



202-262-5053  
tcfreaj@gmail.com

***“No African Americans take to the streets in protest to demand Whites to love us more. We demand a behavior change!”*** Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

## January 2025 Newsletter

# A CEASEFIRE!



### A truce

Almost as soon as the war in Gaza began, global leaders began working to stop it. Over 15 months, Israel and Hamas repeatedly rejected proposals for peace. In that time, tens of thousands of Palestinians died. Israeli families grieved for loved ones held as hostages in Gaza.

And people around the world protested against the conflict.

Yesterday, Israel and Hamas finally agreed to a truce. As part of a six-week cease-fire, Israel will withdraw from parts of Gaza and free hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. Hamas will release a third of the hostages it still holds. Officials hope the cease-fire will give way to a permanent peace, but that depends on whether both sides will work out thornier problems later.

Israel's government still must ratify the agreement, but officials are treating it as complete. "We're handing off to the next team a real opportunity for a brighter future in the Middle East," President Biden said, referring to Donald Trump's incoming administration. "I hope they take it."

### What's in the deal?

The truce will go into effect on Sunday. Hamas will release 33 hostages in waves over six weeks. They'll include women, children, men over age 50 and sick or wounded people. About 100 hostages

remain in Gaza, although about 35 are believed to be dead.

In exchange, Israel will release around 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. It will also have to allow more humanitarian aid into Gaza. After a week, Israel will withdraw its forces from the most populated areas in the enclave.

A major concern remains: Some of the details are vague. “To persuade both sides to sign on, mediators forged an arrangement that is worded so loosely that some of its components remain unresolved, meaning that it could easily collapse,” my colleague Patrick Kingsley, reporting from Jerusalem, [wrote](#).

### Why now?

An enduring cease-fire has remained elusive since fighting started on Oct. 7, 2023. (One truce lasted for a week in 2023.) Three main issues drove both sides to a deal now:

**1. Israel’s successes:** After nearly a year and a half of war, Israel has weakened its enemies in the region. It killed many of Hamas’s fighters and leaders, including the group’s longtime chief in Gaza. It destroyed much of Hezbollah in Lebanon. Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah, has also suffered losses, particularly the fall of an allied regime in Syria. With those wins, another attack like the one on Oct. 7 is less likely, achieving one of Israel’s goals in the war.

**2. Two presidents’ efforts:** Biden and Trump have pressured Israel and Hamas to reach a deal before Biden’s term ends. Biden saw an armistice as an important part of his legacy. Trump wanted to avoid having to deal with such a difficult issue as president. Both presidents’ teams worked together in negotiations, and the final agreement broadly follows a framework Biden proposed in the spring. (My colleague Peter Baker [wrote about the joint effort here](#).)

**3. Domestic pressures:** Within Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s critics say he has not done enough to free the hostages. Within Gaza, Palestinians have become frustrated with Hamas and demanded peace as the humanitarian crisis caused by the war has worsened. These pressures pushed Israeli and Palestinian leaders to negotiations.

### What’s next?

Israel’s government will most likely ratify the agreement today. After it takes effect on Sunday, both sides will have to live up to their promises. If they don’t, the cease-fire could fall apart and fighting could begin again.

If the truce holds, negotiators plan to work out a more lasting peace deal in the next six weeks. The terms of a potential agreement remain unknown, although Israel’s support might depend on the release of all remaining hostages. Those negotiations will happen under Trump.

---

# **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**



**ZELLE:**

**THE CENTER FOR RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE or [tcfreak@gmail.com](mailto:tcfreak@gmail.com)**

**Givelify:**

**THE CENTER FOR RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE**



**NOTHING IS TOO SMALL!!!**

---

# **As Trump's second term looms, D.C. residents celebrate MLK Day and their community**



**Sarah Y. Kim & Tyrone Turner**

D.C. residents gathered in Congress Heights for their annual peace walk and parade celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Saturday, two days before the official holiday and the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump.

Speakers alluded to the loss of their favored candidate, describing this year's event as a call to action, for peace, loving community, and supporting Black women, who "always

show up.” Reverend Wanda Thompson, pastor of the Ambassador Baptist Church, said they’re bearing the torches of Black women activists of the civil rights movement, like Fannie Lou Hamer and Rosa Parks. “Black women, don’t let anybody tell you that you cannot do. Because you have always done,” Thompson said.

They rallied, as they do each year, at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X Avenues SE. Streets named in honor of two icons of the civil rights movement, assassinated – Thompson noted – at 39.

**Reverend George Gilbert Jr., executive director for the Center for Racial Equity and Justice** said the ‘60s mirror today. “We still have to fight the fight of the civil rights movement,” Gilbert told WAMU, calling Trump “a mouthpiece” for racists and white Christian nationalists. Gilbert said there’s uncertainty about how Trump might affect city residents. Trump has an antagonistic relationship with the District, threatening tighter federal control over the city – which will be easier with a Republican controlled Congress. He could go so far as to choose to end Home Rule and the local government it established. Still, Gilbert said Black people are hopeful, having “been through the worst.” “Whatever comes our way, we know if we keep our hand in God’s hand and keep fighting and marching, keep speaking out against the atrocities of the

world, then we will make a difference,” he said.

