



## Racial Justice & Religion Task Force

### February 2022 Task Force Members



#### **PJ Andrews**

Race Discourse Officer - *Baha'is of the United States Office of Public Affairs*

PJ coordinates the office's collaboration with individuals, organizations, and agencies in the U.S. engaged in public discourses and policy advocacy directed toward racial justice and racial unity. Prior to joining the office in 2017, PJ worked in ethical culture development for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), in government relations for national service programs with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), as a case manager for U.S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen, and supported the work of the International Teaching Centre at the World Center of the Bahá'í Faith in Haifa, Israel. PJ holds a M.Ed in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a BA in American Studies from Tufts University.



#### **The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas**

Dean, Episcopal Divinity School – *Union Theological Seminary & Canon Theologian, Washington National Cathedral*

The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas serves as the Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary and the Bill and Judith Moyers Chair in Theology at Union. She also serves as the Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral and Theologian in Residence at Trinity Church Wall Street.



#### **Dr. Brittney Cooper**

Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies – *Rutgers University*

Brittney Cooper is Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University. She is a Black feminist scholar, author of the New York Times bestselling book [Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower](#), and a licensed minister.



**Kaitlin Curtice**

Essayist, Poet, and Public Speaker – *The Aki Institute*

Kaitlin Curtice is a poet, author, public speaker, and founder of the Aki Institute for Peace and Justice. As an enrolled citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and someone who has grown up in the Christian faith, Kaitlin writes on the intersection of Indigenous spirituality, faith in everyday life, and decolonization within the church.



**Hebah Farrag**

Assistant Director for Research – *USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture*

Hebah Farrag is the assistant director of research at the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, where she manages large grant-based research projects while pursuing her own research on religion, social change, and new spiritual communities. Her current research focuses on spiritual exemplars, measuring impact in faith-based community groups and spirituality in the movement for Black lives.



**Nina M. Fernando**

Executive Director – *The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign*

Nina M. Fernando serves as Executive Director at The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, a multifaith coalition of religious denominations and faith-based organizations committed to dismantling anti-Muslim discrimination and violence in the United States and building a society where all are treated with dignity and respect. Nina is a Sri-Lankan Californian raised Catholic. Her intersectional identities have informed her work as a multifaith community organizer, activist, vocalist, and songwriter.



**The Reverend Stephen A. Green**

Pastor – *Metropolitan AME Church (Harlem, NY)* & Chair – *Faith for Black Lives*

Rev. Stephen A. Green is the Pastor of Metropolitan AME Church, Harlem, NY and Chair of Faith for Black Lives. Rev. Green is one of the nation’s leading thought leaders on faith, social justice, and organizing. As an Activist and Pastor, Rev. Green is leading the next generation of voices. He’s out front on social issues, racial equality and strives daily to live courageously through his commitment to do justice and walk humbly with God.



**The Reverend Alvin Herring**

Executive Director – *Faith in Action*

The Rev. Alvin Herring is Executive Director of Faith in Action, formerly PICO National Network, an international network of more than 40 federations and local groups in 21 states and three countries. Prior to assuming this leadership role, Rev. Herring worked as the director for racial equity and community engagement for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the fifth largest foundation in the world. While serving in this role, he advanced racial justice by ensuring groups leading racial justice work they had resources to propel their campaigns and initiatives.



**The Reverend Dr. Charles (Chaz) Howard**

University Chaplain and Vice President for Social Equity & Community – *University of Pennsylvania*

The Rev. Charles (Chaz) Lattimore Howard, PhD is an Episcopal Priest and serves as The University Chaplain and The Vice President for Social Equity & Community at the University of Pennsylvania. His writing has been featured in a wide range of publications and he is the author of five books including most recently [Pond River Ocean Rain](#) and [The Bottom: A Theopoetic of the Streets](#). He shares life with his beloved wife, Dr. Lia C. Howard and their three daughters.



**The Reverend Amber Lowe**

Assistant Pastor, *West Mitchell Street CME Church (Atlanta, GA)*, Political Consultant, Community Organizer, PhD Student

The Rev. Amber Lowe is an ordained Elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and currently serves as the Assistant Pastor at West Mitchell Street CME in Atlanta, GA. In August, Amber will begin her first year at Indiana University (Bloomington) in pursuit of a PhD in Religious Studies. Amber’s professional background is in campaign politics and community organizing. She also runs a blog titled “Truth Is Trouble.”



**Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner**

Director – *Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism*

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner serves as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. He has led the Religious Action Center since 2015. Rabbi Pesner also serves as Senior Vice President of the Union for Reform Judaism, a position to which he was appointed in 2011. Named one of the most influential rabbis in America by *Newsweek* magazine, he is an inspirational leader and tireless advocate for social justice.



