



STATEMENT ON ISLAMOPHOBIA

An unfortunate and troubling result of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris and other places has been a backlash against American Muslims. This misguided behavior has included both public statements by politicians and cases of harassment of individual Muslims. It has even extended to members of the Sikh community who have faced harassment by being misidentified as Muslims.

We at the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago speak out strongly and collectively against all these forms of behavior. We affirm that such acts are contrary both to the teachings of our faiths and our highest American values. We urge individuals to stand up against such behavior when they observe it. We commend those religious communities who have spoken out against these acts that our Muslim neighbors and friends have endured. We urge everyone in metropolitan Chicago to oppose discriminatory actions and behavior against all members of religious communities, and particularly at this time in our history against Muslims.

And finally, to our political leaders, we call on you to desist from inflammatory rhetoric, which only appeals to the base instincts of people. You are called upon, more than any other citizens of this country, to promote and stand up for the Constitution and for the highest American values. Give up the urges to divide people for political gains. Find the ways to welcome the refugees, the disposed and the stranger in our midst. This is your calling and your responsibility.

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