

Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD), Northern Virginia

On 25 May 2020, Mr. George Floyd, an African American man, was killed by Minneapolis police officers. While this was the most recent incident, it is just the latest example in a long and shameful history of injustice inflicted upon African American people in the United States. Racism remains very real and very present in our daily lives. Our shared humanity compels us to speak out and to affirm that it cannot be tolerated in a civil society.

As a network of faith-based and associated organizations, Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD) promotes mutual understanding and positive relationships among diverse people in and around Fairfax County. In our respective faiths, and in our ICD mission, we promote the values of inclusiveness, integrity, mutual respect, and trust of ALL people. We stand firmly in unity and support when any member of our community is targeted by disparaging or hateful words and actions. Such support is especially critical when the lives of those in a particular community are threatened.

We believe that people of all faiths must bear witness to and oppose the racial inequality and brutality facing people of color in this country. We call upon our own communities to have the courage and honesty to reflect upon ways that we may be facilitating the continuation of this inhumanity and find ways to effect positive change.

The racial inequality and brutality endemic in our society constitute an existential threat. It will require structural, social, and cultural change. Both individually and in our communities, we must strengthen our abilities to address these grave concerns, not just with words but with compassionate and resolute actions for change. None of us live in a safe and just society until we all live in a safe and just society.

We extend our hands and our hearts to the African American community. We support you and pray for you, each in our own way. May this expression of love bring strength, comfort, and healing.

In peace and solidarity,
ICD Members:

Annandale United Methodist Church
Baha'is of Fairfax County East
Congregation Olam Tikvah
Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center
Durga Temple
John Calvin Presbyterian Church
MakeSpace
Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
Ravensworth Baptist Church
The Sikh Foundation of Virginia
