



Presidential Religious Liberty Commission

Run of Show

The following is a run of show for a Religious Liberty Commission hearing. Please note some administrative details are redacted to protect the security and privacy of Commission members.



**The United States Department of Justice
Religious Liberty Commission –Run of Show**

Capstone Hearing

April 13, 2026

Museum of the Bible

400 4th St. SW

Washington, DC 20024

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EVENT SCHEDULE

Morning Session: Introductions

See p4 for Stage Layout

- █ am: Commissioners arrive to █.
- 8:00 am: Doors Open to the Public.
- 8:30 am: In Theatre, everyone should take their seats
- █ am: Commissioners, assembled in the order on page 8, and take their seats on stage.
- 9:00 am: DFO Mary Margaret Bush calls the meeting into session. Chairman Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick opens.

DFO exits, █.



MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

**Chairman Patrick and DFO Mary Margaret Bush Open the Meeting
Invocation – Bishop Robert Barron**

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

OPENING REMARKS – PROFESSOR HELEN ALVARÉ

9:00 – 9:20 AM

(10 min) – Prepared Remarks

(10 min) – Commissioner Question and Answer

PANEL I: CHURCH AND STATE – MELODIES IN THE SONG OF FREEDOM

How has religious liberty facilitated faith groups' contributions to human flourishing in American history?

9:30 am – 10:30 am

(30 min) – Prepared Remarks

(30 min) – Commissioner Question and Answer

1. For civil rights - **Clarence Henderson** – Civil Rights and Faith Leader; participated in lunchroom sit-ins during 1960s civil rights movement
2. For liberty from totalitarian regimes - **Helen Aguirre Ferré**, Nicaraguan American journalist, White House Director of Media Affairs in Trump 45
3. For Women's Rights - **Erika Bachiochi**, Scholar on Faith and Women's Rights
4. For the Freedom to Flourish – **Dr. Akshar Patel**, Radiation Oncologist and Leader in BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha

PART II: CHURCH AND STATE – PARTNERS IN SOLVING TODAY'S PROBLEMS

Showcasing the work of faith communities to solve today's problems

10:30 am – 11:30 am

(30 min) – Prepared Remarks

(30 min) – Commissioner Question and Answer

1. **Heather Rice-Minus**, Prison Fellowship
2. **Sister Mary Elizabeth, SV**, Sisters of Life ministry to women and children in need
3. **Rabbi Aaron Lipskar**, Aleph Institute
4. **Oriel Ekşi**, Managing Partner, The Woolf Group



COMMISSIONER CLOSING REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

11:30– 1:00 pm

(60 min) – Prepared Remarks, 5 min each

(30 min) – Commissioner Discussion

CONCLUSION

1:00 pm

- Closing Prayer.
- Program Concludes.
- Lunch provided in the [REDACTED]



STAGE LAYOUT

[REDACTED]:

1. Dr. Ben Carson (Vice Chairman)
2. Lt. Governor Patrick (Chairman)
3. Kelly Shackelford
4. Allyson Ho
5. Eric Metaxas

[REDACTED]:

1. Dr. Phil
2. Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
3. Bishop Robert Barron
4. Pastor Paula White
5. Dr. Ryan Anderson

Backstage: [REDACTED]

