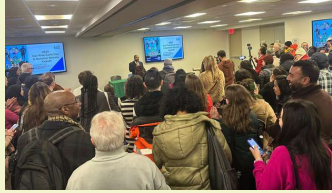


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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Trump's Immigration Policies Face Local Resistance

Local officials condemn federal enforcement tactics.

NYN Desk

Cities across the United States are responding to President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown with community-based strategies aimed at protecting immigrant populations. Many urban areas are strengthening support networks, offering "Know Your Rights" workshops, and providing legal assistance to help residents navigate potential encounters with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In Chicago, community leaders have established rapid-response networks using text chains and social media to monitor ICE activities and alert residents in real time. These efforts have proven effective in mobilizing communities, often preventing detentions. Similar initiatives have been implemented in other major cities, reflecting a growing movement to counter federal immigration enforcement through grassroots activism. Many cities are also reinforcing their

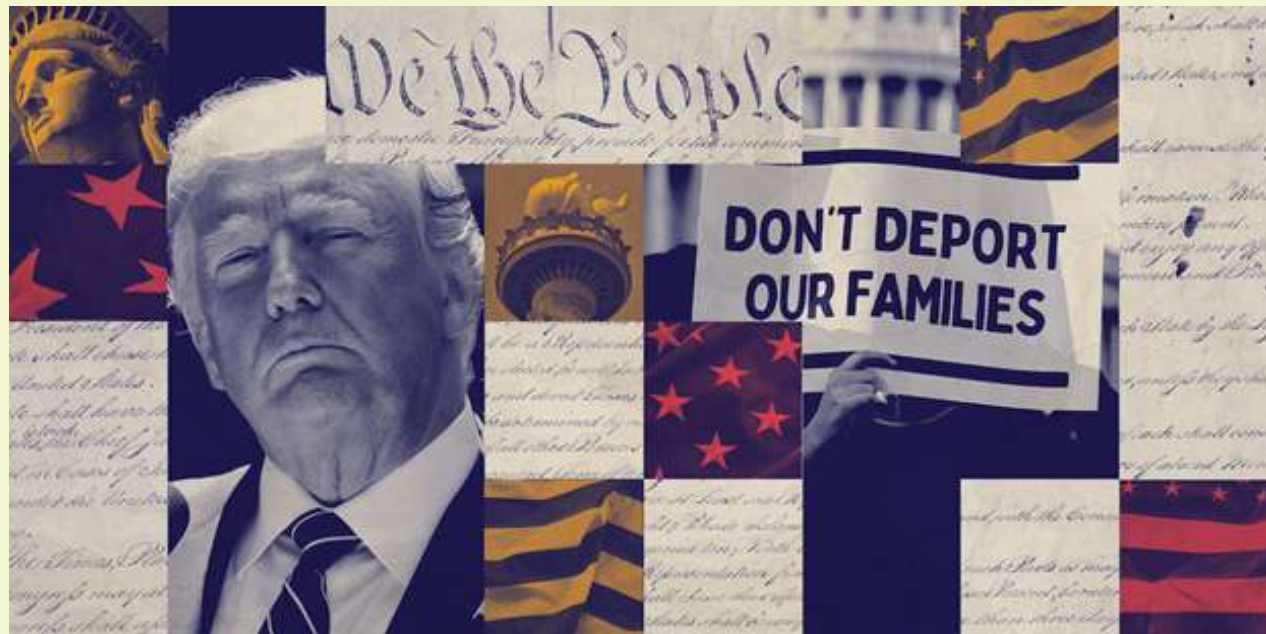


Image Source : American Civil Liberties Union

sanctuary policies, limiting cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. These policies aim to protect undocumented residents while maintaining trust between immigrant communities and local police. However, they have led to conflicts with the Trump administration, which has threatened to withhold federal funding from cities that refuse to comply with ICE detainer requests. Legal battles are

- Cities enhance support networks amid intensified immigration enforcement.
- Chicago's rapid-response networks effectively monitor ICE activities.
- Sanctuary policies lead to tensions with the federal government.
- Legal challenges arise against warrantless ICE raids.

also emerging as advocacy groups and city officials challenge the administration's aggressive immigration enforcement. In Newark, New Jersey, Mayor Ras Baraka strongly condemned a recent warrantless ICE raid that resulted in the detention of both undocumented individuals and U.S. citizens. The mayor described the operation as an attack on the community, prompting local organizations to expand educational programs on legal rights during ICE encounters.

