

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 4, 2016

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"STANDING TOGETHER" PUBLIC EVENT TO UNITE THE COMMUNITY IN RESPONSE TO ISLAMOPHOBIA AND XENOPHOBIA

In response to increasing Islamophobia, xenophobia, and divisive rhetoric, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and community partners invite the public to a "Standing Together" gathering to explore themes of interfaith understanding, solidarity, and community.

What:	"Standing Together" Press Conference & Public Gathering
When:	Sunday, January 24, 2016 from 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Where:	Slover Library (235 E. Plume St, Norfolk, VA)
Who:	Speakers and panelists will include religious and lay leaders from diverse faith traditions. The general public is invited to the event.
How:	The program will feature a clergy press conference and interfaith panel discussion exploring themes of interfaith understanding, solidarity, and community.
Why:	To demonstrate support for the Muslim community and to stand together against divisive and bigoted rhetoric

Website: Visit <u>www.inclusiveva.org/standing-together-hr</u> to learn more about the "Standing Together" initiative

Organizers and participants include representatives from the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College, Chrysler Museum of Art, Congregation Beth Chaverim, Crescent Community Center, First Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach, Hampton Mosque and Islamic Center, Hampton Roads Pride, Masjid William Salaam, Multicultural Alliance of Virginia, Muslim Community of Tidewater, United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, Virginia Organizing, and others.

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