

June 13, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Faith communities in metro Atlanta demand action, grieve most recent mass shooting in Orlando, Florida.

Atlanta (GA) -- In the wake of the deadliest shooting in U.S. history, Atlanta interfaith leaders demand action to stop gun violence, condemn those who blame Muslims and Islam for the terror and stand in solidarity to grieve with the injured and the families and friends of those who perished in the rampage at an LGBTQ community gathering place in Orlando, FL.

We implore people to avoid placing blame on an entire community and identifying an enemy, though it seems to help rationalize these horrific events. In reality, the current trend of blaming immigrant and minority populations will only breed more hatred and violence.

The U.S. is a country anchored in many faith traditions, it is our responsibility to address the seemingly perpetual gun violence. Our prayers must bring forth action, and it is vital that we work towards a society that solves conflict peacefully no matter the circumstance, no matter another human being's race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

As representatives of Atlanta's interfaith community, we offer our prayers to all of the individuals affected by this past weekend's terrible shooting in Orlando and the LGBTQ community. We grieve with the families and loved ones of those who perished and we offer hope for complete recovery of the injured. Sunday marked the most deadly shooting in American history, and we stand with the community of Orlando in solidarity today and for the coming days as Americans and more importantly human beings. Join us on Tuesday June 14th at 7 PM at the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Downtown for the We Are Orlando: Vigil and Community Gathering to remember the victims of the Orlando massacre and come together as a community.

This statement is issued by the following organizations: <u>Interfaith Community Initiatives</u> and #WorldPilgrims, the <u>Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta</u> and the <u>Neshama Interfaith Center</u>.

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