

Seven Resolutions Against Prejudice, Hatred and Discrimination

As Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders, we adhere to a common core of ethical standards that compel us to speak out against all forms of prejudice, hatred, and discrimination that our faiths encounter. The following seven resolutions provide common ground for us as “children of Abraham.” We affirm these seven statements and resolve to share them with everyone, everywhere.

1. Our commitment to partnering for peace does not mean we dissolve our distinctive, historic beliefs into an imaginary “One World Religion.” Rather, it means each community seeks to be authentically faithful to its historic beliefs and finds within those beliefs the resources to reach out to one another in love and respect. We encourage Jews, Christians and Muslims to work towards peace and justice together. We believe that our communities of faith should be a force for peace, justice and reconciliation, instead of discord and strife.

2. Dialogue between Jews, Christians and Muslims provides us with opportunities to understand one another, build relationships, and engage in peacemaking. Through dialogue, we work toward mutual respect, graciously bear witness to our faith and work toward religious freedom. We emphasize the common core of ethical teaching about love of neighbor and peacemaking. Whether in wartime or peacetime, religious people must engage in “hospitality” toward each other. We must reach out in love and respect toward the alien and protect the stranger in our communities.

3. We seek to be accurate when we speak about one another’s faith. Overstatement, exaggeration and words taken out of context should not be the case among people of faith. The Torah teaches us “not to bear false witness against our neighbor” (Exodus 20:16). The Gospel teaches us to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Matthew 7:12). The Qur’an teaches us to “stand out firmly for justice as witnesses to God, even though it be against ourselves or our parents” (Qur’an 4:135). Thus we strive to speak truthfully about one another’s faith, to respect each faith community’s own interpretation of itself, and not to compare the best interpretation and practice of our faith with the worst interpretation and practice of others. We encourage every person to be discerning regarding how media and literature portray the “other.”

4. We recognize that there is a difference between the teaching of any religion and the actions of misguided followers. No religion or religious community should be judged by the evil action of some individuals. Thus, we do not believe that Islam, Christianity, or Judaism is inherently a religion of violence. Without exception, proponents of each religion have extremists. We should not allow tiny extremist groups to become spokespersons of their faiths. We, the main stream followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, want to live in peace, justice and with respect for one another.
5. We defend the right of Jews, Christians and Muslims to express their faith respectfully. We stand against all forms of religious persecution against Jews, Christians, Muslims or anyone else. God desires all people to choose and practice their faith based on conscience and conviction rather than any form of coercion or violence. We denounce those who use violence in the name of religion. We affirm the right of religious freedom for every person and community in the world.
6. Respect for all faiths, languages, colors, and ethnicities is an ideal that America has sought to achieve. Since America was founded, Quakers, Catholics, Jews, Mormons, Native Americans, African Americans, Chinese, and Japanese, and others have been persecuted for their faith or ethnicity. We do not want to repeat the same mistake with Muslims, or anyone else. We do not believe that the vast majority of Muslims want to take over the world by force. We do believe that both Islam and Christianity want to win the world to their respective faiths by persuasion and not through violent means.
7. We pledge to work together for the constitutional right of Americans of all faiths, to build houses of worship anywhere in our nation as allowed by local laws and regulations; we stand against all forms of racism, hatred, religious intolerance, and ethnic bigotry and seek to preserve the human rights of all people as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; we call upon local and national elected officials to join their colleagues in denouncing and rejecting inflammatory rhetoric that endangers the lives of Muslims, Christians, Jews, and all faiths.

For the historical background of this document <http://ricklove.net/?p=713>

For a practical way that you can respond <http://www.interfaithresolutions.info/>