The event had its somber moments, but it was also a celebration of local talent and Ward 8, where the walk and parade took place. As Gilbert led a chant of “no justice, no peace,” they neared a parade of school bands and dance groups. Parents watched their children perform on the sidewalks.



Among the onlookers was Darrell Ashton. Ashton is with nonprofit [Alliance of Concerned Men](#), and gives the overdose reversal drug Narcan and food to people on the streets. He’s a native of Southeast D.C., and calls the District . “the main number one city.” Unlike most residents, he is a Republican. “These last four years have been brutal,” he said. He loves being in the community. He’s come to the parade in previous years. It says it brings him “a lot of joy.” “Unity, solidarity, good vibes,” he said. “People just coming together of all nationalities.”

Rebecca Beavers, Miss D.C. Collegiate USA, came to participate and “show face for the community,” wearing her sash and

carrying her crown. She said she's proud of her city. This was her first time here, but Beavers grew up around this event, which traces its roots to 1979, before Martin Luther King Jr. Day became a federal holiday. "It's a good way to pay homage," she said.

She said there might be a sense we're "going backwards." But she feels that at the same time we've moved forward – for civil rights and equality. "We just need to take a deep breath," Beavers said, "And move forward day by day."

---

**CALL US FOR YOUR:**

**WORKSHOP – SEMINAR – TRAINING  
NEEDS**

**-DO YOU NEED TO SET UP A SOCIAL  
JUSTICE MINISTRY**

**-CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

**-POLITICS AND THE CHURCH**

**-WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE – A POST  
PANDEMIC PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

**-RACIAL EQUITY WORKSHOPS**

**-POLICE DE-ESCALATION TOOLKIT**

**202-262-5053 or [tcfreaaj@gmail.com](mailto:tcfreaaj@gmail.com)**

## **With a keen eye on DEIA The Biden**



# Trump's Day 1 Executive Orders



- End remote work policies and order federal workers [back to the office](#) full time.

## Immigration and the Border

- [Bar asylum](#) for people newly arriving at the southern border.
- [Move to end birthright citizenship](#), which is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment, for the children of undocumented immigrants. The president cannot change the Constitution on his own, so it is not yet clear how Mr. Trump plans to withhold the benefits of citizenship to a group of people born in the United States. Any move is all but certain to be challenged in court.
- [Suspend the Refugee Admissions Program](#) “until such time as the further entry into the United States of refugees aligns with the interests of the United States.”
- Declare migrant crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border [to be a national emergency](#), allowing Mr. Trump to unilaterally unlock federal funding for border wall construction, without approval from Congress, for stricter enforcement efforts.
- [Resume a policy](#) requiring people seeking asylum to wait in Mexico while an immigration judge considers their cases.
- [Consider designating cartels](#) as “foreign terrorist organizations.”

## Federal Work Force

- [Freeze federal hiring](#), except for members of the military or “positions related to immigration enforcement, national security, or public safety.”
- Restore [a category](#) of federal workers known as Schedule F, which would lack the same job protections enjoyed by career civil servants.
- Halt new federal rules [from going into effect](#) before Trump administration appointees can review them.
- [Review the investigative actions](#) of the Biden administration, “to correct past misconduct by the federal government related to the weaponization of law enforcement and the weaponization of the intelligence community.”
- [Grant top secret security clearances](#) to White House staff without going through traditional vetting procedures.

## Gender and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

- [Terminate D.E.I. programs](#) across the federal government.
- [Recognize two sexes](#): male and female.
- Remove protections for transgender people in federal prisons.

## Tariffs and Trade

- [Direct federal agencies](#) to begin an investigation into trade practices, including persistent trade deficits and unfair currency practices, as well as examine flows of migrants and drugs from Canada, China and Mexico to the United States.
- Assess China's compliance with a trade deal Mr. Trump signed in 2020, as well as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which Trump signed in 2020 to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement.
- Order the government to assess the feasibility of creating an "External Revenue Service" to collect tariffs and duties.
- Carry out a full review of the U.S. industrial and manufacturing base to assess whether further national security-related tariffs are warranted.

## Energy and the Environment

- [Withdraw](#) the United States from the Paris Agreement, the pact among almost all nations to fight climate change.
- [Declare a national energy emergency](#), a first in U.S. history, which could unlock new powers to suspend certain environmental rules or expedite permitting of certain mining projects.
- [Attempt to reverse](#) Mr. Biden's ban on offshore drilling for 625 million acres of federal waters.
- [Begin the repeal](#) of Biden-era regulations on tailpipe pollution from cars and light trucks, which have encouraged automakers to manufacture more electric vehicles.
- [Roll back energy-efficiency regulations](#) for dishwashers, shower heads and gas stoves.
- [Open the Alaska wilderness](#) to more oil and gas drilling.

