazarene College, and President of D.C.'s Institute on Religion and Democracy. In 2010, as a Vice President at the John Templeton Foundation, he, along with Tom Farr, conceived Georgetown's Religious Freedom Project and secured funding to launch the project. Dr. Hill published a book on Christianity and the Soviet Union entitled, *The Soviet Union on the Brink: An Inside Look at Christianity and Glasnost*. His Ph.D. is from the University of Washington.



Join the conversation #StrengtheningOurPluralism



Dr. Byron Johnson is Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences at Baylor University. He is the founding director of the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion (ISR) as well as director of the Program on Prosocial Behavior. Professor Johnson is a leading authority on the scientific study of religion, the efficacy of faith-based organizations, and criminal justice. His most recent

publications have examined the impact of faith-based programs on recidivism reduction and prisoner reentry. Before joining the faculty at Baylor University, Johnson directed research centers at Vanderbilt University and the University of Pennsylvania. He has directed grant projects from private foundations as well as the Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and the United States Institute for Peace. He is the author of more than 200 articles and a number of books including *More God, Less Crime: Why Faith Matters and How it Could Matter More* (2011), *The Angola Prison Seminary: Effects of Faith-Based Ministry on Identity Transformation, Desistance, and Rehabilitation* (2016), and *The Quest for Purpose: The Collegiate Search for a Meaningful Life* (2017). His Ph.D. is from Florida State University.



Rabbi Jack Moline is President of Interfaith Alliance. In a career spanning four decades, he has established himself as a powerful voice fighting for religious freedom for all Americans, regardless of their faith or belief system. He has served as chair of the Interfaith Relations Committee of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, vice president of the Washington-Baltimore Rabbinical Assembly and board member of

the Faith and Politics Institute. He serves on the advisory boards of Clergy Beyond Borders and Operation Understanding DC, and

previously served as president of the Washington Board of Rabbis, chair of the Alexandria Interfaith Association, first director of public policy for the Rabbinical Assembly, and executive director of NJDC. Rabbi Moline has authored two books, contributed to many publications, and offered commentary on PBS, CNN, CBS, Fox News, the Washington Post, National Journal, Huffington Post and other news outlets. He holds the title of Rabbi Emeritus of Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia, where he served for 27 years. Rabbi Moline is an adjunct faculty member of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Virginia Theological Seminary. Rabbi Moline is a graduate of Northwestern University, the American Jewish University (formerly, University of Judaism), and the Jewish Theological Seminary's (JTS) Jerusalem and New York campuses.



Dr. Jacqueline C. Rivers is the Executive Director of the Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies. She has lectured at Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Pennsylvania, the American Enterprise Institute, the Vatican, the United Nations, and in several other venues. She served as a Hutchins Fellow at Harvard University. Her latest publication

appears in the volume *Not Just Good but Beautiful* (2015). She has also published a chapter, written with the leading sociologist Orlando Patterson, in *The Cultural Matrix* (2016). Rivers is the former Executive Director of MathPower, an education consulting organization she founded, and which became an influential voice in mathematics education reform for low income, minority students in the Boston Public Schools. This project arose out of her work with Bob Moses of the Algebra Project and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She has worked on issues of social justice and Christian activism in the black community for more than thirty years, committing her personal and professional life in service to the inner-city youth of Boston. Rivers holds a PhD from Harvard

University where she was a Doctoral Fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy of the J.F. Kennedy School of Government and a Graduate Research Fellow of the National Science Foundation. She graduated from Harvard Radcliffe College with a B.A. summa cum laude and M.A. in Psychology.



Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett serves as President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, established in 2008 to continue the legacy of her father, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, who served as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the US Congress. Congressman Lantos was the founder of the Congressional Human

Rights Caucus and was widely acknowledged as one of our nation's most eloquent and forceful leaders on behalf of human rights and justice. Under her leadership, The Lantos Foundation has rapidly become a distinguished and respected voice on key human rights concerns ranging from advancing rule of law globally and fighting for Internet freedom in closed societies to combatting the persistent and growing threat of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. Dr. Lantos Swett is the former Chair and Vice-Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and teaches Human Rights and American Foreign Policy at Tufts University. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Board of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) and the Budapest based Tom Lantos Institute. Dr. Lantos Swett also serves on the Advisory Board of UN Watch, the annual Anne Frank Award and Lecture, The Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership, and Public Policy, the Advisory Council of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, and the Brigham Young University Law School. Lantos Swett earned a Political Science degree from Yale University at the age of 18, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and a PhD in History from The University of Southern Denmark.

Sponsors



The Religious Freedom Institute (RFI) is committed to achieving broad acceptance of religious liberty as a fundamental human right, the cornerstone of a successful society, and a source of national and international security. It achieves this goal by convincing stakeholders in select regions that religious freedom can help them achieve their own goals-political, economic, strategic, and religious. Action Teams establish a presence in each region to build coalitions and work toward making religious freedom a priority for governments, civil society, religious communities, businesses, and the general public.



Launched in August 2004, The Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion (ISR) exists to initiate, support, and conduct research on religion, involving scholars and projects spanning the intellectual spectrum: history, psychology, sociology, economics, anthropology, political science, philosophy, epidemiology, theology, and religious studies. Our mandate extends to all religions, everywhere, and throughout history. It also embraces the study of religious effects on such things as prosocial behavior, family life, population health, economic development, and social conflict. While always striving for appropriate scientific objectivity, our scholars treat religion with the respect that sacred matters require and deserve.

With a special thanks to the Templeton Religion Trust which made this project possible.

A Special Thank You

Sawyer String Quartet
Lily Holgate and Kenneth Trotter, Violin
Sarah Hill, Viola
Chelsea Bernstein, Cello

Well Dunn Catering

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National Archives Foundation

and to

all of the Signatories of the Charter

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