

## **WE ARE ALL SIKHS: A STATEMENT ON OAK CREEK TRAGEDY AND ITS IMPACT** *August 9, 2012*

This Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, a memorial service will be held for the six individuals who lost their lives in the tragic shooting at the Gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The 178 undersigned community of civic, faith-based, immigrant rights, and civil rights organizations expresses our deepest condolences to the victims and their families affected by the mass shooting which left six individuals dead, at least three others critically injured, and many others wounded. We are grateful for the efforts by many Gurdwara congregants, first responders, and the local community in Wisconsin who helped to save lives and prevented an even greater loss of life from occurring.

We call upon Americans to respond to this tragedy by supporting the families of the victims and Sikh community members. Over the course of this week, vigils are being planned around the country with the message of "We are all Sikhs." We urge you to stand in support of the Sikh community and the values that bind us as Americans by attending a vigil in your area ([a map of vigils can be found here](#)).

While facts are still emerging regarding the motivation of the perpetrator, the massacre at the Gurdwara in Oak Creek is part of a history of bias and violence that members of Sikh, Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities have endured in the decade following September 11, 2001. Sadly, community members continue to report discrimination, and places of worship are routinely targeted. Within 24 hours of the Wisconsin shooting, a suspicious fire, now being investigated as a possible arson, destroyed a mosque in Joplin, Missouri. The level of hate and violence inflicted on innocent Americans because of their appearance or religious faith is now at a crisis point.

While our organizations represent a wide swath of individuals from different nationalities, backgrounds, faith traditions, and belief systems, we are bound together by a common purpose: we believe in the core American values of religious pluralism, equality, and inclusion. Our collective voices send out the message that as a nation, we must denounce the hate-fueled sentiment and bigoted rhetoric that has become much too frequent in our public and political discourse. The essence of our country after all is *E pluribus unum*: out of many comes a strong, unified one.

We call upon our elected leaders, and civic, faith-based, and educational institutions to take steps to address xenophobia, racism, and anti-religious hate in our country today. We ask President Obama to host a summit that brings stakeholders together to identify concrete solutions. And we urge all individuals, regardless of faith or background, to speak out against bigotry at workplaces, schools, and family kitchen tables. As Americans, we must stand together to protect our nation's values of equality and freedom for all.

**Endorsing Organizations (As of August 9, 2012)**

*If your organization would like to join the statement of solidarity, please email [info@saalt.org](mailto:info@saalt.org) with the name of your organization and the subject line "Oak Creek Solidarity Statement."*

ACCESS

Adhikaar

AJC

Alliance San Diego (aka Equality Alliance)

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Florida Chapter (ADC-FL)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Civil Liberties Union

American Muslim Association of North America (AMANA)

American Muslims for Emergency and Relief (AMER)

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

API Chaya

The Applied Research Center

Arab American Action Network (AAAN)

Arab American Association of New York

Arab American Family Services

Arab American Family Support Center

Arab Muslim American Federation

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF)

Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago

Asian American Federation

Asian American Institute, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian American Recovery Services, Inc.

Asian Americans for Community Involvement

Asian Americans for Equality (AAAFE)

Asian Health Coalition

Asian Law Alliance

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center

Asian Pacific American Network (APAN) of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA)

Asian Pacific Community in Action

Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA)

Asians Against Domestic Abuse

Auburn Seminary

Bay Area Asian Pacific American Legislative Staffers (BAAPALS)

Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)  
Breakthrough  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
Causa Justa: Just Cause  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Social Inclusion  
Chhaya CDC  
Chicago Area Ethnic Resources  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community  
Community to Community Development  
Coney Island Avenue Project  
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago  
Council of Peoples Organization (COPO)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Arizona Chapter  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Cincinnati Chapter  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Greater Los Angeles Area  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Iowa Chapter (CAIR-Iowa)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Minnesota (CAIR-MN)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – New York  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Oklahoma Chapter  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Sacramento Valley Office (CAIR-Sacramento Valley)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – San Antonio Chapter (CAIR-SA)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – San Diego Chapter  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA) Office  
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Texas, DFW Chapter  
Counselors Helping (South) Asians/Indians, Inc.  
Daya  
DRUM – Desis Rising Up & Moving  
Elemental Partners  
Faith in Public Life  
Families for Freedom  
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.  
FICA (Federation of India Community Associations of NE Ohio)  
Four Freedoms Forum  
Franciscan Action Network  
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network  
Groundswell  
Health Through Action Arizona Coalition  
Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Inc.  
Human Rights First  
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH)  
Indian-American Bar Association of Chicago  
Indo-American Center

Indo-American Heritage Museum  
Interfaith Alliance  
International Organization for Adolescents  
Islamic Society of Milwaukee  
Islamic Society of North America  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Japanese American Citizens League – Chicago Chapter  
Japanese American Citizens League – Midwest District Council  
Japanese American Citizens League – Wisconsin Chapter  
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies  
Laotian American National Alliance (LANA)  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP)  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Mai Family Services  
Maitri  
Manavi  
Mt. Zion Church of God (7th Day)  
Mujeres Unidas y Activas  
Muslim Advocates  
Muslim Bar Association of New York (MuBANY)  
Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)  
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)  
NAACP  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum – Greater Phoenix Chapter  
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National  
CAPACD)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Tongan American Society  
National Urban League  
Natya Dance Theatre  
Network of Indian Professionals (NetIP) North America  
Network of Arab American Professionals (NAAP)  
North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA)  
North Carolina Justice Center

OCA  
OCA – Greater Phoenix Chapter  
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition  
Oklahoma Conference of Churches  
OneAmerica  
Open Society Foundations  
The Opportunity Agenda  
Organization of Chinese Americans – Silicon Valley Chapter  
PAKPAC  
Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago  
Raksha  
Rights Working Group  
Saathi of Rochester  
Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus  
Sakhi for South Asian Women  
San Jose State University Asian Pacific Islander Faculty Staff Association  
Satrang  
Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority  
Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE)  
Shama Inc.  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)  
The Sikh Coalition  
Sisters of Mercy Institute Justice Team  
South Asia Society of the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point  
South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI)  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
South Asian Bar Association of Arizona  
South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia  
South Asian Bar Association of New York (SABANY)  
South Asian Bar Association of Northern California  
South Asian Bar Association of Ohio (SABA Ohio)  
South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia (SABA Philadelphia)  
South Asian Bar Association of San Diego  
South Asian Bar Association of Southern California  
South Asian Bar Association of Washington  
South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC  
South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS)  
South Asian Network  
South Asian Progressive Action Collective (SAPAC)  
South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!)  
Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ)  
The Standing Committee for Multicultural Affairs of ACPA - College Student  
Educators International  
Turning Point for Women and Families  
United Methodist Women

UNITED SIKHS  
United We Dream Network  
USPAK Foundation  
VAMOS Unidos  
We Are All Brooklyn (WAAB)