



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAITH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY
March 3, 2017

The Executive Committee for the County Executive's Faith Community Advisory Council strongly condemns the horrific acts of hate against minority and faith communities across our beloved nation. In particular, we are appalled and saddened by the bomb threats suffered by the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville and the Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax. We extend our love to our Jewish sisters and brothers and offer our deepest concern and unequivocal rejection of these hateful acts.

Silence and inaction are not options in the light of these and other acts of desecration against our Jewish sisters and brothers. The painful memory of all the suffering experienced by the Jewish community, over the centuries, together with these current threats, call us to stand up and speak out.

An attack against our Jewish family members is an attack against all peoples of faith. We within the Bahai'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Unitarian Universalist and Zoroastrian faith traditions are holding our Jewish friends in love and calling everyone to acknowledge our common humanity.

We believe we have been created as one human family and are called to love one another as we love ourselves. Thus the pain and injustice inflicted upon any one of us is felt by all of us. For the sake of ourselves, our community and nation, we must stand in solidarity, offer our prayers and lend our support in whatever ways may provide healing and encouragement for our Jewish family.

We are truly grateful for the active participation and abiding support of the Jewish community. Your compassion and advocacy in defense of justice for all, and your work with us in creating a more beloved community inspires us. Today we reaffirm the bonds that unite, strengthen our resolve and keep our hopes alive.

Joseph Chang, *Chong Hwa Saint Tao Yuah*; Lubna Ejaz, *Board of Trustees, MCC*; Rev. Dr. Carol Flett, *Episcopal Diocese of Washington*; Rev. Ken Howard, *The FaithX Project*; Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, *Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church*; Imam Faizul Khan, *Islamic Society of Washington Area*; Rev. Dr. Gareth Murray, *First International Baptist Church*; Rabbi David Shneyer, *Am-Kolel Jewish Renewal Community*; Rabbi Batya Steinlauf, *Jewish Community Relations Council*; Claire Waggoner, *Kunzang Palvul Choling Buddhist Temple*; Ex Officio; Rev. Mansfield Kaseman, *Interfaith Community Liaison*.