As the federal crackdown continues, cities are actively balancing compliance with national policies while striving to protect their immigrant populations. Through legal action, community mobilization, and policy measures, they are resisting efforts that threaten the well-being of millions of residents. The growing network of support demonstrates the resilience of immigrant communities in the face of uncertainty.

Adams Pursues Dismissal Ahead of Trial

Trump Signals Support Amid Legal Battle

NYN Desk

New York City Mayor Eric Adams' legal team is actively engaging with the U.S. Department of Justice to seek the dismissal of federal corruption charges ahead of his April trial. Indicted in September 2024 on five counts, including bribery, conspiracy, and campaign finance violations, Adams has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

- Adams' legal team seeks dismissal of federal corruption charges.
- Discussions with DOJ could impact upcoming re-election campaign.

The discussions are being overseen by Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, with federal prosecutors currently reviewing the case. Reports suggest that the Justice Department is considering dropping the charges, a move that could significantly influence Adams' re-election campaign. In a related development, President Donald Trump has expressed support for Adams, hinting at the possibility of a pardon.

Deadly Black Hawk-Jet Collision Kills 67

Helicopter and Jet Collide Near Airport

The SHORT

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Queens Hosts 12th Annual World Hijab Day Celebration page-04

Young Leaders Shine at Elhaam Event page-03

NYN Desk

A tragic midair collision occurred on January 29, 2025, at approximately 8:47 p.m. EST, involving a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines regional jet near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. All 67 individuals aboard both aircraft—64 passengers and crew on the jet and three Army personnel on the helicopter—lost their lives. The collision resulted in debris scattering into



Image Source : bloomberg.com the Potomac River, prompting immediate response from emergency teams. Rescue operations have so far recovered 42 bodies, with efforts ongoing to locate the remaining victims. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has retrieved the flight

- Deadliest U.S. aviation accident since 2001.
- FAA has imposed temporary helicopter traffic restrictions around Reagan National Airport. The NTSB is investigating possible altitude issues and pilot error.

data recorders from both aircraft. Preliminary analysis indicates that the Black Hawk helicopter may have

been operating above its designated altitude during a classified continuity-of-government training mission. Investigators are examining multiple factors, including air traffic control communications, flight protocols, and potential misidentification of other aircraft in the congested airspace. Aviation experts suggest that the helicopter pilot might have mistakenly believed they had visual separation from other traffic, leading to the

fatal encounter. This incident marks the deadliest U.S. aviation accident since 2001, raising significant concerns about the safety of military and civilian aircraft operations in close proximity, especially in high-traffic areas like Washington.

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Interfaith

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MUNA Leadership Education Session in New York

Adnan Fuad

The day-long Leadership Education Session held by Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA) in New York on January 26. Speakers said, 'This worldly life is very limited, the real place of man is the hereafter. It is the religious duty of every Muslim to avoid immoral acts in this world in order to make the eternal life of the hereafter beautiful and worthwhile.' The education session held at the MUNA Center in Jamaica, New York. Presided by New

York North Zone President Mohammad Rasheduzzaman. In the presence of 400 men and women, the session was attended by MUNA National President Imam Delwar Hossain, National Vice-President Saidur Rahman Chowdhury, Harun Or Rashid, National Executive Director Arman Chowdhury, National Assistant Executive Director Abdullah Al Arif. Sheikh Jalal Uddin, National Assistant Finance Director, was also present. The program was conducted by North Zone

General Secretary Mominul Islam Majumdar and Deputy General Secretary Didarul Alam. The speakers in the session said, The main purpose of the religion of Islam is to develop people as true servants of Allah. Allah sent His beloved Prophet among us to dedicate worship and devotion to Allah alone and to develop good moral character and good conduct, and to reach a higher level of faith by making relentless efforts. They also said,

Immigration police raid in New York, Bangladeshis in panic



NYN Desk

Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids have begun in New York City. Homeland Security Secretary Christy Noam was present during the raid on the morning of January 28. A criminal alien was arrested in the raid on charges of kidnapping, assault and theft. Later, it was reported that about 20 people were arrested in total.

Authorities say that such criminals will not be allowed to live on the streets. Immigration Customs and Enforcement New York Field Office said that the raid has begun to enforce US immigration laws and protect public safety and national security by removing foreign criminals from the community. Law enforcement agencies are conducting raids nationwide.

