

Religion and The Culture of Violence

A Community Forum

Presented by the Religion and Human Rights Project
A Program of the Network of Religious Communities

This forum seeks to understand the uneasy and fraught relationship between religious faith and violence. Most religions claim to be avatars of peace, seeking only truth and holy ends. Nevertheless, most religious communities have inflicted, endured, and/or sought to prevent violence. Are there beliefs deep in the foundations of our religions that lead to violence? Do the stories of our faith summon up our violent nature? What justifications have been offered for violence in the name of God, or violence in defense of our faith? We all bring bloody hands to the table for this forum. Can we find a way to avoid violence now?

When: 7:30 PM Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Where: Canisius College, Student Center, Regis Room

Who: Distinguished panelists representing Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Secular humanist traditions.

Rabbi Jerry Seidler, Temple Sinai, Buffalo, NY

The Rev. David Selzer, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Buffalo

Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, Visiting Professor of Islamic and Religious Studies, Nazareth College, Rochester, NY

Tom Flynn, Editor, Free Inquiry Magazine, Council for Secular Humanism

Moderator: The Rev. Allen W. Farabee, Director, Religion and Human Rights Project

The forum is open to all people without charge.