

Columbia Law School

Scholarship Archive

Center for Gender & Sexuality Law

Research Centers & Programs

10-2020

Legal Scholars & Theologians Partner on an Ambitious Vision for Religious Liberty

Elizabeth Reiner Platt

Columbia Law School, Law, Rights, and Religion Project

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/gender_sexuality_law



Part of the [First Amendment Commons](#), and the [Religion Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

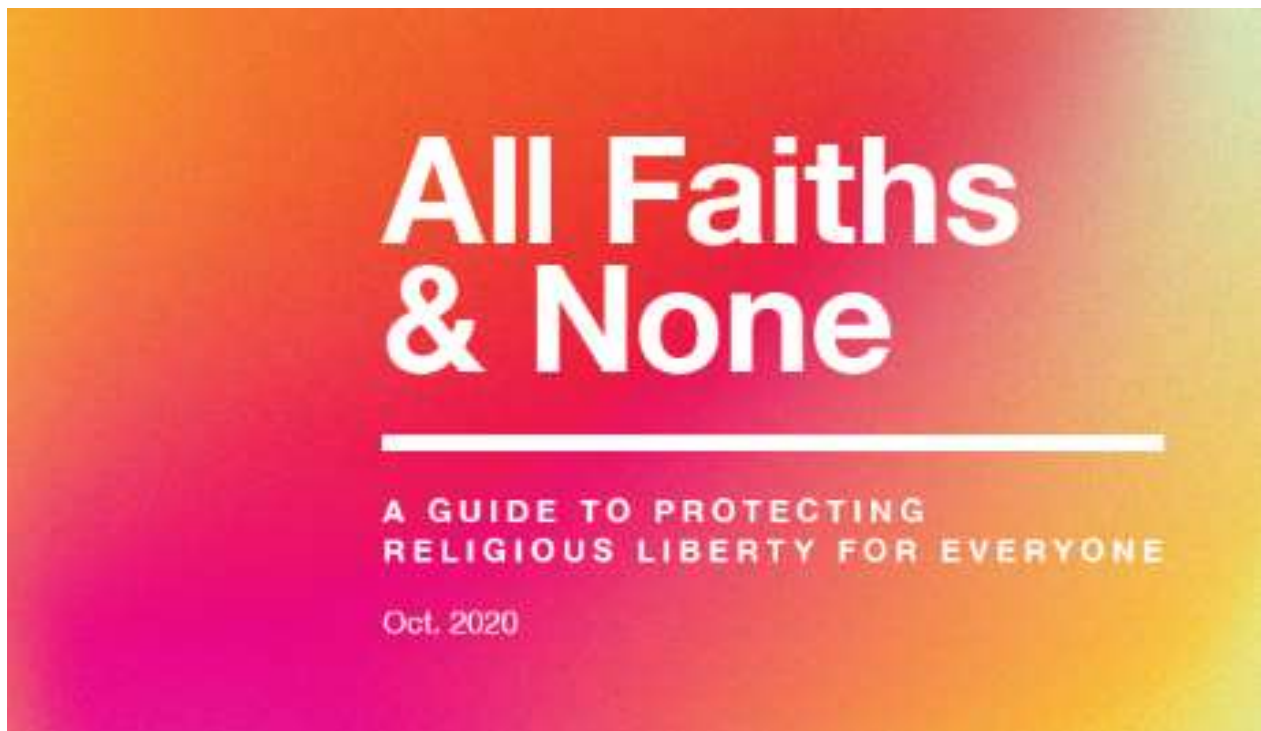
Elizabeth R. Platt, *Legal Scholars & Theologians Partner on an Ambitious Vision for Religious Liberty*, (2020).

Available at: https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/gender_sexuality_law/66

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Research Centers & Programs at Scholarship Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Gender & Sexuality Law by an authorized administrator of Scholarship Archive. For more information, please contact scholarshiparchive@law.columbia.edu.

Legal Scholars & Theologians Partner on an Ambitious Vision for Religious Liberty

By Elizabeth Reiner Platt, The Law, Rights & Religion Project
October 06, 2020



Cover page of the report titled "All Faiths and None: A Guide to Protecting Religious Liberty for Everyone"

Oct. 6, 2020—To safeguard the right to religious freedom, the next presidential administration must end the hyper-surveillance of Muslims, welcome religious refugees, protect land sacred to Native communities, restore church-state separation, and withdraw policies that favor particular religious beliefs, argues a new report co-authored by the [Law, Rights, and Religion Project](#) at Columbia University (LRRP) and [Auburn Seminary](#).

LRRP and Auburn are hosting a short briefing on the report today, Oct. 6, 2020 at 4pm ET. Watch on Zoom at bit.ly/allfaithsbriefing.

Titled "[All Faiths and None: A Guide to Protecting Religious Liberty for Everyone](#)," the report posits that policymakers have lost sight of the meaning and purpose of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom, and offers guidance on what the incoming administration must do to protect free exercise rights for all, not merely a favored few. Its recommendations are organized around a set of guiding principles: religious liberty must be **neutral**; **noncoercive**;

nondiscriminatory; not absolute; democratic; and pluralistic. The report is accompanied by a [Media Guide](#) for journalists offering ways to hone new questions for policymakers and advocates claiming to protect religious liberty.

The report is being released the same day as the Supreme Court hears arguments (by phone—listen [here](#)) in *Tanzin v. Tanvir*—a religious liberty suit involving Muslim men who were punished by the FBI for refusing to spy on their religious communities. The [case](#) has received a fraction of the attention as earlier religious liberty lawsuits brought by conservative Christians.

“For far too long, policymakers have ignored the needs of those whose religious liberty rights are most at risk—non-Christians, the non-religious, and religious progressives,” says [Elizabeth Reiner Platt](#), LRRP’s Director. “We wrote this report to put the focus back where it belongs: on the communities that have been subject to discriminatory government surveillance, the destruction of their sacred spaces, unwanted proselytizing within government programs, and denigration of their beliefs by those in power.”

“We’re living in an increasingly plural society and there’s such a temptation to retreat into silos,” says [Dr. Keisha E. McKenzie](#), Senior Vice President of Programs at Auburn Seminary. “But religious liberty is a legal expression of the deeper social and spiritual ethics of care, respect, and mutuality. These ethics nourish thriving communities, and we need to protect religious freedom for all faiths and none.”

Download All Faiths and None

For Policymakers: [All Faiths and None Policy Guide to Protecting Religious Liberty for Everyone \(pdf\)](#)

For Journalists: [Media Guide to Asking the Hard Questions About Religious Liberty \(pdf\)](#)