

## **American Faith Based Organizations Stand Unequivocally Against the Export of Hateful Anti-LGBTI Rhetoric**

We, American faith leaders and faith-based organizations, guided by our beliefs in the divine and our traditions of social justice, stand shoulder to shoulder with the LGBTI community around the world. Our various religious traditions are rooted in a belief in the inherent dignity of all people, and the conviction that human beings—lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and otherwise—are created in the image of the divine and entitled to have their basic rights respected.

We decry the continued violence against and persecution of people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities/expression, and sex characteristics. We are heartened by LGBTI activists and their allies across the world who are organizing, mobilizing, and advocating against hatred and violence, and we rejoice in the steady steps that they are making toward equality and justice.

As allies of the global movement for LGBTI equality, we forcefully denounce the phenomenon of American extremist religious leaders traveling to countries far beyond America's shores to spread venomous, often violent, rhetoric targeted at the LGBTI community. According to a 2015 Report by the Human Rights Campaign, such leaders have traveled to Uganda, Russia, Argentina, Kenya and many more countries far beyond their own communities, exporting a message of intolerance that encourages and perpetuates violence towards LGBTI communities.

They posit LGBTI people as enemies of faith traditions: One Pastor venomously stated that “there is a war going on in the world... and it's a war between Christians and Homosexuals.” Others have gone so far as to claim that LGBTI people are luring away children, spreading HIV/AIDS, destroying families, and are responsible for mass atrocities such as the Rwandan Genocide and the Holocaust. This rhetoric is far more than bigoted words. In some countries, these extremists have provided fodder and support for domestic legislation that would criminalize homosexuality—in some cases, going so far as to advocate for the death penalty as punishment.

To us, this use of faith and religious teachings to provoke and bolster violence and hatred represents a perversion of our traditions at their deepest levels. As faith leaders and heads of religious organizations, we envision a world in which people can live free of violence, regardless of who they are, whom they love, how they present, or what are the characteristics of their body.

We advocate for an end to the criminalization and penalization of same-sex conduct.

We advocate for state protection for LGBTI people against violence.

We support the adoption of full non-discrimination laws and policies that protect LGBTI people from harassment in employment, health care, education, social welfare programs, and the provision of services.

We decry the export of hatred from religious U.S. extremists as it is a direct affront to our vision of global equality and beliefs in justice for all people.

Together in solidarity with our LGBTI partners abroad, we will work to build a world that upholds the principles of social justice that are the backbone of our scriptures, traditions, and faiths.

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American Jewish World Service  
Anti-Defamation League  
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good  
Church World Service  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Refugee and Immigration Ministries  
Coalition of Progressive Hindus  
DignityUSA, LGBTQ/Ally Catholics  
The Episcopal Church  
Franciscan Action Network  
Global Justice Institute  
Keshet

Muslims for Progressive Values  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Presbyterian Church USA  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/Jewish Reconstructionist Communities  
SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Sexual and Gender Diversity  
Soulforce  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Union on Reform Judaism (URJ)  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Church of Christ

Imam Daayiee Abdullah	MECCA Institute, Washington, DC
Mr. Anthony Suarez Abrama	Archdiocesan Office for Peace and Justice, Chicago, IL
Rabbi Rachel Ackerman	Temple Shalom, Chevy Chase, MD
Rabbi Benjamin Adler	Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, NJ
Rabbi Thomas Alpert	Temple Etz Chaim, Franklin, MA
Rabbi Alana Alpert	Congregation T'chiya, Detroit, MI
Reverend Israel Alvaran DMin	Clergy and Laity for Economic Justice of California, San Francisco, CA
Dr. Jorde Aquino	USF Department of Religious Studies, San Francisco, CA
Rabbi Melanie Aron	Congregation Shir Hadash, Los Gatos, CA
Reverend Jennfier Bailey	African Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago, IL
Reverend K. G. Banward Jr.	St. Matthew's Church, Glendale, CA
Rabbi George Barnard	Northern Hills Synagogues, Cincinnati, OH
Rabbi Eliot J. Baskin DMin	Jewish Community Chaplain, Denver, OH
Elder Randolph W. Baskin	Church of Fullerton (Disciples of Christ)
Rabbi Eliot Becker	American Jewish University, Los Angeles, CA
Rabbi Birdie Becker	Temple Emanuel, Pueblo, CO
Rabbi Josh Berkenwald	Congregation Sinai, San Jose, CA
Rabbi Marc Berkson	Emanu-El B'ne Jerurun, Milwaukee, WI
Rabbi Donald Berlin	Temple Oheb Shalom, Baltimore, MD
Reverend Dawn Berry	Brookside Congregational Church, Manchester, NH
Rabbi Cecelia Beyer	Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael, Springfield, NJ
Rabbi Binyamin Biber	American University, Washington, DC
Reverend Betty Jo Birkhahn-Rommelfanger	United Methodist Church, Chestnut Square, Glenview, IL
Reverend Anna Blaedel	United Methodist Church, Des Moines, IA
Rabbi Barry Block	Congregation B'nai Israel, Little Rock, Arkansas
Reverend Dawn Flower Blundell	United Methodist Church, Reno, NV
Rabbi Jill Borodin	Congregation Beth Shalom, Seattle, WA
Reverend Barbara Brawley	United Church of Christ, Manchester, NH
Rabbi Colin Brodie	Congregation B'nai Torah, Trumbull, CT
Rabbi Rick Brody	Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, Bryn Mawr, PA
Rabbi Jeffrey Brown	Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El, Scarsdale, NY
Rabbi Rachel Brown	American Hebrew Academy, Greensboro, NC
Father Rudolph Bullman	Diocese of Helena, Helena, MT
Reverend Elder Pat Bumgardner	Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches
Reverend Emma Chattin	Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA
Rabbi Jeffrey Cheifetz	Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, CA
Rabbi Eric Cohen	Temple Israel, Manchester, NH
Rabbi Martin Cohen	Shelter Rock Jewish Center, Roslyn, NY
Rabbi Holly Cohn	Temple B'nai Israel, Albany, GA
Rabbi David J. Cooper	Kehilla Community Synagogue, Piedmont, CA

Rabbi Rachel Cowan	Institute for Jewish Spirituality, New York, NY
Rabbi Menachem Creditor	Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley, CA
Reverend Richard L. Dalton	Metropolitan Community Churches of the Sierras, Reno, NV
Rabbi Benjamin David	Adath Emanu-El, Mount Laurel, NJ
Rabbi Beth D. Davidson	Temple Adam Yeshurun, Manchester, NH
Dr. Neomi DeAnda	Professor of Religious Studies, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH
Deacon Andrea Delaney	Bartlett, IL
Reverend Paula Depsey	Alliance of Baptists
The Honorable Dr. Michael H. Diaz	Ambassador to the Holy See, Ret. Chicago, IL
Pastor Doug Donley	University Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN
Reverend Dr. John C. Dorhaur	United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH
Rabbi Paula Drill	Orangetown Jewish Center, Orangetown, NY
Rabbi Ariel Edery	Beth Shalom, Wake County, NC
Rabbi Lisa Edwards	Beth Chayim Chadashim, Los Angeles, CA
Rabbi Laurence Edwards	Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Chicago, IL
Rabbi Denise Eger	Congregation Kol Ami, West Hollywood, CA
Rabbi Jean Eglinton	B'nai Sholom Congregation, Huntington, WV
Rabbi Bruce Elder	Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe, IL
Rabbi Cindy Enger	Congregation Or Chadash, Chicago, IL
Rabbi David Englander	B'nai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton, Florida
Minister Roy English	Rebecca, GA
Priest Peter Faass	Rector of Christ Church, Shaker Heights, OH
Reverend Don Fado	St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Sacramento, CA
Rabbi Marla Feldman	Women of Reform Judaism, New York, NY
Ms. Felicy Figueroa	Irvine United Congressional Church, Irvine, CA
Rabbi Brian Fink	UJA-Federation of New York, New York, NY
Rabbi Nancy Flam	Institute for Jewish Spirituality, New York, NY
Reverend Wil Forrest	East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA
Rabbi Elyse Frishman	Barnert Temple, Franklin Lakes, NJ
Rabbi Pamela Frydman	Congregation Pnai Tikvah, Las Vegas, NV
Rabbi Stephen Fuchs	World Union for Progressive Judaism, West Hartford, CT
Reverend Elder Darlene Garner	Metropolian Community Churches, Washington, DC
Rabbi Lisa Gelber	Temple Aliyah, Woodland Hills, CA
Rabbi David Gelfan	Temple Israel of the City of New York, New York, NY
Pastor Joseph Girdal	New Hampshire
Rabbi Miriyam Glazer	American Jewish University, Los Angeles, CA
Deacon Alice Ann Glenn	United Methodist Church
Rabbi Bonnie Goldberg	Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Rabbi Megan Goldman	Columbia/Barnard Hillel, New York, NY
Rabbi Lisa L. Goldstein	Institute for Jewish Spirituality, New York, NY
Rabbi Marvin Goodman	Peninsula Sinai Congregation, Foster City, CA
Rabbi Marlee Gordon	McHenry County Jewish Congregation, Crystal Lake, IL
Reverend Elizabeth Goudy	Metropolitan Church of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown, PA
Rabbi Sarah Graff	Congregation Kol Emeth, Palo Alto, CA
Rabbi Laurie Green	Congregation Beit Mishpacha, Washington, DC
Rabbi Jarah Greenfield	Congregation Beth El, Bennington, VT
Rabbi Deba Hachen	Temple Beth-El, Jersey City, NJ
Minister Sarah Catherine Haines	Saint Ansel College, Manchester, NH
Rabbi Vered Harris	Temple B'nai Israel, Oklahoma City, OK
Dr. Robyn Henderson-Espinoza	Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA
Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann	Society for the Advancement of Judaism, New York, NY
Ms. Danie Amanda Holiday	Desert Oasis Chapel, Palm Springs, CA
Rabbi Linda Holtzman	Temple Olam Chavurah, Philadelphia, PA

