

What does Religious Liberty Look Like?

Discovering American Jewish History Through Objects

01 PROCLAIM LIBERTY

How would you proclaim liberty throughout the land?

“Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”

וקראתם דרור בארץ לכל-ישיביה

Leviticus 25:10

02 A HISTORIC LETTER

Do you think Washington's words are still relevant today?

It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights.

George Washington to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, RI, August 1790

03 THIS MONUMENT IS OUR PROTEST

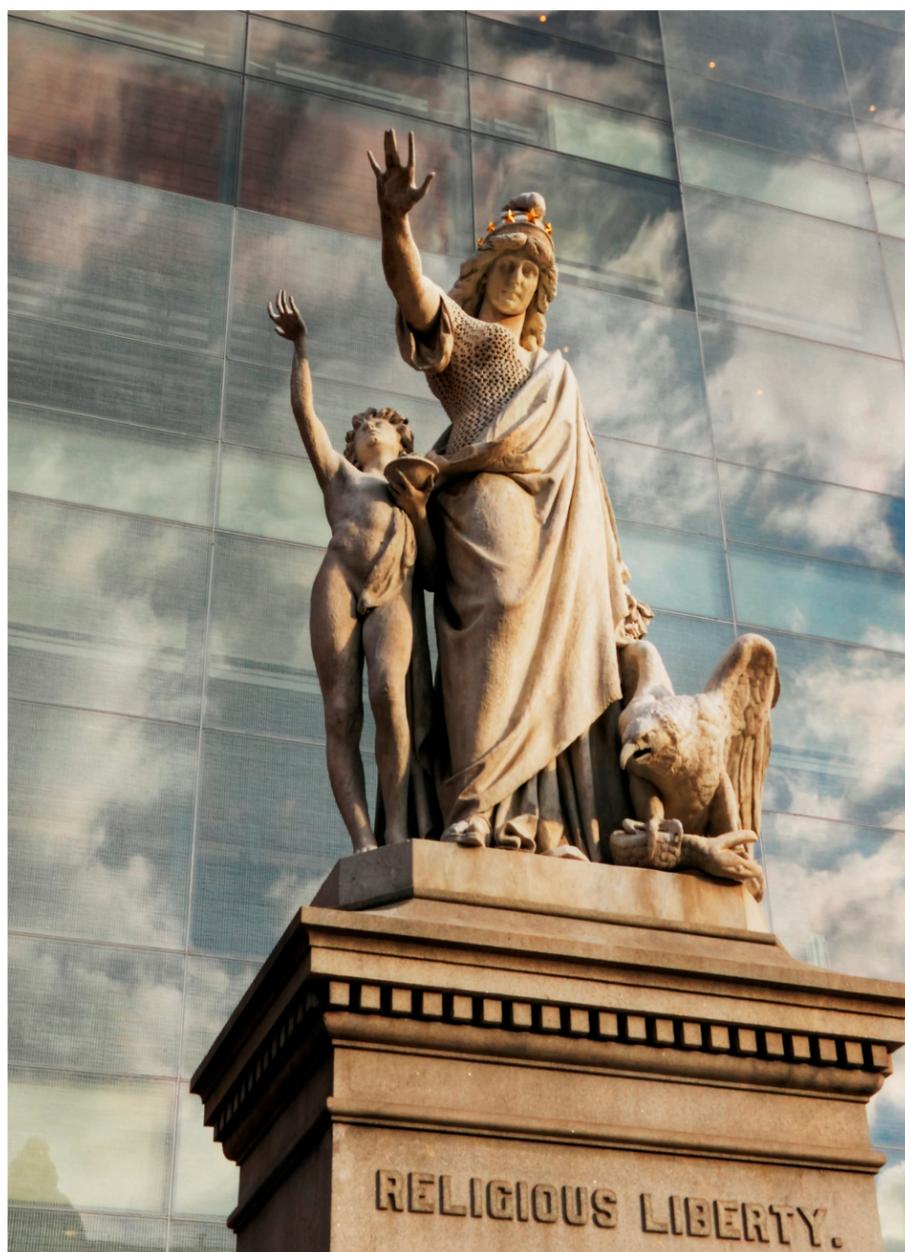
It is the crowning glory of our Constitution that it guarantees perfect religious equality to all, not from passing reasons of expediency, but on the high ground of justice and humanity.... This monument is....our protest against any unlawful encroachment upon the civil rights of American freemen.

Adolph Sanger, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Centennial Committee, unveiling the statue *Religious Liberty* in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, November 30, 1876

04 THE CHALLENGE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

In America, where religion is totally voluntary, where religious diversity is the norm, where everyone is free to choose his or her own rabbi and his or her own brand of Judaism—or, indeed, no Judaism at all—many...have assumed that Judaism is fated sooner or later to disappear.

Jonathan D. Sarna, *American Judaism: A History*, 2004



Religious Liberty sculpture in front of the Museum's glass façade
Moses Jacob Ezekiel, *Religious Liberty*, 1876, The City of Philadelphia
Photo courtesy of Jeff Goldberg/Esto

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ON TRIAL 08

Abercrombie refused to create an exception to its neutral Look Policy for Samantha Elauf's religious practice of wearing a headscarf....Elauf received the same treatment from Abercrombie as any other applicant who appeared unable to comply with the company's Look Policy.

Justice Clarence Thomas, dissenting opinion in *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores*, February 25, 2015

Is there a time you shouldn't treat everyone the same way?

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS 07

When my predecessors asked to be part of the Jewish community they were rejected, reviled, ridiculed. I made it my mission to tear down the walls that kept us out.

Rabbi Capers Funnye Jr., spiritual leader of Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation of Chicago, April 29, 2016

CORE VALUES 06

Freedom of religion is absolutely a core value of our nation. What we're concerned about is the weaponization of that right. Weaponization that allows for and encourages discrimination and harm. Religious freedom is NOT freedom to discriminate. #LGBTQ

Posted on Lambda Legal's official Twitter feed, 2018

Can you identify other examples of social media being used to express opinions about religious freedom?

WHO GETS TO PARTICIPATE? 05

I think it is wrong for the federal govern-

ment to force Christian individuals, businesses, pastors, churches to participate in wedding ceremonies that violate our sincerely held religious beliefs. We have to stand up and fight for religious liberty.

Bobby Jindal, governor of Louisiana, on NBC's *Meet the Press*, June 28, 2015