**Dr. Anthony Pinn**

Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities – *Rice University*

Dr. Anthony Pinn is the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religion at Rice University, where he also directs the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning and the Center for African and African American Studies. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2021) and a Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa.



**Nicole Pressley**

Field and Programs Director – *Unitarian Universalist Association*

Nicole Pressley is a Black, queer, faith organizer and storyteller. She believes that connecting faith and social justice can chart new terrain for imaginative and loving justice movements. Nicole is currently the Field and Programs Director at the Unitarian Universalist Association. She holds a degree in African American Studies from Northwestern University.



**The Reverend Dr. Gabriel Salguero**

President – *National Latino Evangelical Coalition*

The Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero is pastor of *The Gathering Place*, a Latino-led multi-ethnic Assemblies of God congregation in Orlando, Florida. Salguero is also the president and founder of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NALEC), a national coalition of several thousand evangelical congregations in the United States. He was the former Director of the Hispanic Leadership Program (HLP), and the Institute for Faith and Public Life at Princeton Theological Seminary.



**Tahil Sharma**

Regional Coordinator for North America – *United Religions Initiative*

Tahil Sharma is an interfaith activist based in California, born to a Sikh mother and a Hindu father. Following the events of the Oak Creek Gurudwara shooting in Wisconsin by a white supremacist, Tahil has been active at the intersections of faith, identity, and justice for almost a decade. He serves on the board of Sadhana: A Coalition of Progressive Hindus and as an Interfaith Minister in Residence for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.



### **Dr. Simran Jeet Singh**

Senior Adviser for Diversity and Inclusion – *YSC Consulting* & Visiting Professor of Religion – *Union Theological Seminary*

Recognized among TIME Magazine’s 16 people fighting for a more equal America, Simran Jeet Singh is Senior Adviser for Equity and Inclusion at YSC Consulting and a Visiting Professor at Union Seminary. He is a 2020 Equality Fellow with the Open Society Foundations and a Senior Fellow for the Sikh Coalition. Simran holds a PhD, MPhil, and MA from Columbia University, an MTS from Harvard University, and a BA from Trinity University.

*Note: Simran was an original member of the Task Force, and joined the Inclusive America Project team as Executive Director on October 11, 2021.*



### **Kia Smith**

Digital Director – *Faith in Public Life* & Divinity Student

Kia creates content at the intersection of culture, faith, and justice in order to build inclusive communities. From digital campaigns and multimedia projects to thought-provoking articles, visuals and speeches, Kia tells stories that challenge, provoke and move audiences into action. She earned a B.A. in English from Spelman College and graduated from Kennesaw State University with an M.A. in Professional Writing. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary.



### **The Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis**

Director – *Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice* (Union Theological Seminary)

Co-Chair – *Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival*

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis is the Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary and Co-Chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Liz is the editor of [We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign](#) (Broadleaf Press, October 12, 2021). She is the author of [Always with Us?: What Jesus Really Said about the Poor](#) (Eerdmans, 2017) and co-author of [Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing](#) (Beacon, 2018). Liz is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and teaches at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.



**Ekemini Uwan**

Public Theologian, co-host of *Truth's Table Podcast*

Ekemini Uwan is a public theologian and co-host of Truth's Table Podcast. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Westminster Theological Seminary (WTS) in Philadelphia, PA. In 2021, she earned the IMPACT Award from The Institute for the Study of the Black Christian Experience for her work with Truth's Table Podcast. Her writings have been published in The Atlantic, The Washington Post, Huffington Post Black Voices and her insights have been quoted by NPR, CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The New Yorker.



**Imam Dawud Walid**

Imam & Executive Director – *Council on American-Islamic Relations – Michigan Chapter*

Imam Dawud Walid currently serves as the Executive Director of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MI) which is a branch of America's largest civil liberties and advocacy organization for American Muslims, as well as member of the Michigan Muslim Community Council Imams Committee and a senior fellow at Auburn Seminary based in New York. Dawud is also the author of the books: [Towards Sacred Activism](#) and [Blackness And Islam](#).



**Rozella Haydée White**

Task Force Facilitator, #LoveBigCoach, Owner – RHW Consulting

Rozella Haydée White, in addition to facilitating the Inclusive America Project's Racial Justice & Religion Task Force, is the #LoveBigCoach and owner of RHW Consulting LLC, an agency focused on accompanying clients as they align their being, beliefs, and behaviors in order to deconstruct and dismantle systems, structures, and social constructs that inhibit justice and liberation. Rozella is a public theologian, spiritual life and leadership coach, inspirational speaker, and writer focused on nurturing love that is life-giving, justice-seeking, and sustaining so that all can thrive.