NYN Desk

Dr. George A. Garland, President of the United Nations Association USA Southern New York Division, met with students at a meet and greet. The event was organized by Elham Academy and UNA-USA Queens Chapter at 87-41, 165th Street in Jamaica on January 23. Students asked George various questions. In particular, the discussion focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or SDG Goal

Project-2025. At the beginning, Dr. Garland highlighted the importance of SDGs in creating a sustainable and equitable future. He hopes that students will take action on climate change, educational equality, and finding clean water. Dr. Garland thanked the organizers of the event, Elham Academy, after highlighting some other steps. After the discussion on SDGs, Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah presented the crest to George A. Garland.

Students Meet and Greet with George Garland in Jamaica

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHREB	ISHA
05:47	12:10	02:53	05:15	06:33
05:46	12:10	02:54	05:16	06:34
05:45	12:10	02:55	05:18	06:35
05:44	12:10	02:56	05:19	06:36
05:43	12:10	02:57	05:20	06:37
05:42	12:10	02:58	05:21	06:38
05:41	12:10	02:59	05:22	06:39

Number 2013

World Hijab Day recognized in New York, Muslims rejoice

NYN Desk

The New York State Senate has recognized February 1, 2025, as World Hijab Day, with the aim of promoting religious tolerance, cultural understanding and international solidarity. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights organization in America, welcomed the move. It is worth noting that the declaration was proposed by Senator Roxanne Persaud of the New York State Senate and aims to empower women who wear the hijab and raise awareness against discrimination and hatred against them.



Celebrated for 12 years, World Hijab Day serves as a powerful platform to highlight the experiences and struggles of women who wear the hijab. World Hijab Day was founded in 2013 by Najma Khan, whose main objective was to increase religious tolerance and cultural understanding. This day is celebrated worldwide, where women can get acquainted with the challenges and experiences of women who wear the hijab by wearing it for a day. Nazma Khan, a Bangladeshi citizen, initiated the World Hijab Day movement to foster personal freedom in expressing religion and culture. Nazma invites all levels of society, both Muslims and non-Muslims, to wear the hijab on February 1 every year. The World Hijab Day movement was first commemorated in 2013. Through this movement, Nazma tries to fight the controversy surrounding the question of why Muslim women wear the hijab in their daily lives. Nazma feels that being a woman who wears the hijab often experiences difficult challenges such as her experience when she was eleven years old and was the only woman who wore the hijab in high school. "Growing up in the Bronx, New York City.

Community

Young Leaders Shine at Elhaam Event

Minhaz Khan

Elhaam Academy recently hosted a successful event introducing its EA Junior Ambassador Program, an initiative aimed at fostering leadership, creativity, and teamwork among young children. The event, held on January 31st at 87-41 165th St, Jamaica, NY, brought together boys and girls aged 5 to 12 for an engaging and educational experience. Designed to provide a fun yet meaningful

environment, the program offers children opportunities to develop essential life skills while participating in exciting activities. The event was packed with energy as children took part in interactive games, creative arts and crafts, epic dodgeball, and laser tag. Organizers ensured that the day was both entertaining and enriching, allowing young participants to learn through play. Alongside the activities, delicious food was served,



creating a welcoming and lively atmosphere. The combination of physical, creative, and social elements made the event a well-rounded experience for all attendees. As a NY State-approved initiative, the EA Junior Ambassador Program aligns with educational standards while emphasizing holistic development. The program is designed to help children build

HIGHLIGHT

- NY State-approved leadership program for kids.
 - Overjoyed children engaged in games and arts.
 - Parents praised the initiative's positive impact.
- Future sessions open for new enrollments.

confidence, improve problem-solving skills, and learn the value of teamwork. Through structured yet enjoyable activities, participants gained exposure to leadership-building experiences that will benefit them in school and beyond. The importance of such programs cannot be overstated. In an era where children are increasingly engaged with digital

screens, initiatives like this provide much-needed opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and creative expression. By encouraging teamwork and strategic thinking, the EA Junior Ambassador Program equips young minds with skills that are crucial for their future growth. Parents and educators recognize the significance of fostering leadership qualities from an early age, and this program serves as a platform to do just that. Elhaam Academy continues to play a vital role in youth education and community engagement. With the successful launch of this program, the institution reaffirms its commitment to nurturing the next generation. Families interested in enrolling their children in future sessions can visit elhaamacademy.org or contact 866-935-4226 for more information.



