



*The Interfaith Conference of  
Metropolitan Washington (IFC)  
“Advancing Justice, Building Community,  
Nurturing Understanding”*

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**INTERFAITH CONFERENCE OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  
CONDEMNS ANTI-HINDU GRAFFITI IN LOUDOUN COUNTY**

The InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC), which unites Baha’i, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Sikh, and Zoroastrian faith communities in the DC metropolitan area, expresses its deep concern and condemnation of the spate of anti-Hindu vandalism that has appeared as graffiti in locations throughout Ashburn, VA. This hate-based violence, which began in July 2014 and occurred most recently in early October, tears at the fabric of our inclusive society and undermines our democracy founded on the protection of religious freedom. We urge local and state authorities to vigorously investigate these incidences and to bring to justice whoever is responsible.

As reported by Loudoun County police, “A majority of the graffiti has been written in black marker on exercise stations, park benches, a pedestrian bridge and community signs.” The content of the graffiti contains language that is disparaging and offensive to the Hindu culture. The IFC contends that when public property is desecrated with symbols of religious hate, far more than a physical structure is attacked. The destruction cuts to the core of a religious community’s sense of safety and belonging.

We stand in solidarity with the Hindu Community of Loudoun County at this time. The attack on them is an affront to those of all religious traditions. As such, we encourage all people of good will and faith in the DC metropolitan area to join their voices together in renouncing these intolerant words and deeds and to commit themselves anew to mutual respect and understanding.

November 5, 2014