



Freedom to Flourish: *Is Religious Freedom Necessary for Peace, Prosperity, and Democracy?*

Current conflicts in Syria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and elsewhere make it clear that religion is not going away as a force in international affairs or American national security. One potentially fruitful method of dealing with these conflicts is advancing religious tolerance and, ultimately, religious freedom—a subject that has received far too little attention from policymakers, scholars, and the media. Since its inception in 2011 the Religious Freedom Project has conducted a wide-ranging and often contentious conversation among these very groups on the meaning and value of religious freedom.

A two-day capstone conference will look back over the project's first three years, and look forward as well. It will address the relationship between religious freedom and human flourishing. Top experts will engage in a series of debates around the proposition that religious freedom is not only a universal right but also a universal good—a key ingredient in the flourishing of individuals and societies everywhere.

Copley Formal Lounge, Georgetown University

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

(10:00 - 10:15am) Welcome & Introductions

Thomas Farr, *Religious Freedom Project*

**(10:15 - 11:15am) Keynote Address: Why Everybody
Everywhere Has a Right to Religious Freedom**

Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Yale University*

(11:15am - 12:00pm) Response

Stephen Macedo, *Princeton University*

(12:00 - 12:30pm) Lunch

**(12:30 - 1:30pm) Conversation on Religious Freedom
and Societal Flourishing**

Stephen Macedo, *Princeton University*

Timothy Shah (moderator), *Religious Freedom Project*

Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Yale University*

**(1:45 - 3:15pm) Panel One: Does Every Person
Everywhere—Religious or Not—
Need Religious Freedom?**

Fr. Stephen Fields, SJ (moderator), *Georgetown University*

Kristine Kalanges, *University of Notre Dame*

Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, *Chicago Theological Seminary*

Christopher Tollefsen, *University of South Carolina*

**(3:30 - 5:00pm) Panel Two: Do Democracies
Everywhere Need Religious Freedom
to be Liberal—and to Last?**

John DiIulio, *University of Pennsylvania*

Marci Hamilton, *Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University*

Mark Lilla, *Columbia University*

Daniel Philpott (moderator), *Religious Freedom Project*

Mark Rienzi, *Catholic University of America*

Thursday, October 10, 2013

(9:00 - 9:15am) Welcome & Introductions

**(9:15 - 10:45am) Panel One: Does Religious Freedom
Undermine Terrorism and Conflict
and Foster Secure Societies?**

Thomas Farr (moderator), *Religious Freedom Project*

Brian Grim, *Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life*

John Owen, *University of Virginia*

Tamara Wittes, *Brookings Institution*

**(11:00am - 12:30pm) Keynote Conversation: Whither the
“First Freedom”? Debating the Current State and
Possible Future of Religious Liberty in America**

E.J. Dionne, *Washington Post*

Ross Douthat, *New York Times*

Jane Little (moderator), *Independent Journalist*

Ken Starr, *Baylor University*

(12:30 - 1:00pm) Lunch

**(1:00 - 2:30pm) Panel Two: Does Religious Freedom
Promote Economic Freedom
and Prosperity Everywhere?**

Ilan Alon, *Rollins College*

William Inboden (moderator), *Religious Freedom Project*

Timur Kuran, *Duke University*

Ian Linden, *Tony Blair Faith Foundation*

Rebecca Shah, *Berkley Center*

**(2:45 - 4:15pm) Panel Three: What is the Evidence that
Religious Freedom is Necessary for
the Political Success of Free Societies?**

Tony Gill, *University of Washington*

Daniel Philpott, *Religious Freedom Project*

Nukhet Sandal, *Ohio University*

Ani Sarkissian, *Michigan State University*

Timothy Shah (moderator), *Religious Freedom Project*

FEATURING

E.J. Dionne, Jr. is a senior research fellow at the Berkley Center, University Professor in the Foundations of Democracy and Culture at Georgetown University, and a leading scholar and commentator on religion in US politics. A senior fellow in the Governance Studies Program at the Brookings Institution, Dionne also writes a column for the *Washington Post*. His most recent book is *Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent* (2012).

Ross Douthat has been an Op-Ed columnist with *The New York Times* since April 2009. Previously, he was a senior editor at the *Atlantic* and a blogger for theatlantic.com. He is the author of *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics* (2012) and *Privilege: Harvard and the Education of the Ruling Class* (2005), and the co-author, with Reihan Salam, of *Grand New Party: How Republicans Can Win the Working Class And Save the American Dream* (2008).

Stephen Macedo is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics at Princeton University and a former Director of the University Center for Human Values (2001-2009). He is the author of numerous works including *Democracy at Risk: How Political Choices Undermine Citizen Participation, and What We Can Do About It* (2005) and *Liberal Virtues: Citizenship, Virtue, and Community in Liberal Constitutionalism* (1990).

Ken Starr is the president of Baylor University, a position he has held since 2010. He also holds the Louise L. Morrison Chair of Constitutional Law and is a member of the faculty at Baylor Law School. Judge Starr is the former Solicitor General of the United States and served on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He has argued 36 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He is the author of several publications including *First Among Equals: The Supreme Court in American Life* (2002).

Nicholas Wolterstorff is the Noah Porter Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Yale University and currently a senior fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He is the author of numerous books and published articles, including *Understanding Liberal Democracy* (2012), *Justice in Love* (2011), *Justice: Rights and Wrongs* (2010), and *Until Justice and Peace Embrace* (1983/1994).

OTHER SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Ilan Alon is the George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Chair of International Business and Director of the China Center at Rollins College.

John J. DiIulio, Jr. is the Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania.

Thomas Farr is Director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

Fr. Stephen Fields, SJ is an associate professor of theology at Georgetown University.

Anthony Gill is a professor of political science and an adjunct professor of sociology at the University of Washington.

Brian Grim is a senior researcher and director of cross-national data at the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Marci Hamilton is the Paul R. Verkuil Chair in Public Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University.

Will Inboden is associate professor and director of the Clements Center at the University of Texas, Austin.

Kristine Kalanges is an associate professor of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Timur Kuran is professor of economics and political science, and Gorter Family Professor in Islamic Studies at Duke University.

Mark Lilla is a professor of humanities at Columbia University.

Ian Linden is the director of policy for the Tony Blair Faith Foundation.

Jane Little is an independent broadcast journalist and writer.

John Owen is Ambassador Henry J. and Mrs. Marion R. Taylor Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia.

Daniel Philpott is a professor of political science and the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Mark Rienzi is an assistant professor at the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.

Nukhet Sandal is an assistant professor of political science at Ohio University.

Ani Sarkissian is an assistant professor of political science at Michigan State University.

Rebecca Shah is a research fellow with the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University.

Timothy Shah is associate director of the Religious Freedom Project at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a professor at the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Christopher Tollefsen is a professor of philosophy at the University of South Carolina.

Tamara Wittes is a senior fellow and director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution.

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