- [Restart reviews](#) of new export terminals for liquefied natural gas, something the Biden administration had paused.
- [Halt the leasing of federal waters](#) for offshore wind farms.
- [Eliminate environmental justice programs](#) across the government, which are aimed at protecting poor communities from excess pollution.
- [Review all federal regulations](#) that impose an "undue burden" on the development or use of a variety of energy sources, particularly coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear power, hydropower and biofuels.

## TikTok ban

- [Consult federal agencies](#) on any national security risks posed by the social media platform, then "pursue a resolution that protects national security while saving a platform used by 170 million Americans." Mr. Trump ordered his attorney general not to enforce a law that banned the site for 75 days to give the Trump administration "an opportunity to determine the appropriate course forward."

## Other

- [Withdraw from](#) the World Health Organization.
- [Rename](#) Mount Denali and the Gulf of Mexico.
- Ensure that states carrying out the death penalty [have a "sufficient supply"](#) of lethal injection drugs.
- Fly the American flag [at full-staff](#) on Monday and on future Inauguration Days.
- Implement the [Department of Government Efficiency](#), the Elon Musk-led cost-cutting initiative.
- [Revoke security clearances](#) for 51 signers of a letter suggesting that the contents of

Hunter Biden's laptop could be Russian disinformation.

---

## Sign Up for Black Church Mental Health Learning Hub

Our communities are experiencing pressing mental health challenges, and as leaders, we are called to guide our congregations toward healing and wholeness. The Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC), in partnership with the Huntsman Institute and the National Ad Council, has created a groundbreaking free resource to equip you with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to address these urgent needs.

### Introducing the Faith & Mental Health: **Black Faith Community Hub**

This comprehensive training platform is designed specifically for clergy and congregational leaders in the Black faith community. Inside, you'll find:

**Expert Guidance:** A special message from Dr. Howard John Wesley on the

necessity of clergy sabbaticals, underscoring the importance of self-care for those who shepherd others.

**Inspirational Insights:** Wisdom from Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner, who shares actionable advice on breaking down barriers to mental health support and fostering a culture of care.

**Culturally Relevant Training:** Resources tailored to the unique experiences and challenges of the Black faith community, helping you champion mental wellness within your church and beyond.

**Practical Solutions:** Learn to recognize mental health issues, reduce stigma, and build effective support structures for those in need of hope, healing, and help.

By joining this initiative, you're not just signing up for a training—you're joining a movement, a collective effort to uplift, restore, and empower God's people. Let's ensure our faith communities are places of refuge and understanding, where seeking help is a sign of strength rather than weakness.



Register now by clicking the link below and begin transforming the way we nurture mind, body, and spirit:

Faith & Mental Health:

### **Black Faith Community**

Let's stand together as leaders who truly lead—equipped, compassionate, and ready to make a lasting difference.

Peace, Power, and Progress,

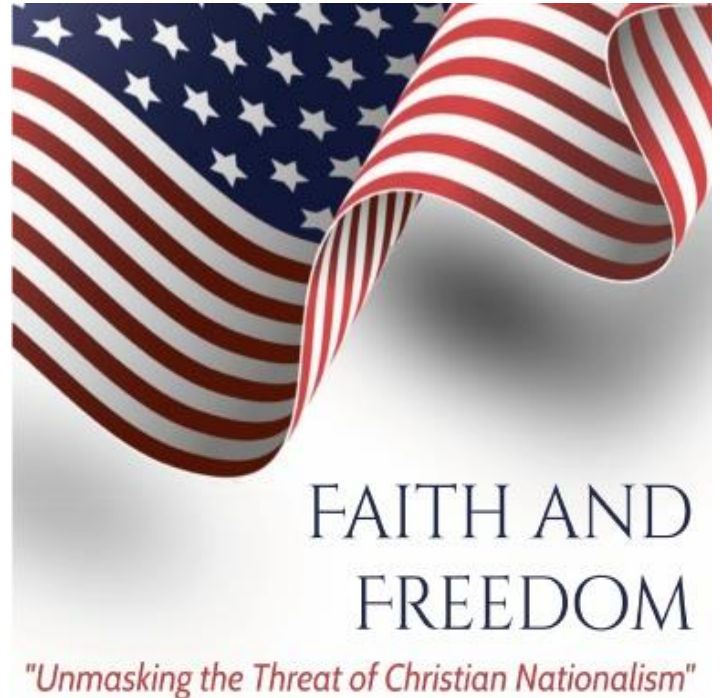
Rev. Dr. Kip Bernard Banks, Sr.  
Senior Impact Strategist  
Values Partnerships  
kip@valuespartnerships.com  
301-520-6223

---

---



**HAVE YOU PURCHASED  
REV. GILBERT'S NEW  
BOOK?**



**REV. GEORGE C. GILBERT JR.**

To Purchase Your Copy:  
<https://www.lulu.com/shop/george-c-gilbert-jr/faith-and-freedom/paperback/product-w4rqpgg.html?page=1&pageSize=4>

# NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK'S MLK CELEBRATION



# MLK PARADE