Community

The 107th Precinct Council: Bridging Police and Community

Monthly Meetings Promote Open Dialogue

NYN Desk

The 107th Precinct Community Council is playing a pivotal role in enhancing public safety and fostering strong community relationships in the neighborhood. As a vital link between local residents and the NYPD's 107th Precinct, the council works tirelessly to ensure effective communication, transparency, and collaboration in addressing public concerns. Through various initiatives and events, the council has established itself as a trusted organization committed to improving the quality of life for all community members. One of the council's key responsibilities is hosting monthly meetings, where residents, business owners, and community leaders have the opportunity to engage directly with local police officers. These meetings serve as an open forum to discuss crime trends, safety measures, and community-driven initiatives. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions, voice concerns, and provide feedback on policing strategies. By fostering an environment of dialogue and cooperation, these gatherings contribute to a more informed and proactive community. Strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and the public is at the heart of the council's mission.

Acting as a bridge between the NYPD and the neighborhood, the council plays a crucial role in building trust and collaboration. They work closely with police officials to address issues such as crime prevention, neighborhood patrols, and public safety enhancements. Through continuous engagement, they help ensure that the concerns of residents are acknowledged and addressed in an effective manner. In addition to their efforts in communication and trust-building, the council actively organizes public safety and awareness events. These initiatives aim to educate the community about crime prevention strategies and safety measures. Programs such as Neighborhood Watch groups, self-defense workshops, and anti-theft campaigns empower residents to take an active role in safeguarding their neighborhoods. Guest speakers and law enforcement professionals often participate in these events, offering valuable insights and practical advice on crime deterrence. Beyond crime prevention, the 107th Precinct Community Council is deeply invested in supporting community programs that promote education, youth engagement, and social well-being. By collaborating with local organizations,



the council facilitates various initiatives that benefit young people and families. Programs such as after-school activities, scholarship opportunities, **HIGHLIGHT** •The council organizes public safety events like Neighborhood Watch groups and self-defense workshops. •Youth-focused initiatives, including scholarships and anti-gang programs, reduce long-term crime risks. •National Night Out and community outreach events promote police-community trust. The council assists in disaster relief, offering support during emergencies and hardships. and anti-drug and anti-gang campaigns provide crucial resources for the youth. These efforts not only keep young

individuals engaged in positive activities but also contribute to long-term crime reduction by addressing root causes at an early stage. The council also plays a significant role in promoting the NYPD's "Build the Block" meetings, which focus on neighborhood policing and crime reduction strategies. By helping to organize and spread awareness about these meetings, the council ensures that residents remain actively involved in discussions about local safety concerns. These sessions allow community members to interact with neighborhood coordination officers, voice specific issues, and propose solutions tailored to their locality. Such initiatives reinforce the idea that crime prevention and safety are collaborative efforts that require input from all stakeholders. Throughout the year,

the council engages in a variety of special events and outreach programs that strengthen community bonds and promote civic participation. One of the most notable events is National Night Out, an annual initiative that fosters police-community trust through recreational activities, public safety demonstrations, and interactive sessions. Additionally, the council supports holiday toy drives, back-to-school supply donations, and local clean-up projects. These events not only address immediate needs but also encourage a culture of volunteerism and shared responsibility within the community. In times of crisis, the council extends its support by participating in disaster relief efforts. Whether responding to natural disasters, public health emergencies, or unexpected hardships faced by local

families, the organization steps in to coordinate assistance and resources. Their commitment to community resilience and well-being underscores the broader mission of ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all residents. The work of the 107th Precinct Community Council exemplifies the power of collaboration in fostering a safer and more united neighborhood. Through consistent engagement, education, and advocacy, they have created a platform where law enforcement and the public can work together to address shared concerns. By continuously evolving their programs and initiatives, the council remains a cornerstone of community empowerment and public safety. As the council moves forward, they continue to encourage residents to participate in their meetings, events, and initiatives. Their unwavering dedication to public service and community improvement sets a strong example for how local organizations can make a tangible difference. With a shared vision of safety, trust, and cooperation, the 107th Precinct Community Council is shaping a neighborhood where residents feel heard, protected, and actively involved in building a better future.



Rights

Empowering Voices: World Hijab Day at Elhaam Academy

NYN Desk

World Hijab Day is a global movement promoting religious freedom, inclusivity, and awareness about the rights of hijab-wearing women. The 2025 theme, #HijabisUnsilenced, aims to highlight the voices of Muslim women and challenge stereotypes. Over 150 countries participate in this initiative, with organizations like DAWAH USA, Elhaam Academy, and Malika playing active roles in spreading awareness and education. Elhaam Academy successfully hosted a World Hijab Day event, bringing together students, educators, and community members to celebrate and understand the significance of the hijab. The event featured discussions, guest lectures, and interactive sessions focused on



religious freedom and cultural awareness. As part of the program, Deena Hadhoud, Director of Programs at Malika Organization, delivered a presentation titled "Know Your Rights" to the children of Elhaam Academy. Her session emphasized the importance of religious expression, self-confidence, and standing against discrimination, ensuring that young minds are aware of their fundamental rights. By participating in World Hijab Day, these organizations contribute to fostering a more inclusive society where religious expression is respected and celebrated. Their continued efforts help create awareness, empower individuals, and encourage global solidarity for the rights of Muslim women.



