

SUPPRESSED

THE FIGHT TO VOTE

FAITH SCREENING REFLECTION GUIDE

Voter suppression isn't just a conversation about politics. With a firm belief in the separation of church and state, communities of faith and moral conscience must look at this issue as something that can affect their communities.

Your right to vote has as much to do with representation and equality under the law as the First Amendment does in guaranteeing your freedoms of speech, press, belief, and assembly. This is why religious, spiritual, interfaith, and intentionally secular communities must be at the forefront of this issue as a divine obligation or a commitment to the inter-connected nature of the human experience.

Various traditions talk about the importance of representation and the commitment to justice we must make by serving others who are different from us:



“Whoever sees an evil, he should change it by his hands; if he could not do so, then he should change it by his tongue; if he could not do so, then he should do that by his heart, which is the least of faith.”

Prophet Muhammad, Saheeh Muslim, Islam

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote...The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”

The Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalism

“Do not deny justice or show partiality. Do not accept any bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. Pursue justice, and justice alone, so that you may live, and you may possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Old Testament, Deuteronomy 16:19-20, Judaism/Christianity

“Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to self- less work one attains the supreme goal in life. Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind.”

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 3, Verse 19, Hinduism

“First Allah created the light and all the people of the world. If the whole world is born from the One Light, then who is good or bad? O Siblings, don't be deluded by doubt – The creator is in the creation, the creation is in the creator – deeply embedded in all space.”

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Prabhaatee, 1349-1350, Sikhism

“We are committed to an open and democratic society. We must extend participatory democracy in its true sense to the economy, the school, the family, the workplace, and voluntary associations. Decision-making must be decentralized to include widespread involvement of people at all levels – social, political, and economic. All persons should have a voice in developing the values and goals that determine their lives...”

Humanist Manifesto II, Secular Humanism

HAVE A CONVERSATION

1. Give yourself a moment to reflect personally. Give yourself the opportunity to process what you learned and give it the thought it deserves.
2. Are there examples of scriptures or stories from your tradition that come to mind when we talk about representation?
3. What challenges have you faced when talking about political issues in religious spaces? What do you think makes the conversation so difficult?
4. Why is it important for communities of faith and moral conscience to fight for the right to vote? Why is it important for a religious, spiritual, interfaith, or intentionally secular community to be civically engaged?
5. What can your community or congregation do to help with an upcoming election? What spaces or resources does your community have to help make voting more accessible and supportive for community members?

INTERFAITH REFLECTION

As we embark on this upcoming election, may we be guided by the principles of peace and kindness to choose individuals that not only represent our values but stand for the accountability and ethics required of any position of power. May we strive to serve those who are the most marginalized in our society with the compassion, education, and accessibility necessary to be an informed citizen in our country. Let us embark on the solemn duty to maintain a government that serves the will of the people, by the people, and for the people to strengthen our Union through pluralism, equity, and justice for all. Through the peace that exists within us, between us, and all around us... May it be so.

Discussion Questions & Reflection



ORGANIZATIONS

Faith In Action

Faith in Action is a national organizing network that works to dismantle systems of injustice that are fueled by hatred and racism.

faithinaction.org

Poor People's Campaign

The Poor People's Campaign is a multi-state movement that has emerged from more than a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations, and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, environmental destruction, and other injustices.

breachrepairers.org