



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2015**

Contact: Jonathan C. Zur
President & CEO
Virginia Center for
Inclusive Communities
(804) 515-7950
jzur@inclusiveva.org

**RELIGIOUS LEADERS STAND TOGETHER WITH RICHMOND
MUSLIM COMMUNITY AT INTERFAITH PRESS CONFERENCE**

In response to increasing Islamophobia, xenophobia, and divisive rhetoric, a diverse group of clergy and interfaith organizational leaders from the Richmond region will come together for a press conference to speak out and stand with the Muslim community.

What: “Standing Together” Press Conference

When: Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 3:30pm

Where: Islamic Center of Virginia (1241 Buford Road, North Chesterfield, VA)

Who: Clergy from a variety of religions and denominations, as well as interfaith organizational leaders

How: A small number of clergy representing different religions will speak and all in attendance will stand together behind them. Additionally, this press conference will be an opportunity to announce a joint statement associated with the “Standing Together” initiative, as well as a public event that will take place in January 2016. Individual attendees will be available for interviews following the press conference.

Why: To demonstrate support for the Muslim community and to stand together against divisive and bigoted rhetoric

Organizers include representatives from Bonay Kodesh Jewish Community, Congregation Beth Ahabah, Initiatives of Change/Hope in the Cities, Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, Islamic Center of Virginia, Richmond Peace Education Center, St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Temple Beth-El, University of Richmond Office of the Chaplaincy, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, Virginia Council of Churches, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Virginia Muslim Coalition for Public Affairs, and others.

#