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March 20, 2019

To Our Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As members of the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Coalition for Mutual Respect, a group of diverse religious and ethnic community leaders who encourage interfaith understanding, counter prejudice and hatred, and speak out in a unified voice when acts of bigotry and injustice occur, we offer our sincerest and deepest prayers to our Muslim sisters and brothers in our community and throughout the world.

We relay our collective and individual thoughts and prayers. With words of love and support from our members to yours, we resolve to you, and our shared community, that we will continue to fight for meaningful action to combat hate, Islamophobia and senseless acts of violence.

Salam Alaikum,

ADL Coalition for Mutual Respect

*To our Muslim friends and family, when one of us hurts, all of us hurt and grieve. We are devastated by the terrible tragedy and loss of lives by a terrorist attack at the New Zealand mosques. As members of the Coalition for Mutual Respect, an organization I helped form 25 years ago to promote interfaith and interethnic understanding, we reject intolerance and violence and are committed to maintain our respective houses of worship as places of sanctuary and peace.*

Regina Rogers

*In the midst of the world's prejudice, please know that you have friends who care deeply and grieve with you.*

Bishop Mike Rinehart

*This is a terrible day in the history of the world and a wonderful opportunity for all of us who believe in truth and righteousness and the love of mankind to come together in prayer and the holding of hands for the betterment and the good of mankind.*

Pastor Harvey Clemons

*To my Muslim brothers and sisters in Houston: I was deeply saddened and heartbroken by the news of the attacks on Muslim worshippers in New Zealand. My heart goes out to our Muslim brothers and sisters in Houston and to all who were directly or indirectly assaulted by those acts of hate. I stand with you, grieve with you, and would welcome your advice on ways that I can tangibly affirm support for you in this time of grief and sadness.*

*Unfortunately, my own Jewish community are no strangers to such painful events. This is the time to renew and deepen our bonds of respect and love. We must not allow you to fear that you stand alone. We stand with you.*

*We feel your sadness and your anger and want to draw even closer to you and your people by acts of respect and love.*

*The venerable sages in my tradition have imagined that God weeps when such acts of terror are committed against any of the Holy One's children in this world. Please know that we will welcome any suggestions on how we can help your community to heal in the days ahead. In the meantime, we send you our love and our prayers.*

Rabbi Sam Karff

*To Our Muslim Siblings, in pained sympathy with your multi-cultural family, what happened in New Zealand was not only a tragedy for Muslim worshippers in Christchurch—it was a tragedy for all of us, of all faiths, all nationalities, all cultures. We grieve as a global family; but we must also be diligent in our resistance to bigotry and prejudice.*

*There are far more things that make us one than there are that divide us. Let us aggressively express our oneness as a family rather than casually drift apart while someone emerges to replace respect with hate.*

Reverend William "Bill" Lawson

*The violence of hatred that led to the massacre of Muslims in New Zealand was also an attack on all humanity. Hatred and bigotry are never limited to time or place. People of faith will continue to reject all forms of hatred which basically insults our Creator God who loves equally all in the human family. We defend the creative work of God when we stand in solidarity with the Muslim Community everywhere and with all groups who are the object of hatred attacks.*

Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza