MEDIA ADVISORY

Over Two Dozen Organizations to Rally, Canvass Against Anti-Muslim Bigotry

Together We Stand in Solidarity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, IL, March 17, 2016 – On Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 2:00pm, organizations, community groups, and congregations from across Chicagoland will rally in Evanston's Fountain Square to stand against anti-Muslim bigotry. After the rally, groups will canvass businesses and homes to display posters supporting refugees and demand a stop to racial/religious profiling. The event comes as a follow up to a similar rally held in December that saw hundreds in attendance including Mayor Liz Tisdahl of Evanston and Northwestern University Professor Morton Shapiro. In the wake of huge protests last Friday during Presidential Candidate Donald Trump's rally at UIC, organizers expect the event to be even larger.

Together, co-sponsoring organizations affirm:

Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim are enduring vitriolic, frightening levels of hate and violence throughout the country- being spit on, verbally harassed and abused, physically assaulted, and even shot. This hate and violence do not exist in a vacuum. It takes place in the context of ongoing and systemic Islamophobia and racism that are pervasive and deep within our society.

On March 20, 2016, the undersigned organizations and the Chicagoland community will publicly say: We stand against the many ways in which anti-Muslim and xenophobic hatred manifests itself, including hate speech and hate crimes; institutionalized racism and state-sanctioned violence; racial and religious profiling in all its forms; and prejudice that targets refugees and immigrants of all backgrounds.

We will be going door-to-door and store-to-store, inviting merchants, houses of worship, and residents to post signs in their yards or windows affirming: "Stop Profiling Muslims" and "Refugees Welcome".

American Friends Service Committee - Chicago
American Muslims for Palestine - Chicago
Arab Jewish Partnership for Peace and Justice in the Middle East
Beth Emet
CAIR-Chicago
Chicago Area Peace Action
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
First Congregational Church of Evanston, UCC
Freedom First International SCLC
GCE Lab School
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation
Jewish Voice for Peace - Chicago
Latino Resources
Main Street Alliance
Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
Muslim Community Center
North Suburban Teachers Union
Open Communities
People Encouraging Acceptance thru Communication & Education
Peaceful Communities
Public Interest Fundraising
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition
Roman Catholic Order of the Society of the Divine Word at Techny
Second Baptist Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Tzedek Chicago
Unitarian Church of Evanston
YWCA Evanston/Northshore

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