

# National Religious Campaign Against Torture

## Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

**<http://www.nrcat.org/about/nrcat-press-releases/1178-faith-leaders-pray-that-president-trump-will-robustly-defend-the-dignity-of-all-people>**

## Public Facing Advocacy Writing

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 10, 2017

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### Faith Leaders Pray that President Trump will Robustly Defend the Dignity of all People

**Washington, DC** - In advance of confirmation hearings on executive branch nominations, national faith leaders sent [a letter to President-elect Trump](#) sharing their hopes and prayers that he would advance American values and defend all people from torture, genocide, and other assaults on human dignity.

The faith leaders, representing many different American faith traditions, wrote:

We live in an era when fear and anger have eroded the common concern for human life and human dignity. Too often lines are drawn between people of different ethnicities, religions, and cultures, and some use those lines in an attempt to justify killing, torture, and other immoral acts of brutality.

While we represent a diversity of faith traditions, we stand together in a shared belief in the God-given dignity of each person and the conviction that America should reject the forces that divide people and should protect those who are at risk of torture, rape, genocide, and other violations of human dignity. Our faith traditions teach us that standing up for the vulnerable and those in need is at integral to the well-being of our shared community.

The full text of the [faith leader letter](#) to President-elect Donald Trump can be found below:

January 10, 2017

President-elect Donald Trump  
Trump Tower  
735 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

cc: Members of the 115th Congress

Dear President-elect Trump,

As representatives of many different faith communities, we are writing to convey our hope and prayers that you will robustly defend the dignity of all people and strive to advance democracy, human rights, and rule of law both here at home and around the world.

We live in an era when fear and anger have eroded the common concern for human life and human dignity. Too often lines are drawn between people of different ethnicities, religions, and cultures, and some use those lines in an attempt to justify killing, torture, and other immoral acts of brutality.

While we represent a diversity of faith traditions, we stand together in a shared belief in the God-given dignity of each person and the conviction that America should reject the forces that divide people and should protect those who are at risk of torture, rape, genocide, and other violations of human dignity. Our faith traditions teach us that standing up for the vulnerable and those in need is at integral to the well-being of our shared community. We believe that our country should champion democracy and rule of law both here and abroad.

As you begin your presidency, we pray that you will stand to protect American values like democracy, freedom of religion, and rule of law, and that you will defend people from torture, genocide, and other assaults on human dignity.

Please know that our prayers are with you. As you shoulder the burdens of the presidency, you can always reach out to any of us for counsel and prayer.

Sincerely,

Bishop Bruce R. Ough

President, The Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner  
Director  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry  
Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed  
National Director of Interfaith & Community Alliances  
Islamic Society of North America

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President  
United Church of Christ

Dr. Susan E. Gillies  
Interim General Secretary  
American Baptist Churches USA

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins  
General Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Jim Winkler  
President and General Secretary  
National Council of the Churches

Kavneet Singh  
President  
American Sikh Council (ASC)

Rev. David Steele  
General Secretary  
Church of the Brethren

Colin P. Watson, Sr.  
Director of Ministries and Administration  
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Rev. Peter Morales  
President  
Unitarian Universalist Association

Sr. Simone Campbell  
Executive Director  
NETWORK: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Rev. Ron Stief  
Executive Director  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Rev. Paula Clayton Dempsey  
Director of Partnership Relations  
Alliance of Baptists

Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
Executive Director  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Ervin R. Stutzman  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Church USA

Gerry Lee  
Director  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concern

Patrick Carolan  
Executive Director  
Franciscan Action Network

Sr. Patricia J. Chappell  
Executive Director  
Pax Christi USA

Diane Randall  
Executive Secretary  
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Hon. Thomas H. Andrews  
President & CEO  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

[Download the full letter here.](#)

***The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)** is a membership organization committed to ending U.S.-sponsored torture, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Since its formation in January 2006, more than 300 religious organizations have joined NRCAT, including representatives from the Catholic, evangelical Christian, mainline Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, Quaker, Orthodox Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Bahai, Buddhist, and Sikh communities. Members include national denominations and faith groups, regional organizations and local congregations.*

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