Reverend Jennifer Hornbuckle	Crossroads Hospice of Atlanta, GA
Rabbi David Ingber	Romemu, New York, NY
Rabbi Sandi Intraub	Beth El Temple Center, Belmont, MA
Rabbi Howard Jaffe	Temple Isaiah, Lexington, MA
Pastor Motanna Jones	Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, TN
Ms. Micky ScottBey Jones	Faith Matters Network
Reverend Elizabeth Jones	United Methodist Church
Rabbi Raachel Jurovics	Yavneh, Raleigh, NC
Rabbi David Kaiman	Congregation B'ni Israel, Gainesville, FL
Mr. Timothy V. Kane, Mdiv, MTh	Washington, DC
Rabbi Greg Kanter	Temple Sinai, Delray Beach, FL
Rabbi Nancy Kasten	Dallas, TX
Reverend Jim Ketcham	FOCUS Churches of Albany, Albany, NY
Rabbi Noah Kitty	Congregation Etz Chaim, Wilton Manors, FL
Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein	Congregation Kneseth Israel, Chicago, IL
Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum	Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, New York, NY
Rabbi David L Kline	Lab/Shul, Brooklyn, NY
Rabbi Peter Knobel	Temple Judea, Coral Gables, FL
Reverend Jake Kopmeier	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Rabbi Brett Krichiver	Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Indianapolis, IN
Rabbi Mark Kula	Bet Shira Congregation, Miami, FL
Rabbi Susan Landau	Temple Micah, Washington, DC
Rabbi Michael Adam Latz	Shir Tikvah, Minneapolis, MN
Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie	Lab/Shul, Brooklyn, NY
Rabbi Darah Lerner	Beth El Bangor, Bangor, ME
Rabbi Joshua Lesser	Congregation Bet Haverim, Atlanta, GA
Deacon Adris L. Letey	United Methodist Church
Rabbi Mark Levin	Congregation Beth Torah, Overland Park, KS
Rabbi Alon Levkovitz	Temple Beth Am, Jupiter, FL
Rabbi Chai Levy	Kol Shofar, Tiburon, CA
Rabbi Adina Lewittes	Tenafly, NJ
Rabbi Elias Lieberman	Falmouth Jewish Congregation, Cape Cod, MA
Rabbi Mordechai Liebling	Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA
Rabbi Ellen Lippman	Kolot Chayeinu, Brooklyn, NY
Reverend Dr. Cindi Love	Washington, DC
Rabbi Nina Mandel	Congregation Beth El, Sunbury, PA
Rabbi Marc Margolius	West End Synagogue, New York, NY
Rabbi Randall Mark	Shomrei Torah, Wayne, NJ
Rabbi Susan Marks	New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL
Rabbi Jessica Marshall	Temple Beth Or, Everett, WA
Rabbi Nathan Martin	Congregation Beth Israel, Media, PA
Reverend Gary McElroy	St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Chagrin Falls, OH
Reverend Edwin McGee	Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), San Gabriel, CA
Reverend Theodore McKnight	Pleasant Hill, TN
Reverend LaDayne McLeese Polaski	Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
Reverend Will Mebane	St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, NY
Minister J.D. Mechelke	Edina Community Lutheran Church
Rabbi Bernhard H. Mehlman	Temple Israel, Boston, MA
Rabbi Michael Mellen	Fairfax Station,VA
Rabbi Abby Michaleski	Temple Beth El, Hammonton, NJ
Rabbi Avis Miller	Adas Israel, Washington, DC
Rabbi Sydney Mintz	Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco, CA
Rabbi Michelle Missaghieh	Tenoke Israel, Hollywood, CA

