

Press Release

Faith Representatives and Leaders Statement in response to Paris Attacks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Location

South Yorkshire

Details

Please find attached a statement from the Sheffield Faith Representatives and Leaders in response to the Paris, Baghdad and Beirut attacks, which took place last week, to show solidarity in times of grief and sorrow.

The statement calls for unity and calm in face of such horror and loss. The Faith Leaders call on communities to be vigilant in not allowing racism and mistrust to erode the common bonds we all share.

BOILERPLATE

Faith leader call for solidarity and unity in the face of terror attacks.

Please see statement and signatories below.

For further information please contact

Ms Shahida Siddique Faithstar LLP info@faithstar.org – 07969002886

Faith Leaders and Representatives' Statement in response to the events in Paris

We, the leaders and representatives of the Faith communities in Sheffield, express our profound horror and shock at the events in Paris over the previous weekend. We stand in solidarity with all those affected by terror attacks on the citizens of Russia, Baghdad, Beirut, Paris and many other places, after weeks of killing meant to instil fear in all.

We recognise, and share, the grief of all those affected by terrorism and violent acts, and we pledge our support, and that of the communities we represent.

We recognise the threat that such terrorist acts can lead to racism and the erosion of trust between peoples of different races, backgrounds and religion. We urge all Faith communities and all of goodwill to find ways of deepening understanding about each other.

We recognise that the events of the past days have seriously escalated the dangerous situation in the World; we call for a calm and reasoned response.

We recognise that the present conflicts have their roots in a vile distortion of religious beliefs and understandings. Now, and into the future, we pledge to do all we can to promote a deeper understanding of the true nature of the Faiths we represent, and the message of unity at the heart of all religion.

We recognise that, as fearful and horrifying as they are, the present conflicts cannot and will not persist forever. We urge those in power to search for a political response to the recent atrocities and to look to a future, beyond the current fearful one, marked by international equality, liberty and fraternity.

And we recognise the need for continued vigilance in combating all that would divide our communities both here in Sheffield and throughout the World. Such attacks as we have recently witnessed seek to spread mistrust amongst people, communities and nations. Therefore, we stand in defiance and assert that our unity with each other and for each other is stronger than hatred.

Please join us in a Peace and Unity Walk on the 25th November 4:15pm starting outside the Town Hall and finishing at the City Hall 4:45pm. For further information or details please email info@faithstar.org

Signatories to the statement:

Rt Rev Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Sheffield

Rt Rev Ralph Heskett, Bishop of Hallam

Rev Gill Newton, Chair of the Methodist District

Qari Mohammad Ismail, Sheffield Federation of Mosques

Ahmed Al-Hidabi, Muslim Association of Britain (South Yorkshire)

Mike Fitter, Amida Buddhist Order

Dr Ramesh Munjal, President Sheffield Hindu Samaj

Patsy Cunningham, Sheffield and District Reform Jewish Congregation

Mary Taylor, Yorkshire Baptist Association

Abdool Gooljar, President Islamic Society South Yorkshire

Rev Inderjit Bhogal

Rabbi J Golomb, Rabbi - Sheffield Jewish Congregation

Rev Phillip Borkett, Superintendent Minister the Methodist Church Sheffield

Fr Shaun Smith, Sacred Heart Hillsborough

Lynn Rishworth, Local Co-ordinator for the Pagan Federation

Jeremy Kay, Public Affairs Director, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Rt Revd Tim Ellis, Assistant Bishop and Chair of Sheffield Faiths Together

Andrew Crowley, Chair of Sheffield Interfaith Network

Naseem Dar Ahmadiyya Community

Rt Rev Peter Burrows, Bishop of Doncaster and Chair of Churches Together South Yorkshire

Muhammad Ali, Chair of Pakistan Muslim Centre

Very Revd Peter Bradley, Dean of Sheffield Cathedral

Cllr Julie Dore Leader of the Council (In support of the Faith Leaders statement)