Environment



The 2025 Car-Free Earth Day event in New York City is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025.

In addition to celebrating car-free streets, the event also marked the official launch of the Summer Streets program, an initiative that transforms major streets into vibrant public spaces during warmer months. Through this program, New Yorkers can enjoy safe, car-free zones while engaging in fitness activities, cultural programs, and community events. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the application process for participation, explore new opportunities, and engage directly with NYC DOT leadership, including Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez. The event provided an open platform for residents, advocacy groups, and local businesses to voice their perspectives on urban mobility and sustainability. The day's activities included refreshments and a special surprise for attendees, creating an enjoyable and engaging atmosphere. The event's success was a testament to the leadership and planning efforts of Kenny R. Placencio, Project Manager for Citywide Signature Events at the Communications & Press Office, who played a key role in its execution. Beyond the festivities, the impact of Car-Free Earth Day was clear. The event demonstrated the benefits of reducing vehicular congestion, creating safer streets, and fostering a healthier urban environment. It also inspired conversations about long-term policies that prioritize public transportation, bike lanes, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. As New York City continues to evolve, events like Car-Free Earth Day serve as a catalyst for change, encouraging people to reimagine their relationship with urban spaces. By embracing car-free streets, the city moves closer to a more sustainable, accessible, and environmentally friendly future.

NYC DOT Announces Car-Free Earth Day 2025

NYC's Car-Free Earth Day Sparks Green Future

Mohammed Amin

The 2025 Car-Free Earth Day and Summer Streets Kickoff, organized by the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT), took place on Thursday, January 30th, at 55 Water Street, New York, NY

10041. This annual initiative encouraged New Yorkers to rethink urban mobility by closing select streets to vehicular traffic, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to reclaim public spaces. The event was a resounding success, reinforcing the city's commitment to reducing carbon emissions,

HIGHLIGHT

- NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez engaged with attendees
- Promoted sustainable urban mobility by closing streets to vehicles
- Highlighted reduced emissions, safer streets, and cleaner air

improving air quality, and promoting sustainable transportation alternatives. Car-Free Earth Day has become an essential part of NYC's environmental efforts, encouraging residents to adopt eco-friendly commuting options, such as walking, biking, and public transit.



Rights

Queens Hosts 12th Annual World Hijab Day Celebration

Zakir Jahid

The 12th annual World Hijab Day was recently celebrated in Queens, bringing together a diverse group of attendees in support of religious freedom, unity, and understanding. Organized by the South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship, and Training (SAFEST) and endorsed by the Interfaith Center of the USA, the event took place on the steps of Queens Borough Hall. It served as a powerful reminder of the significance of the hijab in the lives of Muslim women and the broader theme of liberty, equality, and fraternity. The event saw the presence of several esteemed guests, including Mohamed Amin, Senior Muslim advisor to Mayor Eric Adams; Mehedi Hasan and Atia Shahnaz from Mayors Office, Sergeant Latif and Officer Mahbubur Rahman of the NYPD Community Affairs; and Shukrani Danpath from the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs. Their participation highlighted the importance of fostering interfaith

dialogue and ensuring the protection of religious expression in a diverse city like New York. Governor Kathy Hochul sent an official letter of recognition, commending SAFEST for its efforts in advocating for South Asian immigrants and promoting civic engagement. She acknowledged the global impact of World Hijab Day since its inception in 2013 and emphasized the importance of respecting religious freedom for all communities. Her message reinforced New York's commitment to inclusiveness and diversity. Attendees held banners and signs advocating religious expression and shared personal stories of wearing the hijab. The event provided a platform for Muslim women to discuss their experiences, address misconceptions, and emphasize that the hijab is a personal choice rooted in faith and identity. Community leaders spoke about the challenges faced by Muslim women and the importance of standing together against discrimination.



Photo : NYDIS



The celebration also served as an opportunity for interfaith and civic engagement, as people from different backgrounds joined in solidarity. By bringing together officials, activists, and local community members, the event reinforced the shared values of understanding and mutual respect. Organizers expressed their gratitude for the growing recognition of World Hijab Day and emphasized their commitment to continuing advocacy for religious rights. As the event concluded, attendees reflected on the progress made in promoting awareness and looked forward to furthering the conversation on religious freedom and women's rights in the years ahead.

