## True religious freedom protects people of all faiths and none.

Freedom of and Freedom from Religion

Religious and moral beliefs are deeply personal and, for many of us, a key part of our sense of self. The First Amendment protects the right of every person to believe as we choose with the expectation that the government won't play favorites among traditions or favor religion over nonreligion. Religious freedom is often called our "first freedom" because our founders saw freedom of conscience as the cornerstone for all other rights.

Diversity of Belief is a Source of Strength

Americans adhere to nearly 3,000 religious and spiritual traditions with no one community claiming a privileged status. People of all faiths and none are equal contributors to our shared society and all are eligible to run for office.

Pluralism in Action

The right to religious freedom is unalienable – but it's not unlimited. For every American to believe as they choose, we can't impose our beliefs on others. Religious freedom doesn't include the right to coerce, shame, or exclude others from public life because they don't share our beliefs.

Personal Belief, Public Life The wall of separation between church and state protects religious institutions as much as it protects our government. Religious communities have the freedom to share their teachings without government interference, provided the public sphere remains open to all.

**Equality** 

Across religious traditions, we are taught that every person is imbued with sacred dignity and worth. We strengthen our moral foundation by advancing policies that affirm our shared humanity and ensure that all people are treated equally under law.



INTERFAITH ALLIANCE champions an inclusive vision of religious freedom, protecting people of all faiths and none. At the federal, state, and local levels we promote policies that strengthen our democracy, bolster the separation of religion and government, and ensure that all receive equal treatment under law.

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