



# THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER HOUSTON

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## Tragic Incidents at Hanukkah Celebration and North Texas Church

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The Islamic Society of Greater Houston offers its deepest condolences to the victims of hate crimes in spiritual spaces this weekend. We are deeply saddened to hear the news of the stabbing and subsequent death of five Hanukkah celebrants at Rabi Chaim Rottenberg's home in New York City on Saturday, and a shooting at West Freeway Church of Christ which led to the death of two on Sunday.

We believe that everyone has the right to pray in a house of worship and observe religious holidays and celebrations with freedom and peace. We condemn these acts of domestic terrorism and demand justice for the victims to the full extent of the law.

The deep emotional impact on communities witnessing such tragedies can be very challenging and we ask our community members to take steps to care for themselves and their loved ones.

Our mosques remain open as places of worship, reflection, and spiritual peace. We ask our congregants to continue building community, remain aware of their surroundings, and be vigilant in reporting any suspicious activity to mosque leadership, safety teams and authorities

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