

Buddhist Coalition



For Democracy

2025 Annual Report

We are a broad coalition of Buddhists from multiple traditions and lineages and with differing political opinions — radical, progressive, liberal, centrist, conservative and libertarian — who share the common goal of ensuring democracy's survival.

We aspire towards a society that values all of its members and believe democratic values, institutions, and processes are the best means for realizing it. As Buddhists, we are called upon to witness, respond to, and resist the ongoing systematic destruction of norms and institutions that allow free societies to flourish.

A Productive First Chapter

To Our Engaged Buddhist Community:

In March, 2025, The Buddhist Coalition for Democracy (BCD) was formed as a nonprofit organization to offer Buddhists a nondenominational opportunity to support democratic norms, institutions, and processes in these perilous times.

Our belief when creating BCD was, and still is, that democratic governance is the best method devised for:

- Ensuring the dignity and fundamental rights of all persons.
- Enabling all members of society to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.
- Settling passionately held differences of opinion through peaceful means.

Our commitment is to support democracy via methods consistent with the Buddhist principles of wisdom, compassion, right speech, and nonviolence.

We held our first general meeting on March 17th. On March 24th, we issued a [Call to Action](#), which details the organization's principles and resolves to achieve them.

In one short year, BCD membership has risen to over 1,100 members — representing a variety of Buddhist traditions including Insight Meditation, Pure Land, Soka Gakkai, Secular Buddhism, Theravada, Vajrayana, and Zen.

Some 645 members have signed the Call to Action.

Our members have been an active part of our growth, serving on committees — Action, Communications, and Outreach — and helping to create a robust roster of programs.

BCD connects with members via its website, bi-monthly newsletter, brochure, and its social media presence on Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and Tik Tok. Other offerings include a monthly podcast, and its Substack articles and YouTube channels.

We are excited to share our first year's achievements with you. And look forward to expanding our activities in the coming year.

BCD Coordinating Committee:

Brenda Collins

Rachel Faro

Yvette Angelique Hyater-Adams

Kathryn Koehl

John Murphy

Rev. Seth Zuihō Segall

Karsten Struhl



Social Actions

- ⇒ Joined other religious organizations in amicus curiae court briefs in support of Moshen Madawi's and Mohammed Khalil's battle against their illegal detentions and attempted deportations. Both are free and remain in the country at this time.
- ⇒ Endorsed and promoted participation in Hands Off!, No Kings, May Day, ICE Out, Good Trouble Lives On, and other nationwide demonstrations. BCD organized meeting places where members could gather together to participate in a number of metropolitan hubs including Atlanta, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland, OR, and Washington, D.C.
- ⇒ BCD members met in Washington, D.C. to greet the Buddhist Monks' Walk for Peace at the Lincoln Memorial.
- ⇒ The BCD Coordinating Committee issued public statements on the "Big Beautiful Bill," the murder of Alex Pretti, and the invasion of Venezuela.

Collaborations

- ⇒ Organized an online town hall in conjunction with the Insight Meditation Community of Washington, *Buddhist Voices for Immigrant Justice: Compassion in Action*. Over 1,000 people registered to hear panelists Tara Brach, Lenni B. Benson, Dr. Marisela Gomez, and Lama Rod Owens. BCD raised more than \$5,000 for the National Immigration Law Project.
- ⇒ Established collaborative ties with the Zen Peacemakers and Indivisible.
- ⇒ Collaborated with *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review* to create a live online *Response to Minneapolis* event led by BCD Coordinating Committee member Seth Segall and BCD Meditation Group facilitator Linda Modaro, and attended by over 300 people.



Online Programs

- ⇒ Weekly: Meditation Group
- ⇒ Weekly: Engaged Buddhist Book Club
- ⇒ Monthly: Mindful Conversations on Politics & Society
- ⇒ Monthly: Women in Solidarity group
- ⇒ Monthly: Live interview program (recorded for podcast listening & YouTube viewing) —
New Horizons in Engaged Buddhism. Interviewees have included:
 - ⇒ Francisco “Paco” Lugoviña Roshi, Zen Peacemaker Board Member
 - ⇒ Daiken Nelson Roshi, Pamsula Zen Center Head Teacher
 - ⇒ Seth Zuihō Segall, BCD co-founder & Zen Buddhist priest
 - ⇒ Dr. Sharon A. Suh, feminist Asian-American Buddhist scholar
 - ⇒ Sinclair Shunryu Thomson Roshi, Village Zendo Abbot

Resources

- ⇒ Created a Buddhist Resources for Challenging Times webpage, which includes links to articles, audio tracks, books, podcasts, and videos, that can serve as practice supports and resources for engaged Buddhists.



The Next Chapter

BCD is actively planning for a year of programming, actions, and activities. Initiatives include:

- ⇒ Plans for an upcoming town hall, *Buddhism, Politics, and Social Engagement: Practicing Skillful Action in a Complex World*.
- ⇒ Development of a regional structure that would allow local BCD members in different locations to organize and participate in local actions together.
- ⇒ An initiative to offer more material in Spanish; the possible creation of a Spanish-language online group.
- ⇒ Gearing up to support and participate in major demonstrations, including No Kings on March 28.
- ⇒ New potential online groups: poetry, Spanish-language, tonglen (compassion meditation), and young adult.
- ⇒ An exciting slate of future interviewees for *New Horizons in Engaged Buddhism*: Tara Brach, Bhikkhu Bodhi, Mushim Patricia Ikeda, Kaira Jewel Lingo, and angel Kyodo Williams.
- ⇒ Distribution of the BCD brochure to 1,000 U.S. Sanghas in order to increase organizational awareness.
- ⇒ Outreach to Buddhist, interfaith, and civic organizations to create enduring collaborations.
- ⇒ Connecting with Central and South American Sanghas to determine ways we can offer support and assistance.



About the Buddhist Coalition for Democracy

The Buddhist Coalition for Democracy (BCD) is a nonprofit, non-tax exempt organization, registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Coordinating Committee is the group's decision-making body, providing policy and direction for BCD actions and activities.

BCD also has three active committees: Action, Communications, and Outreach, which meet regularly.

All committee members are volunteers who give of their time and skills to service BCD's mission and members. We are grateful for their time and energy.

Photo credit: [lesliejerman](#)



2025 Financial Statement (Unaudited)

OPENING BALANCE	\$ 0.00
 <u>Income</u>	
Cash Donations (Website Portal)	\$ 2,455.11
Cash Donations (IMCW Joint Event)	\$ 8,435.97
Substack Donations	<u>\$ 937.98</u>
Total Income	\$11,829.06
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Credit Card and Substack Fees	\$ 190.46
Donation to National Immigration Project	\$ 5,061.58
Graphic Design	\$ 150.00
Licenses and Fees	\$ 49.95
Software and Internet Expenses	<u>\$ 997.39</u>
Total Expenses:	\$ 6,449.38
 CLOSING BALANCE	 \$ 5,379.68
YEAR-END BALANCE*	<u>\$ 3,814.68</u>

* Reflects 2025 taxes of \$1,565, paid February 2026