

# COMPASSION

MUTUAL CARE IN TROUBLED TIMES



VST | INTER-RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM



A MULTI-FAITH, MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
CONFERENCE FOR SCHOLARS & ACTIVISTS

MAY 27–29, 2025  
ONLINE & IN-PERSON

## CONFERENCE THEME

Compassion can bridge social divisions, uplift people in distress, inspire collective action, and create resilient communities. It is the ability to recognize, empathize with, and respond to others. For many spiritual communities, compassion is both a core practice and an essential idea. Spiritual traditions say compassion affirms the connectedness of all being, grounds an imperative to care, or is an essential divine trait.

**What should the spirituality and practice of compassion look like in our time?**

Along with scholarly presentations, activists will be featured on creating compassionate cities; Ubuntu, an African philosophy and practice of interconnectedness; compassionate outreach by spiritual communities; and spiritual practices to develop compassion.

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

RADICAL INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP: EMPATHY  
IN ACTION

**DR. TERRI E. GIVENS**

Professor of Political Science, UBC  
Author of *Radical Empathy: Finding  
a Path to Bridging Racial Divides*

Tuesday May 27, 7 - 8:30PM  
Epiphany Chapel and Online  
*Free and open to the public*



REGISTER  
FOR THE KEYNOTE

## REGISTRATION

Registration fee: Students \$90 / General \$190  
Financial aid is available, contact [nhayward@vst.edu](mailto:nhayward@vst.edu) for details.

Register at [vst.edu/ir-conference](https://vst.edu/ir-conference).  
A Zoom link will be provided for online participants.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Conference Director Rabbi Dr.  
Laura Duhan-Kaplan, [ldkaplan@vst.edu](mailto:ldkaplan@vst.edu)  
or Conference Administrator Dr. Nicola E.  
Hayward, [nhayward@vst.edu](mailto:nhayward@vst.edu).



REGISTER!