



Monadnock Interfaith Project

Building An Interfaith Coalition for Community Understanding and Social Justice

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Dear Friends,

We in the Monadnock Interfaith Project grieve for the devastating loss of life and trauma of people in Israel and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Our hearts break that this is the largest mass killing of Jews since the Holocaust. We have deep outrage at the horrific acts initiated by the militant, political group Hamas, resulting in the indiscriminate death and suffering of civilians. We know Hamas does not represent our Muslim neighbors and allies.

How do we face these developments with courage and love?

As believers in the power of interfaith community, with our hearts and minds open to the experience of others, we feel the pain, anger, and sadness of neighbors whose friends and loved ones are forever traumatized by these events. We are connected across miles and cultures, linked in spirit with their sorrow.

In stressful times like these, many of us struggle to put words with our feelings. We fear being misunderstood, risking friendships, causing rifts. We cannot let those anxieties inhibit our communication. It is through making personal effort, reaching out, and deepening our understanding of other's perspectives that we evolve to a greater level of community.

While our hearts are broken, our spirit is undaunted. We have a renewed commitment to seek shared human connection. We pray for the safety of civilians, release of captives, and healing for those who have been injured. We stand in solidarity with those whose lives have been tipped into chaos.

When our hearts are open to others, we feel the pain of injustice and the loss of security that accompanies violence in all forms. And also with our hearts open, we have a greater capacity for empathy and love.

We encourage talking with Jewish and Muslim friends and acquaintances to offer support. Take time to appreciate the spiritual bond we share, to care for one another as we hope to be cared for. Learn about their life affirming cultures and contributions to civil society. In times of great peril, small acts of love and connection make a big difference.

We cannot undo what has been done, but we vow to be present, to listen, to seek understanding, to comfort, and to hold up one another. We do not have a solution, but we have determination to support people in our community

who seek knowledge, justice, peace, and freedom.

Know someone interested in interfaith efforts? Forward this email.

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In faith, hope, and love,

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