

5/27/2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON SPEAKS OUT
AGAINST RISING ANTI-SEMITISM

The Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington, which includes 11 historic faith traditions, denounces the recent rise in anti-Semitism both here in the Capital region and across the country. We call on people of all faiths (and of no particular faith) to treat one another in such a way that all people in our region will feel welcomed, respected, and appreciated. This includes respecting our Jewish friends and neighbors who, like all Americans, have the right to be their authentic selves in this nation and to worship freely without fear of violence.

Over the past few years, the United States has seen a rise in anti-Semitism (as seen [here](#)). The mass shooting in 2018 at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh drew national condemnation, and rightly so. Beyond such a tragedy, though, we as a nation have seen anti-Semitic hatred, violence, and intimidation take on many forms. Sometimes that means an attack on public transit, as in [New York](#) last year. Sometimes that means [disturbing virtual encounters](#), as in Northern Virginia during the pandemic. The Mid-Atlantic region we call home has seen an especially large [jump](#) in anti-Semitic attacks over the past year, nearly doubling in Virginia (and more than doubling in D.C. and Maryland). We at the Interfaith Council believe that all people are possessed of inherent dignity and worth, and deserve to be treated as such. Today, we stand in solidarity with our Jewish members, friends, and neighbors in particular, calling for an end to anti-Semitic hatred and violence in all forms.

We at the IFC cannot help but note that this most recent spike in anti-Semitism has happened at the same time as the recent conflict in Israel and Gaza has unfolded (as seen [here](#)). Like any large group of Americans, the members of the Interfaith Council are not of one mind about how best to resolve the situation in the Middle East. Real differences of opinion exist within our faith traditions and among them, including the Jewish community itself. Even so, we are united in our belief that political differences -- even sharp differences -- must not result in neighbors attacking neighbors because of their religious and spiritual beliefs.

Given the current spike in violence against members of the Jewish community, we are speaking out at this time in particular, calling for an end to anti-Semitism. We invite everyone in our region to stand in solidarity with our neighbors of all faiths, especially the Jewish community right now, so that the dignity of every individual and the freedom of each house of worship may be respected and celebrated.

Signed,
Rev. Dr. David B. Lindsey
Executive Director, Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington

Members of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington

BAHA'I

[The Baha'i Community of Metropolitan Washington](#)

BUDDHIST

[Buddha Meditation Center of Greater Washington DC](#)

[Cambodian Buddhist Center](#)

[Insight Meditation Community of Washington \(IMCW\)](#)

[Shambhala Meditation Center of Washington](#)

[Soka Gakkai International-USA](#)

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

[Washington Metropolitan Area Regions](#)

HINDU AND JAIN

[Association of United Hindu and Jain Temples](#)

JEWISH

[American Jewish Committee, Washington Regional Office](#)

[Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington](#)

[Washington Board of Rabbis](#)

MUSLIM

[All Dulles Area Muslim Society](#)

[Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center](#)

[The Islamic Center of Washington, DC](#)

[Muslim Community Center](#)

[Masjid Muhammad](#)

PROTESTANTS

[African Methodist Episcopal, Second Episcopal District](#)

[African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Washington District](#)

[Christian Church-Capital Area \(Disciples of Christ\)](#)

[Church of the Brethren, Mid-Atlantic Region](#)

[Council of Churches of Greater Washington](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Washington](#)

[Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod, ELCA](#)

[National Capital Baptist Convention](#)

[National Capital Presbytery](#)

[Religious Society of Friends \(Quakers\)](#)

[United Church of Christ, Potomac Association](#)

[United Methodist Church, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference](#)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

[Archdiocese of Washington](#)

[Diocese of Arlington Virginia](#)

SIKH

[Guru Gobind Singh Foundation](#)

ZOROASTRIAN

[Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc.](#)