Defending Hijab Rights: A Workshop with Afaf Nasher

Fatima Tamanna

Elhaam Academy hosted an insightful workshop on Hijab Rights, led by Afaf Nasher, Esq., the Executive Director of CAIR-NY. The session educated students on their legal rights regarding the hijab and the challenges Muslim women face in workplaces, schools, and public life. Ms. Nasher emphasized the importance of knowing one's rights and taking action against discrimination. CAIR-NY plays a crucial role in advocating for hijab rights by providing legal assistance, raising awareness, and pushing for policy changes that protect religious freedom. The



organization supports Muslim women facing discrimination and works to ensure their rights are upheld. The workshop encouraged meaningful discussions on religious expression and activism. Through such initiatives, CAIR-NY and Elhaam Academy continue to empower young minds to stand for their rights and promote inclusivity.



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Faith & Peace



Interfaith Breakfast Unites Religious Leaders to Strengthen Community Bonds

NYC Mayors Interfaith Breakfast Strengthens Community Bonds



Malika Nawab

New York City witnessed a remarkable display of unity and goodwill as religious leaders, community members, and city officials

gathered for an inspiring Interfaith Breakfast. The event, held in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding, underscored the importance of interfaith dialogue in fostering

stronger community bonds. The highlight of the gathering was a powerful speech by Mayor Eric Adams, who emphasized the significance of collaboration among

faith groups in addressing societal challenges. The Interfaith Breakfast brought together a diverse array of faith leaders, including those from Christian, Jewish,

Muslim, Hindu, and other religious traditions. Their presence symbolized the shared commitment of different faith communities to work toward a more inclusive and

compassionate society. Mayor Eric Adams, known for his dedication to promoting interfaith harmony, addressed the attendees with a heartfelt speech. **NEXT PART 10 PAGE**

Faith & Peace

Interfaith Breakfast Unites Religious Leaders to Strengthen Community Bonds

"New York City is a place of incredible diversity, where people of all faiths live, work, and worship side by side. Our strength lies in our unity, and events like this breakfast serve as a reminder that when we come together, we can overcome any challenge," Adams stated. He went on to stress the importance of faith communities in tackling issues such as poverty, homelessness, and social inequality, praising their tireless efforts in providing aid to those in need. Throughout the event, stories of collaboration between religious groups were shared, highlighting the tangible impact of interfaith initiatives. From organizing food drives for the homeless to supporting educational programs for underserved youth, these partnerships have made a significant difference in the lives of many New Yorkers. Attendees listened attentively as faith leaders recounted their joint efforts, such as providing disaster relief

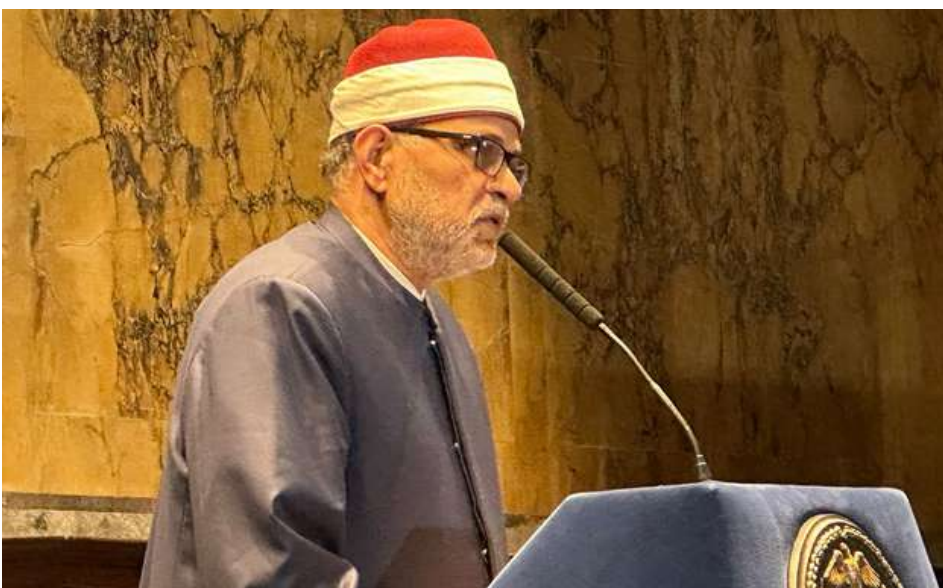
after severe storms, offering mentorship programs for young people, and ensuring that families facing economic hardship had access to necessary resources. The audience responded with rounds of applause as speakers recounted the successes of interfaith cooperation, demonstrating a deep appreciation for the collective efforts of different religious communities. One particularly moving story came from an interfaith initiative where Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Faith leaders worked side by side to establish a community kitchen in a low-income neighborhood. "This is what faith calls us to do—to serve, to uplift, and to stand together in times of hardship," one volunteer said. The initiative has since expanded, serving thousands of meals each month to those in need, a true testament to the power of interfaith action. The breakfast also provided a platform for discussing the role of