Reverend James Moos	United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries
Rabbi Jim Morgan	Harvard Hillel Worship and Study Congregation, Cambridge, MA
Rabbi Jeremy Morrison	Temple Israel, Boston, MA
Deacon Deniray Mueller	St. John's Episcopal Church, Worthington, OH
Rabbi Robin Nafshi	Temple Beth Jacob, Concord, NH
Cantor Shira Nafshi	Temple Beth Jacob, Concord, NH
Reverend Dr. Julie Nemechek	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MI
Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk	Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, OH
Reverend Kelly O'Connell	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clara, CA
Professor Marcos Panahon Jr.	St. Matthew's Filipino Ministry, Glendale, CA
Rabbi Barbara Penzner	Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, West Roxbury, MA
Reverend Kathleen Pforr	Mentor, OH
Rabbi Richard Plavin	Beth Sholom B'nai Israel, Manchester, CT
Brother Michael Potvin-Frost	St. Francis of Assisi Ministry
Rabbi Marcia Prager	P'nai Or Jewish Renewal Congregation, Philadelphia, PA
Rabbi Joshua Rabin	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, New York, NY
Rabbi Esther Reed	Rutgers Hillel, New Brunswick, NJ
Reverend David Reppert	United Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Minister David Reynolds	Pastoral Counseling Services, Manchester, NH
Rabbi Philip Rice	Congregation Micah, Brentwood, TN
Pastor Beth Richeson	NH Women's Ministry, Concord, NH
Rabbi Carnie Shalom Rose	Congregation B'nai Amoona, Creve Coeur, MI
Rabbi Stanley Rosenbaum	Sons of Jacob Synagogue, Waterloo, IA
Rabbi Ari Rosenberg	Temple Shalom, Milford, CT
Rabbi James Rosenberg	Temple Habonim, Barrington, RI
Rabbi Matt Rosenberg	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
Rabbi Leonard Rosenthal	Tifereth Israel, San Diego, CA
Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser	Tenoke Sinai, Washington, DC
Rabbi John Rosove	Temple Israel of Hollywood, CA
Rabbi Neil Sandler	Ahavath Achim Synagogue, Atlanta, GA
Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips	Ways of Peace Community Resources, Brooklyn, NY
Rabbi Peter Schaktman	Temple EmanuEl, Honolulu, HI
Reverend Michael D. Schenemeyer	United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH
Rabbi Ahud Sela	Temple Ramat Zion, Northridge, CA
Rabbi Dean Shapiro	Temple Emanuel of Tempe, AZ
Rabbi Becky Silverstein	Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, Pasadena, CA
Rabbi Robin Sparr	Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valle, Natwick, MA
Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett	Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua, NH
Rabbi Miriam T. Spitzer	South Area Solomon Schechter Day School, Stoughton, MA
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Rabbi Jonathan Stein	Temple Shaaray Tefila, New York, NY
Rabbi David Steinhardt	Bnai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton, FL
Rabbi Gil Steinlauf	Adas Israel, Washington, DC
Rabbi Debbie Stiel	Temple Beth Sholom, Topeka, KS
Reverend Kristin Stoneking	Fellowship of Reconciliation
Bishop Melvin G. Talbert	United Methodist Church
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Rabbi Shoshanah Tornberg	Or Ami, Lafayette Hill, PA
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Rabbi Annie Tucker	Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, Wilmette, IL

Rabbi David Vaisberg	Temple Emanu-El, Edison, NJ
Rabbi Allison Vann	Suburban Temple - Kol Ami, Beachwood, OH
Rabbi Stewart Vogel	Temple Aliyah, Woodland Hills, CA
Rabbi Andrew Warmflash	Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre, East Rockaway, NY
Rabbi Arthur Waskow	The Shalom Center, Philadelphia, PA
Rabbi Sue Ann Wasserman	Temple Beth David, Canton, MA
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Rabbi Elyse Wechterman	Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Attleboro, RI
Rabbi Sheila Weinberg	Congregation Shaare Emeth, St. Louis, MO
Rabbi Cheryl Weiner	Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami, Miami, FL
Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub	Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, New York, NY
Rabbi Max Weiss Temple	B'nai Abraham Zion, Oak Park, IL
Rabbi Zari Weiss	Kol HaNeshamah, Seattle, Washington
Rabbi Sarah Weissman	Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills, CA
Rabbi Lauren Werber	B'nai Abraham, Elyria, OH
Reverend Elder Nancy Wilson	Metropolitan Community Churches
Rabbi Elyse Winick	Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Rabbi Daniel Zemel	Temple Micah, Washington, DC
Rabbi Misha Zinkow	Temple Israel, Columbus, OH
Rabbi Julie Zupan	Reform Jewish Outreach Boston, Boston, MA