For Immediate Release:

Denver Area Religious Leaders Affirm Muslim Statement That Condemns Violent Actions in France

As faith leaders, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Bahai, Buddhist and others, we affirm our strong working relationships that we have nurtured here in Denver, CO, over the past decade.

On Monday, January 12, 2015, Multicultural Mosaic Foundation (MMF), a non-profit organization dedicated to help cultivate moral and cultural values in our society by promoting tolerance and dialogue, published this letter:

MULTICULTURAL MOSAIC FOUNDATION CONDEMNS THE ACTIONS OF GUNMEN IN FRANCE

Denver, January 12, 2015 – Multicultural Mosaic Foundation abhors the actions and motives of three masked gunmen, who attacked the office of a French satirical newspaper in Paris on January 7th. The gunmen killed at least 12 people and left more injured.

The publication, called Charlie Hebdo, recently published several cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The gunmen are suspected to have been responding to these images with an atrocious act of self-radicalized retaliation.

Multicultural Mosaic Foundation also condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on the Jewish grocery store in Paris on January 9th. Such horrific actions represent an assault on human values and can never be justified.

There is no way to justify the killing of or violence against innocent people.

Members of the Multicultural Mosaic Foundation vehemently condemn the attack of these gunmen. Their actions are wholly incompatible with the values and work of the Multicultural Mosaic Foundation, which seek to promote unity, understanding, compassion and peaceful dialogue.

Multicultural Mosaic Foundation sends its thoughts and encouragement to the families and friends of those killed or injured, the staff at Charlie Hebdo, the Jewish community in Paris and the whole of France as they unite against such acts of terror.

Though we do not support the public denigration of any religion or sancta of any religion, we stand united against such violent actions. We are fervently opposed to any such heinous acts that attempt to divert the world from the truth that all of our faith traditions are based on,... that there is one Creator of us all, and that we are called as people of faith to increase love and understanding in the world.

The following faith leaders wish to affirm in the strongest terms our support of this response to the tragic events in Paris of this past week, including the attack and massacre at the offices of
Charlie Hebdo, the murder of four hostages at a Jewish establishment, and the subsequent closing of the main Paris synagogues on the Sabbath, for the first time since WWII.

The Abrahamic Initiative
Ismail Akbulut, President, The Multicultural Mosaic Foundation
Paul K. Alexander, Ph.D., Director, Institute on the Common Good, Regis University
Imam Abdur-Rahim Ali, Greater Denver Interfaith Initiative
Carroll Watkins Ali, Ph. D, Greater Denver Interfaith Initiative
Msgr., Robert L., Amundsen, Pastor, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Lafayette, CO
The Baha’i’ Spiritual Assembly of Denver
Rev. Bonita Bock, ELCA (Lutheran)
Rabbi Stephen Booth-Nadav, Director, Wisdom House Denver
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Cearley, Pastor, Presbyterian Church USA
The Colorado Council of Churches
Fr. Patrick Dolan, Pastor, Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Ellerby, Executive Director of the Althea Center
Kathy Escobar, Co-Pastor, The Refuge, Broomfield CO
Rabbi Brian Field, Judaism Your Way
Barbara Ford
The Rev. Jann Halloran, Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church
Rev. Amanda Henderson, The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
Pastor Douglas A. Hill, Lead Pastor, Abinding Hope Church
Mohamad Jodeh, Colorado Muslim Society Past President and current Board Member
Iman M. Jodeh, Associate Director & Co-Founder, Meet the Middle East
Rev. Paul Kottke, United Methodist, Senior Pastor of University Park UMC.
Sr. Magdalit, Catholic Liaison to the Jewish community
Rev. Dr. Kay Palmer Marsh, Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Fort Lupton
Rev. Julia McKay, Minister, Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church,
Greg Movesian, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Iliff School of Theology
Doshin Michael Nelson, Roshi, Integral Zen
Manu Raval, Representative of Universal Hinduism.
Rev. Dr. Vernon K. Rempel, First Mennonite Church of Denver
Anne V. Roth, former Global Trustee, United Religions Initiative
Rev Dr Scott J Schiesswohl
Rev. Diana Thompson, Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple
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