

# Solidarity Syllabus – June 2018

## *Faith Matters*

In this month's episode, Deepa speaks with Bayadir Mohamed-Osman and Rev. Tuhina Verma Rasche. Their conversations explore the intersections of faith and solidarity practice.

Bayadir (Twitter: @bayadir\_; Instagram @yourbaya) is a Sudanese spoken word poet from Washington, DC. Watch her deliver a powerful piece on Islamophobia in [this NowThis feature](#).

Reverend Tuhina Verma Rasche (Twitter: @tvtvasche) is an Indian-American woman and ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She blogs at [This Lutheran Life](#) and [Medium](#), and she is a contributing writer to [The Salt Collective](#).

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### How do faith movements intersect with and support social justice movement work?

- **Sanctuary Spaces:** Because religious spaces are “sensitive locations,” which should be protected from ICE raids and deportations under U.S. immigration policies, many congregations have become [sanctuary spaces](#) for undocumented immigrants.
  - Shaanti Bhavan Mandir in Queens, NY, was the [first Hindu temple to become a sanctuary](#) in the United States.
  - Currently, over [1,000 churches](#) and [synagogues](#) American were sanctuary communities in 2017 – providing physical refuges as well as pro bono legal assistance, food, and more.
- **Solidarity with Secular & Interfaith Organizations:** Faith groups are not working in a vacuum — instead, they extend support to secular movements and non-profit organizations as well as interfaith groups.
  - MPower Change is a Muslim grassroots movement “working to build social, spiritual, racial, and economic justice for all people.” Earlier this month, MPower Change held their second annual [Iftar in the Streets](#) in partnership with the [New York Immigration Coalition](#), [Jews for Racial & Economic Justice](#), and the [Arab American Association of New York](#).
  - The new [Poor People's Campaign](#) was revived by Reverend William Barber II; its platform for economic justice and racial equity embraces scripture from multiple faith traditions. The Poor People's Campaign includes a wide range of [endorsing](#)

[partners](#), from Sadhana Coalition of Progressive Hindus to the Presbyterian Church to the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

- **Social Change from the Pulpit:** Faith leaders are bringing a message of social justice to their congregations through their sermons, khutbas, and theological trainings.
  - [Decolonize Lutheranism](#) holds an annual conference and provides ongoing support for ministers seeking to build equity and social change.
  - The [Muslim Anti-Racist Collective](#) holds theologically-guided trainings for Muslim-American groups seeking to fight internalized, intra-Muslim, and institutional racism within their communities.
  
- **Reporting Bias and Hate Violence:** Places of worship are often sites of violence. This June marked the 3rd anniversary of the massacre by Dylann Roof at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. This August will mark the 6th anniversary of the massacre at the Sikh Gurudwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin which killed 6 people and wounded many. Faith-based organizations are spearheading movements to [document and report incidents of bias](#) and hate violence in their communities.
  - The Council on American-Islamic Relations [developed an app](#) for Muslims and other minority groups which allows users to report incidents of discrimination and bias.
  - The [Sikh Coalition](#) launched a [Report Form](#) for Sikh and non-Sikh victims of harassment and hate violence. In 2012, the group also debuted the [FlyRights app](#), which “allows users to report instances of airport profiling in real time.”

### More faith-based organizations and resources for activists:

- The [Groundswell Movement](#), founded by NY's Auburn Seminary, is a multi-faith movement organizing for social change. The group offers storytelling and organizing workshops, and their website is full of ongoing campaigns and tools for digital and grassroots organizers.
- [Church World Service](#), founded in 1964, works for immigrant & refugee rights, food security, climate change action, and more.
- The [Revolutionary Love Project](#), founded by Valarie Kaur, is a national initiative based at the University of Southern California's Office of Religious Life. Embracing an ethic of love, the Project partners with a variety of faith-based and secular organizations and is currently working to counter "racism, nationalism, and hate against Sikh, Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities."
- [Sadhana](#) is a coalition of progressive Hindus organizing for social change, working against Islamophobia, casteism, racism, gender inequity, and more.
- [Faithful Internet](#) is an interfaith project, coordinated by the United Church of Christ and the Stanford Center for Internet and Society, which seeks to protect net neutrality and Internet freedom for all. Currently, Faithful Internet is teaming up with Unite the Poor for the #PoorPeoplesCampaign to fight for economic justice, voting rights, a living wage, and more.
- [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) works for justice and equity, peace, human rights, and respect for international law. Via their Rabbinical Council and Open Synagogue Network, JVP works for equity and a social justice ethic within Jewish communities. JVP also emphasizes interfaith work, and their Network Against Islamophobia "supports organizing against Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism."

## Solidarity Actions for June

**#NoMuslimBanEver:** This month, the Supreme Court will issue a decision on the Muslim Ban. Activists and organizers are planning actions around the country for decision day. Learn more and find events near you at:

<https://www.nomuslimbanever.com/>

**#EndFamilySeparation:** The Trump Administration's policy of separating children and families is an extension of the cruel and inhumane practices that the Trump Administration has been implementing since it took office. #EndFamilySeparation belongs on the same continuum as #NoMuslimBanEver, #WhereAreTheRefugees and #NoBanNoWallNoRaids. Check out this (evolving) document which provides information and actions for Muslim, Arab and South Asian groups and advocates:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r84Vg3iG7lvWAEdASTnSy\\_HE8gmyKZvy8h5Po\\_1-yL4/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r84Vg3iG7lvWAEdASTnSy_HE8gmyKZvy8h5Po_1-yL4/edit)