faith in building bridges across cultural and social divides. Several speakers emphasized the importance of open dialogue and mutual respect in breaking down stereotypes and fostering peaceful coexistence. They stressed that interfaith initiatives do not just benefit the religious communities themselves but also contribute to broader societal well-being. Research has shown that communities with active interfaith engagement experience lower levels of religious intolerance and social conflict, promoting peace and harmony. A significant portion of the discussion focused on the younger generation and their role in continuing the legacy of interfaith unity. Leaders encouraged young people to take an active role in interfaith programs, whether through volunteering, participating in educational workshops, or advocating for inclusive policies. The presence of youth volunteers at the event was particularly

inspiring, as they shared their experiences of working together across religious lines to make a meaningful impact. "Growing up, I didn't know much about other religions, but being part of an interfaith youth group changed my perspective completely," said one volunteer. "Now, I see that despite our differences, our values of kindness, service, and justice are the same." The discussion also touched on the need for continued collaboration in areas such as disaster relief, social justice, and youth empowerment, reinforcing the message that faith-based initiatives are crucial in creating a more just and equitable society. Several leaders called for more structured interfaith programs, including city-backed funding for joint religious initiatives that aim to address poverty, education disparities, and public health crises. In his closing remarks, Mayor Adams reaffirmed his administration's commitment to supporting interfaith

efforts. "Faith leaders have always been at the forefront of social change. Your work in strengthening our communities does not go unnoticed, and I pledge to stand with you in ensuring that our city remains a beacon of hope and unity for all," he declared. He further proposed creating a city-led interfaith council that would work closely with the mayor's office to develop policies that support faith-based community programs. As the event came to a close, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and determination. The Interfaith Breakfast was more than just a gathering—it was a testament to the power of faith in bringing people together, bridging divides, and inspiring positive change. Many participants exchanged contact information, eager to continue their discussions and collaborate on future initiatives. The event reinforced the idea that unity in diversity is not just an ideal, but a lived reality, one that

requires constant effort, understanding, and commitment. Faith leaders and city officials agreed that while progress has been made, there is still much work to be done. Issues such as discrimination, economic inequality, and social divisions remain challenges that require collective action. However, with events like the Interfaith Breakfast, New York City is proving that through dialogue, cooperation, and a shared vision for a better future, real change is possible. Through continued collaboration and dialogue, New York City's religious communities are paving the way for a future where faith serves as a unifying force rather than a source of division. The Interfaith Breakfast served as a powerful reminder that when different faiths come together with a common purpose, they have the power to heal, uplift, and transform society for the better.



Entertainment

MCC's Family Event Breaks New Ground in Queens

Elhaam Academy Hosts Unforgettable Family Night in Queens

NYN Desk

On January 26th, 2025, the Muslim Community Center (MCC) hosted its inaugural MCC Kids Family Night at Elhaam Academy in Jamaica, Queens. The event was a resounding success, attracting over 100 children and their families for a night filled with fun, laughter, and educational activities. For many, the evening was more than just a community gathering—it was an opportunity to connect, learn, and build lasting memories. The event featured a range of activities designed to entertain and educate. Children participated in games that encouraged teamwork and creativity, while workshops like arts and crafts helped spark their imaginations. The evening was thoughtfully organized to engage kids of all ages, from toddlers to pre-teens, making it a family-friendly event everyone could enjoy. Parents, too, were able to take part in the festivities and connect with one another, strengthening the sense of community that MCC and Elhaam Academy are dedicated to building. Elhaam



