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DECEMBER 4, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GEORGIA FAITH COMMUNITIES DENOUNCE CONTINUED  
MASS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA**

ATLANTA (GA) -- The faith communities across the state of Georgia have come together to speak out about the continued mass shootings in the U.S., most recently in San Bernardino, CA, and in Savannah, GA.

When we hear about so many mass shootings it brings great fear and our tendency is to immediately place blame. The rush to identify the enemy can help us feel momentarily in control of these unpredictable and horrific events. But the current trend of blaming immigrant populations will only breed more hatred and violence.

As leaders of Atlanta's interfaith community we offer our prayers to all the people affected by yesterday's horrific shootings in San Bernardino, California and in Savannah, Georgia. We grieve with the families and loved ones of those who perished and we offer the hope for complete recovery of the injured.

In times like these, we seek healing and strength through prayer. But our prayers must lead us to action. As a country steeped in diverse faith traditions, all of which believe in the sanctity of human life, we must address the alarming number of mass shootings and the seemingly endless stories of gun violence. We must work harder to create a society that deplors violence and seeks peaceful ways to solve conflicts.

Through this joint statement, we are committed to redoubling our efforts to erase bigotry, to provide opportunities for dialogue and engagement, and to be models of reconciliation and understanding.

This statement is issued by the following organizations: [The Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta](#), the [Interfaith Community Initiatives](#), the [Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta](#), [Neshama Interfaith Center](#), the [Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta](#), the [Anti-Defamation League of Atlanta](#) (ADL), and [Compassionate Atlanta](#).

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