

Standing Together



WE STAND TOGETHER

Our diverse religious and social teachings lead us to come together at this time with one voice to condemn bigotry in public discourse.

In particular, we denounce the recent rise in Islamophobia and xenophobia that tear down our fellow humans and build up divisions between people. Recognizing that all of us are at risk when one group is unjustly targeted, we stand with our Muslim friends, neighbors, and colleagues, and all who are unjustly vilified as "the other." These individuals serve Virginia as citizens, teachers, police officers, medical workers, tradespersons, community leaders, mothers, and fathers. We reach out in this moment with a shared commitment to justice, compassion, love, and peace.

At a time when feelings of fear and vulnerability may be heightened, we call on public figures, private citizens, and media outlets to always speak and act with respect and sensitivity. Religion should never be a wall that separates people from this land, from their neighbors, or from their hopes and dreams.

This Commonwealth proclaimed its commitment to the freedom of religion nearly 230 years ago with the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. We affirm the ideals of this groundbreaking document by working to build more respectful, pluralistic, and inclusive communities.

Today and in the future, we pledge that in the Richmond region and beyond, we stand together.

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 Bon Air Presbyterian Church
 Bon Secours Richmond Health System
 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 Congregation Beth Ahabah
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 Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
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Add your name to this statement by visiting:

Come together on January 10th at 4:00 pm at Congregation Beth Ahabah. More details at:

Use #standingtogether to add your voice

www.inclusiveva.org/standing-together-rva

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For more information, please contact Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities at contact@inclusiveva.org or 804-515-7950