Academy played a crucial role in hosting the event. Muhammad Shahidullah, founder of the academy, worked closely with MCC to bring this program to Queens, offering the community a much-needed space for connection. His vision for creating events that promote unity and education was fully realized through the success of this first MCC Kids Family Night in Queens. The event's impact was felt not only by the children but by the parents and the broader community as well. For parents,

it provided a valuable opportunity to connect with other families. Many expressed their appreciation for the chance to bond with their children in a safe, welcoming environment while also forming relationships with other parents in the area. "It's wonderful to see my kids learning and having fun while meeting new friends," said one parent. "We don't always have events like this, so it's great to be able to spend time with my family and others in the community." The evening was also a reminder of the vital

role that organizations like MCC and Elhaam Academy play in strengthening local communities. These organizations provide essential resources as gathering points for important community-building events. By offering programs like the MCC Kids Family Night, they help create a sense of belonging for all, regardless of background. The success of the event signals a bright future for more community programs in Queens. MCC and Elhaam Academy are committed to continuing this work,

•Over 100 kids attended the first-ever MCC Kids Family Night in Queens.
 •Participants enjoyed fun activities, learning opportunities, and family-friendly entertainment.
Muhammad Shahidullah, Founder of Elhaam Academy, played a key role in the event's success.

their children happy and engaged, as well as the sense of community they had felt throughout the event. "We are grateful to Elhaam Academy for making this event possible," said a spokesperson for MCC. "This is just the start of many more events to come. We look forward to continuing to serve the families of Queens." The success of MCC's first-ever Kids Family Night is a clear indication of the importance of events that focus on family, community, and education. By bringing families together in a positive and engaging environment, MCC is helping to strengthen the bonds that make Queens a vibrant and supportive place to live. In conclusion, the MCC Kids Family Night in Queens was an unforgettable event that united families, creating an atmosphere of joy and togetherness. The successful collaboration between MCC and Elhaam Academy made this evening possible, and it marks the beginning of many more impactful programs that will continue to benefit the community in the future.





END PAGE

Trump's Billionaire Administration Under Scrutiny

Debating the Merits and Pitfalls of Billionaire-Led Federal Departments

NYN Desk

As of February 2025, President Donald Trump's administration stands as the wealthiest in modern American history, featuring at least 13 billionaires with a combined net worth exceeding \$450 billion. This concentration of affluence has ignited debates over potential conflicts of interest and whether such figures can effectively represent average Americans. At the forefront is Elon Musk, the world's richest individual, with a net worth surpassing \$400 billion. Musk, known for his leadership at Tesla and SpaceX, has been appointed to lead the newly established Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). His role involves streamlining federal operations, modernizing technology systems, and offering incentives for federal employees to resign in an effort to reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies. His appointment has



Image Source : LinkedIn

also raised concerns, particularly regarding his access to sensitive Treasury data, including Social Security and Medicare payment systems, sparking ethical and security fears. Linda McMahon, co-founder of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and worth an estimated \$3 billion,

●President Trump's administration includes at least 13 billionaires, with a combined net worth exceeding \$450 billion.

serves as Secretary of Education. While her business background suggests a focus on operational efficiency, details of her policy agenda remain uncertain. Meanwhile, Howard Lutnick, CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald and worth around \$1.5 billion, takes on the role of Secretary of

Commerce, expected to drive economic growth and strengthen trade. Biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, with a net worth nearing \$1 billion, co-leads DOGE alongside Musk, aiming to reduce government waste and implement innovative reforms. The presence of such immense wealth in the administration has sparked concerns about its ability to govern equitably. Critics argue that billionaire leadership may lead to policies favoring corporate and affluent interests, potentially deepening economic disparities. Ethical questions have also emerged, especially regarding potential conflicts of interest, given the substantial business holdings of these officials and how government decisions could impact their personal financial interests. Proponents counter that their private-sector expertise could drive efficiency and reform within federal agencies. They argue that successful business leaders are skilled at streamlining operations,

●The concentration of wealth in the administration has sparked debates over potential conflicts of interest and representation of average Americans.

cutting costs, and fostering innovation—qualities that could translate into a more effective government. Supporters see this as an opportunity to apply business acumen to public service, potentially reducing government waste, improving productivity, and introducing data-driven decision-making to federal institutions. The broader debate highlights the implications of a government dominated by individuals whose wealth far exceeds that of the average citizen. While some view this as leveraging private-sector success for public good, others fear it risks entrenching a plutocracy, where policies serve the elite rather than the general population, limiting economic mobility and political influence for middle and lower-income Americans. As the administration moves forward, the impact of these appointments will be closely scrutinized. Whether billionaire-led governance improves efficiency or deepens inequalities remains to be seen, but it has undeniably reshaped discussions about the role of wealth in American politics. Balancing business expertise with fair representation will be a key test for the Trump administration in the years ahead, as the nation watches how these high-profile figures navigate the complexities of public service.



Image Source : insidehighered.com



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