

# Standing Together



## WE STAND TOGETHER

*Our diverse religious and social teachings lead us to come together at this time with one voice to condemn bigotry in public discourse.*

*In particular, we denounce the recent rise in Islamophobia and xenophobia that tear down our fellow humans and build up divisions between people. Recognizing that all of us are at risk when one group is unjustly targeted, we stand with our Muslim friends, neighbors, and colleagues, and all who are unjustly vilified as “the other.” These individuals serve Virginia as citizens, teachers, police officers, medical workers, tradespersons, community leaders, mothers, and fathers. We reach out in this moment with a shared commitment to justice, compassion, love, and peace.*

*At a time when feelings of fear and vulnerability may be heightened, we call on public figures, private citizens, and media outlets to always speak and act with respect and sensitivity. Religion should never be a wall that separates people from this land, from their neighbors, or from their hopes and dreams.*

*This Commonwealth proclaimed its commitment to the freedom of religion nearly 230 years ago with the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. We affirm the ideals of this groundbreaking document by working to build more respectful, pluralistic, and inclusive communities.*

*Today and in the future, we pledge that in the Richmond region and beyond, we stand together.*

## INSTITUTIONS

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church  
Baptist General Convention of Virginia  
Bon Air Presbyterian Church  
Bon Secours Richmond Health System  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Congregation Beth Ahabah  
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church  
Hope in the Cities/Initiatives of Change  
Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond  
Islamic Center of Virginia

Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond  
Parrish Chapel United Methodist Church  
Richmond Peace Education Center  
SACVI  
St. John’s UCC Richmond  
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church  
St. Mark’s UMC The Plains VA  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Richmond  
St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, Richmond

Unitarian Universalists Legislative Ministry of Virginia  
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

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*Stand with Us*

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Add your name to this statement by visiting:

Come together on January 10th at 4:00 pm at Congregation Beth Ahabah. More details at:

Use #standingtogether to add your voice

[www.inclusiveva.org/standing-together-rva](http://www.inclusiveva.org/standing-together-rva)

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For more information, please contact Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities at [contact@inclusiveva.org](mailto:contact@inclusiveva.org) or 804-515-7950